

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL - *FIXED ODDS BETTING TERMINALS*

Committee	Licensing Committee
Officer Contact	Stephanie Waterford, Residents Services
Papers with report	Appendix 1 - Draft Private Member's Bill
Ward(s) affected	All

HEADLINE

This report provides an update for Committee Members on a Private Member's Bill to reduce the maximum stake for Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBT's).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the update.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 In January 2015, Licensing Committee Members were made aware of the campaign led by London Borough of Newham, to reduce the maximum stake of £100 to £2 on FOBT's.
- 1.2 A total of 93 Councils supported the campaign (including LB Hillingdon) which urged central Government to change the law to help promote the 'sustainability of local communities'.
- 1.3 On 17th July 2015, the Government rejected the request explaining that tighter controls had been introduced in April 2015, including an end to unsupervised stakes above £50 on FOBT's, and that the Government will continue to monitor the effectiveness of existing controls.
- 1.4 On 3rd June 2015, a Private Members Bill promoted by Lord Clement-Jones had its first reading. The Bill 'The Gambling (Categorisation and Use of B2 Gaming Machines) Bill, seeks to restrict the maximum stake of FOBT's to £2.
- 1.5 A second reading is yet to be scheduled and Members will be kept up to date on progress.
- 1.6 A copy of the Bill is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.7 The Local Government Association has also recently published a new Councillor Handbook on Gambling Regulation. A copy of the handbook will be provided to Members at the meeting.

Implications on related Council policies

None at this stage - Officers will follow the progress of the Bill through Parliament and keep Members informed of any implications.

Legal implications

None at this stage.

Financial Implications

None at this stage.

Background Papers / Further Reading Material

NIL