

## **APPENDIX A**

# **Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles Policy Review Consultation Responses**

The survey ran from Tuesday 7 May 2024 to Tuesday 2 July

13 responses were received.

## **Survey Responses**

Questions 1 and 2 were personal information and will not be published in this summary.

### **Q 3: Are you answering as:**

An individual/ member of the public      13

On behalf of an organisation              0

**Q 4: Name of organisation**              0

### **Q5: Postcodes**

EX31 3TS

EX36 4FA

EX32 9DJ

EX32 9AL

EX36 4EW

EX18 7BQ

EX31 3AS

EX174SZ

EX31 4NB

EX39 1XE

EX18 7QE

EX34 9QZ

EX31 4AA

**Q6: Should North Devon Council introduce a no-casino resolution to cover the district?**

No 2

Yes 11

**Q7: Please tell us why you have given the answer you did to the question above.**

**12 responded with the following:**

Casinos are not socially responsible operations.

Gambling needs to be controlled. It's an addiction like tobacco, alcohol and power.

Not appropriate to the area

Gambling is an addiction and mainly preys on the vulnerable. Taking advantage of people who likely have underlying trauma is the immoral. NDC have been positive, strong in not wanting this in our area and I fully support this stance.

There is far too much gambling available with the damage and misery it causes to individuals and indirectly to other victims.

Gambling addiction can put vulnerable people especially families of overwhelming debt and ensuing poverty

Having worked my career in mental health, I am very aware of the dangers of both licensed and unlicensed gambling. There is no pleasure nor reward in gambling. The only winners are those collecting the earnings of poor individuals.

I'm aware that there are currently no casinos in the district; a casino is unlikely to bring extra tourism revenue to the area - in my opinion it may have the opposite effect,

It is not the kind of establishment I want to see erected in North Devon. It only benefits the casino, not the town.

Gambling addiction is a growing issue all over the country, tourism is no excuse/reason to add to the problem by giving people with issues another temptation. There is the argument that those who want to gamble have many ways to gamble if they wish to, but this argument is only used by those with a vested interest in the gambling industry. To allow any other gambling opportunity is morally corrupt and socially irresponsible. There is also a link to an increase in crime in areas surrounding a casino.

I believe that Casinos provide a form of adult entertainment that creates an alternative choice for a night out option to those of us who live in North Devon and also to those who visit the district. Casinos if managed and run correctly can be

much more than solely gambling as venues for big screen sporting fixtures, live music, entertainment, restaurants and social gatherings.

As long as a license is required and all the legal and moral requirements are met why should the Licensing and Community Safety Committee be recommending a No Casino Resolution over the whole of the district. Each application should be viewed on merit and, if and when permitted, it should then be a matter of individual choice whether to use/attend or not.

**Q8: Do you have any comments on the proposed new section on 'Gambling Prevalence and Social Responsibility'?**

**This section outlines gambling related harm; the necessity for policies and procedures and marketing communications to promote/be socially responsible.**

**7 responded with the following:**

Can we ban all gambling advertising as well?

Gambling as a whole should be stopped. No body wins apart from the owner of the company - it's just greed.

Entirely support it and wish it could be universally applied.

Gambling advertising, with "comments about social responsibility", do not prevent individuals engaging and inflicting harm upon themselves.

I agree with the new section entirely.

To allow any other gambling opportunity is morally corrupt and socially irresponsible.

I understand the responsibilities regarding gambling as a whole which is a current 'hot' topic but still believe that individuals should be allowed to choose what they do with their hard earned money.

**Q9: Do you have any comments on the proposed new section on 'Gaming in Alcohol Licensed Premises'?**

**This section provides detail in respect of exempt gaming; relevant limits, for example for low turn-over bingo; detail pertaining the requirements for Category C machines, their use by children and associated supervision; and need for compliance with Codes of Practice; and provision of links with information regarding poker and race nights.**

**4 responded with the following:**

This section is reasonable

Policies and restrictions are essential to protect children and vulnerable adults

There is a social aspect to activities such as Bingo, with limited loss potential, where the benefits may outweigh the risks. I am less keen on the rampant display of gaming machines where individuals are unsupervised and can spend freely despite seemingly low stakes.

All sensible.

**Q 10, Do you have any comments on the proposed amendments to the section on 'Permit: Three or More Machines'?**

**The proposal is to better outline the basis under which applications are considered and the factors that the Licensing Authority will consider relevant, for example comments from responsible authorities; gross turnover of the gaming machines when compared to the premises turnover; and confidence in premises management?**

**7 responded with the following:**

I personally think that NDC needs to now allow and gambling in North Devon of any form and support trauma recovery rather than allow people to put themselves in debt as they cannot make wise decisions on their own. There is no need for gambling, it is a 'mugs' game.

Anything to reduce the harm caused is a good move, and monitoring, control and management are very necessary

The premises management should be reviewed and the responsibility then lies with the manager/owner/applicant

Appropriate restrictions make sense

As above, the lack of regular oversight can result in harm to the individual. This risk MAY be reduced by reduction in the number of machines. Operating such machines in alcohol-licensed premises may seem sensible as children should not be exposed, but, the consumption of alcohol can increase the risk of ill-considered usage.

It needed this clarification.

Slot machines should be banned. They are addictive and harmful to society.

**Q 11: Do you have any other comments on the proposed amendments to the Council's Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles?**

**2 responded with the following:**

The number of gambling establishments should be capped at a low number.

Fully support this.

## Equality Information

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 applies to public sector organisations, whereby Local Authorities must have due regard to the 8 protected characteristics (age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion/belief, sexual orientation (and marriage and civil partnership in employment) in its decision making.

Not all questions were answered.

What is your age?

- 19 and under 0
- 20 to 24 0
- 25 to 34 0
- 35 to 49 2
- 50 to 64 4
- 65 to 74 2
- 75 to 84 2
- 85 and over 0
- Prefer not to say 1

Do you consider yourself to have a disability (according to the Equality Act 2010)?

- No 12
- Yes 0
- Prefer not to say 0

How would you describe your ethnicity?

- White 10
- Prefer not to say 2
- Asian, Asian British, or Asian Welsh 0
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups 0
- Other ethnic group 0

What is your religion or belief?

- No religion 6
- Christian 4
- Prefer not to say 1
- Other religion 0

- Buddhist 0
- Jewish 1
- Hindu 0

#### Sex

- Female 2
- Male 9
- Prefer not to say 0
- Other 0

Please confirm if this is the same as registered at birth

- Yes 12
- Prefer not to say 0
- No 0

#### Sexual orientation

- Straight or Heterosexual 10
- Prefer not to say 2
- Bisexual 0
- Gay or Lesbian 0
- Other 0
- Pansexual 0
- Other sexual orientation 0

The results of the equality information responses will be considered alongside the census information for the North Devon Council area. Equality and diversity monitoring can help identify current and future needs, possible inequalities including problems accessing or using services and information, as well as checking that a cross-section of people have been reached and given their views. Results have been published in an anonymised way.

#### **Equality Protected Characteristics:**

There were no prevalent themes received in the responses from protected characteristics.