

Direct responses to consultation

Number	Organisation	Issue	Summary of comments	Response
1.	Councillor for St Hellier Ward	No casino Policy	Supports the continuation of the 'no casino' policy.	Noted
2.	Councillor for Graveney Ward	Betting shops	Believes that betting shops are a magnet for antisocial behaviour in the Mitcham area. Would like to be able to restrict their opening hours or get rid of them completely	Noted: See response in Committee report (paragraph 3.5)
3.	Gamble Aware	General	Unable to offer specific feedback on the policy. However, you may find GambleAware's recently published interactive maps useful, which have been designed for use by local authorities. The maps show the prevalence of problem gambling severity in each local authority and ward area as well as usage of, and reported demand for, treatment and support for gambling harms.	Statement amended to encourage applicants to take note of the maps as part of their risk assessment process (new paragraph 12.27) Website to be updated with a link to the Gamble Aware site Note: the maps indicate a relatively high prevalence of Gambling addiction in the borough with a moderate reported demand for treatment and support facilities.

			<p>GambleAware also strongly commends two publications by the Local Government Association which set out the range of options available to local authorities to deal with gambling-related harms using existing powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.local.gov.uk/tackling-gambling-related-harm-whole-council-approach • https://www.local.gov.uk/gambling-regulation-councillor-handbook-england-and-wales 	Noted
			<p>GambleAware is also fully supportive of local authorities which conduct an analysis to identify areas with increased levels of risk for any reason. In particular we support those who also include additional licence requirements to mitigate the increased level of risk. Areas where there are higher than average resident or visiting populations from groups we know to be vulnerable to gambling harms include children, the unemployed, the homeless, certain ethnic-minorities, lower socio-economic groups, those attending mental health (including gambling disorders) or substance addiction treatment services.</p>	Noted. Included in the Statement of Principles at paragraph 12.25 -12.35, Appendices B and C
			<p>Finally, GambleAware is a leading commissioner of prevention and treatment services for gambling harms. It provides these functions across England, Scotland and Wales and its work is underpinned by high quality research, data and evaluation. We encourage all local authorities to signpost people to the National Gambling Helpline also www.begambleaware.org. Both are part of the National Gambling Treatment Service and offer free, confidential advice and support for those who may need it.</p>	Noted, website to be updated with this information
4.	LB Merton Conservative Group	General	<p>Supportive of the Licensing Committees recommendations following their Gambling Policy Review 2021.</p>	Noted

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