

Appendix A - Equality Impact Assessment

For support in completing this EQIA, please consult the EQIA Guidance Document or contact equality@rbwm.gov.uk

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1. Background Information

Title of policy/strategy/plan:	RBWM Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles – Three-Yearly Review
Service area:	Housing & Public Protection - Trading Standards & Licensing
Directorate:	Place

Provide a brief explanation of the proposal:

- What are its intended outcomes?
- Who will deliver it?
- Is it a new proposal or a change to an existing one?

RBWM is a licensing authority under the Gambling Act 2005. Under this Act we are required to have a policy setting out how we will exercise our functions under this legislation, in RBWM this is called the RBWM Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles.

The Act requires that, every three years, licensing authorities review and republish their policy. This is now due.

The review is being delivered by the Trading Standards & Licensing Manager and will result in changes to an existing policy

2. Relevance Check

Is this proposal likely to directly impact people, communities or RBWM employees?

- If No, please explain why not, including how you've considered equality issues.
- Will this proposal need a EQIA at a later stage? (for example, for a forthcoming action plan)

Yes

If 'No', proceed to 'Sign off'. If unsure, please contact equality@rbwm.gov.uk

3. Evidence Gathering and Stakeholder Engagement

Who will be affected by this proposal?

For example, users of a particular service, residents of a geographical area, staff

Everyone who participates in legal gambling in gambling premises (not on-line gambling) will be affected by this Statement of Principles, as will the businesses running the premises

Among those affected by the proposal, are protected characteristics (age, sex, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, marriage/civil partnership) disproportionately represented?

For example, compared to the general population do a higher proportion have disabilities?

Harm caused by gambling is disproportionately higher amongst Black, Asian and other ethnic minority individuals. RBWM's population is predominantly white but Black, Asian, mixed and other ethnic minority groups make up approximately 14% of the Borough's population overall, and approximately 17% in Maidenhead.

This is addressed in the proposed RBWM Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles 2025 – 2028 with a requirement that licensee and licence application risk assessments specifically consider this matter and set out how they intend to deal with it, in the areas identified

What engagement/consultation has been undertaken or planned?

- How has/will equality considerations be taken into account?
- Where known, what were the outcomes of this engagement?

s.349(3) of the Gambling Act 2005 requires licensing authorities to consult with the following on their policy statement or any subsequent revision:

- in England and Wales, the chief officer of police for the authority's area;
- 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 Act

The following bodies were therefore consulted. They were asked if they thought the current policy provided a clear and robust local policy on gambling premises in RBWM sufficient to deal with any problems that they may have identified, and whether they had any supporting evidence that should be taken into account in reviewing this statement of principles;

- Thames Valley Police
- RBWM Childrens Services
- RBWM Adult Services
- RBWM Environmental Protection
- RBWM Planning
- Public Health
- The Gambling Commission
- HM Revenue and Customs
- Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue
- Gamcare (leading UK provider of free information, advice and support for anyone harmed by gambling)

- GambleAware (supports problem gamblers)
- The trade (Betfred and Coral Head Offices)
- Town Centre Management

Residents were consulted via social media platforms, the RBWM website and RBWM Together.

No evidence was provided by any of those who responded which specifically covered race or ethnicity. However there were responses which covered all vulnerable persons and these have been included in the updated Statement of Principles

What sources of data and evidence have been used in this assessment?

Please consult the Equalities Evidence Grid for relevant data. Examples of other possible sources of information are in the Guidance document.

Reliance was put on the expertise and data held by the consultees

Gamble Aware provided some comparative figures to how rates of gambling harm in RBWM contrast with national rates. These show that rates in RBWM are broadly in line with national figures so is noted for information at this time, however, these figures can be monitored when this policy is next reviewed to see if there have been any comparative changes which might give cause for concern (although these figures include on-line gambling which RBWM has no regulatory control over).

4. Equality Analysis

Please detail, **using supporting evidence**:

- How the protected characteristics below might influence the needs and experiences of individuals, in relation to this proposal.
- How these characteristics might affect the impact of this proposal.

Tick positive/negative impact as appropriate. If there is no impact, or a neutral impact, state 'Not Applicable'

More information on each protected characteristic is provided in the Guidance document.

	Details and supporting evidence	Potential positive impact	Potential negative impact
Age	<p>Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling is a specific objective under the Gambling Act and is specifically addressed in the Statement of Principles</p> <p>RBWM, as a licensing authority will therefore consider 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</p> <p>Local Risk Assessments are required of licensees and licence applicants which</p>		Yes

	<p>provide detail on how the applicant is going to mitigate against underage gambling</p> <p>Applications for new premises licences will come under particular scrutiny if located within walking distance of schools, colleges and community venues where young people meet</p>		
Disability	Not Applicable		
Sex	Not Applicable		
Race, ethnicity and religion	<p>Harm caused by gambling is disproportionately higher amongst Black, Asian and other ethnic minority individuals. RBWM's population is predominantly white but Black, Asian, mixed and other ethnic minority groups make up approximately 14% of the Borough's population overall, and approximately 17% in Maidenhead.</p> <p>This is addressed in the proposed RBWM Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles 2025 – 2028 with a requirement that licensee and licence application risk assessments specifically consider this matter and set out how they intend to deal with it, in the areas identified</p>		Yes
Sexual orientation and gender reassignment	Not Applicable		
Pregnancy and maternity	Not Applicable		
Marriage and civil partnership	Not Applicable		
Armed forces community	Not Applicable		
Socio-economic considerations e.g. low income, poverty	<p>Harm caused by gambling is disproportionately higher in areas of deprivation. RBWM is generally a prosperous area but there are pockets of relative deprivation, parts of Dedworth fall within the third most deprived decile in England and parts of Maidenhead fall within the fourth most deprived decile.</p> <p>This is addressed in the proposed RBWM Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles 2025 – 2028 with a requirement</p>		Yes

	that licensee and licence application risk assessments specifically consider this matter and set out how they intend to deal with it, in the areas identified		
Children in care/Care leavers	Not Applicable		

5. Impact Assessment and Monitoring

If you have not identified any disproportionate impacts and the questions below are not applicable, leave them blank and proceed to Sign Off.

<p>What measures have been taken to ensure that groups with protected characteristics are able to benefit from this change, or are not disadvantaged by it?</p> <p>For example, adjustments needed to accommodate the needs of a particular group</p> <p>See details in 4. Equality Analysis, above</p>
<p>Where a potential negative impact cannot be avoided, what measures have been put in place to mitigate or minimise this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For planned future actions, provide the name of the responsible individual and the target date for implementation. <p>See details in 4. Equality Analysis, above</p>
<p>How will the equality impacts identified here be monitored and reviewed in the future?</p> <p>See guidance document for examples of appropriate stages to review an EQIA.</p> <p>The Statement of Principles is required to be reviewed every three years, or sooner if that is felt necessary</p>

6. Sign Off

Completed by: Greg Nelson	Date: 25/03/2024
Approved by:	Date:

If this version of the EQIA has been reviewed and/or updated:

Reviewed by:	Date:
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