



AGENDA ITEM: 5(b)

CABINET: 10th November 2015

Report of: Assistant Director Community Services

Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (People and Places)

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor K Wright

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SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECLARATION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval to sign the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Council become a signatory to the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Tobacco smoking remains the single largest preventable cause of ill health, premature death and health inequalities. Every year in England more than 80,000 people die from smoking related diseases. Smoking accounts for one third of deaths from respiratory disease, over one quarter of all deaths from cancer and about one seventh of all deaths from heart disease. Within West Lancashire, 16.6% of people smoke tobacco compared to the national average of 18.4%¹. However, there are areas of the Borough where this may be exceeded, as

smoking causes 300 smoking related deaths per 100,000 in West Lancashire compared to the national average of 289 deaths per 100,000².

- 3.2 Smoking in public places has been prohibited since 2007, but there are still a significant number of people who smoke tobacco products, which in turn increases the risks associated with second hand smoke. Children and young people are particularly susceptible to start smoking where another member of the household already smokes.
- 3.3 The Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control (the Declaration) was developed by Newcastle City Council in 2013 as a way of securing high level local authority commitment to tackling issues relating to smoking. It is a voluntary pledge to take action and a statement about the commitment to protecting our local community from the harms caused by smoking.
- 3.4 The Declaration doesn't commit the Council to specific policies, but to overarching principles. The Council can decide its own priorities and can use the Declaration as a tool to support its work or provide a starting point for action. Accordingly, how the Declaration is implemented will depend on local practice.
- 3.5 The Declaration commits the Council to:
- Act at a local level to reduce smoking prevalence and health inequalities and to raise the profile of the harm caused by smoking to the community;
 - Develop plans with partners and local communities to address the causes and impacts of tobacco use;
 - Participate in local and regional networks;
 - Support Government action at national level to reduce smoking prevalence and health inequalities in the community;
 - Protect the Council's tobacco control work from the commercial and vested interests of the tobacco industry by not accepting any partnerships, payments, gifts and services (monetary or in-kind) or research offered by the tobacco industry to Members or Officers;
 - Monitor the progress of our plans against our commitments and publish the results;
 - Join the Smoke free Action Coalition. This is an alliance of over 170 national organisations which campaigns for tobacco control at a national level and provides a network of support and advice to local public health professionals.
- 3.6 The majority of local authorities in Lancashire and many across the North West have signed the Declaration. In addition, the NHS Statement of Support for Tobacco Control (which is the NHS version of the Declaration) has also recently been signed by West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust. A copy of the wording of the Declaration is provided at Appendix 2 to this report.

4.0 ISSUES

4.1 If the recommendation contained in this report is approved, the Declaration should be signed by the Leader of the Council, the Managing Directors and Assistant Director Community Services (as health lead for the Council). Whilst the implications of the Declaration can be met from existing resources, it would require Officers to carry out some additional work to raise awareness of the Council's involvement in the Declaration, as well as to monitor and publish any plans or initiatives that are delivered. However, this is an extension of existing work already being delivered.

4.2 Examples of this existing work include:

- Participative member of the Tobacco Free Lancashire Network;
- The Commercial Safety team enforces the smoke free laws in commercial premises across the Borough;
- Environmental Enforcement Officers are responsible for issues relating to littering from cigarettes;
- Close links between the Council's food safety and licensing services with Lancashire County Council Trading Standards Service to share intelligence and take action relating to the availability of smuggled and counterfeit tobacco and underage sales;
- Contributing to test purchase operations for underage tobacco (and alcohol) sales;
- Voluntary code to prohibit smoking within all Council owned enclosed children's play areas;
- Implementation of corporate policies on smoking and e-cigarette use, including direction to smoking cessation services for staff.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

5.1 The Declaration does not conflict with the Council's existing duties and compliments its on-going work to improve health and reduce inequalities in the Borough.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The issues contained in this report can be delivered within existing resources.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

7.1 The Council is not obligated to sign the Declaration, but refraining from doing so could be viewed as passive acknowledgement that smoking is acceptable. Many of the commitments in the Declaration are already contained within existing Council policies and strategies.

Background Documents

The following background documents (as defined in Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act 1972) have been relied on to a material extent in preparing this Report.

None.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is a significant direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report.

Appendices

1. Equality Impact Assessment.
2. The Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control