



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 2 November 2005

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14(2)b

QUESTION 10

From: Councillor Spender

To: The Portfolio Holder for Healthy and Inclusive Communities

“Has the Cabinet, and specifically the Portfolio Holder for Healthy & Inclusive Communities, digested the impact of the Government’s recently published health proposals?”

What is the impact of the Government’s proposals on the Council’s adopted strategy and the Charter on Smoking & Health?”

Reply

“The report on Smoke Free Resolution to the Health Improvement Performance Committee in March 2005 (HE42) proposed that the Winchester Health Improvement Group and the Local Strategic Partnership provide leadership on this issue. The report recognised the benefits not only to be in terms of health improvement outcomes but also economic, poverty reduction, social deprivation and environmental benefits within the local community.

Over the last six months the aims to reduce smoking, reduce exposure to 2nd-hand smoke and reduce tobacco advertising, promotion and sales to under 16s have been identified with partners within the Health Improvement Management Group and in particular from Mid Hampshire Primary Care Trust. The City Council is also preparing to respond on the Smoke-free Elements of the Health Bill.

The City Council has developed an internal officer group which is ensuring that action on smoking is developed into a coherent action plan of activities. Officers are already working with other agencies, including Eastleigh Borough Council and the Royal Hants County Hospital.

A specific number of outcomes are relevant to the work of the City Council and reflect the aims of the Smoke-Free Resolution and focus upon such things as:

- Reducing smoking uptake through work with children and young people
- Increasing smoke-free environments through work with local employers, and owners of enclosed public places.

The Health Bill makes proposals for creating smoke-free premises, places and vehicles. Although largely in keeping with what the Council has previously advocated and its Charter, there are a number of exemptions in the Bill which wouldn’t appear logical or supportable. A report is being prepared for Cabinet with a more detailed response to the Government’s proposals.”