

Template for Impact Assessment Level 1: Initial screening assessment

Subject of assessment:	Review of Gambling Policy 2026-29			
Coverage:	State the extent or scope e.g. overarching/crosscutting or service-specific.			
This is a decision relating to:	☐ Strategy	☒ Policy	☐ Service	☐ Function
	☐ Process/procedure	☐ Programme	☐ Project	☐ Review
	☐ Organisational change	☐ Other (please state)		
It is a:	New approach:	☐	Revision of an existing approach:	X
It is driven by:	Legislation:	X	Local or corporate requirements:	☐
Description:	This report seeks Executive approval for the draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2028. The report policy sets out the proposed Statement of Gambling Policy following a period of consultation. It is a statutory requirement for each local authority to have in place a Statement of Gambling Policy and that they are reviewed every three years. It is a statutory requirement that Executive approve the policy prior to the period of consultation. It is the decision of Full Council to approve the final Policy. The Statement of Gambling Policy also contains the policy and principles in relation to the application process and issuing of a large casino licence. In 2008 the Categories of Casino Regulations 2008 and the Gambling (Geographical Distribution of Large and Small Casino Premises Licences) Order 2008 specified which Licensing Authorities could issue Large and Small Casinos. In 2012 Middlesbrough Borough Council, having previously submitted a proposal to the Casino Advisory Panel for a Regional or Large Casino Licence, was approved as one of the authorities permitted to issue a large Casino Premises Licence. At this time there were significant benefits for the area in terms of financial, developmental and regeneration associated with the development of a large casino. A competition was undertaken in Middlesbrough and a provisional statement was awarded, however the casino has never been developed. The implications of the recommendation(s) have been considered by the appropriate officers of the Council and are set out in the main body of the report.			
Live date:	January 2026			
Lifespan:	2026-2029			
Date of next review:	June 2028			

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
Human Rights Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?*	X	☐	☐	This policy does not impact on human rights. It ensures that the issuing of licences under the Gambling Act is in accordance with the gambling licensing objectives • 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. This policy has been in place since 2007 and there have been no negative impacts on human rights.
Equality Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?*	X	☐	☐	This policy does not impact negatively on disadvantaged groups. It ensures that the issuing of licences under the Gambling Act is in accordance with the gambling licensing objectives • 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. This policy has been in place since 2007 and there have been no negative impacts on human rights.
Community cohesion Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?*	X	☐	☐	The policy does not impact negatively on these relationships. Community Council and local Councillors are included in the consultation on licensing applications and are able to make relevant representation based on the licensing objectives.

* Consult the Impact Assessment further guidance appendix for details on the issues covered by each of these broad questions prior to completion.

Screening questions	Response	Evidence
Next steps: ➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed. ➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed.		

Assessment completed by:	Tim Hodgkinson	Head of Service:	Judith Hedgley
Date:	07/11/25	Date:	07/11/25