**ACTION ON PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING**

In the 2015 Budget, the Chancellor announced a £200 million in-year cut to the Public Health Grant, followed by a further real-terms cut averaging 3.9% each year (until 2020/21) in the 2015 Spending Review.

These cuts are having a significant impact on public health services and functions. By way of example, research conducted by Action on Smoking and Health and Cancer Research UK shows that, following reductions to the Public Health Grant in 2015, 2016, and 2017, stop smoking services were cut in 39%, 59% and 50% of local authorities respectively year-on-year. Now, 4 in 10 local authorities are not able to offer a stop smoking service for all smokers in their area.

Taking funds away from prevention services that prevent ill health is a false economy. Smoking, obesity and alcohol account for 80,000, 30,000 and 7,000 early deaths each year respectively; and **smoking remains the single biggest cause of preventable cancer.**

Cancer Research UK is calling on the Government to provide increased and sustainable funding for public health - to prevent ill health, reduce health inequalities and support a sustainable health and social care system.

The following Notice of Motion template has been developed to help local authorities reflect the impact public health funding reductions have had on local provision – it can be adapted to suit your needs and tailored with local examples and statistics. A downloadable version is available on our webpage [cruk.org/local-government](http://www.cruk.org/local-government).

**So that we can demonstrate support, track progress and promote the work your council is doing, we kindly ask that you let us know if the motion is to be tabled by emailing** **LocalEngagement@cancer.org.uk****. You can tweet about the motion @CRUK\_Policy.**

To support further debate and discussion we have prepared Frequently Asked Questions, setting out the evidence on key points. These are available on request.

If you have questions, or require further information, you can contact the Cancer Research UK Local Public Affairs team on LocalEngagement@cancer.org.uk or 020 3469 8360.

**Together we will beat cancer.**

**NOTICE OF MOTION [TEMPLATE]:**

**PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING**

The public health grant funds vital services and functions that prevent ill health and contribute to the future sustainability of the NHS. Local authorities are responsible for delivering most of these services, but their ability to do so is compromised by public health grant reductions and the broader funding climate.

In 2018/19 and 2019/20 every local authority will have less to spend on public health than the year before.[[1]](#endnote-1) Taking funds away from prevention is a false economy.Without proper investment in public health people suffer, demand on local health services increases and the economy suffers. Poor public health costs local businesses heavily through sick days and lost productivity[[2]](#endnote-2). Unless we restore public health funding, our health and care system will remain locked in a ‘treatment’ approach, which is neither economically viable nor protects the health of residents.

The Government is looking to phase out the Public Health Grant by 2020/21. Thereafter, they plan to fund public health via 75% business rates retention[[3]](#endnote-3). Whatever the model, it is vital that local authorities have enough funding to deliver the functions and services they need to provide. Deprived areas often suffer the worst health outcomes, so it is also vital that areas with the greatest need receive sufficient funding to meet their local challenges[[4]](#endnote-4).

This Council notes that around four in ten cancers are preventable, largely through avoidable risk factors, such as stopping smoking, keeping a healthy weight and cutting back on alcohol[[5]](#endnote-5). Smoking accounts for 80,000[[6]](#endnote-6) early deaths every year and remains the largest preventable cause of cancer in the world[[7]](#endnote-7). Smoking-related ill health costs local authorities £760 million every year in social care costs[[8]](#endnote-8). Additionally, obesity and alcohol account for 30,000[[9]](#endnote-9) and 7,000[[10]](#endnote-10) early deaths each year respectively. All three increase the risk of: cancer, diabetes, lung and heart conditions, poor mental health and create a subsequent burden on health and social care.

This Council believes that the impact of cuts to public health on our communities is becoming difficult to ignore. This case becomes more pressing given the Government’s consideration of a 10-year plan for the NHS*.* For this reason, we support Cancer Research UK’s call for increased and sustainable public health funding. This Council calls on the Government to deliver increased investment in public health and to support a sustainable health and social care system by taking a ‘prevention first’ approach. In turn, [Insert Council Name] will continue to support and fund public health initiatives to the best of our abilities - to prevent ill-health, reduce inequalities and support a health and social care system that is fit for the future.

1. DCLG. [Public health grants to local authorities: 2018 to 2019.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-health-grants-to-local-authorities-2018-to-2019) [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Action on Smoking and Health (ASH). [Ready Reckoner: 2018 edition](http://ash.org.uk/category/information-and-resources/local-resources/). [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Hansard. [Local Government Finance Settlement](file:///%5C%5Ccrwin.crnet.org%5Cdfs%5Cbus%5CData%5CCR-UK%5CPC%5CCOMMUNICATIONS%5CGROUPS%5CInternal%20%26%20External%20Affairs%5CPAC%5CPublic%20Affairs%5CLocal%5CPolicy%20areas%5CPublic%20health%5CNotice%20of%20Motion%5CLocal%20Government%20Finance%20Settlement), 19 December 2017 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Marmot, Michael G., et al. (2010). ‘[Fair society, healthy lives: Strategic review of health inequalities in England post-2010’](http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review/fair-society-healthy-lives-full-report-pdf.pdf). [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Cancer Research UK. [Can cancer be prevented?](https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/causes-of-cancer/can-cancer-be-prevented) [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. NHS Digital. [Statistics on Smoking, England – 2017.](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20180328135544/http%3A/digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB24228) [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Cancer Research UK. [Smoking and cancer](https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/causes-of-cancer/smoking-and-cancer). [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. ASH. [Cost of smoking to social care - 2017.](http://ash.org.uk/information-and-resources/local-resources/cost-of-social-care/) [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. National Obesity Forum. [Impact of obesity.](http://www.nationalobesityforum.org.uk/healthcare-professionals-mainmenu-155/background-to-obesity-mainmenu-163/116-impact-of-obesity.html) [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. ONS. [Alcohol-specific deaths in the UK: registered in 2016.](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath/bulletins/alcoholrelateddeathsintheunitedkingdom/registeredin2016) [↑](#endnote-ref-10)