

LICENSING COMMITTEE

12/09/19

SUBJECT AND PURPOSE

PUBLIC HEALTH (MINIMUM PRICE FOR ALCOHOL) (WALES)

Introduction of Legislation that will introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol in Wales.

RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

For information and Comment

REASONS:

Improve Public Health, strengthen existing actions to reduce alcohol consumption and alcohol related harm.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Consulted	NA
Exec Board Decision Required	NA
Council Decision Required	NA

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Councillor P.M. Hughes

Directorate: Communities
Name of Head of Service
Mr Jonathan Morgan

Report Author
Mr Emyr Jones

Designation:

Head of Homes and Safer Communities

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Licensing Committee
12/09/19

SUBJECT

PUBLIC HEALTH (MINIMUM PRICE FOR ALCOHOL) (WALES)

The health and wellbeing of the population of Wales is continuing to improve. In general, people are living longer and enjoy better health than ever before. However, Wales still faces a number of specific and significant health challenges. The level of alcohol consumption in Wales has led to a range of health and social harms, particularly for the minority of people who drink to excess and do not realise the harm they are doing to themselves.

There were 467 alcohol related deaths in Wales in 2013 and drinking among young people is also a concern with 17% of males and 14% of females aged between 11-16 in Wales drinking alcohol at least once a week in 2009-10.

This Bill was developed following consultation on a Public Health White Paper, which included a series of legislative proposals to address a number of public health issues in Wales. One of these was a proposal to introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol.

Legislation has historically played an important role in improving and protecting the health of people in Wales. The aim of the Legislation is to address the Welsh Government's concerns around the health harms that can be caused by the effects of excess alcohol consumption.

The Welsh Government has proposed legislation which will set a minimum unit price (MUP) for alcohol in Wales.

The Legislation proposes to make it an offence for an alcohol retailer to sell or supply alcohol at a price below the set minimum unit price in Wales.

The level of the minimum unit price will be set by the Welsh Ministers in regulations, currently proposed as 50p per unit of alcohol.

The Legislation will put in place a series of offences and penalties and provide additional powers and duties for local authorities to enable them to implement and enforce the proposed MUP system.

Currently some drinks are so cheap, compared to the amount of alcohol contained within them, there is no economic reason for people to reduce consumption.

Introducing a Minimum Unit Price of 50p on alcohol it is likely to have a significant effect on young people's consumption, however it could be debated that it may not have the desired effect on heavy drinkers, who are still likely to drink heavily if alcohol continues to be affordable, hence the potential for the MUP to be raised at a later date.

Carmarthenshire County Council has historically been committed to reducing alcohol consumption, particularly in the young via a number of initiatives both enforcement and educational e.g. the Validate young person's I.D. card and notably the Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign (AMEC), undertaken by Trading Standards, Licensing and Dyfed

Powys Police, by monitoring the sale of alcohol to young people by means of test purchase initiatives.

It is intended that the Legislation will go some way further to promoting the goal of reducing the number of people who suffer harm, through alcohol consumption.

Initially staff from Trading Standards and Licensing will adopt an educative and advisory role with the trade and it is anticipated this can be done with existing resources, however should there be a need for further enforcement, and further resources may be needed to complete this work.

It should be noted that the intended penalty for continued breach of legislation will be in the form of a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) proposed at £200, with proceeds being retained by the Local Authority, this will be required to contribute to addressing any lack of resources related to further enforcement.

Please find attached report updating the progress of the proposals.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Mr Jonathan Morgan

Acting Head of Homes and Safer Communities

Policy and Crime & Disorder	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Organisational Development	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Mr Jonathan Morgan

Acting Head of Homes and Safer Communities

1. Local Member(s):

No local member involvement and therefore no consultation necessary.

2. Community / Town Council:

No Community / Town Council involvement and therefore no consultation necessary.

3. Relevant Partners:

No Police and Fire Authority involvement and therefore no consultation necessary.

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations:

There are no other organisations involved and therefore no consultation necessary.

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Minimum Unit Pricing	MUP	Licensing Section, 3 Spilman Street, Carmarthen