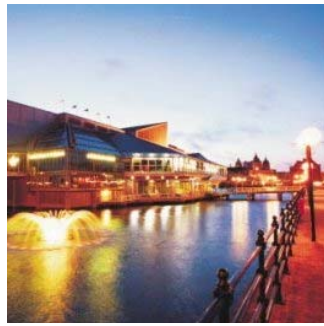


# Smoking Ban

Survey Results  
June 2006



## Current Status

As of July 2007, smoking will be banned throughout England in all public enclosed spaces. The full regulations have yet to be published, however the regulations are currently being interpreted in that the ban will apply to all enclosed or substantially enclosed (clarified as partially covered areas where the open area makes up less than half their total area) public places and workplaces, as well as including vehicle used for work. When the full regulations are published, additional smoke free places may be identified, such as sports stadiums, entrances/exits to workplaces and bus shelters. Areas which will not be affected include outdoors, private homes, places akin to homes (hotel rooms, hostel rooms etc.), care homes, prisons and oil rigs and other places of work such as delivery vans owned and driven by one driver.

The ban will therefore be forcing workplaces/companies to enforce a smoking policy on their premises.

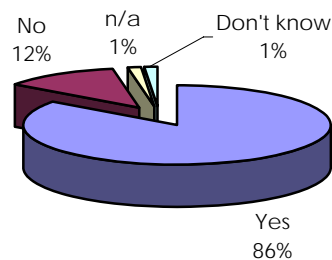


## Key Points

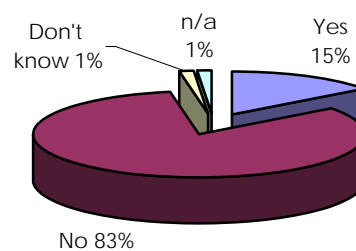
At the 10<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Business Forum, members viewed presentations by Kate Birkenhead of the NHS and Noel Waters of Smith & Nephew with regards to smoking in the workplace, policy implementation and health issues. Members were requested to express their views on how smoking will affect their workplaces and other sectors, as well as commenting on whether a smoking policy has already been implemented. 75 members completed the questionnaires.

- **86%** of companies already have a **smoking policy** implemented in the workplace.
- Only **15%** currently still have a **smoking room** on their premises.
- **54%** think that the smoking ban will have a **positive effect on their business**, whilst 46% expect that it will have no impact.

Does your business currently have a policy relating to smoking in the workplace?

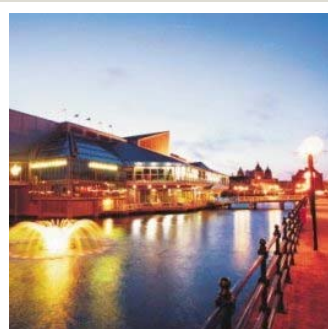


Is there currently a 'smoking room' in your business?



# Smoking Ban

Survey Results  
June 2006



In the survey members were given 6 different statements, from which they were asked if they agreed or disagreed on a scale of 1 to 10 (where 1 = strong disagreement and 10 = strong agreement).

The following questions were asked:

**A smoking ban will.....**

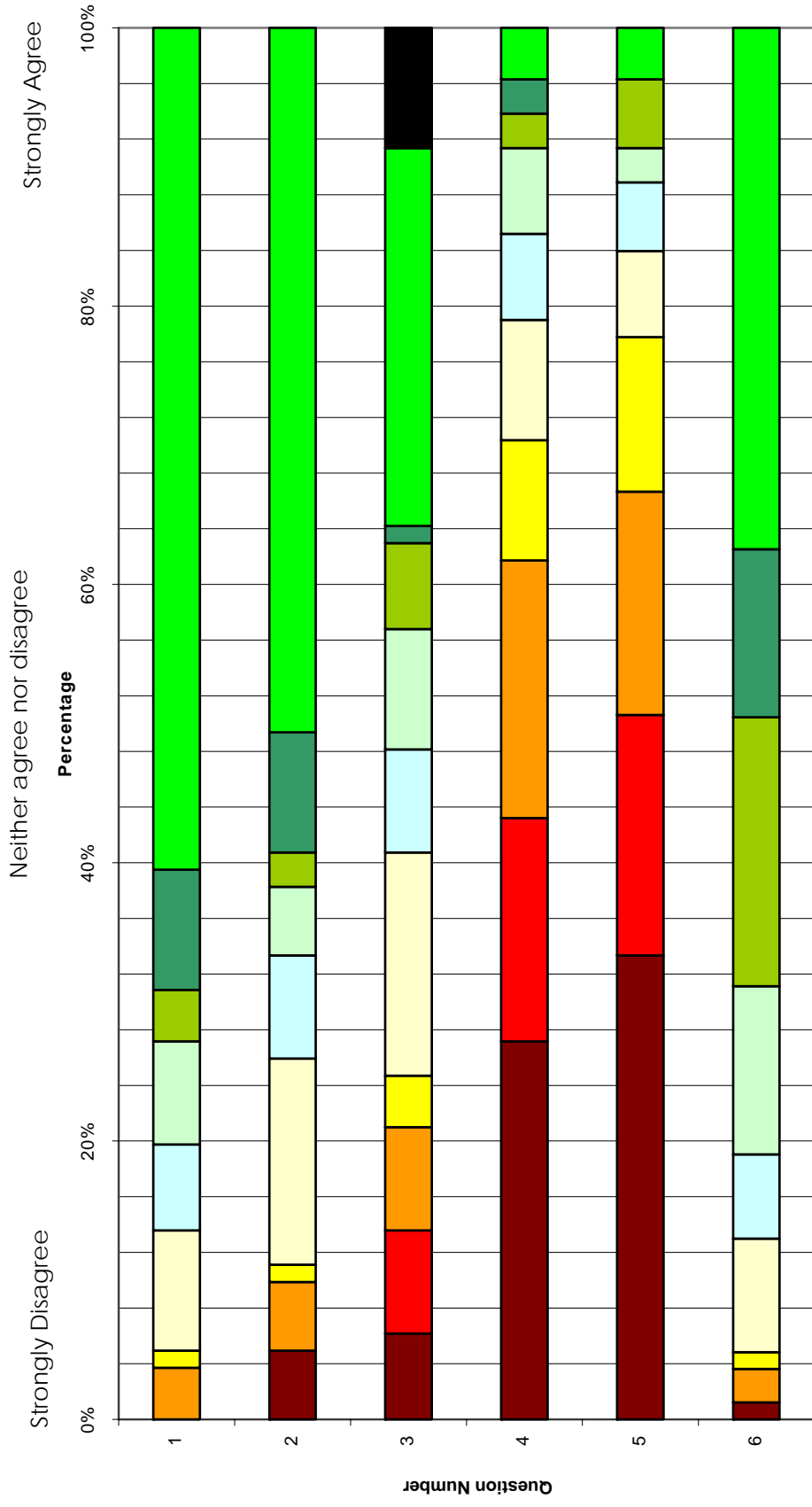
1. **Generally improve public health in Hull**
2. **Improve the health of employees**
3. **Will reduce 'smoking breaks' and improve productivity in their business**
4. **Put some local pubs and clubs out of business**
5. **Damage Hull's evening economy**
6. **Improve the environment in pubs and clubs and attract new customers**

The full breakdown of the findings can be found on the next page but the following key points were found:

- 1) 60% strongly agreed that it would generally improve public health in Hull.
- 2) 51% strongly agreed that it would improve the health of employees, with 13% neither agreeing or disagreeing.
- 3) Only 24% strongly agreed that it would improve productivity in their business e.g. by reducing smoking 'breaks'. Overall a mixed view was resulted, with no defined opinion.
- 4) 27% strongly disagreed that it would put some clubs and pubs out of business. 21% expressed some agreement, but only 4% of which strongly agreed.
- 5) 33% strongly disagreed that it would damage Hull's 'evening economy' and as previous only 4% strongly agreed (in total only 16% showed some agreement).
- 6) 37% strongly agreed (88% in some agreement) that it would improve the environment in pubs and clubs and attract new customers, with only 1% strongly disagreeing.

*Please note percentages have been calculated to the nearest whole number.*

Graph showing the percentage of those surveyed who agreed or disagreed with the questions asked.

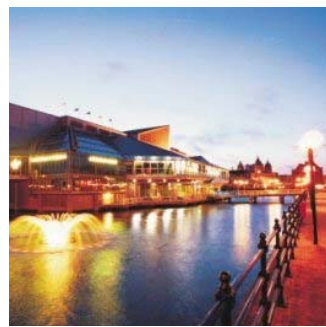


**Question Number Key**

1. generally improve public health
2. Improve the health of employees
3. will reduce 'smoking breaks' and improve productivity in the business
4. put some local pubs and clubs out of business
5. damage Hull's evening economy
6. improve the environment in pubs and clubs and attract new customers

# Survey Results

Survey Results  
June 2006

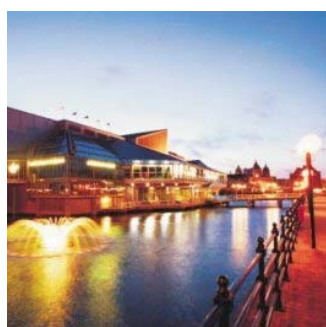


Members were asked to express any further thoughts on the potential business impacts of the smoking ban. A selection of comments are shown below.

- 'I can see no reason why clubs, pubs and restaurants can provide safe free smoking areas for smokers. A ban in public places, does this mean streets, parks etc. Being a smoker myself I am quite happy not to smoke in pubs, clubs etc, but feel that it is an infringement on our human rights – What next? I feel it is a case of double standards with this government – why bring in 24 hour drinking, is this just as harmful? Where will the government replace the revenue generated by the tobacco industry?'
- Hull needs to push forward plans to become a smoke-free City and try to change stereotypical images of a population suffering from poor health problems.'
- 'May have an effect on pubs/clubs and cafes. Extra costs will be incurred if separate facilities have to be provided.'
- 'A smoking ban will mean staff have to leave the premises to smoke, taking more time not less. Staff smoking on the steps outside the front of office buildings looks awful! Pubs will feel the effect and some may close. There should be provisions made for those who smoke – and advice and help available for those who want to quit. People will continue to smoke so the effect is zero. Less stress at work will reduce smoking!'
- 'Great news to help save passive smoking. A positive move for business and recreation.'
- 'I have friends who run restaurants and bars and this will (they believe) damage their business. If I was to run a pub and made it clear to both customers and staff that I was happy for people to smoke in it I would not like my choice being taken away. The staff and customers who chose to work or be served in my pub would also have freedom of choice to do just that i.e. work somewhere else or eat and drink at one of my competitors. If through my choice I found it hard to recruit staff or keep customers that would be my problem, caused by my choice! Pubs, restaurants etc are NOT public places, they are businesses and as such people that own and run them should be able to make the choice themselves, as many are already doing so. Today smoking – what about tomorrow? Chocolate pudding, chips, coca cola etc because they can make you obese would be banned from menus along with wine and beer?'
- 'Additional stress may be experienced by 'smokers' which may have an effect upon productivity and co-worker relationships.'
- 'There will be, I expect, a lot of objections from the 'smoking lobby' across all sections of the community. However, I think eventually (and I think it will be sometime) it will become socially unacceptable to smoke in the company of other normal air breathers.'
- 'No smoking in public places is an integral part of any modern policy on health.'

# Survey Results

Survey Results  
June 2006



## Conclusion

Overall, it may be concluded that those surveyed are in general agreement that the smoking ban is a positive step and it should not greatly affect the evening economy in Hull or put clubs/pubs out of business. A majority of employers in non-hospitality businesses appear to be supportive of the ban with more than 70% believing it will have a positive impact on public health. The Forum is conducting further work with licensed premises to assess their specific views.

Looking at other areas which have already enforced this legislation, the viewpoints expressed have been supportive. For instance Enterprise Inns, England's second largest pub owner said they had an overall 12.5% increase in interim profits and that the 139 pubs based in Scotland (where the ban was enforced in March 2006) are doing well, but those without external seating areas for smokers showed some decline.



With regards to health, banning smoking in public areas is said to be a positive step through the reduction of passive smoking and thus reducing the risk of contracting illnesses such as coronary heart disease, lung cancer, strokes and emphysema (the latter of which are all high in Hull).

Impacts though could increase smokers taking longer cigarette breaks if they have to leave the work premises, an increase in littering of cigarette butts (especially outside pubs and clubs), lack of concentration whilst at work for those attempting to quit the habit or if an implemented smoking policy prohibits smoking during the working day, people having to walk through 'clouds of smoke' in order to enter a pub, club etc. and it may encourage smoking directly outside entrances to companies thus creating an unpleasant welcome to companies.

Once the legislation commences in the summer of 2007 employers will be liable if they do not comply with the new law. They could be faced with a fine of up to £2,500, though this is still speculation, with a £60 fine being given to an employee/member of the public being caught smoking in a designated non smoking area. The Bill will class an offence for those who control or manage a smoke-free premises to fail to stop people smoking on them. A valid defence will only be acceptable if the employer/manager has taken reasonable steps to prevent people from smoking; is unaware or cannot be reasonably expected to know that they are smoking; or can show other grounds why it is reasonable not to fulfil its duty. Compliant no-smoking signs will be expected to be displayed on smoke-free premises.

The Forum will be pressing for careful planning, a carefully decided implementation date, the encouragement of working parties in appropriate workplaces and support to smokers trying to quit smoking to help ensure the ban is successfully implemented with minimum disruption to local businesses.

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