

Please ask for: Licensing Department  
☎ Direct Line: (01795) 417567  
E-mail: [licensing@swale.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@swale.gov.uk)  
Our Ref: Licensing Policy Review  
Date: 21 November 2009

Dear Consultee;

**RE: The Gambling Act 2005: Gambling Statement of Policy Review.**

From the 1 September 2007 Gambling Act 2005 was introduced, and transferred the responsibility of granting 'Premises Licences' to the Local Authority. Under the Gambling Act 2005, the first duty placed on Local Authorities was to prepare a written Statement of Gambling Policies; the document was formally adopted in November 2004.

The Policy Statement sets out Swale Borough Councils approach to matters governed by the Gambling Act 2005. The policy is under constant review, the Council are required to consult and republish their 'Statement of Gambling Policy' at regular intervals. As part of this process, we are seeking to consult with our statutory partners, businesses involved in the gambling trade and interested parties; to decide whether or not to revise the existing policy.

To ensure that we give full consideration to the views made, we will be starting a 7 week consultation period from **Monday 1 March 2010**. Some of you were part of the initial consultation process in 2004, and I hope that you will give some of your time in considering whether the policy is appropriate for the Borough.

Enclosed is a questionnaire relating to the Statement of Gambling Policy, our service performance and our standard corporate equalities questionnaire. It is important to stress that the Gambling Policy must promote the three gambling objectives, which are:

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

Your comments or suggestions are important to us and contribute to the review process. Please send any response/ comments you wish to be considered, using the self addressed envelope provided or via email to [licensing@swale.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@swale.gov.uk).

The closing time for representation is **Friday 16 April 2010** at 12 noon. If you require a paper copy of the existing or draft Gambling Policy, please contact the Licensing Team on the above number, however it is available on our website at the following address:

<http://www.swale.gov.uk/statement-of-licensing-policy-your-opportunity-to-comment/>

Please feel free to contact this department during normal office hours if you wish to discuss these matters further.

Yours sincerely

M R Hawkins  
**Senior Solicitor**  
Swale Borough Council