

LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO BE GIVEN MORE POWER TO CONTROL BETTING SHOPS

Committee	Licensing Committee
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Papers with report	Appendix 1- DCMS - Gambling Protections and Controls April 2014
Ward(s) affected	All

SUMMARY

To inform the Committee of the Governments new plans to introduce more controls for Local Authorities to shape their High Streets.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee note the information

INFORMATION

The Department for Culture Media & Sport have proposed a reform to Planning Legislation to give Local Authorities more scope to refuse Betting Shop applications.

In the current system, Betting Shops are in the same use category as a bank or estate agent and can open without the need for Planning Permission. The Government proposes that changes to the use classes will give Local Authorities greater powers to scrutinise applications and refuse them where an area is already saturated with Betting Shops.

The Government is also tightening up controls on the advertising of gambling and calling on the trade to take a greater responsibility to protect users of gambling facilities.

For example, Government has set out plans for improved player protection measures on Fixed Odd's Betting Terminals (FOBT's). Proposals include;

- Requiring FOBT customers who wish to bet over £50 in one play, to pay over the counter before they can begin to play, meaning that they have to interact with trained staff.
- Implementing a screen on the machine at the start of play where the user is required to set limits on how much they wish to spend and the duration of the gambling session.
- Requiring larger operators to offer customer accounts and encourage take up so that players can track and monitor their spending via statements.
- Pop up warning messages at regular intervals with pauses in play to encourage players to be more aware of their gambling.
- Strengthening the voluntary self exclusion system so that players can make a single request to be banned from Betting Shops on a wider basis.

DCMS also have plans to strengthen education for 16-24 year olds to prevent underage children being exposed to gambling.

A full copy of the DCMS document is attached as Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The Gambling Act 2005

Licensing Committee – 18 June 2014

Part 1 – Members, Public & Press