

County Council

27 May 2022

Item 8(c) Notice of Motion on Smokefree Fund from Cllr Ali

Amendment by Cllr Walsh

This Council notes that:

- (1) Preventable disease continues to have a massive impact on the public's health, the NHS and the economy.
- (2) Tobacco is the biggest preventable cause of cancer and death in the United Kingdom.
- (3) Decades of comprehensive policy action have meant that adult smoking prevalence in the United Kingdom in 2019 was at a record low at 14.1%, but this masks significant inequality.
- (4) Differences in smoking rates make it one of the leading drivers of health inequalities, responsible for half the difference in life expectancy between the lowest and highest income groups in England.
- (5) That through their public health duties, local authorities are responsible for improving the health of their populations and do this through initiatives such as stop smoking services and wider tobacco control activities.

This Council believes that local government must be adequately resourced to fulfil their public health duties ***and deprecates the reduction in public health funding to local government over the last few years.***

This Council asks the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing to support Cancer Research UK's calls for a Smokefree Fund (a fixed annual charge on the tobacco industry, making them pay for the damage their products cause without having any influence on how the funds are spent) to fund local tobacco control work, and urges the United Kingdom government to ~~consider~~ implementing ~~ng~~ a Smokefree Fund as part of its efforts to tackle health disparities.