



# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## Partial Assessment Form

<b>Policy, practice, function or project assessed</b>	Licensing – Gambling Act 2005
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Myles Bebbington / Dale Robinson
<b>Team</b>	Licensing, Iain Green
<b>Start date of assessment</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> October 2009
<b>Completion of assessment</b>	

Please use this form to record your findings in relation to the assessment of an existing policy, function, service or practice.

## **A. POLICY, PRACTICE, FUNCTION OR PROJECT TO BE ASSESSED**

### **A1. Please describe what are the main aims, objectives, purpose and intended outcomes of the policy or function?**

To ensure statutory duties are carried out in accordance with legislation (Gambling Act 2005). The Council act as the Licensing Authority responsible for administering this function. The Gambling Act places a responsibility on the Licensing Authority to produce and publish a Gambling Act Licensing Policy setting out how we will administer our functions/duties under the Act.

The Policy will promote three objectives as laid down in legislation:

1. Preventing Gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime and disorder or being used to support crime.
2. Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way, and
3. Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

### **A2. Is this policy or function associated with any other Council policy or priority?**

The priority is to outline how the Council will administer its statutory duties under the Gambling Act 2005 through the publication of the Gambling Act policy. This policy must be published by no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009. Any such failure to do so will result in the Council failing in its statutory duties.

### **A3. Who are the intended beneficiaries/stakeholders of the policy or function? How many people are affected and from what sections of the community?**

A number of responsible authorities are designated under the legislation and are referred to within the policy, these include:- Police, Childrens services, Bodies representing holders of existing licenses, people likely to be affected by the authorities exercising of its functions, including community organisations, advocacy organisations,( e.g Citizens Advice Bureau) and other relevant organisations. The general public have the right to comment on the draft policy and we must consider every comment in the drawing up of any final policy. In addition the public have the right to call for any licence issued by the Council to be reviewed subject to a qualifying criteria laid down in legislation and Government guidance.

### **A4. Is the policy/function corporate and far-reaching?**

The Gambling Act Policy has been consulted on widely and will be a public document. The statutory functions within the power of South Cambridgeshire District Council will apply to all premises that either hold or apply for a licence under the Act within the district boundaries.

### **A5. Are you expecting to make any significant change to the policy or service in the near future? If so, please give details.**

Draft policy is due for consideration and adoption by full Council by no later than December 2009. The revised policy reflects both the requirements of the Act itself and the guidelines issued by the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS), Gambling Commission and where relevant Council strategies such as crime and disorder.

### **A6. Is this a new or existing policy or function?**

Gambling Act 2005 is an existing policy first introduced in 2006 and is reviewed as required

**B. EVIDENCE/ DATA and CONSULTATION**

It is important to consider all information that is available in determining whether the policy or function could have a differential impact. Please attach examples of monitoring information, research or consultation reports.

**B1. What monitoring or other information do you have about relevant target groups, which will show the impact of the policy or function?**

The information held is limited due to the strict criteria in which the Licensing authority has to work. The Act specifies what information can be asked in any application forms therefore this makes identification of relevant groups difficult

**B2. Have you compared the data you have with the equality profile of the local population? What does it show?**

The Consultation document was circulated across as many diverse organisations as possible (see appendix in report). There was no comment made either for or against the proposed policy.

**B3. Have you identified any improvements or other changes that could be made from monitoring the data?**

See B2.

**B4. Have you consulted or involved external stakeholders about the policy or function? If so, what were their views?**

Yes. See report – no comments received

**B5. Have you undertaken any consultation with staff to assess their perception of any impacts of the policy or function? If so, what has been learnt from them?**

This is not an optional function for SCDC to adopt and therefore must be delivered. Consideration to staffing levels was given in 2006 and consideration and subsequent training given to all staff

**B6. Please provide information about any other consultation, research, or involvement undertaken in relation to this impact assessment.**

The Policy has been developed in tandem with and to be consistent with neighbouring Cambridgeshire authorities based upon a national framework for developing the Gambling Act policy.

**C1. IMPACT OF THE POLICY OR FUNCTION**

Assess the potential impact on each of the equality strands/groups. The impact could be negative, positive or neutral. If you assess a negative impact for any of the groups then you will need to assess whether that impact is low, medium or high. Refer to the evidence you use.

<b>DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT</b>	<b>Nature of Impact</b> (Positive, Neutral, Adverse)	<b>Extent of Impact</b> (Low, Medium, High)
<b>GENDER:</b> Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on men and women	Neutral	Low
<b>RACE:</b> Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on different race/ethnic groups	Neutral	Low
<b>DISABILITY:</b> Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on disabled people	Neutral	Low
<b>AGE:</b> Identify the potential impact of the policy or function on different age groups	Neutral	Low
<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION:</b> potential impact of the policy on lesbian, gay men, bisexual or heterosexual people	Neutral	Low
<b>RELIGION/FAITH:</b> Identify the potential impact the policy on different religious/faith groups	Neutral	Low
<b>OTHER</b>	Neutral	Low

PLEASE NOTE: Following completion of the section above, if the nature of the impact is adverse then you may need to proceed to a full equality impact assessment.

**C2. Could you minimise or remove any adverse or potential impact that is high, medium or low significance, in advance of a full impact assessment? Explain how.**

NA

**C3. Does the policy or function actively promote equal opportunities and good community relations? Or could changes be made so that it does so?**

The function places no adverse barriers to people making applications. The procedures are dictated in legislation.

**C4. Please provide any further information, qualitative or quantitative that does not fit into the questions but you feel has a likely impact on this assessment.**

Indirectly, the general activity of gambling may infringe upon the religious or cultural practises of certain groups, but this is a separate issue to those of administering our duties under the Act and is not applicable to the policy. The legislation requires that applications are dealt with in accordance with a strict legal framework and are considered on their individual merit in accordance with the three licensing objectives referred to in A1 of the assessment. This should not cause any discriminatory factors, provided decisions are based on the facts of each case. The policy states that we will avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes.

<b>D. CONCLUSIONS</b>			
<b>D1. Was there sufficient data to complete the partial assessment?</b>	Yes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>If “NO”, what arrangements are in place for evidence gathering and continuing with the assessment?</b>
	No?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>D2. Is the outcome of the partial assessment that the policy or function would have an adverse impact (medium or high impact) on one or more target group?</b>	Yes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>If “YES”, will you proceed to a full assessment? If so, what arrangements are in place to carry out the full assessment?</b>
	No?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>D3. Is the outcome of the partial assessment that the policy or function would have a neutral or positive impact on equalities?</b>	Yes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>If “YES”, have you included proposals in the Action Plan to further improve the impact of the policy or function on equalities?</b> To monitor sex / ethnicity.
	No?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Do you plan to review the service or policy again in future to assess whether there has been any change? If so, when?</b> 2010
			<b>Has the Equalities Steering Group and the Consultative Forum reviewed the assessment? If so what were their comments?</b> No
<b>D4. Do you have any other conclusions/outcomes from the partial assessment?</b>			

**ACTION PLAN for enhancing existing practice**

Recommendation/ issue to be addressed	Planned Milestone	Planned completion of milestone (date)	Officer Responsible	Progress

**RESOURCES - Does the above action plan require any additional resources?**

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**ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING - Please give your plans for monitoring the achievement of the above actions.**

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<b>SIGN OFF: The officers below confirm that this partial assessment has been completed in accordance with the Council's guidance</b>		
Signature of Lead Officer		Date:
Signature of Corporate Manager or Chief Officer:		Date:

Please retain the original form on your service area and return a copy of the completed form to the Equality & Diversity Officer.
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