

29th November 2006

GAMBLING ACT 2005

1. Information Update

The period of consultation for Ashford Borough Council's draft Statement of Gambling Policy ended on 18th September and the responses and a revised policy were submitted to the Policy Advisory Group in November.

After minor amendments the Statement of Policy is now ready for the attention of the Executive in December, who will hopefully recommend it for Council approval on 14th December.

While the Department of Culture Media and Sport has announced a delay to the timeframe when applications will be submitted to local authorities, there is NO delay to the timeframe for publication of Statements of Principles. The statements must be published at least 4 weeks before 31st January 2007 i.e. on or by 3rd January 2007.

Licensing Authorities can begin to receive applications from April 2007, with the full responsibilities transferred in September.

2. Suggested Training

It is proposed to offer Councillors training on the Gambling Act in March 2007. The elections in May, may result in changes to the membership of the committee, but it is proposed that as applications could be brought in front of members as early as April, that training should be conducted before the elections. Further training would be offered after the elections, which may coincide with hearings, if the process follows the Licensing Act transition.