

Availability of Sugar-Free drinks on campus - 23/02/2013

Council Notes

- Sugary drinks and their adverse effects on health, is currently 'hot news' in the UK.
- Over 220,000 of the UK's doctors, spread over 60 organisations, have all pledged support towards a recent report aimed "to break the cycle of generation after generation falling victim to obesity-related illnesses and death".
- Many of the recommendations of this report are aimed at sugary fizzy drinks. To raise tax on sugary drinks and to ban them in schools and colleges.
- Companies as big as Coca-Cola are releasing adverts showing their selections of low-calorie drinks, also reminding viewers how much sugar is in traditional fizzy drinks.
- The British Soft Drinks Association, have highlighted that over the past century, the industry has been investing billions into low-carb soft drink technology.
- The NHS have initiated campaigns to educate the population about the amount of sugar in fizzy drinks, as well as eating habits and alcohol addiction.
- The Atrium serves two sugar-free energy drinks, (Sprite Zero, Diet Coke).
- Vending machines around campus only serve one sugar-free fizzy drink (Diet Coke).
- Around campus, a range of Energy Drinks are available, with no sugar free varieties.

Council Believes

- The University should attain to be one of the first, to adopt healthy eating / drinking practices.
- The University has a responsibility to provide a wide selection of soft drinks, appropriate for the whole student body.
- Such wide selections of fizzy drinks, should not only be provided by the Atrium, but also in the various vending machines around campus and in the "Uni Shop"
- Sugar free or low calorie varieties of the same product, should be equally priced

Council Resolves

- Since the University already stocks Sprite Zero, it should be available in all vending machines and drinks outlets, including at the Uni Shop.
- When Energy drinks, such as Relentless are available, their sugar-free varieties should also be available. Including in the vending machines and at the Uni Shop.
- Sugar-free or low-carb drinks should be equally priced to their sugary counterparts. (I.e Sprite Zero same price as Sprite)

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