

Bodmin Town Council



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Licensing Service
Cornwall Council
Chy Trevail
Beacon Technology Park
Bodmin
PL31 2FR

Date: 3 October 2018

Our Ref: SMF/Cons/GA

Your Ref:

Dear Sir / Madam

Gambling Act 2005 – Consultation on draft Revised Statement of Principles

Bodmin Town Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Cornwall Council consultation on the *Gambling Act 2005 - draft Revised Statement of Principles*. I can advise that this matter was considered by Bodmin Town Council's Planning Committee when it met on 19 September and again on 3 October 2018 and I have been instructed to write to make the following response:

These comments are made from the perspective that Bodmin Town Council is one of the largest and most proactive town councils in Cornwall. The Town Council provides a range of high quality services and facilities throughout the town and has a budgeted operational expenditure of £1.5 Million in the financial year 2018/19.

Bodmin Town Council strongly supports Cornwall Council with its statements and position through this revised Statement of Principles, as a robust policy and mechanism to ensure that there is adequate control for premises covered by the Gambling Act. The Town Council particularly welcomes the narrative in section 4.63 in respect of protecting children from harm through applicants needing to demonstrate and show that policies and procedures are in place to protect children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling. This is further supported and endorsed in a later section which states that the Licensing Authority will also take into consideration, at the application stage, the suitability of the applicant.

Bodmin Town Council would query whether there is an ability to strengthen the protection from children licensing objective by building in a requirement for Licensed Premises where gaming machine permits are issued, to adopt and apply a challenge policy (similar to the Challenge 21 or 25 policy for alcohol sales) to deter children from accessing venues and being exposed to these types of gambling machines as part of any condition attached to their licence / permit. Bodmin Town Council considers that this could operate along similar lines to the function of the Designated Premises Supervisors, as per the Licensing Act 2003, and to include the appropriate level of background checking via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Such a step might also assist with mitigating instances of truancy from schools / full time education, which might be a particular issue in coastal communities where gaming machines of this nature might be more prevalent and accessible. Whilst this might not be currently deliverable within the current constraints of the Licensing Act, Cornwall Council might consider it appropriate to include this as part of any future response to central government, as and when they embark on any relevant consultations relating to Licensing matters.

Whilst writing, it would appear that there will need to be some form of consensus of opinion between the various departments at Cornwall Council regarding the County's approximate population figure. This Gambling consultation document states that the population figure is approx 549,000 whilst the Cornwall Council Licensing Act 2003 consultation, which is live and runs to 5 December states Cornwall's approx population at 553,000.

Your kind assistance in this matter is much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S.M. Facer". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

S M Facer
Town Clerk