

## **Motion - Problem Gambling is a serious Health Issue**

**Proposed by:** Councillor Mione Goldspink

**Seconded by:** Councillor Simon Marlow.

This Council acknowledges its statutory duty to adopt and publish a statement of Licensing Principles under the Gambling Act 2005, and to review it every 3 years. The Council is the local Licensing Authority for non-remote gambling.

This Council notes with concern that there is an estimated one gambling-related suicide every day in the United Kingdom. Gambling is now determined to be one of 6 key risk factors for suicide in the National Suicide Prevention Strategy. Problem gambling is a serious Health issue.

As well as suicide risk, there are other damaging effects of problem gambling, such as loss of money, mounting debt, loss of employment, damaging impact on children, family breakdown and loss of homes. We note that there is a Hertfordshire Gambling Harms Alliance which brings together Public Health, Local Authorities, NHS and Community Organisations. This alliance is developing a strategy to reduce these gambling-related harms, but it lacks any power to enforce any measures, or to control the gambling industry in any way.

East Herts District Council therefore resolves to write to the Westminster Government, calling on it to:

- 1) give District Councils much wider powers to regulate Gambling, by:-
  - a) mandating Financial checks so as to prevent gambling beyond means.
  - b) restricting and reducing the amount of gambling advertising and sponsorship of sporting events and ending all pre-watershed

gambling advertising. (The WHO recommends ending this advertising altogether.)

- 2) increase the remote gaming duty from 21% to 42% and to use some of the funds from this to help with treatment for those who suffer from addiction to gambling.

We authorise the Leader of EHDC to write to the Parliamentary Secretary of State for Public Health to convey this message.