
Meeting	Planning and Environment Committee
Date	18 December 2013
Subject	Betting Shops - Change in Use Class
Report of	Head of Governance
Summary of Report	This report informs the Committee of a Member's Item and requests instructions from the Committee

Officer Contributors	Maria Lugangira - Business Governance Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	Not Applicable
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	Not Applicable
Function of	Council
Enclosures	None
Contact for Further Information:	Contact for further information: Maria Lugangira – Business Governance Service – Tel: 020 8359 2761

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 **That the Committee's instructions are requested.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 None

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 As and when issues raised in this way are progressed, they will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 None in the context of this report.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 Members' Items allow Members of the Sub-Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of the Sub-Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 None in the context of this report.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 None in the context of this report.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)

- 8.1 The Council's Constitution, Committees and Sub-Committees – Paragraph 6.1 states a Member (including appointed substitute Members) will be permitted to have one matter only (with no sub-items) on the agenda for a meeting of a committee or sub-committee on which he/she serves. Paragraph 6.2 states that Members' Items must be relevant to the terms of reference of the body which will consider the item.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 Councillor Jim Tierney requested that a Member's Item be considered on the following matter:

Recent specialist reports such as the Portas Review into High Streets and a study by London Councils have strongly recommended that it is essential to check the proliferation of Betting shops in our High Streets and this could be achieved by changing their use class from A2 (Financial and Professional services) to a special use class for them. This would mean they would have

to submit a planning application and they could not just move in. Currently, betting shops are in use class A2, grouped alongside banks, estate agents and other financial services. But the increase in permitted development rights introduced recently means they can now move in any premises that were previously in the A2 Use Class or A3 (Restaurants and Cafes), or A4 (Pubs and Bars) or A5 (Hot Food Takeaways) without the need for any planning permission.

The London Councils report said that town centres and high streets were at risk of not meeting the needs of local residents because planning regulations restrict the power of Councils to encourage balanced local economies, including a lack of control on the spread of shops such as money lenders and bookmakers.

In her review, Mary Portas said that “...**the influx of betting shops, often in more deprived areas, is blighting our high streets. Currently, betting shops are oddly and inappropriately in my opinion classed as financial and professional services. Having betting shops in their own class would mean that we can more easily keep check on the number of betting shops on our high streets**”.

In their response to the review, the Government rejected the need for this change in Use Classes, claiming that councils already have the necessary powers.

None of us can fail to have noticed the increase in the numbers of betting shops in our town centres and high streets. But do we ever see a planning application for one? No, because they don't need to submit one. But the Government says **we have** the powers to deal with it? I therefore ask for these issues to be discussed by the Planning & Environment Committee and that the Committee requests the Council to use the powers at it's disposal to take the necessary action to regain control.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Email from Councillor Jim Tierney dated 5 December 2013.

10.2 Any person wishing to inspect the background paper above should telephone 020 8359 2761.

Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)	Not Applicable
Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)	Not Applicable