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## **SPECIAL MOTION NO. 4 – ENCOURAGING STRONG, SAFE NEIGHBOURHOODS AND SUCCESSFUL HIGH STREETS**

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Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Wesley Harcourt
- (ii) Councillor Michael Cartwright

“This Council notes that the rapid growth of betting shops is being driven by the presence of new, high-stakes fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs), which are often used by gambling addicts and money launderers and which fuel criminal activity.

The Council also recognises that allowing betting and loan shops to spread and cluster across our borough's high streets with no checks blights our neighbourhoods, undermines existing businesses and discourages new businesses from setting up as their presence deters retailers from moving into nearby empty properties.

The Council recognises that many local authorities are successfully using Article 4 Directions to give residents and their elected representatives a mechanism to protect their neighbourhoods and agrees to do the same.

The Council also agrees to consider the many innovative best practices used by councils of all political persuasions to regenerate their high streets and secondary shopping areas. It recognises that returning local control of the Borough's high streets to residents is an important and democratic measure which encourages the retailers that residents want, halts the unchecked spread and clustering of betting shops, payday lenders and pawnshops and curtails serious criminal activity.”