



## **Gambling Act Policy 2025 to 2028 consultation**

**Open date:** 29 July 2024

**Close date:** 20 September 2024

**Name:** Licensing Team

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### **Overview**

**We want your views on our draft Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy (the 'Gambling Act Policy').**

Under the Gambling Act 2005, Buckinghamshire Council in its role as Licensing Authority is responsible for issuing permits and licences for premises where gambling takes place. For example, premises such as betting shops, bingo halls and entertainment/gaming centres.

We are also responsible for:

- issuing permits for gaming machines – those that are typically found in pubs
- notices for one off gambling events, such as point to point racing
- registering societies who wish to carry out small scale lotteries, such as charities and schools

We must publish a statement of licensing policy that is reviewed and consulted on at least every three years. This is the first review of the Buckinghamshire Gambling Act Policy following adoption of the new policy in April 2022.

### **The Gambling Act 2005**

The Act sets out licensing objectives that underpin the legislation and must be taken into consideration by the Council, and by people who provide gambling facilities. The objectives are:

- preventing gambling being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime and 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

### **The draft policy**

We are proposing minimal changes to the policy. Proposed changes are highlighted in the draft documents below and include updates related to:

- casino licenses
- small society lotteries
- the local area profile

The policy also references the requirements set out in the Gambling Commission's code of practice in relation to social responsibility.

### **Casino licenses**

We have updated the policy so it is in-line with the previous Government's White Paper on Gambling legislation and the reforms recommended. This includes the possible reallocation of unused casino licenses to other local authorities. The Gambling Act allows local authorities to choose not to issue premises licenses for casinos.

We do not currently have a 'no casino' resolution. A 'no casino' resolution would mean no operator could apply for a casino in Buckinghamshire for 3 years.

Licensing Committee are responsible for determining any applications that are received. The Committee scrutinise any such applications to ensure they are satisfied with the principles set out in the application and any mitigating measures proposed by operators, before the grant of any such licence.

We are proposing to continue with the same approach.

### **Small society lotteries**

We are not proposing any changes to small society lotteries. They will continue to run in the same way as they do now.

We have updated the policy to include the statutory guidance around small society lotteries only.

## **Local Area Profile**

The Local Area Profile provides relevant local information to help operators produce risk assessments as part of any applications for gambling premises. The Local Area Profile has been updated to include the most up to date information available.

## **Related documents and links**

Before you respond to this activity, please have a look at the following documents at [yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com](https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com):

- Draft Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy with highlighted changes
- The Local Area Profile

## **How to have your say**

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- complete the online survey at [yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com](https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com)
- complete, and return, a printed version of the survey below
- email us at [licensing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

If you have any questions about this activity, please email us at [licensing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or phone us on 0300 131 6000.

**Please tell us your views by 11:59pm on Friday 20 September 2024.**

## **What happens next**

We will use your responses to develop the final Buckinghamshire Council Gambling Act Policy.

The Policy will be presented to Licensing Committee on 19 November 2024. It will then be presented to Council on 26 February 2025 for approval.

## **Privacy**

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on [dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk). Or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

## Gambling Act Policy 2025 to 2028 consultation – Printed survey

**1. Please tell us your comments on the draft Gambling Act Policy for Buckinghamshire:**

Include the paragraph reference number(s) in the draft Policy that you are referring to.

**2. If you have any comments on the Local Area Profile, please tell us here:**

**3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to NOT pass a 'no casino' resolution and continue with our current approach to casino licenses?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer:

## About you

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details.

### 4. Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- A representative of a licensed premises in Buckinghamshire
- A promoter of a small society lottery
- I live in Buckinghamshire
- I work in Buckinghamshire
- I study in Buckinghamshire
- I represent or own a business in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a community or voluntary group in Buckinghamshire
- I am an elected representative in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a Parish / Town Council or Town Committee in Buckinghamshire
- I work for Buckinghamshire Council
- Other (please give details below):

### 5. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Local media (newspaper, radio, TV, website or newsfeed)
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, Nextdoor or LinkedIn)
- Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Email or newsletter from Buckinghamshire Council
- Buckinghamshire Council staff or other professionals
- Through working at Buckinghamshire Council
- Poster or leaflet
- Friend or family member
- Local community or special interest group
- Councillor, town/parish council or community board
- Other (please give details below):

**6. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. a business or a voluntary group)?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- As an individual (go to question 8)
- On behalf of an organisation

**On behalf of an organisation**

**7. Please provide the following details:**

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

**End of survey if responding on behalf of an organisation**

**More about you**

We want to hear from as many people as possible to understand the views and needs across Buckinghamshire. The following questions help us see if the communities we serve have had the opportunity to be heard through this activity.

All questions are optional. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

**8. What is your postcode?**

We want to understand the views of people living in different areas. You don't have to provide your postcode, but it helps us plan and make considered decisions.

## 9. What is your age?

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of different age groups.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Under 16
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- Over 85
- Prefer not to say

## 10. Do you consider yourself to have a disability / disabilities, impairment(s) or long term health condition(s)?

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of disabled people, people with impairments and people with long term health conditions.

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Disability / disabilities
- Impairment(s)
- Long term health condition(s)
- No
- Prefer not to say

## 11. Are you:

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of different sexes.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

## 12. How would you describe your ethnicity?

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of different ethnicities.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Asian - British
- Asian - Bangladeshi
- Asian - Chinese
- Asian - Indian
- Asian - Pakistani
- Any other Asian background - Please give details below
- Black - African
- Black - British
- Black - Caribbean
- Any other Black, African or Caribbean background - Please give details below
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds British
- Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background - Please give details below
- White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy or English traveller
- White - Irish Traveller
- White - European
- Any other White background - Please give details below
- Other ethnic group - Arab
- Other ethnic group - Arab British
- Other ethnic group - Please give details below
- Prefer not to say



Please give other details here:

## **End of the survey**

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**

Please return your completed survey by 11:59pm on Friday 20 September 2024. You can:

- email it to [licensing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
- post it to Gambling Act Policy consultation, Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 8FF