

<b>Subject:</b>	Minimum Unit Price for Alcohol	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2012
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Executive	<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Exception</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Urgency</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	Yes	Attached: Yes
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b>	Required:	No	Attached: No
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Carolyn Sharples	<b>Telephone:</b>	01706 252422
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk">carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>		

<b>1.</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION(S)</b>
1.1	That members support the introduction of a minimum unit price nationally, and the campaign for the level to be set at 50p.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The Government's Alcohol Strategy in March announced the intention to introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol. An Autumn consultation is expected to help determine at what level this should be set. Members are asked to support the introduction of a minimum unit price nationally, and campaign for the level to be set at 50p.

## 3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:

- **A clean and green Rossendale** – creating a better environment for all.
- **A healthy and successful Rossendale** – supporting vibrant communities and a strong economy.
- **Responsive and value for money local services** – responding to and meeting the different needs of customers and improving the cost effectiveness of services.

## 4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

## 5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

5.1 At present alcohol is 44% cheaper than in 1980 and is contributing to an increase in alcohol related deaths, illnesses, crime and antisocial behaviour. Introducing a minimum price per unit would mean that the stronger a drink is, the more it would cost. It would therefore impact on the cheap, strong drinks which cause the most damage and help rebalance the alcohol culture, cut crime, save lives and reduce the costs of alcohol harm at public expense.

5.2 A 50p minimum unit price would save more than twice as many lives as a 40p unit price and would help avoid thousands more hospital admissions and crimes. The table below shows a comparison of benefits (per year) after ten years (based on figures reported to the Lancashire Leaders Group Meeting in July):

	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Hospital admissions</b>	<b>Days absent from work</b>	<b>Crimes</b>
Minimum unit price at 40p	1,380 lives saved	40,800 reduction	100,000 less	16,000 avoided
Minimum unit price at 50p	3,400 lives saved	98,000 reduction	300,000 less	46,000 avoided

- 5.3 This change will not affect alcohol sold in pubs and bars, but would target supermarkets and off licences selling cheap alcohol.
- 5.4 Scotland will be introducing a 50p minimum unit pricing later this year and the Republic of Ireland and the Northern Irish Assembly are both exploring a minimum unit price.

**COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

**6. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

6.1 It is not envisaged that this will have any financial impact upon Rossendale Borough Council.

**7. MONITORING OFFICER**

7.1 No comments.

**8. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)**

8.1 No HR implications.

**9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

9.1 Lancashire Leaders.

**10. CONCLUSION**

10.1 Supporting the introduction of a minimum price unit for alcohol would assist with encouraging a healthy borough as well as reducing alcohol associated crime.

No background papers

**INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

<b>Name of Policy, Decision, Strategy, Service or Function, Other: (please indicate)</b>	To support the introduction of a minimum unit price nationally, and the campaign for the level to be set at 50p.	
<b>Lead Officer Name(s):</b>	Helen Lockwood	
<b>Job Title &amp; Location:</b>	Chief Executive, Futures Park	
<b>Department/Service Area:</b>	Executive	
<b>Telephone &amp; E-mail Contact:</b>	01706 252428 <a href="mailto:helenlockwood@rossendalebc.gov.uk">helenlockwood@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Date Assessment:</b> 18/09/12	<b>Commenced:</b> 18/09/12	<b>Completed:</b> 18/09/12

**We carry out Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) to analyse the effects of our decisions, policies or practices. The EIA should be undertaken/started at the beginning of the policy development process – before any decisions are made.**

**1. Overview**

<b>The main aims/objectives of this policy<sup>1</sup> are:</b>
The Government's Alcohol Strategy in March announced the intention to introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol. An Autumn consultation is expected to help determine at what level this should be set. The Council is being asked to consider supporting the introduction of a minimum unit price nationally, and the campaign for the level to be set at 50p.

(Refer to **EIA Guidance** for details)

Is the policy or decision under review (please tick)

New/proposed

Modified/adapted

Existing

**INTERNAL ONLY**

**MANAGEMENT ACTION REQUIRED (to be completed by the Head of P&P following review by Management Team / Programme Board)**

- Outcome of EIA agreed/approved by Management Team / Programme Board:  
Yes  No
- Is a full CIA required Yes  No
- Referred back to Assessor for amendment : (date)
- Published/made publicly available on: (date)

Signed:..... (Head of P&P) Date:

Date of Review<sup>2</sup>:

<sup>1</sup> Policy refers to any policy, strategy, project, procedure, function, decision or delivery of service.

<sup>2</sup> This date will be set on an annual basis as default for review unless otherwise specified by you.

<b>Responsible Section/Team</b>	Executive	<b>Version</b>	1
<b>Responsible Author</b>	Helen Lockwood	<b>Due for review</b>	
<b>Date last amended</b>	18/09/12	<b>Page 1 of 2</b>	

[To be Completed by Lead Officer]

## 2. Equality Impact

Using the table below please indicate whether the policy/strategy/decision has a positive, negative or no impact from an equalities perspective on any of the protected equality groups listed below. Please also give consideration to wider equality of opportunity and community cohesion impacts within and between the groups identified. If you have identified any negative impact and mitigating actions are not sufficient, you will need to complete a Full Equality Impact Assessment.

Equality		Positive Impact (It could benefit)	Negative Impact (It could disadvantage)	Reason and any mitigating actions already in place (to reduce any adverse /negative impacts or reasons why it will be of positive benefit or contribution)	No Impact
Age	Older people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Younger people and children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability	Physical/learning/mental health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender Reassignment	Transsexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and Maternity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race (Ethnicity or Nationality)	Asian or Asian British people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Black or black British people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Irish people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	White British	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Chinese people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gypsies & Travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other minority communities not listed above (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Belief or Religion		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender	Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Men	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	Lesbian women, gay men and bisexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and Civil Partnership (employment only)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contribution to equality of opportunity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contribution to fostering good relations between different groups (people getting on well together – valuing one another, respect and understanding)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights <a href="http://intranet/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=86&amp;documentID=251">http://intranet/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=86&amp;documentID=251</a>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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