

COUNCIL MEETING – 30 MARCH 2009

Alteration to Motion U (2008/09)

Councillor Dogus has given notice that she will move in the following terms:

This council notes the concern of residents and local businesses, who believe that the opening of adult entertainment establishments will have a negative effect on Haringey and on those who live, work and go to school in the Borough.

This council notes objectors' concerns that such clubs would create public order and public safety problems and further notes their fear that these clubs may create a public nuisance, be harmful to local children and are particularly offensive to women.

This council further notes objectors' concerns that lap-dancing clubs are part of the commercial sex industry, which normalise the sexual objectification of women and constitute an exploitative industry which damages gender equality.

This Council notes and accepts that current legislation requires Members on licensing bodies to consider and determine all applications for regulated entertainment with an open mind on their individual merits. Nonetheless this Council believes that the existing legislation needs to be strengthened in order to protect the legitimate interests of local residents and to promote a vision of Haringey as a fair and equal place, where people can flourish and in which residents are proud to live and feel part of a strong community.

This council welcomes the Labour government's announcement in the Queen's speech in December, new measures to give councils and communities new powers to stop lap-dancing clubs opening in areas, by tightening up the regulation of adult entertainment venues.

This council notes that these powers may be taken up on an opt-in basis and that, in the interests of residents and in protecting the rights residents expect to influence the areas in which they live, we will stand by communities and give favourable consideration to the adoption of such powers as soon as is possible.

This council will give favourable consideration to legislation that will reclassify Lap Dancing Clubs as Sex Encounter Venues as laid out in the Policing and Crime Bill; resolves to write to the Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Jacqui Smith MP, to urge her to prioritise the necessary legislation in order to provide fairer rules for stronger communities and to make sure that such provisions can be retrospectively applied.

Proposed by Cllr Dilek Dogus
Seconded by Cllr Joe Goldberg