Gambling Venue Policy

Approved by:	Timaru District Council
Group:	Regulatory Development and Growth
Owner:	General Manager Regulatory Development and Growth
Date adopted:	27 October 2026 The policy becomes effective immediately upon adoption, unless otherwise specified
Review:	Every 3 years; earlier if deemed necessary This Policy does not cease to have effect because it is due for review, or being reviewed
Consultation:	Required – Special Consultative Procedure (Gambling Act 2003: S102, Racing Industry Act 2020: S97)

Policy Purpose

1. The purpose of this policy is to:

   (i) Detail Council's policy with regards to consent applications for new Class 4 gambling venue and TAB New Zealand venue licences, in accordance with the Gambling Act 2003 and the Racing Industry Act 2020.

   (ii) Recognise that gambling can be a serious problem for people in our community.

   (iii) Ensure Council and the community has influence over the provision of new gambling venues within the Timaru District.

   (iv) Allow those who wish to participate in controlled gambling to do so within the Timaru District.

   (v) Minimise harm to the community caused by gambling.

Scope

2. This policy applies to all new consent applications for Class 4 Gambling and TAB New Zealand venues in the Timaru District.

3. The Policy will not be applied retrospectively to venues with current licences.

4. This Policy takes effect from the date it is formally adopted by Council.

Definitions

5. Class 4 Gambling: means any activity that involves the use of gaming machines (i.e. pokies) in pubs and clubs (i.e. outside a casino) which may only be conducted by a corporate society and only to raise money for an authorised (i.e. community and non-commercial) purpose.

6. Community Facility: any building, place or facility which provides for the physical, social, cultural or intellectual development or welfare of the community, including but not

limited to; public playgrounds; recreational halls; community centres; community halls; libraries; museums; and public swimming pools.

7. Gambling Venue: any Class 4 gambling venue or TAB New Zealand venue.

8. Sensitive Site: any childhood centre, kindergarten, school, permanently situated place of worship or community facility.

9. TAB New Zealand Venue: means premises owned or leased by TAB New Zealand and where the main business carried on at the premises is providing racing betting, sports betting, or other racing or sports betting services. This does not include TAB outlets or terminals.

10. Zones: as defined in the Operative or Prospective Timaru District Plan.

Policy Statements

Gambling Venue Locations

11. Within the boundary of the Timaru Township, Gambling Venues may be established in a City Centre Zone, Town Centre Zone, Mixed Use Zone, Local Centre Zone, Large Format Retail Zone or Neighbourhood Centre Zone subject to:

    (i) Meeting application and fee requirements;

    (ii) Being no closer than 200 metres, by public access way, to any Residential Zone;

    (iii) Being no closer than 100 metres, by public access way, to any sensitive site;

    (iv) Being no closer than 100 metres, by public access way, to another Gambling Venue and;

    (v) Not being a venue that is associated with family or children's activity unless the activity is in a room separate from gaming machines.

12. For all areas outside the boundary of the Timaru Township, Gambling Venues may be established in a Town Centre Zone subject to:

    (i) Meeting consent application and fee requirements;

    (ii) Being no closer than 25 metres, by public access way, to any Residential Zone;

    (iii) Being no closer than 25 metres, by public access way, to any sensitive site;

    (iv) Being no closer than 25 metres, by public access way, to any other gambling venue;

    (v) Not being a venue that is associated with family or children's activity unless the activity is in a room separate from gaming machines.

Exemptions

13. Where a proposed new venue is unable to comply with the location requirements of this policy the application will be referred to Council (or a suitably delegated Committee/ Subcommittee), which has discretion to approve or decline the request by resolution, subject to the application meeting all other requirements of this policy.

Relocation of Venues

14. Applications for the relocation of existing venues to a new site will be referred to Council (or a suitably delegated Committee/ Subcommittee), which has discretion to approve or decline the application by resolution.

15. Any application, and the proposed new venue, must comply with all other conditions and provisions of this policy.

16. The maximum number of gaming machines permitted to operate at the new venue is the same as the maximum number of gaming machines permitted to operate at the venue before relocation.

Number of Gambling Machines to be Allowed

17. New Class 4 gambling venues shall be allowed a maximum of nine gaming machines.

18. Existing Class 4 gambling venues operating fewer than nine gaming machines, shall be allowed to increase the number of machines operated at the venue to nine.

Primary Activity of Venues

19. The primary activity of any Class 4 gambling venue shall be:

    (i) For the sale of alcohol, or the sale of alcohol and food; or

    (ii) For private club activities.

20. The primary activity for TAB New Zealand venues, as defined by section 5 of the Racing Industry Act 2020, shall be providing racing betting, or sports betting services.

Application

21. Applications for Council consent must be made on the correct form, accompanied by all required documentation and fees.

22. Application forms are available on Council's website, www.timaru.govt.nz, and at all Council service centres.

Application Fees

23. Application fees will be set by Council from time to time with the intention of recovering full costs from applicants/operators, and shall include consideration of:

    (i) The cost of processing the application, including any consultation and hearings involved;

    (ii) The cost of triennially reviewing the Gambling Venue Policy;

    (iii) The cost of inspecting Class 4 gambling and TAB New Zealand venues on a regular basis to ensure compliance with consent or licence conditions; and

    (iv) A contribution towards the cost of triennial assessments of the economic and social impact of gambling in the District.

24. Council will comply with section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002 in setting such fees.

Monitoring

25. This policy will be monitored in line with Council's Policy Framework.

26. Indicators of whether this policy is achieving its stated purposes include:

    (i) The inflation-adjusted gaming machine profit per capita (18+ population in the Timaru District).

    (ii) The number of class 4 gambling machines per capita (18+ population in the Timaru District).

    (iii) The percentage of gaming machine profit returned to the Timaru District community.

    (iv) The extent that the policy is deemed to align with the purposes of the Gambling Act 2003 and the Racing Industry Act 2020 (including their amendments and/or successors).

    (v) Feedback received from internal or external stakeholders.

    (vi) Recommendations from internal or external audits.

27. Council will utilise a Social Impact Assessment to assess the effectiveness of this policy and the extent of gambling harm in the Timaru District.

28. The Social Impact Assessment – either a full review or an update of the previous Social Impact Assessment, as required – will be undertaken every three years when the policy is reviewed.

Reporting

29. A summary of the peformance of this policy will be reported to Council as part of the regular Policy Update (when new information is available).

30. Full performance and monitoring data will be made available to Councillors when available.

Delegations, References and Revision History	
Delegations Identify here any delegations related to the policy for it to be operative or required as a result of the policy	
Delegation Manual reference	**Delegation**
Delegation 5.18	Power to receive and process consent applications pursuant to the Timaru District Council Gambling Venue Policy
References Include here reference to any documents related to the policy (e.g. operating guidelines, procedures)	
Title	**Document reference/ link**
N/A	N/A
Revision History Summary of the development and review of the policy	

Revision	Owner	Date Approved	Approval By	Next Review	Doc Ref
1	Regulatory Services Manager	4 May 2010	Council	2013	-
2	Regulatory Services Manager	23 April 2013	Resource Planning and Regulation Committee	2016	#254825
3	Environmental Compliance Manager	22 November 2016	Environmental Services Committee	2019	#1028191
4	Environmental Compliance Manager	10 December 2019	Council	2022	#1305315
5	Environmental Compliance Manager	6 December 2022	Council	By June 2025	#1547386
6	General Manager Regulatory Development and Growth	27 October 2026	Council	Q4 2029	#1825562