

TO: MEMBER TRADE UNION JOINT PANEL - 4th October 2006

SUBJECT: SMOKE FREE POLICY

FROM: HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make recommendations in relation to the review of the Warwick District Council No Smoking Policy

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Warwick District Council first introduced a No Smoking Policy in 1988, some revisions were made in 1996 resulting in the attached policy (Appendix 1)
- 2.2 Members of the Panel will wish to note that the Royal Spa Centre became a no smoking venue with effect from 1st January this year.
- 2.3 The 2006 Health Act will ban smoking from the workplace and Denise Milnes, Warwickshire Tobacco Control Co-ordinator, has approached the Council with a view to supporting the Council in ensuring it is compliant with the legislation. Denise has provided guidance (attached Appendix 2) on the introduction of a Smoke Free Policy
- 2.4 Clarification is often sought in relation to whether 'smoke breaks' are allowed and whether it is acceptable to allow smoking in the facility for leaving bikes, or indeed within the Council grounds.
- 2.5 With its current policy Warwick District Council could potentially qualify for a Silver Award from the National Clean Air Campaign. If it were to become Smoke Free within its grounds it could potentially qualify for a Gold Award. (appendix 3)

3. POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 Potentially revisions to the policy, together with support for staff wishing to give up smoking would support the Health Strategy and the Healthier Communities and Older People block of the Local Area Agreement outcomes.
- 3.2 These proposals are part of a range of initiatives and policies designed to support the efficient and effective working of the Council and also to protect the interests of the Council and its staff.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Member/Union Joint Consultative Safety Panel is requested to:

- a. endorse the review of the Warwick District Council No Smoking Policy in accordance with the attached guidelines with a view to working towards gold clean air standards.
- b. Identify a co-ordinator and potential members of a working party – these should include representatives from Environmental health, Corporate Personnel Services, the trade unions and potentially from Leisure and Housing as those with non- Riverside House premises. The Warwickshire Tobacco Control Co-ordinator has volunteered to give support and attend meetings as necessary.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS
NIL

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