



**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 September 2017**

**GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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**NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor M Foy will move the following motion:

The Council welcomes the Government's Tobacco Control Plan for England, "Towards a Smokefree Generation" published in July 2017. Its ultimate aim of a smoking prevalence of 5% is worthy and the Plan should be commended for promoting comprehensive tobacco control strategies. It calls for a shift in emphasis from national to local action in order to achieve its aims. However, there are gaps and the Plan comes at a time when Councils and the NHS face difficult funding challenges.

Since the launch of Fresh in 2005, Gateshead has been at the forefront of local comprehensive tobacco control and through an Alliance of passionate people has done much to reduce tobacco harm. This approach led Gateshead to sign up in 2014 to a commitment to reach 5% smoking prevalence by 2025 – an ambition which makes the Tobacco Plan aim of 12% prevalence by 2022 appear unambitious.

In Gateshead, 17.9% (around 29,000 of our adult population) still smoke. The Council recognises that this remains the greatest single cause of preventable death. It underlies suffering from diseases and disability, and is a key determinant of inequalities. The cost to the NHS in Gateshead of treating diseases arising from smoking is £9.92 million pounds per year. One Gateshead resident dies every 20 hours as a result of tobacco dependence.

This Council urgently calls on the Government to consider how best to support local momentum and build on the achievements of the past ten years by:

- ensuring that tobacco companies pay for the harm they cause through the introduction of a levy on the 'polluter pays' principle which can fund action to reduce tobacco harm
- introduce a national licensing scheme to help eliminate the illegal trade in illicit tobacco and strengthen action on the sale of tobacco to children

Additionally, the Council commits to undertake a "Year of Action" to highlight the harms arising from tobacco use and what's happening in Gateshead to counteract them.

Proposed by: Councillor M Foy

Seconded by: Councillor M Brain  
Supported by: Councillor J Adams  
Councillor G Haley