

**67. Council Response to Government Consultation on the Arrangements for Consideration of Proposals on the Fluoridation of Drinking Water**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Joint Director of Public Health, which outlined a proposed response to a Government Consultation on the arrangements for consideration of proposals on the fluoridation of drinking water.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 introduced a number of organisational changes including the transfer of public health responsibilities to local authorities. The Act also transferred the responsibility for fluoridation scheme and conducting consultations on such schemes from Strategic Health Authorities, which would be abolished from 2013, to local authorities.

In order to introduce the relevant regulations to facilitate new arrangement, the Government published 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Consultation on the arrangements for consideration of proposals on the fluoridation of drinking water'. The consultation document included proposals for the participation in initial decision-making on a fluoridation proposal, suggested arrangements for joint committees of local authorities where these might be necessary, decision making processes (including consultation and ascertaining opinions) and proposals for how the variation, termination and maintenance of fluoridation schemes might be administered.

Given that Coventry currently benefited from the fluoridation of drinking water, the proposals for the City were of particular interest and it was expected that the outcome of this consultation would determine what steps, if any, the Council would need to undertake to maintain a fluoridation scheme in the future.

The report summarised the key elements of the proposed response, with the Council's full response to each of the 43 consultation questions provided at Appendix 1.

**RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Cabinet recommend that Council approve the consultation response.**