Tobacco and Nicotine Vaping Products Update noted.

6 With reference to the minutes of 26th August 2025 (Print 3, page 113) noting an update on the activity of Trading Standards (TS) in relation to underage sales of tobacco and Nicotine Vapour Products (NVP), there was submitted and noted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability providing an update on recent developments and the associated work being carried out by TS, advising

(1) of the development and activities of Operation CECE (the joint initiative with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to tackle illicit tobacco) and of the number of illicit cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco that was successfully seized during the period 2021 – 2025 and the prevented loss of revenue, as detailed in the report;

(2) that the Tobacco Products (Traceability and security features) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 allowed TS to refer illegal tobacco seizures to HMRC to consider the imposition of a civil penalty (a Sanction) and that during the year 2025/26 to date, TS had made 21 sanction referrals to HMRC of which 16 referrals had been processed by HMRC resulting in £117,500 of sanctions being issued for unpaid tax revenue;

(3) that in Scotland, it was illegal for shops to sell NVPs (known as vapes) to anyone under 18 years of age and it was also illegal to buy vapes for someone under 18 years of age, with the number of illicit NVPs seized totalling 32,366 since 2021;

(4) that the UK-wide ban had been introduced to prevent the environmental damage that single use disposable vapes caused and to address health concerns associated with vaping as Scotland moved towards a tobacco-free generation by 2034 (The Tobacco and Vaping Framework: Roadmap to 2034); and

(5) of several enforcement options available to officers upon single use vapes being found for sale and of the future developments, including the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 which received assent and had become legislation on 29th April 2026, that included a provision prohibiting the sale of tobacco to people born on or after 1st January 2009 which would come into force on 1st January 2027.