

Motion to: Council

14 March 2023

Subject: Minimum unit pricing

Proposer: Councillor Schmierer

Seconded: Councillor Young

An amendment has been received from **Councillor Jones**.

Councillor Jones is amending the motion as follows:-

Replacing resolution 1) with the following: **“Write to the Secretary of State calling on them to consider the evidence from the widely regarded successful implementation of MUP in Scotland and Wales to inform its introduction in England and adequately fund substance misuse services at a level to properly address the factors that cause and sustain alcohol misuse, for all that require them.”**

Replacing resolution 2) with the following **“Ask the licencing committee to consider ways in which off premises licenced shops could be discouraged from selling discounted alcohol, particularly high alcohol volume products, when the licencing policy is next updated.”**

So that the revised motions become:-

The number of alcohol-related deaths has hit an all-time high, rising by 30.2% in the East of England over the past five years. Experts have blamed the rise on the pandemic, claiming that people who were already drinking at higher levels before the pandemic were the most likely to have increased their alcohol consumption during this period.

In 2020/21 Norwich had the highest proportion of alcohol-related hospital admissions in the region.

Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) sets a minimum price, per UK unit, below which alcohol cannot be sold.

The Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) Scotland Act 2012 paved the way for the introduction of MUP. A minimum unit price of 50p per unit has been in place since 1 May 2018. Research has showed it has had a lasting impact in both Wales and Scotland, having reduced consumption in some of the heaviest drinking.

Council therefore calls on cabinet to:

Item 13(c)

- 1) Write to the Secretary of State calling on them to consider the evidence from the widely regarded successful implementation of MUP in Scotland and Wales to inform its introduction in England and adequately fund substance misuse services at a level to properly address the factors that cause and sustain alcohol misuse, for all that require them.
- 2) Ask the licencing committee to consider ways in which off premises licenced shops could be discouraged from selling discounted alcohol, particularly high alcohol volume products, when the licencing policy is next updated.
- 3) Continue to work with partners to support those who are struggling with alcohol dependency; and
- 4) Include reference to the impact that high levels of alcohol consumption can have on the public health profile of the city in the next corporate plan.