

MEETING

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 28 June 2018
Report Subject	Minimum Unit Pricing
Report Author	Gemma Potter

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To make Members aware of the Public Health (Minimum Price for Alcohol) (Wales) Bill.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	For information only
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE BILL
1.01	A new law which will introduce a minimum price for alcohol in Wales has been approved by the national Assembly for Wales.
1.02	The Public Health (Minimum Price for Alcohol) (Wales) Bill is part of the Welsh Government's wider effects to reduce excessive drinking, recognising the impacts this can have on people's health and well-being.
1.03	The new law will address longstanding and specific health concerns around the effects of excess alcohol consumption, which is estimated to lead to nearly 55,000 alcohol related hospital admissions a year, costing the Welsh NHS over £150m annually.

1.04	It's reported that in 2016, there were 504 alcohol related deaths in Wales.
1.05	The legislation supports the Welsh Government's strategy to tackle hazardous and harmful drinking by tackling the availability and affordability of cheap, strong alcohol, which is part of wider efforts to improve and protect the health of the population in Wales.
1.06	Following approval by Assembly Members, the bill will become law once it has received Royal Assent
1.07	Once enacted, the new law will allow Welsh ministers to introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol supplied in Wales. It will make it an offence for alcohol to be supplied below a minimum price made up of that minimum unit price, the strength of the alcohol and its volume, specifically targeting cheap, strong alcohol.
1.08	The legislation will target and aim to reduce the amount of alcohol being consumed by hazardous and harmful drinkers, whilst minimising impact on moderate drinkers.
1.09	The level of the minimum unit price for this purpose will be specified in regulations made by the Welsh Ministers following consultation this year.
1.10	The new minimum pricing regime is expected to come into force during the summer of 2019.
1.11	The Welsh Government will issue guidance and work with retailers, local authorities and trading standards to prepare for implementation.
1.12	There will be full, ongoing evaluation of the act once implemented, and this information will be used by Welsh Government to assess the effectiveness of the policy.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	It is anticipated that the Licensing Section will have some involvement with the implementation of the minimum unit pricing regime, although the level of involvement is not yet known.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	None

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>http://senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=20029</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gemma Potter – Team Leader Telephone: 01352 703371 E-mail: gemma.potter@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Minimum Unit Price – a set amount to be charged per unit of alcohol