



Policy and Resources Committee

24 May 2021

Title	Member's Item in the name of Councillor Ross Houston
Report of	Head of Governance
Wards	All
Urgent	No
Key	No
Status	Public
Enclosures	None
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Summary

The report informs the Committee of a Member's item and requests instructions from the Committee.

Recommendations

1. That the Committee's instructions in relation to the Member's item is requested.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 A Member of the Committee has requested that the item tabled below is submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration and determination. The Committee are requested to provide instructions to Officers of the Council as recommended.

Member	Item
<p data-bbox="164 286 467 320">Cllr Ross Houston</p> <p data-bbox="164 398 451 544">Proliferation and overconcentration of gambling outlets</p>	<p data-bbox="483 286 1441 510">A gambling licence for a Merkur Slots casino at 48 Ballards Lane, Finchley Central was agreed at a Licensing Hearing, despite resident and local councillor objections. Barnet Council later rejected a planning application for change of use for this premises, but the application was approved on appeal by the Planning Inspector.</p> <p data-bbox="483 544 1441 622">This means there will be a slot casino in both Finchley Central and North Finchley to add to the 5 other betting shops in the area.</p> <p data-bbox="483 656 1441 734">I know this is not the only ward or town centre facing the problem of the proliferation of gambling premises.</p> <p data-bbox="483 768 1441 981">I ask that the Committee considers this issue and agrees that a review is done of the number and location of gambling outlets in areas across Barnet with a view to using planning powers like Article 4 directions, cumulative impact policy licensing powers and any other relevant powers to ensure there is not an overconcentration in any one area.</p> <p data-bbox="483 1014 1441 1171">Barnet's Labour councillors have proposed use of Article 4 directions and Cumulative Impact Zones to tackle this issue for some years, and I think it is time that we seriously consider use of the powers we have for the wellbeing of our communities.</p> <p data-bbox="483 1205 1441 1283">The Council needs to have the most robust policy framework to allow us to resist these types of applications.</p> <p data-bbox="483 1317 1441 1462">We should also consider the public health dimension of problem gambling, demographic issues, the cost of problem gambling to our public services, and the impact on our communities, including young people and vulnerable people.</p>

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 No recommendations have been made. The Committee are therefore requested to give consideration and provide instruction.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 Not applicable.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the Committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 As and when issues raised through a Member's Item are progressed, they will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024 and other relevant policies.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 The Council's Constitution (Members of the Council, Article 2) states that a Member, including appointed substitute Members of a Committee or Sub-Committee will be permitted to have one matter only on an agenda that he/she serves. Members' items must be within the term of reference of the decision making body which will consider the item.

5.4 Social Value

5.4.1 Not applicable.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 None in the context of this report.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

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

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 None identified in the context of this report – any substantive report will consider the implications in detail.

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 None.

5.9 Consultation and Engagement

5.9.1 None in the context of this report.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None.