

Decision Maker: GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday 17 September 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: FIXED ODDS BETTING TERMINALS

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
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Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 An approach has been made from the London Borough of Newham asking for support for their campaign under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 to reduce the reduce the maximum stake permissible on Fixed-Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) from £100 to £2.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION**

Members views are requested on whether to support the campaign by LB Newham to reduce the maximum stake on FOBTs from £100 to £2.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: New Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council Quality Environment Safer Bromley Vibrant, Thriving Town Centres:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: N/A
 4. Total current budget for this head: £N/A
 5. Source of funding: N/A
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: This report does not involve an executive decision.
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): N/A
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Chairman has been approached by Sir Robin Wales, directly elected Mayor of LB Newham, who is trying to enlist support for a submission under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 concerning the proliferation of high stakes Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) in betting outlets, which in turn can lead to clustering of betting shops, which have a cap of four machines per shop. The proposal is explained in the attached letter ([Appendix 1](#)), but the key point is to reduce the maximum stake available on these machines from £100 to £2, bringing them into line with other gaming machines.
- 3.2 The views of the Committee are sought on whether the Council should express support for Newham's campaign.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 provides an opportunity for local communities and councils to ask central government remove legislative or other barriers that prevent them from improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas. The Government has a duty to try to reach agreement with Councils within a year of a submission being made. For submissions to be successful they usually need to have broad support from local authorities.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy/Finance/Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	None