**Your opinion matters – Statement of Gambling Policy Review Consultation 2025**

Gambling regulation in the UK is split between Gambling Commission and Local Authorities. The Gambling Commission regulates remote gambling (this includes online gambling) and licences personal and operator licences. Local Authorities regulate non-remote gambling and licences premises.

As a Local Authority the London Borough of Newham is a Licensing Authority under the Gambling Act 2005. This involves:

* Publishing Statement of Licensing Policy which determines our approach to the Licensing of Gambling Premises within the borough
* Considering applications and issuing licences for premises where gambling takes place, with conditions where appropriate
* Issuing permits for some forms of gambling
* Reviewing or revoking premises licences where they fail to promote one or more of the three gambling objectives
* Undertaking inspection and enforcement activities, including tackling illegal gambling.

**Consultation – Why do we want your views**

We have re-written our old Statement of Gambling Policy 2022 to 2025 from scratch. Before we make our decision on this revised policy, we must carry out a statutory consultation. The consultation will run for **6 weeks commencing on 30th June 2025 and finishing at 23:59 hours on 8th August 2025**.

The Gambling Act 2005 has three licensing objectives that a Licensing Authority must incorporate into any policy. These are:

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

In connection with this statutory consultation, we would welcome your views in relation the proposed policy. We would be grateful if you could read through our Draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2025 – 2028, and provide any comments you may have by email to licensing@newham.gov.uk or by post to Licensing team, East Ham Town Hall, 328 Barking Rd, London E6 2RP.

**Key notes**

* The Gambling Act is a permissive regime, and the Local Authority has a statutory aim to permit
* The Local Authority cannot consider if there is a need or demand for the gambling facilities applied for nor saturation of existing premises
* The Gambling Commission guidance states that moral objections to gambling are not a valid reason to reject applications for premises licences
* The London Assembly Health Committee took the decision to carry out an investigation into the health impacts of gambling in London in 2023-24 [Gambling-related harms in London | London City Hall](https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/london-assembly-work/london-assembly-publications/gambling-related-harms-london)
* The investigation found that the majority of people who gamble do not experience gambling-related harms. However, a substantial number of people in London do experience harm as a result of their participation in gambling activity
* Gambling-related harms impact people differently, but they can include having a detrimental impact on someone’s finances, mental health and relationships. These harms can impact both the person involved in gambling and ‘affected others’
* Gambling harm is a health inequalities issue. People from lower socio-economic groups and minority ethnic groups are less likely to gamble, but more likely to experience gambling-related harms
* This new policy places a strong emphasis on the objective of ‘Protecting children and other vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling’
* Although the Act is a permissive regime, any relevant gambling harms identified at a local level must be properly identified and taken into account. There is an expectation of this policy that all local area risk assessments accompanying applications will be tailored to the context of the London Borough of Newham and our specific demographics, and challenges, not limited to but including our young demographic, diversity and deprivation
* Section 1(b), 1(c) and 13 of the policy cover this in more detail as well as introducing a new Gambling Vulnerability Area in East Ham
* Part E covers enforcement and Section 31 the Review process which can be used on operators who don’t take their responsibility seriously
* The Local Authority requires all operators to not only train staff properly in vulnerability and have proper processes in place, but to also physically display localised gambling harms support services available for customers in a variety of languages reflecting the demographics of the borough
* The Local Authority expects Licence Holders to operate a ‘Think 25’ age verification policy within their licensed premises. This provides greater degree of certainty in ensuring those under the age of 18 will be prevented from gambling by challenging those who appear to be under the age of 25. Newham is a relatively young borough, with 45% of residents under 30
* Over the next 3-year period licensing officers will conduct inspections of licensed premises to ensure they are operating in line with their licence conditions and effectively promoting the three gambling objectives