



# STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES

GAMBLING ACT 2005

January 2025

Contents	Page
<b>PART A – GENERAL</b>	<b>4</b>
1. Introduction	4
2. The Licensing Objectives	6
3. Declaration	6
4. Responsible Authorities	7
5. Interested Parties	7
6. Exchange of Information	8
7. Enforcement	9
8. Licensing Authority Functions	10
<b>PART B – PREMISES LICENCES</b>	<b>11</b>
9. General Principles	11
Premises “Ready for Gambling”	13
Location	13
Planning	13
Licensing Objectives	14
Conditions	15
Door Supervisors	17
10. Adult Gaming Centres	17
11. Licensing Family Entertainment Centres	18
12. Casinos	18
13. Bingo Premises	19
14. Betting Premises	19
15. Travelling Fairs	20
16. Provisional Statements	20
17. Reviews	21
<b>PART C – PERMITS / TEMPORARY &amp; OCCASIONAL USE NOTICES</b>	<b>23</b>
18. Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres: Gaming Machine Permits	23

19.	Alcohol Licensed Premises: Gaming Machine Permits	24
20.	Prize Gaming Permits	25
21.	Club Gaming and Club Machine Permits	26
22.	Temporary Use Notices	27
23.	Occasional Use Notices	27
	<b>PART D – LOCAL RISK ASSESSMENTS / LOCAL AREA PROFILE</b>	<b>28</b>
24.	Local Risk Assessments	28
25.	Local Area Profile	28

# PART A

## GENERAL

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The City of London Corporation provides local government services for the financial and commercial heart of Britain, the “Square Mile”. It is committed to maintaining and enhancing the status of the City as the world’s leading international financial and business centre through the policies it pursues and the high standard of services it provides. Its responsibilities extend far beyond the City boundaries in that it also provides a host of additional facilities for the benefit of the nation. These include open spaces such as Epping Forest and Hampstead Heath and the Barbican Arts Centre.
- 1.2 The City of London combines its ancient traditions and ceremonial functions with the role of a modern and efficient local authority, looking after the needs of its residents, businesses and the 615,000 people who come to work in the “Square Mile” every week . Among local authorities the City of London is unique; not only is it the oldest in the country but it operates on a non-party political basis through the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Court of Common Council. The Lord Mayor, in particular, has an important role as the principal ambassador of the City of London Corporation and the Business City, supporting and promoting the City as the world's leading international financial and business centre both home and abroad; The Mayor’s Office consults the City community on all business needs.
- 1.3 Licensing authorities are required by the Gambling Act 2005 (‘the Act’) to publish a statement of the principles (‘Policy’) which they propose to apply when exercising their functions under the Act. This statement must be published at least every three years. The statement must also be reviewed from time to time, be revised when necessary, and published before taking effect.
- 1.4 The City of London Corporation consulted widely upon this statement before finalising and publishing it, as required by Section 349 of the Act. A list of those consulted with is provided below:
- Chief Officer of Police
  - Gambling Commission
  - Representatives of the Trade:
    - Ladbrokes
    - William Hill
    - Coral
  - Gamcare
  - GambleAware

- Betting and Gaming Council
- Gambling Business Group
- National Association of Bookmakers
- Bingo Association
- City Residents Associations
- Director of Community and Children's Services
- Members of the Licensing Committee
- Members of the Licensing Liaison Panel
  - Highways
  - Environmental Health
  - Planning
  - Community Safety
  - Immigration Services
  - Street Enforcement
  - Public Health
  - Trading Standards
  - London Fire Brigade
- In addition the Statement was placed on the City Corporation web site for comment

The Gambling Act requires that the following parties are consulted by licensing authorities:

- Chief Officer of Police;
- One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the authority's area;
- One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority's functions under the Gambling Act 2005.

This statement of principles was consulted on from 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

- 1.5 The policy was approved at a meeting of the Court of Common Council on [date to be confirmed] and is published via our website. Hard copies are available on request.
- 1.6 It should be noted that this policy statement will not override the right of any person able to make an application, make representations about an application, or apply for a review of a licence, as each will be considered on its own merits and according to the statutory requirements of the Act.

## 2. The Licensing Objectives

- 2.1 In exercising most of their functions under the Act, licensing authorities must have regard to the licensing objectives as set out in section 1. The licensing objectives are:
- 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
  - protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.
- 2.2 The Corporation has a duty to pursue these objectives, and we expect gambling businesses to act in accordance with them. There is no restriction on the number of gambling premises in the city, and we will aim to permit the use of premises for gambling, providing we believe the use is:
- in accordance with any relevant code of practice under section 24 of the act.
  - in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission under section 25 of the act.
  - reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives and
  - in accordance with the [licensing] authority's Statement of Licensing Principles.
- 2.3 Our aim to permit provides the Corporation wide remit to impose conditions on a premises licence, reject, review or revoke a premises licence where there is conflict with the objectives, code of practice, guidance or our statement of licensing principles.

## 3. Declaration

- 3.1 In producing this Policy statement, the City of London Corporation declares that it has had regard to the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, and any responses from those consulted on the statement. It shall be noted that this statement is consistent with the Gambling Commission's current guidance and code of practice. The statement will likely need to be review following the publication of of the Gambling Commission's guidance due 2025.
- 3.2 In producing the final statement, the City of London Corporation gives appropriate weight to the views of those it has consulted. In determining what weight to give particular representations, the Corporation took into account the following factors:
- who is making the representations (what is their expertise or interest)
  - relevance of the factors to the licensing objectives

- how many other people have expressed the same or similar views
- how far the representations relate to matters that the licensing authority should be including in its policy statement

## 4. Responsible Authorities

- 4.1 The City of London Corporation is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply in exercising its powers under Section 157(h) of the Act to designate, in writing, a body which is competent to advise the authority about the protection of children from harm. The principles are:
- the need for the body to be responsible for an area covering the whole of the City of London Corporation’s area; and
  - the need for the body to be answerable to democratically elected persons, rather than any particular vested interest group.
- 4.2 In accordance with the suggestion in the Gambling Commission’s Guidance for local authorities, this authority designates the Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services for this purpose.

## 5. Interested Parties

- 5.1 Interested parties can make representations about licence applications or apply for a review of an existing licence. These parties are defined in Section 158 Gambling Act 2005 as follows:

“For the purposes of this Part a person is an interested party in relation to an application for or in respect of a premises licence if, in the opinion of the licensing authority which issues the licence or to which the application is made, the person:

- lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities,
- has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities, or
- represents persons who satisfy paragraph (a) or (b).”

- 5.2 The City of London Corporation is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply in exercising its powers under the Gambling Act 2005 to determine whether a person is an interested party. The principles are:
- each case will be decided upon its merits
  - this authority will not apply a rigid rule to its decision making

- it will consider the examples of considerations provided in Part 8 of the Gambling Commission's Guidance for Local Authorities.
- it will also consider the Gambling Commission's Guidance that 'has business interests' should be given the widest possible interpretation and include partnerships, charities, faith groups and medical practices

5.3 Interested parties can be persons who are democratically elected such as Aldermen, Common Councilmen and Members of Parliament. No specific evidence of being asked to represent an interested person will be required as long as the elected representative represents the ward likely to be affected. Other than these however, this authority will generally require written evidence that a person/body (e.g. an advocate / relative) 'represents' someone who either lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities and/or has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities. A letter from one of these persons, requesting the representation will be sufficient.

5.4 If individuals wish to approach Aldermen & Common Councilmen to ask them to represent their views then care should be taken that they are not part of the Licensing Committee dealing with the licence application. If there are any doubts then please contact the Licensing Section as detailed at the end of the document.

5.5 Where an application is made for a premises licence an interested party, as detailed in paragraph [5.3] of this document, or a responsible authority may make representations in writing to the City of London Corporation. Such representations must be made within such period as set out by legislation and must relate to the licensing objectives.

5.6 Where a licence is held an interested party or a responsible authority may apply for a review. Applications for review must be made in a manner and format which complies with The Gambling Act 2005 (Premises Licences) (Review) Regulations 2007.

## 6. Exchange of Information

6.1 Licensing authorities are required to include in their statements the principles to be applied by the authority in exercising the functions under sections 29 and 30 of the Act with respect to the exchange of information between it and the Gambling Commission, and the functions under section 350 of the Act with respect to the exchange of information between it and the other persons listed in Schedule 6 to the Act.

6.2 The principle that the City Corporation applies is that it will act in accordance with the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 in its exchange of information which includes compliance with current Data Protection legislation. The City of London



Corporation will also have regard to any Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission to local authorities on this matter when it is published, as well as any relevant Regulations issued by the Secretary of State under the powers provided in the Act.

- 6.3 Should any protocols be established as regards information exchange with other bodies then they will be made available.

## 7. Enforcement

- 7.1 Licensing authorities are required by regulations made under the Act to state the principles to be applied by the authority in exercising the functions under Part 15 of the Act with respect to the inspection of premises; and the powers under section 346 of the Act to institute criminal proceedings in respect of the offences specified.

- 7.2 The City Corporation's principle is that it will be guided by the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities and will endeavour to be:

- proportionate: regulators should only intervene when necessary: remedies should be appropriate to the risk posed, and costs identified and minimised;
- accountable: regulators must be able to justify decisions, and be subject to public scrutiny;
- consistent: rules and standards must be joined up and implemented fairly;
- transparent: regulators should be open, and keep regulations simple and user friendly;
- targeted: regulation should be focused on the problem, and minimise side effects.

- 7.3 Following the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities the City of London Corporation will endeavour to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes as far as possible.

- 7.4 The City of London Corporation has adopted and implemented a risk-based inspection programme, based on;

- The licensing objectives
- Relevant codes of practice
- Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, in particular Part 36
- The principles set out in this statement of licensing principles.

- 7.5 The main enforcement and compliance role for the City Corporation in terms of the Gambling Act 2005 will be to ensure compliance with the premises' licences and other permissions which it authorises. The Gambling Commission will be the enforcement body for the operating and personal licences. It is also worth noting

that concerns about manufacture, supply or repair of gaming machines will not be dealt with by the City Corporation but will be notified to the Gambling Commission.

- 7.6 The City Corporation will also keep itself informed of developments as regards the work of the Department for Business and Trade in its consideration of the regulatory functions of local authorities.
- 7.7 Bearing in mind the principle of transparency, the City Corporation's enforcement/compliance protocols/written agreements will be available upon request from the Licensing Section detailed at the end of this document.

## 8. Licensing Authority Functions

8.1 Licensing authorities are required under the Act to:

- be responsible for the licensing of premises where gambling activities are to take place by issuing Premises Licences
- issue Provisional Statements
- regulate members' clubs and miners' welfare institutes who wish to undertake certain gaming activities through issuing Club Gaming Permits and/or Club Machine Permits
- issue Club Machine Permits to Commercial Clubs
- grant permits for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines at unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres
- receive notifications from alcohol licensed premises (under the Licensing Act 2003) for the use of two or fewer gaming machines
- issue Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits for premises licensed to sell/supply alcohol for consumption on the licensed premises, under the Licensing Act 2003, where there are more than two machines
- register small society lotteries below prescribed thresholds
- issue Prize Gaming Permits
- receive and Endorse Temporary Use Notices
- receive Occasional Use Notices
- provide information to the Gambling Commission regarding details of licences issued (see section 6 above concerning Exchange of Information)
- maintain registers of the permits and licences that are issued under these functions

8.2 It should be noted that the licensing authority will not be involved in licensing remote gambling at all. This falls to the Gambling Commission via operating licences.

## PART B

### PREMISES LICENCES

#### 9. General Principles

- 9.1 Premises licences will be subject to the requirements set out in the Gambling Act 2005 and regulations, as well as specific mandatory and default conditions which will be detailed in regulations issued by the Secretary of State. Licensing authorities are able to exclude default conditions and also attach others, where it is believed to be appropriate.
- 9.2 The City of London Corporation is aware that in making decisions about premises licences it should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it considers such use to be:
- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission;
  - in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission;
  - reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives; and,
  - in accordance with the authority's statement of licensing policy.
- 9.3 As per the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities 'moral objections to gambling are not a valid reason to reject applications for premises licences' (except as regards any 'no casino resolution' - see paragraph 12.1 below concerning Casinos) and also that unmet demand is not a consideration for a licensing authority.
- 9.4 'Premises' in the Act is defined as including 'any place'. Section 152 therefore prevents more than one premises licence applying to any place. But a single building could be subject to more than one premises licence, provided they are for different parts of the building and the different parts of the building can be reasonably regarded as being different premises. This approach has been taken to allow large, multiple unit premises such as a pleasure park, pier, track or shopping mall to obtain discrete premises licences, where appropriate safeguards are in place. However, licensing authorities should pay particular attention if there are issues about sub-divisions of a single building or plot and should ensure that mandatory conditions relating to access between premises are observed.
- 9.5 The Gambling Commission states in the latest edition of its Guidance to Licensing Authorities (issued May 2021) that: 'In most cases the expectation is that a single

building / plot will be the subject of an application for a licence, for example, 32 High Street. But, that does not mean 32 High Street cannot be the subject of separate premises licences for the basement and ground floor, if they are configured acceptably. Whether different parts of a building can properly be regarded as being separate premises will depend on the circumstances.'

'The location of the premises will clearly be an important consideration and the suitability of the division is likely to be a matter for discussion between the operator and the licensing officer. However, the Commission does not consider that areas of a building that are artificially or temporarily separated, for example by ropes or moveable partitions, can properly be regarded as different premises.'

9.6 The City of London Corporation takes particular note of the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities which states that, 'licensing authorities should take particular care in considering applications for multiple licences for a building and those relating to a discrete part of a building used for other (non-gambling) purposes. In particular they should be aware of the following:

- The third licensing objective seeks to protect children from being harmed by gambling. In practice that means not only preventing them from taking part in gambling, but also preventing them from being in close proximity to gambling. Therefore premises should be configured so that children are not invited to participate in, have accidental access to or closely observe gambling where they are prohibited from participating.
- Entrances to and exits from parts of a building covered by one or more premises licences should be separate and identifiable so that the separation of different premises is not compromised, and people do not "drift" into a gambling area. In this context it should normally be possible to access the premises without going through another licensed premises or premises with a permit.
- Customers should be able to participate in the activity named on the premises licence.

9.7 The Guidance also gives a list of factors which the licensing authority should be aware of, which may include:

- Do the premises have a separate registration for business rates?
- Is the premises' neighbouring premises owned by the same person or someone else?
- Can each of the premises be accessed from the street or a public passageway?
- Can the premises only be accessed from any other gambling premises?

9.8 The City of London Corporation will consider these and other relevant factors in making its decision, depending on all the circumstances of the case.

## **Premises 'ready for gambling'**

- 9.9 The Guidance states that a licence to use premises for gambling should only be issued in relation to premises that the licensing authority can be satisfied are going to be ready to be used for gambling in the reasonably near future, consistent with the scale of building or alterations required before the premises are brought into use.
- 9.10 If the construction of a premises is not yet complete, or if they need alteration, or if the applicant does not yet have a right to occupy them, then an application for a provisional statement should be made instead.
- 9.11 In deciding whether a premises licence can be granted where there are outstanding construction or alteration works at a premises, this authority will determine applications on their merits, applying a two stage consideration process:
- First, whether the premises ought to be permitted to be used for gambling
  - Second, whether appropriate conditions can be put in place to cater for the situation that the premises are not yet in the state in which they ought to be before gambling takes place.
- 9.12 Applicants should note that this authority is entitled to decide that it is appropriate to grant a licence subject to conditions, but it is not obliged to grant such a licence.

## **Location**

- 9.13 The City of London Corporation is aware that demand issues cannot be considered with regard to the location of premises but that considerations in terms of the licensing objectives can. As per the Gambling Commission's Guidance, this authority will pay particular attention to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, as well as issues of crime and disorder. Should any specific policy be decided upon as regards areas where gambling premises should not be located, this statement will be updated. It should be noted that any such policy does not preclude any application being made and each application will be decided on its merits, with the onus upon the applicant showing how potential concerns can be overcome.

## **Planning**

- 9.14 The Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities states: In determining applications, the licensing authority should not take into consideration matters that are not related to gambling and the licensing objectives.

One example would be the likelihood of the applicant obtaining planning permission or building regulations approval for their proposal.

- 9.15 This authority will not take into account irrelevant matters as per the above guidance. In addition, this authority notes the following excerpt from the Guidance: 'When dealing with a premises licence application for finished buildings, the licensing authority should not take into account whether those buildings have to comply with the necessary planning or building consents. Nor should fire or health and safety risks be taken into account. Those matters should be dealt with under relevant planning control, building and other regulations, and must not form part of the consideration for the premises licence. S.210 of the Act prevents licensing authorities taking into account the likelihood of the proposal by the applicant obtaining planning or building consent when considering a premises licence application. Equally, the grant of a gambling premises licence does not prejudice or prevent any action that may be appropriate under the law relating to planning or building.'
- 9.16 Duplication with other regulatory regimes - The City of London Corporation will seek to avoid any duplication with other statutory/regulatory systems where possible, including planning. This authority will not consider whether a licence application is likely to be awarded planning permission or building regulations approval, in its consideration of it. It will though, listen to, and consider carefully, any concerns about conditions which are not able to be met by licensees due to planning restrictions, should such a situation arise.
- 9.17 When dealing with a premises licence application for finished buildings, this authority will not take into account whether those buildings have to comply with the necessary planning or buildings consents. Fire or health and safety risks will not be taken into account, as these matters are dealt with under relevant planning control, buildings and other regulations and must not form part of the consideration for the premises licence.

### **Licensing objectives**

- 9.18 Premises licences granted must be reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives. With regard to these objectives, the City Corporation has considered the Gambling Commission's Guidance to local authorities and some comments are made below.
- 9.19 Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime - The City of London Corporation is aware that the Gambling Commission will be taking a leading role in preventing gambling from being a source of crime. The Gambling Commission's Guidance does however envisage that licensing authorities should pay attention to the proposed location of gambling premises in terms of this licensing objective.

Thus, where an area has known high levels of crime this authority will consider carefully whether gambling premises are suitable to be located there and whether conditions may be suitable such as the provision of door supervisors. The City of London Corporation is aware of the distinction between disorder and nuisance and will consider factors such as whether police assistance has been required and how threatening the behaviour was to those who could see it, so as to make that distinction. Issues of nuisance cannot be addressed via the Gambling Act provisions.

- 9.20 Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way - The City Corporation has noted that the Gambling Commission has stated that it would generally not expect licensing authorities to become concerned with ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way as this will be addressed via operating and personal licences.
- 9.21 Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling - The City Corporation has noted that the Gambling Commission's Guidance states that this objective means preventing children from taking part in gambling (as well as restriction of advertising so that gambling products are not aimed at, or are particularly attractive to, children). The City Corporation will, therefore, consider, as suggested in the Gambling Commission's Guidance, whether specific measures are required at particular premises, with regard to this licensing objective. Appropriate measures may include supervision of entrances / machines, segregation of areas etc.
- 9.22 The City Corporation will also make itself aware of the Codes of Practice which the Gambling Commission issues as regards this licensing objective, in relation to specific premises such as casinos.
- 9.23 As regards the term 'vulnerable persons' it is noted that the Gambling Commission is not seeking to offer a definition but states that 'it will, for regulatory purposes, assume that this group includes people who gamble more than they want to; people who gamble beyond their means; and people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to a mental impairment, alcohol or drugs.' The City of London Corporation will consider this licensing objective on a case by case basis.

## **Conditions**

- 9.24 Any conditions attached to licences will be proportionate and will be:
- relevant to the need to make the proposed building suitable as a gambling facility;
  - directly related to the premises and the type of licence applied for;
  - fairly and reasonably related to the scale and type of premises;
  - reasonable in all other respects.

9.25 Decisions upon individual conditions will be made on a case by case basis, although there will be a number of measures the City Corporation will consider utilising should there be a perceived need, such as the use of supervisors, appropriate signage for adult only areas etc. There are specific comments made in this regard under some of the licence types below. The City Corporation will also expect the licence applicant to offer his/her own suggestions as to the way in which the licensing objectives can be met effectively.

9.26 The City Corporation will also consider specific measures which may be required for buildings which are subject to multiple premises licences. Such measures may include the supervision of entrances; segregation of gambling from non-gambling areas frequented by children; and the supervision of gaming machines in non-adult gambling specific premises in order to pursue the licensing objectives. These matters are in accordance with the Gambling Commission's Guidance. The Secretary of State has prescribed the categories of gaming Machine and current details of the stakes and prizes of each category are available on the City of London's website in the licensing section.

9.27 This authority will also ensure that where category C or above machines are on offer in premises to which children are admitted:

- all such machines are located in an area of the premises which is separated from the remainder of the premises by a physical barrier which is effective to prevent access other than through a designated entrance;
- only adults are admitted to the area where these machines are located;
- access to the area where the machines are located is supervised;
- the area where these machines are located is arranged so that it can be observed by the staff or the licence holder; and
- at the entrance to and inside any such areas there are prominently displayed notices indicating that access to the area is prohibited to persons under 18 years of age.

These considerations will apply to premises including buildings where multiple premises licences are applicable.

9.28 As per the Gambling Commission's Guidance, the City Corporation will consider the impact upon the third licensing objective and the need to ensure that entrances to each type of premises are distinct and that children are excluded from gambling areas where they are not permitted to enter.

9.29 It is noted that there are conditions which the licensing authority cannot attach to premises licences as follows:



- any condition on the premises licence which makes it impossible to comply with an operating licence condition;
- conditions relating to gaming machine categories, numbers, or method of operation;
- conditions which provide that membership of a club or body be required (the Gambling Act 2005 specifically removes the membership requirement for casino and bingo clubs and this provision prevents it being reinstated);
- conditions in relation to stakes, fees, winnings or prizes.

## **Door Supervisors**

9.30 Door Supervisors – The Gambling Commission advises in its Guidance to Licensing Authorities that if a licensing authority is concerned that a premises may attract disorder or be subject to attempts at unauthorised access (for example by children and young persons) then it may require that the entrances to the premises are controlled by a door supervisor, and is entitled to impose a premises licence to this effect.

9.31 Where it is decided that supervision of entrances/machines is appropriate for particular cases, door supervisors must be SIA licensed.

## **10. Adult Gaming Centres**

10.1 The City of London Corporation will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to, for example, ensure that people under 18 years of age do not have access to the premises.

10.2 The City Corporation will expect applicants to offer their own measures to meet the licensing objectives. Appropriate measures / licence conditions may cover issues such as:

- proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- supervision of entrances / machine areas
- physical separation of areas
- location of entry
- notices / signage
- specific opening hours
- self-barring schemes
- provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

10.3 This list is not mandatory, nor exhaustive, and is merely indicative of example measures.

## 11. Licensed Family Entertainment Centres

11.1 The City of London Corporation will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority, for example, that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that people under 18 years of age do not have access to the adult only gaming machine areas.

11.2 The City Corporation will expect applicants to offer their own measures to meet the licensing objectives however appropriate measures / licence conditions may cover issues such as:

- proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- supervision of entrances / machine areas
- physical separation of areas
- location of entry
- notices / signage
- specific opening hours
- self-barring schemes
- provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.
- measures / training for staff on how to deal with suspected truant school children on the premises

This list is not mandatory, nor exhaustive, and is merely indicative of example measures.

11.3 The City Corporation will, as per the Gambling Commission's guidance, refer to the Commission's website to see any conditions that apply to operating licences covering the way in which the area containing the category C machines should be delineated. The City of London Corporation will also make itself aware of any mandatory or default conditions on these premises licences, when they have been published.

## 12. Casinos

12.1 Section 166(1) of The Gambling Act 2005 allows local authorities to pass a 'no casino' resolution. The City Corporation has not exercised this power. This is

because The Gambling (Geographical Distribution of Large and Small Casino Premises Licences) Order 2008 sets out in statute the authorities that are permitted to have a casino, and The City of London is not named as one of those authorities. Therefore, we do not consider it necessary to make a 'no casino resolution' at this time. Should the legislative order be amended in the future, the City Corporation may decide to pass such a resolution, and update this policy statement with details of that resolution. Any such decision will be made by the Court of Common Council.

## 13. Bingo Premises

13.1 The City corporation notes that the Gambling Commission's Guidance states:

Licensing authorities need to satisfy themselves that bingo can be played in any bingo premises for which they issue a premises licence. An operator may choose to vary their licence to exclude a previously licensed area of that premises, and then apply for a new premises licence, or multiple new premises licences, with the aim of creating separate premises in that area. Essentially providing multiple licensed premises within a single building or site. Before issuing additional bingo premises licences, licensing authorities need to consider whether bingo can be played at each of those new premises.

13.2 The Guidance further states:-

Children and young people are allowed into bingo premises; however they are not permitted to participate in the bingo and if category B or C machines are made available for use these must be separated from areas where children and young people are allowed. Social Responsibility (SR) code 3.2.5(3) (now amalgamated in the Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP) published October 2020) states that 'licensees must ensure that their policies and procedures take account of the structure and layout of their gambling premises' in order to prevent underage gambling.

## 14. Betting Premises

14.1 Betting machines – The City Corporation will, as per the Gambling Commission's Guidance, take into account the size of the premises, the number of counter positions available for person-to-person transactions, and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by children and young persons or by vulnerable people (it is an offence for those under 18 years of age to bet), when considering the nature and circumstances of betting machines an operator wants to offer.

14.2 While the City Corporation has discretion as to the number, nature and circumstances of use of betting machines, there is no evidence that such machines give rise to regulatory concerns. This authority will normally consider limiting the number of machines only where there is clear evidence that such machines have been or are likely to be used in breach of the licensing objectives. Where there is such evidence, this authority may consider, when reviewing the licence, the ability of staff to monitor the use of such machines from the counter.

## 15. Travelling Fairs

15.1 It will fall to the City Corporation to decide, where category D machines and / or equal chance prize gaming without a permit is made available for use at travelling fairs, if the statutory requirement that the facilities for gambling amount to no more than an ancillary amusement at the fair is met.

15.2 The licensing authority will also consider whether the applicant falls within the statutory definition of a travelling fair.

15.3 It has been noted that the 27 days statutory maximum for the land being used as a fair is per calendar year, and that it applies to the piece of land on which the fairs are held, regardless of whether it is the same or different travelling fairs occupying the land. The City of London Corporation will work with its neighbouring authorities to ensure that land which crosses our boundaries is monitored so that the statutory limits are not exceeded.

## 16. Provisional Statements

16.1 Developers may wish to apply to this authority for provisional statements before entering into a contract to buy or lease property or land to judge whether a development is worth taking forward in light of the need to obtain a premises licence. There is no need for the applicant to hold an operating licence in order to apply for a provisional statement.

16.2 Section 204 of the Gambling Act provides for a person to make an application to the licensing authority for a provisional statement in respect of premises that he or she:

- expects to be constructed;
- expects to be altered; or
- expects to acquire a right to occupy.

16.3 The process for considering an application for a provisional statement is the same as that for a premises licence application. The applicant is obliged to give notice of the application in the same way as applying for a premises licence. Responsible

authorities and interested parties may make representations and there are rights of appeal.

16.4 In contrast to the premises licence application, the applicant does not have to hold or have applied for an operating licence from the Gambling Commission (except in the case of a track) and they do not have to have a right to occupy the premises in respect of which their provisional application is made.

16.5 The holder of a provisional statement may then apply for a premises licence once the premises are constructed, altered or acquired. The licensing authority will be constrained in the matters it can consider when determining the premises licence application, and in terms of representations about premises licence applications that follow the grant of a provisional statement, no further representations from relevant authorities or interested parties can be taken into account unless:

- they concern matters which could not have been addressed at the provisional statement stage, or
- they reflect a change in the applicant's circumstances.

16.6 In addition, the authority may refuse the premises licence (or grant it on terms different to those attached to the provisional statement) only by reference to matters:

- which could not have been raised by objectors at the provisional statement stage;
- which in the authority's opinion reflect a change in the operators' circumstances;
- where the premises has not been constructed in accordance with the plan submitted with the application. This must be a substantial change to the plan and this licensing authority notes that it can discuss any concerns it has with the applicant before making a decision.

## 17. Reviews

17.1 Requests for a review of a premises licence can be made by interested parties or responsible authorities. However, it is for the licensing authority to decide whether the review is to be carried-out. This will be on the basis of whether the request for the review is relevant to the matters listed below:

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission;
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission;
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives;
- in accordance with the authority's statement of licensing principles.

Consideration will also be given as to whether the request for a review is frivolous, vexatious or substantially the same previous representations or requests for review.

17.2 The licensing authority can also initiate a review of a licence on the basis of any reason which it thinks is appropriate.

Once a valid application for a review has been received, representations can be made by responsible authorities and interested parties during a 28 day period. This period begins 7 days after the application was received by the licensing authority, who will publish notice of the application within 7 days of receipt.

The licensing authority must carry out the review as soon as possible after the 28 day period for making representations has passed.

17.3 The purpose of the review will be to determine whether the licensing authority should take any action in relation to the licence. If action is justified, the options open to the licensing authority are:

- add, remove or amend a licence condition imposed by the licensing authority;
- exclude a default condition imposed by the Secretary of State or Scottish Ministers (e.g. opening hours) or remove or amend such an exclusion;
- suspend the premises licence for a period not exceeding three months;
- revoke the premises licence.

17.4 In determining what action, if any, should be taken following a review, the licensing authority must have regard to the principles set out in section 153 of the Act, as well as any relevant representations

17.5 In particular, the licensing authority may also initiate a review of a premises licence on the grounds that a premises licence holder has not provided facilities for gambling at the premises. This is to prevent people from applying for licences in a speculative manner without intending to use them.

17.6 Once the review has been completed, the licensing authority must, as soon as possible, notify its decision to:

- the licence holder
- the applicant for review (if any)
- the Commission
- any person who made representations
- the chief officer of police or chief constable; and
- Her Majesty's Commissioners for Revenue and Customs

## PART C

### PERMITS / TEMPORARY & OCCASIONAL USE NOTICE

- 18 Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre (UFEC):  
Gaming Machine Permits (Statement of Principles on  
Permits - Schedule 10, Paragraph 7)
- 18.1 Where a premises does not hold a premises licence but wishes to provide gaming machines, it may apply to the licensing authority for this permit. It should be noted that the applicant must show that the premises will be wholly or mainly used for making gaming machines available for use (Section 238).
- 18.2 The Gambling Act 2005 states that a licensing authority may prepare a statement of principles that they propose to consider in determining the suitability of an applicant for a permit. In preparing this statement, and/or considering applications, it need not (but may) have regard to the licensing objectives and shall have regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Commission under section 24.
- 18.3 The Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities also states:
- 'In its statement of policy, a licensing authority may include a statement of principles that it proposes to apply when exercising its functions in considering applications for permits. In particular it may want to set out the matters that it will take into account in determining the suitability of the applicant. Given that the premises is likely to appeal particularly to children and young persons, licensing authorities may wish to give weight to matters relating to protection of children from being harmed or exploited by gambling and to ensure that staff supervision adequately reflects the level of risk to this group'
- 18.4 The Guidance further states:
- 'An application for a permit may be granted only if the licensing authority is satisfied that the premises will be used as an UFEC, and if the chief officer of police has

been consulted on the application.....' The licensing authority may also consider asking applicants to demonstrate:

- a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes of the gambling that is permissible in UFECs
- that the applicant has no relevant convictions (as set out in Schedule 7 of the Act)
- that employees are trained to have a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes.

18.5 It should be noted that a licensing authority cannot attach conditions to this type of permit.

18.6 The City Corporation will expect the applicant to show that there are policies and procedures in place to protect children from harm. Harm in this context is not limited to harm from gambling but includes wider child protection considerations. The efficiency of such policies and procedures will each be considered on their merits. However, they may include appropriate measures / training for staff as regards suspected truant school children on the premises, measures / training covering how staff would deal with unsupervised very young children being on the premises, or children causing perceived problems on / around the premises.

## 19 Alcohol Licensed Premises: Gaming Machine Permits - Schedule 13, Paragraph 4(1)

19.1 There is provision in the Act for premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises, to automatically have two gaming machines, of categories C and/or D. The premises merely need to notify the licensing authority. The licensing authority can remove the automatic authorisation in respect of any particular premises if:

- provision of the machines is not reasonably consistent with the pursuit of the licensing objectives;
- gaming has taken place on the premises that breaches a condition of section 282 of the Gambling Act (i.e. that written notice has been provided to the licensing authority, that a fee has been provided and that any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine has been complied with);
- the premises are mainly used for gaming; or
- an offence under the Gambling Act has been committed on the premises.

19.2 If a premises wishes to have more than two machines, then it needs to apply for a permit and the licensing authority must consider that application based upon the



licensing objectives, any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission issued under Section 25 of the Gambling Act 2005, and 'such matters as they think relevant.' The City Corporation considers that 'such matters' will be decided on a case by case basis but generally there will be regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that people under 18 years of age do not have access to the adult only gaming machines.

19.3 Measures which will satisfy the authority that there will be no access may include the adult machines being in sight of the bar, or in the sight of staff who will monitor that the machines are not being used by those under 18. Notices and signage may also be of help. As regards the protection of vulnerable persons applicants may wish to consider the provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

19.4 It is recognised that some alcohol licensed premises may apply for a premises licence for their non-alcohol licensed areas. Any such application would most likely need to be applied for, and dealt with, as an Adult Gaming Centre premises licence.

19.5 It should be noted that the licensing authority can decide to grant the application with a smaller number of machines and/or a different category of machines than that applied for. Conditions (other than these) cannot be attached.

19.6 It should also be noted that the holder of a permit must comply with any Code of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine.

## 20. Prize Gaming Permits: Statement of Principles on Permits - Schedule 14, Paragraph 8 (3)

20.1 The Gambling Act 2005 states that a licensing authority may 'prepare a statement of principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under this Schedule' which 'may, in particular, specify matters that the licensing authority propose to consider in determining the suitability of the applicant for a permit'.

20.2 The City of London Corporation has prepared a Statement of Principles which is that the applicant should set out the types of gaming that he or she is intending to offer and that the applicant should be able to demonstrate:

- that they understand the limits to stakes and prizes that are set out in Regulations;
- and that the gaming offered is within the law.

20.3 In making its decision on an application for this permit the licensing authority does not need to have regard to the licensing objectives but must have regard to any Gambling Commission guidance.

20.4 It should be noted that there are conditions in the Gambling Act 2005 with which the permit holder must comply, but that the licensing authority cannot attach conditions. The conditions in the Act are:

- the limits on participation fees, as set out in regulations, must be complied with;
- all chances to participate in the gaming must be allocated on the premises on which the gaming is taking place and on one day; the game must be played and completed on the day the chances are allocated; and the result of the game must be made public in the premises on the day that it is played;
- the prize for which the game is played must not exceed the amount set out in regulations (if a money prize), or the prescribed value (if non-monetary prize);
- participation in the gaming must not entitle the player to take part in any other gambling.

## 21. Club Gaming and Club Machines Permits

21.1 Members Clubs and Miners welfare institutes (but not Commercial Clubs) may apply for a Club Gaming Permit or a Clubs Gaming machines permit. The Club Gaming Permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (three machines of categories B, C or D), equal chance gaming and games of chance as set-out in forthcoming regulations. A Club Gaming machine permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (three machines of categories B, C or D).

21.2 The Act states:

‘...members clubs must have at least 25 members and be established and conducted wholly or mainly for purposes other than gaming, unless the gaming is restricted to that of a prescribed kind (currently bridge and whist). Members’ clubs must be permanent in nature but there is no need for a club to have an alcohol licence.’

21.3. The Commission Guidance also notes that licensing authorities may only refuse an application on the grounds that:

- the applicant does not fulfil the requirements for a members' or commercial club or miners' welfare institute and therefore is not entitled to receive the type of permit for which it has applied;
- the applicant's premises are used wholly or mainly by children and/or young persons;
- an offence under the Act or a breach of a permit has been committed by the applicant while providing gaming facilities;
- a permit held by the applicant has been cancelled in the previous ten years; or an objection has been lodged by the Commission or the Police.

21.4. There is also a 'fast-track' procedure available under the Act for premises which hold a Club Premises Certificate under the Licensing Act 2003 (Schedule 12 paragraph 10). As the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities states, 'Under the fast-track procedure there is no opportunity for objections to be made by the Commission or the police, and the ground upon which an authority can refuse a permit are reduced.' and the grounds on which an application under the process may be refused are:

- that the club is established primarily for gaming, other than gaming prescribed under Schedule 12;
- that in addition to the prescribed gaming, the applicant provides facilities for other gaming; or
- that a club gaming permit or club machine permit issued to the applicant in the last ten years has been cancelled.

21.5. There are statutory conditions on club gaming permits that no child uses a category B or C machine on the premises and that the holder complies with any relevant provision of a code of practice about the location and operation of gaming machines.

## 22. Temporary Use Notices

22.1 There are a number of statutory limits as regards temporary use notices. Gambling Commission Guidance is noted that the meaning of premises in part eight of the Act is discussed in Part 7 of the guidance. As with premises, the definition of a 'set of premises' will be a question of fact in the particular circumstances of each notice that is given. In the Act premises is defined as including 'any place'. In considering whether a place falls within the definition of a 'set of premises', the City Corporation will need to look at, amongst other things, the ownership/occupation and control of the premises. The Guidance states, 'This is a new permission and licensing authorities should be ready to object to notices where it appears that their effect would be to permit regular gambling in a place that could be described as one set of premises.'

## 23. Occasional Use Notices:

- 23.1 The licensing authority has very little discretion as regards these notices aside from ensuring that the statutory limit of eight days in a calendar year is not exceeded. The City Corporation will however consider the definition of a ‘track’ and whether the applicant is permitted to avail him/herself of the notice.

## PART D

### Local Risk Assessments/Local Area Profile

## 24. Local Risk Assessments

- 24.1 The Gambling Commission’s Social Responsibility Code 10.1.1 requires all premises licensees to assess the local risks to the licensing objectives posed by the provision of gambling facilities at each of their premises, and have policies, procedures and control measures to mitigate those risks. In undertaking their risk assessments, they must take into account relevant matters identified in this Policy.
- 24.2 Licensees are required to undertake a local risk assessment when applying for a new premises licence. Their risk assessment must also be updated:
- when applying for a variation of a premises licence
  - to take account of significant changes in local circumstances, including those identified in a licensing authority’s statement of policy
  - when there are significant changes at a licensee’s premises that may affect their mitigation of local risks
- 24.3 The new Social Responsibility provision is supplemented by an ordinary code provision that requires licensees to share their risk assessment with licensing authorities when applying for a premises licence or applying for a variation to existing licensed premises, or otherwise at the request of the licensing authority, such as when they are inspecting a premises.
- 24.4 More information on Local Risk Assessments can be found in The City of London’s guide on risk assessments.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Guidance on Undertaking Gambling Risk Assessments – January 2025

## 25. Local Area Profile

- 25.1 In order to assist licensees in formulating their local risk assessments the City of London has produced a Local Area Profile.<sup>2</sup> The aim of the Local Area Profile is to increase awareness of local risks that licensees will need to address in their risk assessments.
- 25.2 The City Corporation will expect local risk assessments to contain control measures that seek to mitigate those risks identified in the Local Area Profile.

### Contact

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<sup>2</sup> Gambling Local Area Profile – January 2025