

Portsmouth City Council

A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL will be held at the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on Tuesday, 21 January 2014 at 2.00 pm and all members of the council are hereby summoned to attend to consider and resolve upon the following business:-

Agenda

- 1 **Members' Interests**
- 2 **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2013. (Pages 1 - 14)**
- 3 **To receive such communications as the Lord Mayor may desire to lay before the Council, including apologies for absence.**
- 4 **Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24.**
- 5 **Questions from the Public under Standing Order 25.**
- 6 **Appointments**
- 7 **Urgent Business - To receive and consider any urgent and important business from Members of the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order No 26.**
- 8 **To note a Special urgency decision under section 17.3 of the Constitution regarding Leaders portfolio decision Highways PFI Material Damage Policy taken under exempt business on 23 December 2013. (Published in the Members' Information Service on the 3rd January 2014)**
- 9 **Notices of Motion**
 - (a) **Fixed Odds Betting Terminals**

Proposed by Councillor Aiden Gray
Seconded by Councillor John Ferrett

"The city Council to note the prevalent use of category B2 gaming machines, known as Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs), in large sections of betting shops across Portsmouth, that unlike gaming machines in use across public houses, with a maximum stake is £1, bingo halls where maximum stakes are limited to £2, gamblers can bet up to £100 every 20 seconds on FOBTs to win a jackpot of £500 using debit cards which is over four times faster than the rate of play

in many casinos.

Further to this the City council also notes that nationally 80% of turnover in betting shops is from these FOBTs, where only 20% is from "over-the-counter betting" on horse racing & sports.

The City Council also notes a recent economic analysis that was undertaken by Landman Economics, which was commissioned by the Campaign for Fairer Gambling. This was to assess the impact of the growth in FOBT spending on local economies and across the wider consumer economy. The report highlights that an increase of FOBT spend produces a net reduction of 13,000 jobs and that the projected doubling of FOBT revenue by 2023 could destroy 22,000 jobs. The report also highlights the negative impact of the increase in new betting shops and relocation of betting shops onto primary retail sites is having on the wider retail economy.

Furthermore the City Council notes that the last government made a mistake in allowing this to be introduced & the lack of the current central Government action to address the issues that have been caused by FOBTs, also the announcement made by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Maria Miller MP in the Triennial Review on Gambling (10 October 2013) to not introduce regulations reducing maximum stakes, maximum jackpots or the speed of play. The City Council also notes the contrast of position in the Republic of Ireland where their Government introduced legislation to outlaw FOBTs in betting shops.

In the absence of Government action the City council notes the innovative work other local authorities are doing to reduce the impact of FOBTs on communities, examples include;

- 1) 14 councils led by the London Borough of Hackney putting together a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act for betting shops to have a specific and separate user class ensuring every planning application will be subject to the local authority's individual planning policy to allow local circumstances to be taken into account.
- 2) The London Borough of Lambeth is considering introducing a local bye-law to reduce maximum stakes to £2 per spin and reduce speed of play.
- 3) The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham consulting on a draft Supplementary Planning Document and Article 4 Direction to withdraw permitted development rights for change of use of A3 (restaurants and cafes), A4 (drinking establishments) and A5 (hot food takeaways) to betting offices (class A2 use) in order to create or maintain mixed communities and to protect local amenity and the wellbeing of the area

The city council believes that the Government should introduce legislation to prohibit FOBTs in betting shops or to give local authorities the powers to protect the local amenity and wellbeing of communities by stopping the proliferation of betting shops, slowing down the speed of play and reducing maximum stakes of FOBTs.

The City Council to request;

- 1) The Leader of the council and the Chief Executive will write to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to outline the terms of this motion and request urgent action against FOBTs by central Government.
- 2) While recognising that interventions taken by other local authorities may or may not be applicable routes to address the situation in Portsmouth, with other measures that could be explored, the City Council requests the Licensing Committee consider the appropriate steps that could be taken within existing powers in Portsmouth to help reduce problems caused by FOBTs in the absence of any further Government action.
- 3) The Cabinet Member for Planning Regeneration and Economic development with the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government stressing the need for a separate use class for betting shops".

(b) Pascoe Report

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett
Seconded by Councillor Luke Stubbs

"This council notes with concern the recent public disclosure in the Guardian newspaper of a hitherto confidential investigation report into a complaint made against an elected member. This disclosure followed the decision of the Governance, Audit and Standards Hearing Sub-Committee of the 15 November 2013 to defer a decision on the complaint until civil proceedings on the same matter had been concluded.

The printing of excerpts from the report has led to a great deal of debate, conjecture and innuendo. It has also led to public demands for the disclosure of the full report.

This Council believes it is now in the interest of all concerned, including the member who is subject to the complaint, to disclose the Pascoe report to the public. A failure to do so could result in the report being released and disseminated in an uncontrolled fashion, thus causing continuing damage to the reputation of the member and, indeed, this Council. Therefore, the Council resolves to instruct the Monitoring Officer to reconsider whether, or not, the Pascoe Report can now be disclosed to the public".

(A cover note in respect of (b) above from the City Solicitor is to follow)

10 Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17. (Pages 15 - 16)

David Williams
Chief Executive

Please note that agenda, reports and minutes are available to view on line on the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Full Council and Cabinet meetings are digitally recorded, audio only.

Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
PORTSMOUTH
13 January 2014