

To: Executive Board  
7 February 2005

## COUNCIL MOTIONS

On 24th January 2005 two motions were approved at Council.

### (a) SMOKING

"Council notes the long-awaited Public Health White Paper, published recently, which sets out a number of measures to try and tackle health inequalities including smoking-related illness.

Council notes that under the proposed legislation it appears that smoking would be outlawed in all restaurants, pubs and clubs in England that serve hot food. Premises serving cold food or food heated in a microwave would not be covered by the ban (though smoking would be prohibited in the bar area to protect staff). Smoking bans in private clubs would only be implemented with the agreement of their members. The White Paper would outlaw smoking in most workplaces.

Council notes that the Government's failure to back an outright ban of smoking in all enclosed public places has already been condemned by medical experts, including The Chief Medical Officer for England, Sir Liam Donaldson, who has called for a total ban to protect non-smokers from the dangers of passive smoking.

Council also notes that the Chief Executive of Mitchells and Butlers, which owns chains including All Bar One and O'Neills (both with branches in Oxford) has warned that the selective nature of the legislation could force pubs to stop serving hot food just so they could retain smoking throughout their premises.

Council insists that the Executive Board consults the people of Oxford on whether they wish to have a ban on smoking in all public places in Oxford."

### (b) RIGHT TO BUY

"Oxford City Council is facing huge pressures on its diminishing stock of Council housing. All parties are agreed that the biggest issue for the City is the shortage of social housing. Nevertheless, over the last five years more social housing has been lost through the Right to Buy policy than has been provided by new build. The Council feels that it is time to review that policy.

Council calls on the Executive Board through the Leader to lobby the Secretary of State urging him to allow Oxford City Council to set its own rate of discount on the purchase price available to social housing tenants. "

The Executive Board is asked to take appropriate action.