

Responses to the on-line consultation

Q1 Do you agree or disagree with the Council's approach to licensing gambling premises in the borough?	
Response	Number of respondents
Strongly agree	4
Agree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	0
Disagree	3
Strongly disagree	1

Q2 Do you agree or disagree that the proposed changes will strengthen the Council's ability to control gambling within the borough?	
Response	Number of respondents
Strongly agree	3
Agree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	2
Disagree	1
Strongly disagree	2

Q3 - If you have answered disagree or strongly disagree to Q1 and/or Q2 please give reasons	
Response	Comment
Gambling is like drug addiction. In many European countries both are allowed within its limits. Reason for it is, if you ban these - it will create a bigger problem, as to these activities will take place secretly and cause more issues than ever before. This has actually been proven to be the facts. Just research and you will see I'm right. If you think the problem will shift away from Merton to another borough - you are greatly mistaken. It's like a forbidden fruit, you forbid it and people will go for it more than ever. You allow it and you got it under control.	Noted: The intention of the Statement of Principles is not to prevent Gambling in the Borough but to ensure that the Licensing objectives are being met
Gambling is an addictive behaviour and should be difficult to access, betting shops and casinos in easy to reach locations only increase this addictive and destructive behaviour and would be better off being banned or located in more remote locations so planning and thought are required by the gambler rather than the ability to react easily to the impulse of gambling.	Noted: A Licensing Authority has no power to ban gambling premises (other than Casinos). In fact, the legislation clearly states that an Authority must aim to permit an application unless there is good reason not to. Whilst there is merit in the suggestion that by locating gambling premises in more remote locations people would be less likely to impulse gamble. However, there is a counter argument that it is better to site premises in areas of higher footfall, higher CCTV and police presence and away from

APPENDIX B

	predominantly residential areas. No change to policy recommended
I think a casino or any gambling institution will be detrimental or Merton borough and it's residents. Gambling institutions and casinos by definition offer zero long term benefit to either the borough or it's residents.	Noted
Operators of arcades routinely move the position of gaming machines for maximum benefit. It will put a huge administrative burden on all parties if an Operator of arcade has to submit a new plan every time they decide to either change the number of gaming machines or move the position of each gaming machine within an arcade. If this is to be done as a variation application it will also unfairly put a huge financial burden on the Operator and which would be unsustainable	Noted: Paragraph 12.22 states'Where the number and/or position of machines are altered this Authority will expect a revised plan to be provided to the Licensing Authority. This revised plan will be held by the Authority but will not be substituted on the licence unless the licence is re-issued following a variation or change of circumstance application' – a full variation application would not be required if the re-positioning of machines is not part of a wider change to the premises or impacts on one or more of the Licensing Objectives
Gambling is the worst type of addiction.	Noted – see comment above regarding a Licensing Authority's powers
The council does not seem to have considered the consequences of gambling addiction on the gambler themselves and their families. By making gambling so readily accessible in Merton, it normalises gambling on the high street in the eyes of children and impressionable people. Gambling outlets provide no positives to community, purely downsides. To use the argument that they provide employment is not a strong argument.	Noted: But see comments above regarding Licensing Authority's powers. It is proposed to alter the Statement of Principles and the Council's website in response to the consultation response from GambleAware
What proposed changes?	The changes to the Statement of Principles were clearly outlined in a document attached to the on-line consultation
It appears the policy only looks at casinos and not the vast array of betting shops unusually licenced in abundance in more deprived sections of the borough.	Noted: The Policy relates to all betting premises but the law only allows a Council to resolve not to have any casinos in its area. Otherwise, an Authority must aim to permit and application unless there are good reasons not to.

Q4 - Do you agree or disagree that providing local area profiles will assist gambling operators in carrying out their local risk assessments?	
Response	Number of respondents
Strongly agree	1
Agree	3
Neither agree nor disagree	5
Disagree	1

APPENDIX B

Strongly disagree	0
<p>Q5 - Which of the following information do you think should be included in the local area profiles (please tick all that you think should be provided) – sorry not sure of the wording here</p> <p>Location of other gambling venues; location of educational establishments; location of community facilities; location of pawnbrokers and money lenders; location of childrens’ centres location of recreation grounds; location of facilities for vulnerable persons; deprivation by Ward crime figures by Ward; population age profiles by Ward; Other (please specify)</p>	
Response	Number of respondents
Location of other gambling premises	5
Educational Establishments	7
Community facilities	5
Pawnbrokers and Money Lenders	5
Children’s centres	6
Recreation grounds	5
Facilities for vulnerable persons	5
Deprivation by Ward	4
Crime figures by Ward	5
Population age profiles by Ward	3
Other:	0

Noted: No change proposed to Licensing Statement of Principles

<p>Q6 - The Council believes there is no location within the borough that is suitable for a casino. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?</p>	
Response	Number of respondents
Strongly agree	6
Agree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	4
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0

<p>Q7 - Should the Council pass another resolution not to have any casinos in the borough?</p>	
Response	Number of respondents
Strongly agree	6
Agree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	4
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0

APPENDIX B

Q7 – supplementary Please state your reasons
Response
Casinos do not assist in the social well being of society in general and should be as far away from vulnerable people as possible. The USA used to place their casinos in particular locations rather than the high density populated cities, Merton is a family orientated borough and casino's only make the wealthier more wealthy. I see no benefit to Merton bringing a casino here or any more betting shops. We need a new strategy towards betting and gambling we are living in the 21st century not the 19th century.
Casinos provide an easy outlet for gambling to spiral out of control. The implications for gamblers and their families is terrifying.
Gambling is a fools game A casino should not be allowed as it chaa was to people of their money especially the vulnerable and usually those who can't afford to lose it in the first place
Gambling should not be encouraged at a habitual level.

Q8 -Do you agree that the measures contained in the Statement of Principles are sufficient to protect children from harm or being exploited by gambling?	
Response	Number of respondents
Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	5
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	2

Q9 Do you agree that the measures contained in the Statement of Principles are sufficient to protect vulnerable people from harm or being exploited by gambling?	
Response	Number of respondents
Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	3
Disagree	2
Strongly disagree	2

Q10 If you have replied disagree or strongly disagree to either or both Q8 or Q9 what additional measures do you believe should be considered?	
Response	Comment
Gambling is addictive just as drugs can be - it should bring strong restrictions on age and rigorous financial scrutiny	Noted: The Gambling Commission carry out rigorous financial checks before issuing an operating licence. The operators of the majority of gambling premises within a local authority must

APPENDIX B

	hold an operating licence. Age restrictions are laid down in law. Test purchasing is carried out by the Gambling Commission and by the licensing authority.
Not to allow any gambling in premises in the Borough or casinos	Noted: See comment above regarding a Licensing Authority's powers under the legislation

Q11 Additional comments	
Response	Comment
Not to allow any gambling in premises in the Borough or casinos	See comment above

Of the ten respondents, 1 responded on behalf of an organisation (Hough & Bollard Ltd – Gambling Licensing Consultants). 8 were individual respondents and 1 did not state.

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