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Councillor Nick Forbes
Leader of the Council
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26 June 2013

Dear Nick,

Newcastle Declaration on Tobacco Control

Thank you for your letters of 22 May and 4 June seeking endorsement for the Newcastle Declaration on Smoking.

We congratulate you on developing and implementing this initiative. The timing couldn't be better, with local authorities taking on their new responsibilities for public health earlier this year. As we know you appreciate only too well, the very serious level of harms to health caused by smoking tobacco mean that it is vital that we all work together to keep the need for comprehensive tobacco control strategies high on the agenda for every local authority. This Declaration is a statement of intent that will help ensure that tobacco control is a priority area for action.

We welcome the fact that the declaration is in keeping with the UK's international obligations as a party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). We are particularly pleased to see the emphasis placed on Newcastle Council's commitment to protect its tobacco control work from the commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry. The obligations on local authorities under Article 5.3 of the FCTC could not be more important as they take forward initiatives on tobacco control.

We are happy to be able to endorse the approach you are taking and to encourage every local authority to commit to reducing smoking prevalence and the health

harms of smoking tobacco in their areas. The following ministerial statement might also be used to promote support for the Declaration:

“As the Minister responsible for public health, both I and the Chief Medical Officer applaud the initiative of Newcastle City Council in bringing forward their Declaration on Tobacco Control. We endorse this approach and encourage every local authority to sign-up and make a clear commitment to take action to reduce the rate of smoking tobacco in their local area.”

Thank you for offering the opportunity to endorse the declaration and we wish you every success in securing the support of other local authorities.

Please contact our respective offices to make appropriate arrangements for signing the Declaration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Soubry', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

**ANNA SOUBRY MP
PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTER**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally C Davies', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

**PROFESSOR DAME SALLY C DAVIES
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER
CHIEF SCIENTIFIC ADVISER**