

Impact and Needs/Requirements Assessment (INRA)
Initial Screening

Initial screening needs to take place for all new policies, strategies, procedures and functions. This stage must be completed at the earliest opportunity to determine whether it is necessary to undertake an INRA for this activity.

Name of Policy, Strategy or Function:	Revised Gambling Licensing Policy Statement under the Gambling Act 2005
Lead Officer (responsible for assessment):	Lin Bagwell, Licensing Officer (Enforcement)
Department:	Environmental Services
Others Involved in the Assessment (i.e. peer review, external challenge):	Liz Bailey, Principal EHO (Commercial)
Date Initial Screening Completed:	29 March 2011

(a) What is the activity trying to achieve? i.e. what are its aims and objectives? Is it affected by external drivers for change?

East Cambridgeshire District Council is the Licensing Authority under the Gambling Act 2005.

The Licensing Authority is responsible for licensing premises in which gambling takes place. All types of gambling are covered, other than spread betting and the National Lottery. The Licensing Authority is also responsible for issuing permits for premises with gaming machines and for receiving notices from operators wishing to use unlicensed premises for gambling on a temporary basis. It is also responsible for the registration of certain types of exempt small society lotteries.

In exercising most of its functions under the Act, licensing authorities must have regard to the licensing objectives as set out in Section 1 of the Act. The licensing objectives 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.

The Licensing Authority cannot become involved in the moral issues of gambling and must aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it believes it is:

- in accordance with any relevant codes of practice;
- in accordance with any relevant Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission;
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives, and
- in accordance with the Licensing Authority’s Statement of Licensing Policy.

The Licensing Authority is required by the Act to publish a Statement of Licensing Policy containing the principles it proposes to apply when exercising its functions under the Gambling Act 2005.

The policy sets out how the Licensing Authority will administer the act locally.

(b) Who are its main beneficiaries? i.e. who will be affected by the policy and the way the service is delivered?

Responsible authorities, existing and proposed licence holders, businesses, voluntary groups and residents, including faith groups and voluntary organisations working with people who are problem gamblers, medical practices or primary care trusts and the Citizens' Advice Bureau;

(c) Does this activity have the potential to cause an impact (positive, negative or neutral) on different groups in the community, on the grounds of: (please tick all that apply):

Ethnicity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion and Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sexuality	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain any impact identified:

Age
Individuals under the age of 18 years are not permitted under the Gambling Act to apply for a licence.

Disability
Legislation dictates that applications must be made on the prescribed form in the prescribed manner with the relevant associated documents attached. An applicant may be blind for example therefore unable to complete the application forms his/herself.

Ethnicity
Where licence applications are made, public hearings are held in relation to contested application, or where a licence holder is interviewed under PACE, English may not be the first language of the person the service is working with. A translation/interpretation service can be provided if required.

Religion and Belief
As regards the protection of vulnerable persons, the Licensing Authority will consider measures such as the provision of information, leaflets/help line numbers for organisations, including faith groups and voluntary organisations, working with people who are problem gamblers.

(d) If you have identified an adverse impact, does it disadvantage or discriminate unfairly against any of the groups in a way that is unlawful?

This is more likely to occur in services that are customer facing, particularly where judgements need to be made by Council staff about access or entitlement to services or opportunities.

No

(e) What Information or background data is currently available to assist with making the judgements above?

This impact assessment has been informed by the following:

- consultation with those involved in East Cambridgeshire District Council's local strategies on crime prevention, planning, transport, culture, tourism, community, eGovernment and economic development, to ensure the proper co-ordination and integration of the aims and actions of these policies.
- Consideration of the needs of the local tourist economy to ensure that these were reflected in its considerations.
- Local statistical data e.g. number of licensable premises.
- Published advice from Central Government and other relevant agencies.
- East Cambridgeshire District Council's Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan.

If the answer to question (d) is **YES**, then it is necessary to proceed with a full equality impact assessment. If the answer is **NO**, then this judgement and your response to the above questions will need to be countersigned by your Head of Service/Executive Director, and then referred to the Council's Equal Opportunities Working Group (EOWG) for scrutiny and verification. Please forward completed and signed forms to Nicole Pema, Principal HR Officer.

Signatures:

Completing Officer:	<u>Lin Bagwell</u>	Date:	<u>29/03/11</u>
Head of Service:	<u>Liz Knox</u>	Date:	<u>29/03/11</u>