

Tobacco Control – Update noted – Instruction to Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability – Request to Chair.

5 There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability regarding the activity of Trading Standards in relation to under-age sales of tobacco and nicotine vapor products, advising

- (1) that Trading Standards Service had seen a surge in the availability of illegal tobacco and nicotine vapor products (NVPs) from wholesale and retail outlets throughout the city in the last 18-months;
- (2) that as a result of amendments to the Tobacco and Primary Medical Services (Scotland) Act 2010, the sale of NVPs became the subject of restrictions on supply and prohibited the supply to young people for the first time and in addition to prohibiting the supply of tobacco and NVPs to people under the age of 18, the amended legislation also required businesses to operate an age verification policy and challenge anyone that might be under 25 years of age;
- (3) the sale of nicotine vaping products was now an area treated with high priority as it presented a real risk to the environment and health, especially of young people;
- (4) of the Council's duties under the legislation to carry out a programme of enforcement action in respect of tobacco and that Trading Standards Services in Scotland had entered into an agreement with the Scottish Government to increase enforcement activity in relation to cigarettes and NVPS;
- (5) that the Council's Trading Standards had carried out extensive visits to wholesale and retail premises to provide advice and guidance on tobacco and NVP compliance;
- (6) of Operation CeCe (Scotland), a nation-wide strategy between Scottish Trading Standards Services and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), that had been set up to tackle the retail sale of illegal tobacco products, of the use of Consumer Protection Dogs UK by Scottish Local Authority Trading Standards Services to locate illicit tobacco and of examples of successful partnership working; and
- (7) of future developments.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) instructed the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability to
 - (i) engage with the Scottish Government on its urgent review of the environmental impacts, expressing committee support for a proposed ban on single-use vapes and management of single-use vapes, and to support measures to ban their sale or to the extent that is not legally

possible to effectively reduce their harmful impacts, to the extent possible up to and including a ban on their sale; and

- (ii) prepare a paper outlining any policy implications of a ban for the Council and to prepare a Council communications campaign highlighting the environmental and health impacts of single-use vapes; and
- (b) requested that the Chair write to the Scottish Government expressing this committee's support for a proposed ban on single-use vapes.