

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4(A)

A Councillors Randal Brew and Debbie Clancy have given notice of the following motion:-

“The Council calls on the Executive to immediately change the current budget system to a zero based budgeting approach for 2016-17 and subsequent years.

It further calls for all Party Leaders to be provided immediately with the same financial information and forecasts which would be required for a zero based budgeting approach.”

B Councillors Karen Trench and Jon Hunt have given notice of the following motion:-

“Council notes with concern the growing number of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) in betting shops, allowing gamblers to bet, by debit card, sums of up to £100 a time.

Council also notes estimates by the Campaign for Fairer Gambling that £152.5 million a year is spent on those machines in Birmingham annually by means of cash or debit withdrawals, resulting in losses of £29.1 million. Further that based on the number of betting shop licences, there are in the region of 650 of these machines in operation in the city and 27,000 players, of whom some 5,953 are estimated to be “at risk” by the Gambling Commission.

Council supports measures to bring these machines in line with the rules for fruit machines, which restrict maximum bets per spin to £2.

This Council believes that the increase in FOBTs is causing significant problems and believes that the Government should either use the existing legislative framework, or introduce legislation to outlaw B2 casino games in betting shops.

It calls for Local Authorities to be given effective powers to protect the local amenity and wellbeing of communities by

- (1) limiting the proliferation of betting shops; and
- (2) reducing the maximum stakes and slowing down the speed of play.

This Council therefore requests:

1. That the Chief Executive writes to Tracey Crouch MP, the Minister responsible for gambling, recommending a reduction in the maximum bet per spin on FOBTs from £100 to £2.
2. That the Chief Executive writes to Sir Robin Wales, the Mayor of the London Borough of Newham, declaring this Council's support for their proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act, calling on the Government to reduce the maximum bet per spin on FOBTs to £2."

C Councillors Sir Albert Bore and Ian Ward have given notice of the following motion:-

"This Council recognises the positive contribution that trade unions and trade union members make in our workplaces. The Council values the constructive relationship that we have with our trade unions and we recognise their commitment, and the commitment of all our staff, to the delivery of good quality public services.

The Trade Union Bill proposed by Government will give Government wide ranging powers to impose changes on how this Council works with unions to manage relations in the workplace. Plans include:

- preventing public sector employers from running "check off" systems to deduct union subscriptions from the payroll;
- requiring all public sector employers to publish detailed annual reports recording how many union officials are employed by the authority, what proportion of the pay bill is allocated in total to union facilities and how much the public authority spends on specific union activities;
- controlling the amount of money each or any public authority can invest in collective bargaining and social partnership forums, on union health and safety reps and even union learning reps who work with employers to raise skills and training opportunities;
- revising contracts of employment and collective agreements which have been agreed by the public authority with their staff and unions;
- intervening to cap the amount of money each authority can spend on facility time.

The Council is surprised and disappointed that we are to lose the autonomy to take our own decisions around these important areas for employee engagement, particularly given the Government's rhetorical commitments to the localism agenda. We call on the Government to think again on these plans."