

Sale and use of nicotine vapour products - Update noted – Request to Chair.

5 With reference to the minutes of 14th March 2023 (Print 6, page 623) noting the activity and positive work of Trading Standards in relation to under-age sales of tobacco and nicotine vapour products (VPN), there was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability providing an update following the publication of the Scottish Government's Tobacco Control Action Plan 2023, advising

- (1) that the Scottish Government 2023/24 Programme for Government included a commitment to publish a refreshed Tobacco Action Plan in autumn 2023 and outlined the action required to make Scotland tobacco-free by 2034;
- (2) that the new Tobacco Action Plan was launched on 22nd November 2023 which replaced the previous process of developing 5-year action plans and enacted the 2023 strategy with an overarching Tobacco and Vaping Framework;
- (3) that the Tobacco and Vaping Framework: Roadmap to 2034 was underpinned by shorter action-focused 2-year implementation periods, to allow flexibility within the Framework to develop action plans and adapt to an ever-evolving area, with the scope for more regular reviews of progress, more frequent setting of actions that could target areas of intervention to ensure that the 2034 target would be met;
- (4) that the new Framework contained 3 overarching themes namely people, product and place, and would be supported by 3 principles namely transparency, sustainability and accountability;
- (5) of the announcement by the Prime Minister on 29th January 2024 that disposable/single use vapes would be banned in the UK as well as other measures introduced, and it was understood that the enforcement duties via The Environment Protection Act would likely sit within the remit of Trading Standards;
- (6) of the enforcement activities by Trading Standards that involved the recruitment of volunteers to assist with the under-age sales test purchase programme that resulted in the issue of fixed penalty notices, and of Operation CeCe (Scotland) in conjunction with HM Revenue and Customs and other partner agencies that continued to carry out enforcement visits with regard to illicit tobacco; and
- (7) that an update would be provided when supporting legislation in relation to disposable/single use vapes was introduced.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) noted the report; and

- (b) requested that the Chair write to the Scottish Government expressing this committee's support for the ban on single use vapes and confirmation of the date of the introduction of the supporting legislation.