



COUNCIL MEETING

16 July 2009

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor I Mearns will move the following motion:

'This Council notes the content of the Cabinet report on progress of the 2009 Health Bill through its Parliamentary stages. We also note that in 'Vision 2030', Gateshead Strategic Partnership, working closely with the Council, envisions a city that will boast some of the most healthy and active residents of any place in Britain.

However, we also note that we are currently a long way from that position, with significant inequalities of health and life expectancy between communities in Gateshead, between Gateshead and the National average and, more strikingly, between Gateshead and the healthiest communities in Britain today.

Life expectancy for Gateshead is much less than the national average; men live 2 years less than average and women live 1.7 years less. Even worse is the differential between Gateshead and places with the best life expectancy (which is where we aspire to be), with reduced life expectancy of 7.8 years for men and 7.3 years for women.

Our high smoking rates are the greatest single contributor to these lower levels of life expectancy.

If we are to become a healthy and active Gateshead by 2030, we will need smoking to be a habit and addiction of the past.

This Council therefore asks the Borough's MPs to support the following provisions of the Health Bill:

- The prohibition of point of sale displays for tobacco
- The prohibition of tobacco vending machines; and
- The inclusion of a reserve power to introduce plain packaging for all tobacco products at a later date.'

Seconded by: Councillor M Henry
Supported by: Councillor P Mole
Councillor M McNestry
Councillor D Napier