

Gambling Harms – Motion as adjusted, approved.

15 Councillor Doherty, seconded by Councillor McTaggart, moved that:-

"Council recognises and restates its position that Gambling is a significant public health issue within the city. Council notes the work the City Government has done to raise awareness of Gambling as a public health issue since 2018, building on the 2014 cross party sounding board on the impact of fixed odds betting terminals, recognising that the changes in the Gambling industry and that huge profits are made by private companies within a global market, and that Regulation of gambling is a matter reserved to Westminster which has done little to keep pace with these changes and address Gambling Harms, and this would have been better addressed if the Smith Commission had devolved gambling powers to Scotland.

Council further recognises the work since 2018 which has involved:

- work of the previous Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement and General Purposes Committees;
- September 2019 - WECCE Development Day Session hosted on Gambling and Public Health;
- January 2020 - formation of a Glasgow Gambling Harms Group in partnership with the Scottish Public Health Network;
- September 2021 - Glasgow City Council hosted a virtual summit and fringe events including a UK All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) evidence session;
- March 2022 - establishment of Glasgow Gambling Harm Multi-Agency Group - which includes membership from the Council, Glasgow HSCP, Glasgow Life, Glasgow Council for Voluntary Sector, Health and Social Care Alliance and Public Health Scotland;
- September 2022 - refreshed Council Gambling Workforce Support Policy agreed; and
- May 2023 - launch of a city-wide whole systems local action plan to prevent and reduce gambling harms.

Council instructs the Chief Executive's Department and colleagues to bring an update on Gambling Harms and the local action plan to the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee in the next cycle.

Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Scottish Government Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport and Secretary of State for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport regarding the white paper published on 27 April 2023 entitled "High stakes: gambling reform for the digital age" which,

finally, sets out the UK Government's plan for reform of gambling regulation following the review of the Gambling Act 2005 in order to reiterate our calls that;

- Gambling should be recognised as a public health issue and more robust regulation of operators and technology is needed as well as better safeguarding of gambling and gaming especially of young people;
- Scotland and local government must be empowered to take action on this, and that legal anomalies in the legislation are addressed;
- the long overdue statutory gambling operator levy which will replace the current voluntary levy which is not fit for purpose, must see equitable funding come directly to Scotland and Glasgow in order to fund treatment and support its work on addressing gambling harms;
- the UK Treasury must design and deliver funding that is proportionate and fair and invests in those local communities where there is a proliferation of “environmental bads” such as gambling fuelled by poverty and its harms addressed; and
- Glasgow's track record of a whole systems approach involving researchers, stakeholders and people with lived experience sets it apart and that due to this, Glasgow is best positioned as a city to develop a UK centre of excellence in addressing gambling harms, to fund research, education and treatment of gambling harms."

Councillor Pidgeon, seconded by Councillor Lalley, moved as an amendment to delete all and replace with:-

“Council recognises and restates its position that Gambling is a significant public health issue within the city.

Council notes its work in raising awareness of Gambling as a public health issue, including recent work which built on the cross-party sounding board on the impact of fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs), and congratulates all those involved in taking forward this work to date.

Council notes that Gambling is a global market, in which huge profits are made by private companies to the detriment of local communities and individuals, and deeply regrets that regulation to address the impact of Gambling Harms has not kept pace with changes within the industry.

Council notes its work in raising awareness of Gambling as a public health issue, including:

- The 2014 cross-party sounding board on the impact of FOBTs;
- The 2015 pilot of the MOSES scheme which has subsequently been rolled out nationwide;

- work of the previous Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement and General Purposes Committee;
- September 2019 - WECCE Development Day Session hosted on Gambling and Public Health;
- January 2020 - formation of a Glasgow Gambling Harms Group in partnership with the Scottish Public Health Network;
- September 2021 - Glasgow City Council hosted a virtual summit and fringe events including a UK All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) evidence session;
- March 2022 - establishment of Glasgow Gambling Harm Multi-Agency Group - includes membership from the Council, Glasgow HSCP, Glasgow Life, Glasgow Council for Voluntary Sector, Health and Social Care Alliance and Public Health Scotland;
- September 2022 - refreshed Council Gambling Workforce Support Policy agreed; and
- May 2023 - launch of a city-wide whole systems local action plan to prevent and reduce gambling harms.

and Council extends its gratitude to all those involved in taking forward this work to date.

Council instructs the Chief Executive's Department and colleagues to bring an update on Gambling Harms and the local action plan to the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee in the next cycle. Council welcomes the local action plan, welcomes the opportunity to scrutinise the contents of the plan, and looks forward to discussing how this action plan will provide better support for those directly affected by loved ones with a gambling issue and those organisations which provide that support; and considering further areas for research particularly into the impacts on mental health.

Council notes the UK Government's *'High stakes: gambling reform for the digital age'* white paper that sets out the UK Government's plan to reform gambling regulation, and that much of its content has been welcomed by campaigners, however, believes that further action, clarity and speed is needed from the Government, including:

- Further clarity on how the Statutory Levy contributions of land-based and online gambling forums will differ, and how its proceeds will be distributed to those places most affected by gambling harms;
- Further action to restrict advertising for gambling products, including White Label and Affiliate products; and that

- Further protections for children and young people, particularly in relation to 'loot boxes'.

Council therefore resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Scottish Government's Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport and the UK Government's Secretary of State for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, outlining its concerns, and reiterating its beliefs that: Gambling should be recognised as a public health issue; that devolved nations and Local Governments should be sufficiently empowered to enforce and protect; that funding should flow to communities like Glasgow most affected by the environmental, economic and health harms of gambling and that Glasgow's history of action means that it is well-positioned to develop a UK centre of excellence in addressing gambling harms, to fund research, education and treatment of gambling harms."

During the debate Councillor Doherty and Councillor Pidgeon, with the approval of their seconders, agreed to combine their motion and amendment resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

"Council recognises and restates its position that Gambling is a significant public health issue within the city. Council notes the work the City Government has done to raise awareness of Gambling as a public health issue since 2018, building on the 2014 cross party sounding board on the impact of fixed odds betting terminals, and the 2015 pilot of the MOSES scheme which has subsequently been rolled out nationwide; recognising that the changes in the Gambling industry and that huge profits are made by private companies within a global market to the detriment of local communities and individuals,, and that Regulation of gambling is a matter reserved to Westminster which has done little to keep pace with these changes and address Gambling Harms, and this would have been better addressed if the Smith Commission had devolved gambling powers to Scotland.

Council further recognises the work since 2018 which has involved:

- work of the previous Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizen Engagement and General Purposes Committees;
- September 2019 - WECCE Development Day Session hosted on Gambling and Public Health;
- January 2020 - formation of a Glasgow Gambling Harms Group in partnership with the Scottish Public Health Network;
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- May 2023 - launch of a city-wide whole systems local action plan to prevent and reduce gambling harms;

and Council extends its gratitude to all those involved in taking forward this work to date.

Council instructs the Chief Executive's Department and colleagues to bring an update on Gambling Harms and the local action plan to the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee in the next cycle. Council welcomes the local action plan, and looks forward to discussing how this action plan will provide better support for those directly affected by loved ones with a gambling issue and those organisations which provide that support; and learning about further areas for research particularly into the impacts on mental health.

Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Scottish Government Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport and Secretary of State for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport regarding the white paper published on 27 April 2023 entitled '*High stakes: gambling reform for the digital age*' which, finally, sets out the UK Government's plan for reform of gambling regulation following the review of the Gambling Act 2005 in order to reiterate our calls that;

- Gambling should be recognised as a public health issue and more robust regulation of operators and technology is needed as well as better safeguarding of gambling and gaming especially of young people;
- Further protections for children and young people, particularly in relation to 'loot boxes';
- Further action to restrict advertising for gambling products, including White Label and Affiliate products; and that
- Scotland and local government must be empowered to take action on this, and that legal anomalies in the legislation are addressed;
- the long overdue statutory gambling operator levy which will replace the current voluntary levy which is not fit for purpose, must see equitable funding come directly to Scotland and Glasgow in order to fund treatment and support its work on addressing gambling harms;
- the UK Treasury must design and deliver funding that is proportionate and fair and invests in those local communities where there is a proliferation of 'environmental bads' such as gambling fuelled by poverty and its harms addressed; and
- Glasgow's track record of a whole systems approach involving researchers, stakeholders and people with lived experience sets it apart and that due to this, Glasgow is best positioned as a city to develop a UK centre of excellence

in addressing gambling harms, to fund research, education and treatment of gambling harms”.

Thereafter, the combined adjusted motion by Councillor Doherty and Councillor Pidgeon was unanimously approved.

Adjournment.

16 In terms of Standing Order No 5 (12), the time being after 1630 hours, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting, the remaining items of business being 8(e), 8(f) and 8(g).