



Date: 1 September 2009

Direct 020 8489 2626
dial:

For a large print copy contact 020 8489 8232

Dear Resident,

RE: CONSULTATION ON REVISION OF THE STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

Haringey Council became responsible for licensing gambling premises in the borough in September 2007. There are at present 71 betting shops, 11 adult gaming centers and 2 track betting premises licensed in the borough. Since 2007 we have had 8 new applications for betting premises and 6 existing premises have surrendered their licenses.

Haringey Council as the Licensing Authority has used its Statement of Gambling Policy since 2007 to guide the process of determining applications and is responsible for reviewing and publishing the policy every three years. This is now the time to review our policy and consult Haringey residents, key stakeholders and the industry on revising the Policy. Your comments and observations are invited to influence the future of the gambling policy.

You might be aware that since September 2007 our Licensing Committee has rejected 3 applications for new betting premises where it received strong representation from the local community. The local community was concerned about the cluster of applications in one area and its impact on local vulnerable people. However, the decisions of the Licensing Committee were effectively overturned on appeal to Magistrates Court. It is clear that the Gambling Act 2005, in its current format restricts the Council's ability to prevent new premises being established, even where there are significant numbers already and expressed concern from local residents. I have written to the relevant Minister highlighting the legislative limitations as well as our concerns as the licensing authority.



We have recently updated the Gambling Policy (in blue in the attached policy document) to give clearer guidance on the matters the Council can have regard to when considering an application and to confirm our arrangements for ensuring that premises comply with their license conditions and responsibilities. We have also taken the opportunity to re-iterate our "no casino" resolution in terms of the borough as a whole.

The full document can be found on the website at www.haringey.gov.uk/licensing or we are able to send out a hard copy on request.

I look forward to receiving your comments on the revised document. Comments should be made in writing to licensing@haringey.gov.uk. This is your opportunity to influence the way in which the Authority will be dealing with gambling issues in 2010-2013.

Best regards,



Cllr Nilgun Canver
Cabinet Member for Enforcement & Safer Communities
Haringey Council

