

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES

Cheshire East Council, as Licensing Authority with effect from 1 April 2009 published a statement of principles for consultation on 29 December 2008. The table below summarises the consultation responses received.

CONSULTEE	CONSULTATION RESPONSE
British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA)	<p>In its response dated 7 January 2009 the BBPA state as follows in relation to the draft statement of Licensing Policy:</p> <p>Thank you for providing this Association with the opportunity to comment on the draft policies for Gambling and Licensing in the local authority of Cheshire East.</p> <p>The British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) represents brewing companies and their pub interests, and pub owning companies, accounting for 98% of beer production and around two thirds of the 60,000 pubs in the UK. Many of our members own and run pubs in the Cheshire East area. The Association promotes the responsible sale of alcohol and management of licensed premises. It has a range of good practice information and guidance for member companies. Further information is available on our website at www.beerandpub.com</p> <p>This response is also supported by the BII, the professional body for the licensed retail sector, the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (ALMR), which represents the interests of smaller independent companies within licensed retailing and the Federation of Licensed Victuallers Association (FLVA) which represents self-employed licensees in England.</p> <p><u>The protection of children and vulnerable persons</u></p> <p>We would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that pubs have had amusement with prizes machines on their premises for many years. The BBPA has been pressing for legislation prohibiting under 18s from playing all cash machines (ACMs) since before the introduction of our Code of Practice on Minimum Age of Players, and we therefore very much welcome the restriction now contained in the new Gambling Act. The Association first introduced its Code of Practice in 1998, and has kept it under regular review since then. As a result of the Code, which is supported by other trade bodies including the ALMR, BII, FLVA and BACTA, ACMs coming on to the market include the “No under 18s to play” prohibition notice in the front of the machine.</p> <p>The inclusion of this notice has been achieved at the instigation of the Association in co-operation with machine suppliers. BBPA member company trading schemes also reinforce the management of the machines to ensure the minimum age requirement is complied with, for example by requesting recognised ID such as a PASS accredited proof of age card, driving licence or passport where there is doubt that the player is 18 years of age or over.</p> <p><u>Grant of additional permits</u></p> <p>While there is no actual requirement under the Gambling Act 2005 for machines to be sited in the bar, we believe that supervision of machines is very important and this is again reinforced by our Code of Practice and staff training. Under the new regime, when operators apply for additional machine permits and they are complying with the Gambling Commission Code of Practice (which will of course replace</p>

	<p>the BBPA Code), there is no reason why these should not be granted. It would be helpful if the Statement of Principles could reflect this and include an outline of the application procedures for permits for more than two machines. We understand that some Councils are taking the view that they will grant up to four machine permits without the need for a hearing. We support such an approach in the interests of reduced administration and bureaucracy for both Councils and applicants and would encourage you to consider this possibility.</p>
Pickmere Parish Council	<p>One of our Councillors has inspected the documents we received as Pickmere Parish Council from Cheshire East Council re Licensing consultation.</p> <p>He stated that both statements appear to be comprehensive, appropriate and well structured.</p>
Knutsford Pub Watch	<p>After reading both draft policies regarding licensing and gambling I found both to be quite easy to understand and precise in their wording. As they are worded now should pose no difficulties for anyone to understand.</p>
Crewe Green Parish Council	<p>The draft documents were considered by the Parish Council meeting on the 5th January 2009. The Parish Council were pleased to accept the proposals as submitted.</p>
Race Course Association	<p>We would advise you that we have no venues in your area and therefore will not be responding to your document.</p>