



**South
Cambridgeshire
District Council**

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF GAMBLING ACT 2005 POLICY

Effective Date: 31 January 2025

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Introduction

South Cambridgeshire District Council is situated in the County of Cambridgeshire and contains 104 villages in total. The Council area has a population of over 155,000 covering an area of 90,163 hectares. South Cambridgeshire is essentially a rural area. Its areas are shown in the map below.



Licensing authorities are required by the Gambling Act 2005 to publish a Gambling Act policy, which they propose to apply when exercising their functions. This statement must be published at least every three years. The statement must also be reviewed from “time to time” and any amended parts re-consulted upon. The statement must be then re-published.

The Gambling Act requires that the following parties be consulted by licensing authorities:

- Chief Constable
- one or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority’s area
- one or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority’s functions under the Gambling Act 2005.

List of persons this authority will consult with:

- Gambling Commission
- Cambridgeshire Police
- Social Services
- Gamcare and local community organisations that are known to SCDC as working with gamblers
- Parish Councils
- Citizens' Advice Bureau
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Trade associations including independent bookmakers within SCDC area and other trade representatives as become apparent.

PART A

1.The licensing objectives

In exercising most of their functions under the Gambling Act 2005, licensing authorities must have regard to the licensing objectives as set out in section 1 of the Act. The licensing objectives are:

- to prevent gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime
- to ensure that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

It should be noted that the Gambling Commission has stated: "The requirement in relation to children is explicitly to protect them from being harmed or exploited by gambling".

This licensing authority is aware that, as per Section 153, in making decisions about premises licences and temporary use notices it should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks it is:

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives and;
- in accordance with the authority's statement of Gambling Act Policy.

2. Declaration

In producing the policy, this licensing authority declares that it has had regard to the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, the Guidance to Licensing Authorities issued by the Gambling Commission, and any responses from those consulted on the policy.

3. Responsible Authorities

The licensing authority is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply in exercising its powers under Section 157(h) of the Act to designate, in writing, a body which is competent to advise the authority about the protection of children from harm. The principles are:

- the need for the body to be responsible for an area covering the whole of the licensing authority's area; and
- the need for the body to be answerable to democratically elected persons, rather than any particular vested interest group.

In accordance with the suggestion in the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities, this authority designates the Local Safeguarding Children Board for this purpose.

The contact details of all the Responsible Authorities under the Gambling Act 2005 are available via the Council's website at: www.scambs.gov.uk. The Responsible Authorities are:

- Licensing Authority
- The Gambling Commission
- The Chief of Police for Cambridgeshire
- The Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Authority
- South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Authority
- South Cambridgeshire District Council Health and Environmental Services
- County Council Children's Services (Safeguarding and Standards Unit)
- HM Revenue and Customs
- any other person prescribed in regulations by the Secretary of State.

4. Interested parties

The licensing authority is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply in exercising its powers under the Gambling Act 2005 to determine whether a person is an interested party. The principles are:

- each case will be decided upon its merits
- this authority will not apply a rigid rule to its decision-making
- this authority will consider the examples of considerations provided in the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities
- this authority will also consider the Gambling Commission's Guidance that "*has business interests*" should be given the widest possible interpretation and include partnerships, charities, faith groups and medical practices.

Section 158 of the Act defines interested parties. To accept a representation from an interested party, the licensing authority must take the view that the person:

- (a) lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities
- (b) has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities
- (c) represents persons in either of these two groups.

5. Exchange of Information

Licensing authorities are required to include in their statements the principles to be applied by the authority in exercising the functions under sections 29 and 30 of the Act with respect to the exchange of information between it and the Gambling Commission, and the functions under section 350 of the Act with the respect to the exchange of information between it and the other persons listed in Schedule 6 to the Act.

The principle that this licensing authority applies is that it will act in accordance with the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 in its exchange of information which includes the provision that the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 will not be contravened. The licensing authority will also have regard to any Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission on this matter, as well as any relevant regulations issued by the Secretary of State under the powers provided in the Gambling Act 2005.

Should any protocols be established as regards information exchange with other bodies then they will be made available at www.scambs.gov.uk.

6. Enforcement and inspection

Licensing authorities are required by regulation under the Gambling Act 2005 to state the principles to be applied by the authority in exercising the functions under Part 15 of the Act with respect to the inspection of premises; and the powers under section 346 of the Act to institute criminal proceedings in respect of the offences specified.

This licensing authority will operate to the SCDC Corporate Enforcement & Inspection Policy which is considered consistent within the Gambling Commission guidance and the Regulators` Compliance Code.

As per the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities this licensing authority will endeavour to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes so far as possible.

This licensing authority will adopt and implement a risk-based inspection programme, based on:

- The licensing objectives
- Relevant codes of practice
- Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission,
- The principles set out in this policy.

7. Equality and diversity

The Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty in the exercise of its functions and have due regards to the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (i.e. age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).

8. Licensing authority functions

Licensing authorities are required under the Act to:

- be responsible for the licensing of premises where gambling activities are to take place by issuing Premises Licences
- issue Provisional Statements
- regulate members' clubs and miners' welfare institutes who wish to undertake certain gaming activities via issuing Club Gaming Permits and/or Club Machine Permits
- issue Club Machine Permits to Commercial Clubs
- grant permits for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines at unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres
- receive notifications from alcohol licensed premises (under the Licensing Act 2003) for the use of two or fewer gaming machines
- issue Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits for premises licensed to sell/supply alcohol for consumption on the licensed premises, under the Licensing Act 2003, where there are more than two machines
- register small society lotteries below prescribed thresholds
- issue Prize Gaming Permits
- receive and Endorse Temporary Use Notices
- receive Occasional Use Notices
- provide information to the Gambling Commission regarding details of licences issued (see section above on information exchange)
- maintain registers of the permits and licences that are issued under these functions and make available such registers at any reasonable time to the public who may request copies of the entries. The Authority is entitled to make a charge for copies.

PART B – Premises licences: consideration of applications

1. General Principles

Premises licences are subject to the requirements set out in the Gambling Act 2005 and regulations, as well as specific mandatory and default conditions which are detailed in regulations issued by the Secretary of State. Licensing authorities are able to exclude default conditions and also attach others, where it is believed to be appropriate.

Decision-making

This licensing authority is aware that in making decisions about premises licences it should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks it acts:

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives; and
- in accordance with the authority's Statement of Gambling Act 2005 policy.

This authority recognises that as per the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities, *"moral objections to gambling are not a valid reason to reject applications for premises licences"* (except as regards any 'no casino resolution') and also that unmet demand is not a criterion for a licensing authority.

This licensing authority takes particular note of the Gambling Commission's Guidance at paragraph 7.5 to Licensing Authorities which states that licensing authorities should take particular care in considering applications for multiple licences for a building and those relating to a discrete part of a building used for other (non-gambling) purposes. In particular they should be aware of the following:

- the third licensing objective seeks to protect children from being harmed by gambling. In practice that means not only preventing them from taking part in gambling, but also preventing them from being in close proximity to gambling. Therefore, premises should be configured so that children are not invited to participate in, have accidental access to or closely observe gambling where they are prohibited from participating
- entrances to and exits from parts of a building covered by one or more premises licences should be separate and identifiable so that the separation of different premises is not compromised, and people do not "drift" into a gambling area. In this context it should normally be possible to access the premises without going through another licensed premises or premises with a permit
- customers should be able to participate in the activity named on the premises licence.

Location

This licensing authority is aware that demand issues cannot be considered with regard to the location of premises but that considerations in terms of the licensing objectives are relevant to its decision-making. As per the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities, this authority will pay particular attention to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, as well as issues of crime and disorder.

At the time of issuing this statement of licensing principles there is no specific policy in place with regards to areas where gambling premises should not be located and therefore has no need for a Local Area Profile due to the low number of gambling outlets and the rural nature of the area.

Local Risk Assessments

This authority will expect applications for new licences or variations to have conducted a local area risk assessment (see guidance notes).

Planning

The Gambling Commission Guidance to Licensing Authorities states:

7.59 –Operators can apply for a premises licence in respect of premises which have still to be constructed or altered, and licensing authorities are required to determine any such applications on their merits. Such cases should be considered in a two stage process; first, licensing authorities must decide whether, as a matter of substance after applying the principles in s.153 of the Act, the premises ought to be permitted to be used for gambling; second, in deciding whether or not to grant the application a licensing authority will need to consider if appropriate conditions can be put in place to cater for the situation that the premises are not yet in the state in which they ought to be before gambling takes place.

This authority will not take into account irrelevant matters as per the above guidance. In addition, this authority notes the following excerpt from the Guidance:

Duplication with other regulatory regimes – This licensing authority seeks to avoid any duplication with other statutory / regulatory systems where possible, including planning. This authority will not consider whether a licence application is likely to be awarded planning permission or building regulations approval, in its consideration of it. It will though, listen to, and consider carefully, any concerns about conditions, which cannot be met by licensees due to planning restrictions, should such a situation arise.

When dealing with a premises licence application for finished buildings, this authority will not take into account whether those buildings have to comply with the necessary planning or buildings consents. Fire or health and safety risks will not be taken into account, as these matters are dealt with under relevant planning control. Building regulations along with other planning legislation must not form part of the consideration for the premises licence.

Licensing objectives

Premises licences granted must be reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives. With regard to these objectives, this licensing authority has considered the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities and some comments are made below.

- (a) **Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime** – This licensing authority is aware of the distinction between disorder and nuisance and will consider factors (for example whether police assistance was required and how threatening the behaviour was to those who could see it) so as to make that distinction.
- (b) **Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way** – This licensing authority has noted that the Gambling Commission states that it generally does not expect licensing authorities to be concerned with ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way as this will be addressed via operating and personal licences.
- (c) **Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling** – This licensing authority will, as suggested in the Gambling Commission's Guidance, consider whether specific measures are required at particular premises, with regard to this licensing objective.

This licensing authority is also aware of the Gambling Commission Codes of Practice as regards this licensing objective, in relation to specific premises.

The Gambling Act defines “child” as an individual who is less than 16 years old, and “young person” means an individual who is not a child but who is less than 18 years old.

As regards the term “*vulnerable persons*” it is noted that the Gambling Commission does not seek to offer a definition but gives clear guidance. This licensing authority will consider this licensing objective on a case-by-case basis.

Conditions

Any conditions attached to licences will be proportionate and will be:

- relevant to the need to make the proposed building suitable as a gambling facility
- directly related to the premises and the type of licence applied for
- fairly and reasonably related to the scale and type of premises
- reasonable in all other respects.

Decisions upon individual conditions will be made on a case-by-case basis, although there will be a number of measures this licensing authority will consider utilising should there be a perceived need.

This licensing authority will also consider specific measures, which may be required for buildings, which are subject to multiple premises licences in accordance with the Gambling Commission's Guidance.

This authority will also ensure that where category C or above machines are on offer in premises to which children are admitted:

- all such machines are located in an area of the premises which is separated from the remainder of the premises by a physical barrier which is effective to prevent access other than through a designated entrance
- only adults are admitted to the area where these machines are located
- access to the area where the machines are located is supervised
- the area where these machines are located is arranged so that it can be observed by the staff or the licence holder; and
- at the entrance to and inside any such areas there are prominently displayed notices indicating that access to the area is prohibited to persons under 18

These considerations will apply to premises including buildings where multiple premises licences are applicable.

2. Adult Gaming Centres

This licensing authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to, for example, ensure that under 18-year olds do not have access to the premises.

3. Licensed Family Entertainment Centres

This licensing authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority, for example, that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18-year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machine areas.

This licensing authority will, as per the Gambling Commission's guidance, refer to the Commission's website to see any conditions that apply to operating licences covering the way in which the area containing the category C machines should be delineated. This licensing authority will also make itself aware of any mandatory or default conditions on these premises licences, when they have been published.

4. Casinos

This licensing authority has not passed a 'no casino' resolution under Section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005 but is aware that it has the power to do so. Should this licensing authority decide in the future to pass such a resolution, it will update this policy with details of that resolution. Any such decision will be made by the Full Council.

5. Bingo premises

This licensing authority notes that the Gambling Commission's Guidance states:

Licensing authorities will need to satisfy themselves that bingo can be played in any bingo premises for which they issue a premises licence. An operator may choose to vary their licence to exclude a previously licensed area of that premises, and then apply for a new premises licence, or multiple new premises licences, with the aim of creating separate premises in that area, essentially providing multiple licensed premises within a single building or site. Before issuing additional bingo premises licences, licensing authorities need to consider whether bingo can be played at each of those new premises.

A holder of bingo premises licences may make available for use a number of category B machines not exceeding 20% of the total number of gaming machines which are available for use on the premises.

This authority also recognises the Guidance with respect to the separation of category B & C machines to be separated from areas where children and young people are allowed.

6. Betting premises

This licensing authority will, as per the Gambling Commission's Guidance, take into account the size and layout of premises, the number of counter positions available for person-to-person transactions, and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the betting machines by children and young persons (it is an offence for those under 18 to bet) or by vulnerable people, when considering the number/nature/circumstances of betting machines an operator wants to offer.

7. Tracks

The Act does not give a list of premises that are officially recognised as "tracks" but there are a number of venues where sporting events do or could take place, and accordingly could accommodate the provision of betting facilities.

This licensing authority is aware that tracks may be subject to one or more than one premises licence, provided each licence relates to a specified area of the track. As per the Gambling Commission's Guidance, this licensing authority will especially consider the impact upon the third licensing objective (i.e. the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling) and the need to ensure that entrances to each type of premises are distinct and that children are excluded from gambling areas where they are not permitted to enter.

This authority will therefore expect the premises licence applicant to demonstrate suitable measures to ensure that children do not have access to adult only gaming facilities. It is noted that children and young persons will be permitted to enter track areas where facilities for betting are provided on days when dog-racing and/or horse racing takes place, but that they are still prevented from entering areas where gaming machines (other than category D machines) are provided.

In respect of gaming and betting machines this authority will expect the following:

- (a) Gaming machines - Where the applicant holds a pool betting operating licence and is going to use the entitlement to four gaming machines, machines (other than category D machines) should be located in areas from which children are excluded.
- (b) Betting machines - This licensing authority will, as per Part 7 of the Gambling Commission's Guidance, take into account the size of the premises and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by children and young persons (it is an offence for those under 18 to bet) or by vulnerable people, when considering the number, nature or circumstances of betting machines an operator proposes to offer.

8. Provisional Statements

S204 of the Gambling Act provides for a person to make an application to the licensing authority for a provisional statement in respect of premises that he or she:

- (a) expects to be constructed
- (b) expects to be altered; or
- (c) expects to acquire a right to occupy.

The licensing authority will be constrained in the matters it can consider when determining the subsequent premises licence application, and in terms of representations about premises licence applications that follow the grant of a provisional statement, no further representations from relevant authorities or interested parties can be taken into account unless:

- they concern matters which could not have been addressed at the provisional statement stage, or
- they reflect a change in the applicant's circumstances.

In addition, the authority may refuse the premises licence (or grant it on terms different from those attached to the provisional statement) only by reference to matters:

- which could not have been raised by objectors at the provisional statement stage
- which in the authority's opinion reflect a change in the operator's circumstances; or
- where the premise has not been constructed in accordance with the plan submitted with the application (this must be a substantial change to the plan and this Licensing Authority notes that it can discuss any concerns it has with the applicant before making a decision).

9. Reviews

Interested parties or responsible authorities can make requests for a review of a premises licence; however, it is for the licensing authority to decide whether the review is to be carried-out. This will be on the basis of whether the request for the review is relevant to the matters listed below;

- in accordance with any relevant Code of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives; and
- in accordance with the authority's Statement of Gambling Act 2005 policy.

The request for the review will also be subject to the consideration by the authority as to whether the request is frivolous, vexatious, or whether it will certainly not cause this authority to wish to alter/revoke/suspend the licence, or whether it is substantially the same as previous representations or requests for review.

The licensing authority can also initiate a review of a particular premises licence, or a particular class of premises licence on the basis of any reason, which it thinks is appropriate.

In determining what action, if any, should be taken following a review, this licensing authority will have regard to the principles set out in section 153 of the Act, as well as any relevant representations.

In particular, the licensing authority may also initiate a review of a premises licence on the grounds that a premises licence holder has not provided facilities for gambling at the premises. This is to prevent people from applying for licences in a speculative manner without intending to use them.

PART C – Permits/Temporary & Occasional Use Notice

1. Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre gaming machine permits (Policy on Permits - Schedule 10 paragraph 7)

This licensing authority will expect the applicant to show that there are policies and procedures in place to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm. Harm in this context will not be limited to harm from gambling but will include wider child protection considerations. The efficiency of such policies and procedures will each be considered on their merits. This licensing authority will also expect, as per Gambling Commission Guidance, that applicants demonstrate a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes of the gambling that is permissible in unlicensed FECs; that the applicant has no relevant convictions (those that are set out in Schedule 7 of the Act); and that staff are trained to have a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes.

2. Alcohol Licensed premises gaming machine permits – 3 or more machines

This licensing authority considers that these applications will be decided on a case-by-case basis but generally there will be regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machines.

This Licensing Authority recognises that some alcohol-licensed premises may apply for a premises licence for their non-alcohol licensed areas. Any such application would most likely need to be applied for, and dealt with as an Adult Gaming Centre premises licence.

3. Prize Gaming Permits

This authority expects that the applicant should set out the types of gaming that he or she is intending to offer and that the applicant should be able to demonstrate:

- that they understand the limits to stakes and prizes that are set out in Regulations
- that the gaming offered is within the law
- clear policies that outline the steps to be taken to protect children from harm.

In making its decision on an application for this permit the licensing authority does not need to (but may) have regard to the licensing objectives but will have regard to any Gambling Commission guidance.

4. Club Gaming and Club Machines Permits

This Licensing Authority may only refuse an application on the grounds that:

- the applicant does not fulfil the requirements for a members' or commercial club or miners' welfare institute and therefore is not entitled to receive the type of permit for which it has applied
- the applicant's premises are used wholly or mainly by children and/or young persons
- an offence under the Act or a breach of a permit has been committed by the applicant while providing gaming facilities
- a permit held by the applicant has been cancelled in the previous ten years; or
- an objection has been lodged by the Commission or the police.

5. Temporary Use Notices

The licensing authority can only grant a Temporary Use Notice to a person or company holding a relevant operating licence, i.e. a non-remote casino operating licence.

In considering whether a place falls within the definition of "a set of premises", the licensing authority will look at, amongst other things, the ownership, occupation and control of the premises.

This licensing authority expects to object to notices where it appears that their effect would be to permit regular gambling in a place that could be described as one set of premises, as recommended in the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities.

6. Occasional Use Notices

The licensing authority has very little discretion as regards these notices aside from ensuring that the statutory limit of 8 days in a calendar year is not exceeded. This licensing authority will though consider the definition of a 'track' and whether the applicant is permitted to avail him/herself of the notice.

7. Delegation Table

Matter to be dealt with	Full Council	Licensing Committee or Licensing Sub-Committee	Officers
Final approval of three-year licensing policy	X		
Policy not to permit casinos	X		
Fee setting (when appropriate)		Portfolio Holder	
Application for premises licence		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/representations have been withdrawn
Application for a variation to a licence		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/representations have been withdrawn
Application for a transfer of licence		Where representations have been received from the Commission or a Responsible Authority	Where no representations received from the Commission or a Responsible Authority
Application for a provisional statement		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/representations have been withdrawn

Review of Premises Licence		X	
Application for club gaming/club machine permits		Where representations have been made (and not withdrawn)	Where no representations made/representations have been withdrawn
Cancellation of club gaming/club machine permits		X	
Applications for other permits			X
Cancellation of licensed premises gaming machine permits			X
Consideration of temporary use notice			X
Decision to give a counter notice to a temporary use notice		X	