



Building a Better Bournemouth

COUNCILLOR DAVID SMITH
CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

Town Hall, Bourne Avenue, Bournemouth, BH2 6DY

Mobile: [REDACTED]

18 January 2018

Dear Sir,

Further to the consultation on proposals for changes to gaming machines and social responsibility measures I would like to respond in my capacity as portfolio holder for planning and the environment for Bournemouth Borough Council and in particular on reducing the maximum stake on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals to £2.00.

The Council at its meeting in December 2014 agreed the following motion:

1. That the Council notes the following:
 - The concerns previously expressed in a motion to the Council on 29 October 2013 about the increasing number of betting shops in the Borough and the proliferation and/or clustering of such shops in high streets.
 - That each of these shops can have up to four gaming machines, also known as fixed odds betting terminals – FOBTs – which differ from traditional fruit machines found in amusement arcades, bingo halls and public houses and allow the customer to bet up to £100 per spin every 20 seconds in casino-style games like roulette.
 - The proliferation of betting shops and the existence of FOBTs in such shops can lead to increased crime and higher levels of gambling addiction in poorer communities as well as other anti-social behaviour.
 - That the Newham Borough Council is planning to submit a Sustainable Communities Act proposal asking the Government to reduce the maximum bet on FOBTs from £100 per spin to £2 which that Council believes will reduce the number of betting shops that open up in the same street.

2. That the Council resolves to support the proposal of the Newham Borough Council and that the Government be informed accordingly.

I would like to confirm that Bournemouth has been steadfast in its position of supporting Newham Council with its efforts to reduce the harmful impacts of fixed odds betting terminals which are expanding rapidly on our High Streets across the Country. As indicated above full Council has debated the issue and has decided to fully support the proposal to potentially introduce a maximum stake of £2.00. Anything more than this would defeat the objective of trying to reduce the harmful impacts these machines have in our society.

Yours sincerely

Cllr David Smith
Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment