

Opposition Group Motion for Debate

Action on Disposable Vapes

Council notes that millions of disposable vapes are thrown away each month, they:

- constitute a fire risk to households, bin lorries and recycling centres due to their lithium batteries
- cause significant litter
- are a public health risk to adults and children
- the often brightly coloured packaging, brand names which imitate sweets and attractive flavourings, are attracting under-age teenagers.
- NHS data showing that e-cigarette usage has grown by 50 to 100% in 4 years (2018 to 2021).
- Vaping was meant to help smokers to quit smoking. However, vapes can now be the first exposure to nicotine for young people. Research by Action on Smoking and Health finding that 40.1% of 11–18-year-olds who had tried vaping had never smoked before.

Council further notes that:

- There is a growing issue of vape usage in schools, with nearly 10% of under 18-year-olds having experience of vapes.
- while vaping is considered less harmful to health than smoking cigarettes, some vapes have levels of chemicals which are higher than in cigarettes and may contain heavy metals such as lead, chrome, nickel (neurotoxins, allergens which impair brain development) and other compounds such as carbonyls which are mildly carcinogenic.
- currently untaxed, vapes are a cheap alternative to cigarettes. The UK market is growing strongly and is valued at some £250m.

Council calls for a total ban on disposable vapes in 2024, and notes that with France rolling out a ban this month and an EU-wide ban proposed in 2026 there is a risk that as other markets close, disposable vapes will flood the UK.

The Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health calling for legislation to implement this ban.

Council endorses the action of Regulatory Services in seizing vapes containing illegally large numbers of doses and resolves to use all applicable regulatory powers to prevent harm from vapes including but not limited to mandatory age-of-sale signage combined with test purchases. Further Council shall investigate what is possible within the Licensing regime to require that premises making new licensing applications and licensed premises being reviewed do not sell disposable vapes, which are counter to the licensing objectives of public safety and the protection of children from harm.