

Strategic Theme Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group – Climate and Pollution – Disposable Vapes

Proposed by: Cllr Jenifer Gould

Seconded by: Cllr Victoria Wilson

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).

Council notes:

1. that according to research by Action on Smoking and Health (ASH). Use of e-cigarettes (vapes) among young people in Great Britain. 2023. there is increasing e-cigarette use amongst young people – in 2023, 20.5% of 11-17 year olds had tried vaping, rising to 34% of 16-17 year olds and 38% of 18 year olds;
2. that disposable vapes have the potential to create a whole new generation of young people addicted to nicotine products – since 2020 current vaping among never smokers is more common among children than adults 18+ and the difference is continuing to grow, with 2.3% of child never smokers currently vaping in 2023, compared to 1.1% of adult never smokers; and,
3. 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) and would cover 22 football pitches.

Council therefore requests that Cabinet undertake an urgent piece of work, by December 2023 to:

1. assess 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; and
2. assess the environmental impacts being experienced with vaping, the actions which the Council and its partners are taking and could take to reduce the impact of vaping on the environment and the potential of a communications campaign to raise awareness of the measures retailers and purchasers can take to mitigate some of that damage.

Councillor Jenifer Gould Councillor Victoria Wilson Councillor Robert Page