

**The Clustering of Betting Shops in Haringey
Scrutiny Panel
Wednesday 29th November 2011**

Report Title: The Clustering of Betting Shops in Haringey

Report authorised by: Cllr David Winskill, Chair of the Scrutiny Review of Clustering of Betting Shops

Contact Officers: Martin Bradford, Overview & Scrutiny, 0208 489 6950

Wards(s) affected: ALL

Report for: Non Key

1. Purpose of the report (that is, the decision required)

That Members approve the report and recommendations of the review, as outlined in the attached report.

2. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

2.1 *Priorities:* to create a *Better Haringey:* cleaner, greener and safer

2.2 Sustainable Community Strategy 2007 – 2016 with *People at the heart of change* where Haringey will:

- have an environmentally sustainable future
- have economic vitality and prosperity shared by all
- be safer for all

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the report and its recommendations be approved and referred to Cabinet for a response.

4. Reason for recommendation(s)

4.1 Please refer to the scrutiny review report (attached)

5. Other options considered

5.1 Please refer to the scrutiny review report (attached)

6. Chief Financial Officer Comments

- 6.1 The Chief Financial Officer has reviewed the attached scrutiny review and the recommendations and notes the financial comments highlighted in section 10.0 of this covering report.
- 6.2 The majority of the recommendations should be able to be contained within existing budget provisions over the longer term although should Members wish to prioritise any there may be implications in terms of staff and budget resources.
- 6.3 As highlighted in section 10.2 the recommendation with the largest financial implication is the possible adoption of a local Article 4 Direction. At this stage the recommendation to undertake some further cost benefit appraisal appears the most pragmatic approach.

7. Head of Legal Services Comments

- 7.1 The report has been considered and the legal aspects appear comprehensively outlined in the body of the report.

8. Head of Procurement Comments N/A

9. Consultation

- 9.1 As part of the scrutiny review process key stakeholders were invited to an evidence gathering session (held in November 2010). Contributors at this session included include local licensing and planning officers, the Gambling Commission, betting shop operators, the Metropolitan Police and GamCare.
- 9.2 Local residents, community groups, residents associations and local businesses were also invited to attend a separate evidence gathering session (also held in November 2010) which provided an opportunity to describe how the clustering of betting shops impacts on local areas and on local communities.
- 9.3 The panel also undertook a site visit to where betting shops clustered. The visit offered the opportunity experiences gambling premises first hand, the opportunity to talk to staff and users of local betting shops. A focus group was held with betting shop staff.

10. Service Financial Comments

- 10.1 The establishment of a Responsible Gambling Premises Scheme is not a statutory function and therefore is not a current service priority. Although elements of such a scheme may be deliverable within existing budgets, additional resources would be required if this to be prioritised within the current work programme.
- 10.2 There would be significant resource implications of an Article 4 Direction if this process was to be pursued locally (£10-20K). In respect of planning policy developments recommended within the review, these would require additional officer time and resources to implement within the current work programme.