

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	REDUCING GAMBLING-RELATED HARMS IN SOUTHAMPTON - SCRUTINY INQUIRY TERMS OF REFERENCE		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	24 OCTOBER 2024		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	SCRUTINY MANAGER		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Executive Director – Enabling Services</b>	
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
None			
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>			
It is the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) to determine the scrutiny inquiry programme. This report requests that the OSMC agrees the terms of reference for a scrutiny inquiry focussing on reducing gambling-related harms in Southampton.			
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>			
	(i)	That the Committee consider and approve the draft terms of reference for the scrutiny inquiry.	
	(ii)	That authority is delegated to the Scrutiny Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel, to finalise the inquiry plan.	
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>			
1.	To enable the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel to commence the scrutiny inquiry.		
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>			
2.	None.		
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>			
3.	Gambling in its variety of forms is a popular pastime in Great Britain, with nearly half of adults in Great Britain participating in at least one form each month. The most popular activities were lottery participation, followed by		

	scratch cards, betting and online instant games, with ‘fun/enjoyment factor’ and ‘monetary reasons’ cited as key motivators. <sup>1</sup>
4.	Great Britain has one of the most accessible gambling markets in the world. Opportunities to gamble exist on most high streets and, with access to the internet, in virtually every home. Most spend small amounts which are similar to, or less than, spending on other leisure activities and do not report experiencing harm from gambling.
5.	However, concerns regarding the harms associated with gambling have been increasing in the UK in recent years. The 2021 Public Health England (PHE) Gambling-related Harms Evidence Review identified a range of harms associated with gambling, described by the Gambling Commission as the negative impact that participation in gambling might have on an individual, family or communities. <sup>2</sup> The gambling harms were broadly categorised as financial, relationship, health, employment and education, and criminal behaviour, with an estimated overall annual cost, comprised of direct costs to the UK government and intangible societal costs, of £1.05 to £1.77 billion.
6.	Reflecting this, gambling is now widely viewed as a public health issue <sup>3</sup> and, as gambling-related harms can be experienced by individuals, families and communities, effective action for reducing harm will include not only action to influence individuals but also actions to mitigate risks at the societal, community and inter-personal level.
7.	In recognition of the growing concerns about the harms caused by gambling, and the broad response required to address the identified harms, this Committee, at its meeting on 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2024, agreed that reducing gambling-related harms in Southampton would be the subject of the 2024/25 scrutiny inquiry. Attached as Appendix 1 are draft terms of reference and an outline project plan for the proposed inquiry. Members are recommended to consider and approve the draft terms of reference for the scrutiny inquiry to enable the inquiry to commence.
8.	The final report and recommendations of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel will be considered by the OSMC prior to Cabinet to ensure that the review has met the agreed terms of reference set by this Committee.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
9.	There are no additional financial implications arising from the approval of the recommendations.
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
10.	None.

<sup>1</sup> Gambling Commission. *Statistics on gambling participation – Year 2 (2024), wave 1: Official statistics*. <https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/publication/statistics-on-gambling-participation-year-2-2024-wave-1-official-statistics>

<sup>2</sup> Wardle H, Reith G, Best D, McDaid D, Platt S. *Measuring gambling-related harms: a framework for action*. Birmingham, UK: Gambling Commission; 2018. [https://eprints.lse.ac.uk/89248/1/McDaid\\_Gambling-Related\\_harms\\_Published.pdf](https://eprints.lse.ac.uk/89248/1/McDaid_Gambling-Related_harms_Published.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [Gambling behaviour - NHS England Digital](#)

<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
11.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
12.	None
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
13.	None.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
14.	None
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None directly as a result of this report
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Draft Inquiry Terms of Reference and Outline Inquiry Plan
<b>Documents In Members' Rooms</b>	
1.	None
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
<b>Other Background Documents</b>	
<b>Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None