



4 February 2013

Dear Home Secretary

I am writing to you on behalf of members of Manchester City Council's Communities Scrutiny Committee to support Manchester City Council's response to the National Consultation on Alcohol Pricing.

At our Committee meeting in September, we considered a report on drug driven crime and alcohol. The report contained an update on the Manchester Alcohol Strategy and Greater Manchester Police responses to alcohol related disorder, and noted the forthcoming national consultation on a minimum unit price for alcohol.

The Committee were disappointed to note that 29% of adults in Manchester regularly drink above the Government lower risk drinking guideline amounts and that It is estimated that alcohol misuse costs Manchester £280.57 million per year in impact on local public services and the local economy. The Committee supported the Manchester Alcohol Strategy in promoting and supporting change in attitudes and behaviours.

The Committee strongly supports the introduction of a minimum unit price for alcohol. In addition the Committee supports the Council's response to the consultation that asks for the proposed minimum unit price (MUP) for alcohol to be raised from 45p to 50p. The Committee noted that research carried out by Sheffield University in 2009 identified that 50p per unit of alcohol would target irresponsible drinking, impacting on hazardous and harmful drinkers (in particular, dependent drinkers and young people), while imposing a minimal financial effect on moderate drinkers and on-trade sales. Whilst the Committee believe a MUP of 45p would contribute to reducing alcohol-related harm, we believe that the MUP should be set at 50p per unit in order to have a greater impact on reducing local levels of alcohol-related harm in terms of more lives saved, fewer hospital admissions, fewer days absent from work, and fewer crimes.

I have enclosed the report that was considered by the Committee and the extract from the minutes which provides further detail about our concerns.

If you have any questions about this letter or the work of the Committee, please contact the Committee's Support Officer, Kate Hines on 0161 234 3071 or by email at [scrutiny@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@manchester.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

