



Draft Gambling Policy (2027-2030)

Summary of Changes

This document summarises the key changes to the Draft Gambling Policy. It is recommended that respondents to the consultation read the full draft Gambling Policy, the draft Local Area Profile and the FAQ ahead of completing the consultation questionnaire. These can both be found on www.lewisham.gov.uk/gambling-policy

Should you require this document in an alternative format please contact us via email: licensing@lewisham.gov.uk or via telephone: 020 8314 6505.

We are proposing changes to the Gambling Policy for 2027-2030. In the Gambling Policy, we aim to provide a clearer connection between evidence and decisions and a focus on the protection of children and vulnerable people. The main criteria for change are:

Emphasis on protection of children and vulnerable people

The draft Gambling Policy places greater emphasis on:

- Active staff intervention in gambling premises, and
- Age verification, appropriate supervision and controls that respond to local risks.

Providing leaflets alone should not be the main way an operator addresses an identified risk of harm to young people, so we have added/changed the following to our draft Gambling Policy:

- **References to Think 25:** A policy that requires gambling venues to ask for official photo identification from any customer who appears to be under 25 years old; and
- **Clarified the existing 400-metre school** assessment so that it's clear that it is not an exclusion zone or an automatic reason to refuse an application.

Please review the following parts of the draft Gambling Policy for more information about protection of children and vulnerable people:

- Part A section 2
- Part B sections 2, 3 and 6; and
- Part C section 7.

A stronger local evidence base with the creation of the Local Area Profile

The Local Area Profile brings together information (evidence) about the borough. It helps operators and the Council identify issues requiring closer assessment. The draft Local Area Profile contains data about:

- Population and deprivation;
- Council licensing records;



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- Schools and youth facilities;
- Support services;
- And Recorded crime.

The Local Area Profile was mentioned in the previous version of the Gambling Policy (2023-2026), but is presented in this draft Gambling Policy (2027-2030)

The draft Local Area Profile explains the limits of the evidence.

Please review Part B section 1-3 and the accompanying Local Area Profile to find out more about our local evidence base.

Clearer expectations for operators

In our draft Gambling Policy, we intend to make expectations for operators clearer by:

- Using current local evidence in premises risk assessments and review it when relevant circumstances change.
- Showing how identified risks are addressed through staffing, supervision, staff training and suitable premises arrangements.
- Providing accessible information and appropriate routes to complaints, advice and support.
- Keeping evidence that controls are implemented and staff can act on safeguarding concerns.

In the previous Gambling Policy (2023-2026) there was already an expectation of annual risk-assessment reviews and training and a qualified two-staff expectation meaning there is a requirement that at least two members of staff are trained and competent in gambling-related policies, procedures, and maintaining safeguarding responsibilities.

See the following parts of the draft Gambling Policy for more information about our expectations of gambling operators:

- Part B sections 2–6; Part C sections 3 and 7; and Appendix 5.

The overall effect of these all of these proposed changes mean that evidence can inform applications, operators' risk assessments and the Council's scrutiny of the measures proposed.

How will decisions about gambling premises be made?

The Council must continue to apply the Gambling Act framework and assess each application on its merits. The draft does not introduce a blanket ban, an automatic school exclusion zone or a test of whether more gambling premises are needed. It provides clearer local evidence and expectations to inform proportionate decisions.



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Operational suggestions in the Local Area Profile are recommendations for consideration, not automatically adopted conditions or commitments.