

Council Meeting, 30 April 2014

Liberal Democrat Notice of Motion

Council Motion – Creation of a separate planning use class for betting shops

This Council notes that:

63 cross-party led local authorities have submitted a proposal for the government to create a separate planning use class for betting shops so that councils have new powers to address the problem. Creating a separate planning use class is Liberal Democrat Party policy and is also supported by the LGA, the GLA and the Mayor of London.

The proliferation and concentration of betting shops is contributing to community decline, especially the decline in valued community assets like pubs. England's poorest spend £13bn a year on the gambling machines in these shops according to a study published by the Campaign for Fairer Gambling. The ongoing spread of betting shops has also been linked to gambling addiction and crime.

The proposal has been submitted under the Sustainable Communities Act. The government is considering it right now.

This Council resolves to

Write to, the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles MP, asking him to "Please agree to the proposal for a separate planning use class for betting shops submitted by 63 councils under the Sustainable Communities Act".

Proposed by Councillor Faulkner (A)

Seconded by Councillor Doggett