Report for: Licensing Committee 26th November 2026

Item number: 8

Title: Future changes to Gambling Act 2005
Impact Assessments Briefing / Aim to permit

Report authorised by : Eubert Malcolm – Director Environment

Lead Officer: Daliah Barrett - Licensing Team Leader.

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/ Non Key Decision:

1. Describe the issue under consideration

To inform Committee of the changes to be made to the application process for gambling licences and the introduction of impact assessments.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

Recommendations

To note the briefing

3. Reasons for decision

N/A

4. Alternative options considered

N/A

5. Background information

6. The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act received Royal Assent on 26 April 2026 ("Act"). Section 87 of the Act introduces Gambling Impact Assessments by inserting two new sections to the Gambling Act 2005 ('the 2005 Act'), namely sections 153A and 165A. The sections are to be brought into force by regulation on a date yet to be appointed.

7. ISSUES

Once in force these amendments will allow a licensing authority to publish a 'Gambling Impact Assessment' (GIA) where the authority considers the grant of any 'relevant licence' in respect of premises in one or more parts of their area is not likely to be reasonably consistent with one or more of the licensing objectives because:

7.1 The cumulative impact of relevant licences in respect of premises in the affected part(s), or Other reasons which relate to that licensing objective, or those licensing objectives, and to the affected part(s).

A 'relevant licence' has been defined as being a bingo premises licence, adult gaming centre premises licence, family entertainment centre premises licence or a betting premises licence. As part of any published assessment, the authority

must set out evidence for how they have come to the opinion that the grant of any 'relevant licence' would not be reasonably consistent with the objectives set out above.

7.2 Authorities will also be required to review any published GIA from time to time, and should the authority take the view that the assessment should be revised or withdrawn, they must publish any revision.

7.3 Where an application is submitted for a relevant licence and a GIA has been published and the authority has included in its Statement of Gambling Principles that there will be a presumption to refuse applications for relevant licences. Then it will be deemed lawful for the authority to refuse such application solely on the ground that it falls within the scope of the GIA, thus undermining the current obligation to 'aim to permit' under section 153 of the Act.

7.4 The amendments allow licensing authorities to limit premises licence numbers. The proposal includes provision to allow licensing authorities to frame the GIA by reference to the grant of relevant licences in excess of a number specified in the assessment. An application would fall within the scope of the GIA if the grant of such application would result in the number of relevant licences specified in the assessment being exceeded.

7.5 The amendments however also state that refusing an application will be unlawful where the applicant asserts in the application that the grant would be reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives or objectives set out in the GIA and provides evidence that the grant would be reasonably consistent with the objectives.

7.6 Whilst Haringey currently has 61 relevant betting premises, Officers will review the position and any guidance which is subsequently produced so that the Licensing Authority is in a position to consider the matter fully when the powers come into force.

8 CONCLUSION

8.1 Committee should note the content of this report.

9 Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2024 High level Strategic outcomes'

N/A

10 Carbon and Climate Change

N/A

11 Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

N/A

Finance

N/A

Procurement

N/A

Head of Legal & Governance [Name and title of Officer completing these comments]

N/A

Equality

N/A

12 **Use of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Gambling Impact assessments/ Aim to permit Briefing

13 Background papers