

## **Proposed by Cllr Chris Lloyd, seconded by Cllr Anne Winter**

Council notes with concern:

1. The increased use of vaping products by children in the UK. Recent data from the ASH Smokefree GB Youth Survey 2022 found that the prevalence of vaping amongst 11–18-year-olds is increasing – from 4% in 2021 to 8.6% in 2022 – and a significant number of children buy these vaping products directly from newsagents or supermarkets.
2. The increased number of local authorities who have recently had to take enforcement activity against shops illegally selling vaping products to youngsters.
3. The marketing of certain vaping products – with bright coloured packaging and flavours such as bubble gum – that might appeal to children.
4. The significant increase in availability of disposable and single-use vaping products which are cheaper and easier for children to access.
5. The high volume of single use vapes being disposed of in general waste.
6. An increase in fires at UK waste plants due to damaged and highly flammable batteries and the increased costs this causes.
7. The delay in the Government bringing forward legislation to act on the outcomes of last year's consultation on smoking and vaping.

Council acknowledges the role vaping products may play in aiding adults to stop smoking, and that vaping products carry a small fraction of the risk, and exposure to toxins, that are associated with cigarettes. However, vaping is not risk-free; particularly for those who have never smoked.

Vaping products contain nicotine, and research shows that most children who use them have never smoked. Council recognises the Local Government Association has raised concerns about the sale of vaping products to children.

Council calls for vaping products to be regulated in a similar way as tobacco products, with plain packaging and a requirement for products to be kept out of sight behind shop counters. Council calls for legislation to be brought forward in the current parliamentary session to:

1. Ensure vaping products are in plain packaging and kept out of sight behind the counter.
2. Make age-of-sale signage on vaping products mandatory.
3. Ban free samples of vaping products being given out to people of any age.
4. Ban the sale of single-use vaping products in the UK.

Council commits to not allowing the sale of vaping products in any Three Rivers District Council run premises.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to both the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and Secretary of State for Environment, to express the Council's demand for the greater regulation of vaping products detailed in this motion and ban on the sale of single use vapes.