

Banning the Use of Single-Use Disposable Vapes

Notice of Motion

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 20 on 9 May 2023, proposed by Councillor Robert Brown, seconded by Councillor Elise Frame, as follows:-

“South Lanarkshire Council is concerned at the health and environmental harm caused by the increasing use, particularly by young people, of Disposable Nicotine Vapour Products (DNVPs / vapes).

The Council notes:

1. that there is increasing e-cigarette use amongst young people – with an 18 fold rise in disposable vapes amongst vape users from January 2021 to April 2022, and that the last Health and Wellbeing Census showed one in 10 S4 pupils regularly vape, a rate which has tripled in the last five years;
2. that disposable vapes, far from being a cessation tool for existing cigarette smokers, have the potential to create a whole new generation of young people addicted to nicotine products;
3. that refillable vape kits are available, which are affordable, recyclable, do not have the same environmental impact, and are less likely to be an impulse purchase made by children and young people;
4. that over 1.3 million vapes are discarded in the United Kingdom every week (which are not able to be recycled) and consequently the equivalent of 10 tonnes of lithium reaches landfill or incinerators each year (enough to make batteries for 1200 electric cars);
5. that damaged batteries from vapes cause hundreds of fires each year at recycling plants and during waste transportation in bin lorries, probably including the recent fire at the Altens recycling plant in Aberdeen;
6. that discarded vapes present a leak risk of toxic chemicals which are harmful to children, pets, wildlife and water systems, and are contrary to the principles of a circular economy;
7. that 90% of vape retailers are failing to comply with WEEE (Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment) regulations, meaning recycling is near impossible for consumers; and
8. that a ban on their use is supported by Glasgow, Dundee, Renfrewshire, North Ayrshire and Falkirk Councils.

South Lanarkshire Council welcomes the review of the impact of single-use disposable vapes instructed by the Scottish Government and calls on it to take urgent action to ban their sale. Council also welcomes the forthcoming publication of the Scottish Government's Tobacco Action Plan, which will consider a range of interventions with an emphasis on reducing smoking and vaping among children and young people.

Therefore, the Council requests:

- that the Chief Executive writes to the Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity to convey the Council's view that a ban on the sale of DNVPs be introduced as soon as is practicable; and
- that a paper is brought forward to a future meeting of an appropriate committee regarding issues which educational establishments are currently experiencing with vaping, the actions which the Council and its partners are taking and could take to reduce the use of **vaping products** amongst children and young people and the potential of a communications campaign to raise awareness of such issues."