

**Council: Tuesday, 5 November 2013**

**Non-Executive Business Item:** Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb

Amendment in the name of Councillor Kath McGuirk

Supporting 'mixed' and sustainable high streets through planning

Add at the end:

Council also asks Cabinet to pledge to investigate as part of Small Business Saturday ways of offering small businesses in Barnet a discount on business rates under new powers in the Localism Act in order to attract new firms, growth and jobs to the local economy, and support those small businesses currently operating in the Borough. Council asks Cabinet to work with local businesses and traders on any proposals, and report back by the end of the financial year on possible proposals.

Substantive Business Item to read:

Council notes that on 9th May 2013 the Government laid before Parliament *The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (England) Order 2013* which came into force on 30th May 2013 and changed the rules on high street planning without any parliamentary debate.

Council notes that the new rules mean a number of types of business will no longer have to apply for permission to convert a building for a new business use. This will make it easier for payday lenders, betting shops, fast food restaurants and the other businesses to continue their sprawl along the high streets and will make it harder for councils and communities to have a say in the future of their town centres.

Council notes that LB Southwark is now using Article 4 in planning legislation to control the proliferation of betting shops, payday lenders and pawnbrokers in their high streets in order to ensure there is a balanced mix of businesses in their Borough, and to help people avoid 'debt traps'. Under restrictions LB Southwark have introduced, the type of business - except where the current use class is already an A2 business - operating on a site cannot be changed without submitting a new planning application to the council.

Council notes the growing number of betting shops, payday lenders and pawnshops in particular local areas, including in Hendon Central, and requests that Cabinet investigate ways of using Article 4 to restrict permitted development to ensure our local high streets are mixed, sustainable and are not encouraging local people into the trap of debt.

Council also asks Cabinet to pledge to investigate as part of Small Business Saturday ways of offering small businesses in Barnet a discount on business rates under new powers in the Localism Act in order to attract new firms, growth and jobs to the local economy, and support those small businesses

currently operating in the Borough. Council asks Cabinet to work with local businesses and traders on any proposals, and report back by the end of the financial year on possible proposals.

*Under Council Procedure Rule, Section 1, Standing Order 23.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.*