

To: Executive Board - 4 April 2005

## **MOTION ADOPTED BY COUNCIL ON 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2005**

### **Cleaning Up Our Streets: Chewing Gum**

“This Council recognises that one of the most difficult types of dirt to clean from pavements and other public places is chewing gum. The cost of clearing chewing gum costs Councils across the country millions of pounds every year, and the cleaning process is often unsatisfactory.

The Council notes the proposed change to litter laws which will classify chewing gum as litter and therefore require daily cleaning by Council staff, further increasing costs. It is estimated that across the country the change will cost taxpayers £150m each year.

The Council therefore supports the proposal that there should be a national levy on chewing gum to cover the costs of clearing up this nuisance.

The Council also supports the proposal that an anti-litter message should be put on gum packets.

The Council therefore recommends that Executive Board joins with other Councils who are lobbying the Government for a national levy and anti-litter messages on gum packets.

The Council also recommends that the Executive Board investigates following the example of Bournemouth Council, that has introduced gum picture boards inviting members of the public to stick their waste gum on the image of the face of a national or international politician. A suggestion could be the Prime Minister’s best friend, President George W Bush”.

The Executive Board is recommended to take appropriate action.