

**CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
CABINET**

**6 MAY 2014**

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*Background Papers, if any, are specified at the end of the Report*

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECLARATION ON TOBACCO CONTROL**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That Cabinet agrees to the Council signing the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control**

**Relationship to Council Objectives**

*Efficient and Effective customer focused services.*

*Safe, healthy and cohesive community*

**Implications**

- (i) This is a key decision within the forward plan.*
- (ii) It is within the policy and budgetary framework*

**Financial Implications**

*There are no additional financial implications; the Council currently allocates resources to the enforcement of Smokefree legislation in workplaces and supports community awareness of the harm caused by smoking through Health Fairs and information on the internet. The Council is also a member of Buckinghamshire Action Against Smoking enabling it to work with partners to raise awareness and support smoking cessation.*

**Risk Implications**

*None*

**Equalities Implications**

*Smoking is the single greatest cause of premature death and disease in our communities. Reducing smoking in our communities could significantly increase household incomes and benefit the local economy. Reducing smoking amongst the most disadvantaged in our communities is the single most important means of reducing health*

*inequalities.*

## **Sustainability Implications**

*None*

### **1 Report**

- 1 Smoking is the single greatest cause of premature death and disease in our communities. Reducing smoking in our communities could significantly increase household incomes and benefit the local economy. Reducing smoking amongst the most disadvantaged in our communities is the single most important means of reducing health inequalities.
- 2 Nationally the illicit trade in tobacco funds the activities of organised criminal gangs and gives children access to cheap tobacco. The extent of this activity in Chiltern District is not known.
- 3 Smoking is an addiction largely taken up by children and young people, two thirds of smokers start before the age of 18
- 4 The Health and Wellbeing Board has asked that all the local authorities in Buckinghamshire consider signing the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control which commits Local Authorities to:
  - Reduce smoking prevalence and health inequalities
  - Develop plans with partners and local communities
  - Participate in local and regional networks
  - Support Government action at national level
  - Protect tobacco control work from the commercial and vested interests of the tobacco industry (this does not require action on disinvesting pension funds from the tobacco industry as this type of investment does not influence health policy)
  - Monitor the progress of our plans
  - Join the Smokefree Action Coalition
- 5 In signing this declaration the Council sends a message out to our local communities regarding our commitment to improving local public health and brings us in line with several other councils.
- 6 It is a cross party initiative with support from the Public Health Minister, Jane Ellison and Secretary of the All Party Group on Smoking and Health, Bob Blackman MP. The leader of Warwickshire County Council noted at a recent parliamentary launch of the Declaration that it made sense at a local level to sign up to this initiative, given the effect smoking has on the local economy including; the impact on household

budgets, the costs associated with cleaning up cigarette litter and the impact on local business of absenteeism and lost productivity from smoking breaks.

- 7 The Declaration has been commended by WHO Medical Director, Luminita Sanda, who noted “This Declaration is a world first. No other country has so embedded the commitments in the WHO treaty on tobacco control at a local level. It is particularly welcome to see a strong pledge to protect health policy from tobacco industry influence.”
- 8 The Declaration has also been widely endorsed by leading figures and organisations in the public health community:
  - Public Health Minister
  - Chief Medical Officer
  - Public Health England
  - Association of Directors of Public Health
  - Faculty of Public Health
  - Trading Standards Institute
  - Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
- 9 The Parliamentary launch was attended by Councillor Noel Brown from Buckinghamshire County and Chiltern District Councils and the Chairman of the Healthy Communities Partnership, who expressed his support for the signing of this Declaration.

***Background Papers:***

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