

COUNCIL – 18 NOVEMBER 2013

Amendment to Motion B

Propose: Cllr Richard Wilson

Second: Cllr Jim Jenks

Amend the motion to delete struck through words and insert underlined words:

This Council believes:

- The decline of high streets across London and throughout the UK has been accelerated as result of the last Government's ~~deregulation of use class~~ planning rules which prevent failure in 13 years to introduce additional powers to further empower local councils ~~from~~ to controlling the damaging spread of betting shops, payday lenders and fried food outlets.
- It is wrong that local authorities and communities feel increasingly powerless to shape their town centres or do anything to halt the tide of businesses such as payday loan firms which alter the character of a high street and can put off people visiting or investing, and damages other businesses already there.

This Council notes:

- A Comres poll carried out for the Local Government Association last year found that two out of three members of the public (68 per cent) were against lax planning rules which allow high street banks to be turned into betting shops without permission because they both fall under the same planning category of financial services.
- Liberal Democrat MP Don Foster has demanded curbs on new betting shops opening up on local high streets. And at Liberal Democrat conference this autumn the Liberal Democrats confirmed their support for a new use class.
- That Labour-run Southwark Council has banned new betting shops, payday loans firms and pawnbrokers from opening in its borough. Businesses in Southwark will not be allowed to change the type of business operating on a site without a fresh application to the council. The council did this by bringing into

force Article 4 directions on change of use, removing the development rights with immediate effect.

- ~~A report by London Councils has said that town centres and high streets are 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 pawnbrokers, payday lenders and bookmakers.~~
- ~~The London Councils report also calls for the Government to reconsider its decision not to grant exemption to the London boroughs that asked to be removed from the recent permitted development rights which allow offices to be converted to homes without planning permission.~~
- ~~The MP for Tottenham David Lammy, laid down an amendment to the Localism Bill to change the use class of betting shops, but this amendment was defeated by the Lib Dem / Tory Government. The Hornsey and Wood Green MP Lynne Featherstone, voted against the amendment~~
- The Labour Party Local Government Association has proposed to create the creation of an additional umbrella planning class which would allow local councils to decide if they want to place some premises, such as betting shops and payday lenders, in a separate category. Local authorities could then refuse planning permission on the grounds that, for example, opening a payday loan shop would constitute a change of use. It would also allow councils to control the spread of other types of outlet where there is local concern. This proposal matches the recommendations put forward by London Councils.

This Council resolves:

- To write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, to ~~outline the Council's concerns about the impact the Government's planning reforms are having in Haringey and~~ ask that he urgently considers the proposals to introduce a sui generis (umbrella) planning use class.

- ~~• To write to Haringey's two local MPs asking them to publically raise the Council's concerns in Parliament and demand the Government rethink its localism agenda and give more control to local authorities and communities.~~
- To investigate the possibility of following Southwark Council's example and stopping new payday lenders, pawnbrokers and betting shops from opening in Haringey using an Article 4 direction.

The amended motion reads as follows:

This Council believes:

- The decline of high streets across London and throughout the UK has been accelerated as result of the last Government's failure in 13 years to introduce additional powers to further empower local councils to control the damaging spread of betting shops, payday lenders and fried food outlets.
- It is wrong that local authorities and communities feel increasingly powerless to shape their town centres or do anything to halt the tide of businesses such as payday loan firms which alter the character of a high street and can put off people visiting or investing, and damages other businesses already there.

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