

## **Gambling Act 2005**

### **Guidance on Local area profiles for St Albans City & District Council**

The Gambling Commission's 5th Edition of the Guidance recommends that Licensing Authorities complete their own assessment of local risks and concerns by developing local area profiles to help shape their statements. There is no statutory requirement on the licensing authority to do this as it is discretionary; however it is considered good practice.

The objective of the profile is to set out what the area is like; what risks this might pose to the licensing objectives and what the implications of this are for the Licensing Authority and operators.

In our District there are only 10 gambling premises licences (9 betting shops and one bingo licence<sup>1</sup>) and there are no areas of high density of gambling premises.

We also have a no casino resolution in place for the District<sup>2</sup>.

In assessing local area profiles, licensing authorities can also take into account the location of:

- schools, sixth form colleges, youth centres etc. with regard to the potential risk of under-age gambling
- hostels or support services for vulnerable people, such as those with addiction issues or who are homeless, given the greater risk of problem gambling among these groups
- religious buildings
- any known information about issues with problem gambling
- the surrounding night time economy and possible interaction with gambling premises
- patterns of crime or anti-social behaviour in the area where they are specifically linked to gambling premises
- the socio-economic makeup of the area
- the density of different types of gambling premises in certain locations
- specific types of gambling premises in the local area

We do not have any evidence that there are specific issues at the moment. However, we will expect an operator to include the above factors when carrying out risk assessments of the area in which the new premises is proposed.

The areas of the District are as follows: St Albans, Harpenden, Wheathampstead, Redbourn, Bricket Wood/Park Street and London Colney. An operator is expected

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<sup>1</sup> This bingo licence relates to a licence issued to a club because the amount of prizes exceeds the £20,000 limit. It is not a 'bingo hall'.

<sup>2</sup> The 'no casino' resolution is set out in the Gambling Policy - [http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/Images/Gambling%20Policy\\_tcm15-29268\\_tcm15-48208.pdf](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/Images/Gambling%20Policy_tcm15-29268_tcm15-48208.pdf)

to consider the profile for the area in which their new premises will be situated. To do so an operator should consider the Ward Profiles found on our website:  
<http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/community-and-living/communityprofile/wardprofiles/>

We will regularly review the position with regard to Gambling premises and update this Guidance as necessary.