

**KNOWSLEY COUNCIL RESPONSE - CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS
FOR CHANGES TO GAMING MACHINES AND SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY MEASURES**

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Knowsley welcomes this consultation and the fact that the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport considers that the existing legislation in this area specifically relating to B2 gaming machines is inappropriate.

Knowsley Council is the second in the list of local authorities with the highest proportion of neighbourhoods amongst the most deprived in England with around 20% of the working age population receiving some type of out of work benefit.

The proliferation of betting outlets in Knowsley is an issue of grave concern to the Council and local residents with it being estimated that there are over 12,000 problematic gamblers on Merseyside with over 60,000 being at risk. From a Knowsley perspective it is estimated that £144m is spent on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals each year.

In order to promote responsible gambling in our community it is the council's contention that high stake gaming machines should not be common place on the high street and this consultation provides the way forward to change this in order to protect local communities.

With the above information in mind Knowsley council can submit the following response to this consultation.

Q1. Do you agree that the maximum stake of £100 on B2 machines (FOBTs) should be reduced? If yes, what alternative maximum stake for B2 machines (FOBTs) do you support?

Yes - The maximum stake should be reduced to £2 as per option 4 of the consultation document.

Q2. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B1?

Yes

Q3. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B3?

Yes

Q4. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B3A?

Yes

Q5. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B4?

Yes

Q6. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category C?

Yes

Q7. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category D?

Yes

Q8. Do you agree with the government's proposals to increase the stake and prize for prize gaming, in line with industry proposals?

Yes

Q9. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on allocations for casinos, arcades and pubs?

Yes

Q10. Do you agree with the government's proposals to bar contactless Payment's as a direct form of payment to gaming machines?

Yes

Q.11 Do you support this package of measures to improve player protection measures on gaming machines?

Yes

Q.12 Do you support this package of measures to improve player protection measures for the online sector?

Yes

Q.13 Do you support this package of measures to address concerns about gambling advertising?

Yes

Q.14 Do you agree the Government should consider alternative options including a mandatory levy if industry does not provide adequate funding for Research, Education and Training?

Yes

Q.15 Do you agree with our assessment of the current powers available to local authorities?

Yes