

# MOTION ON NOTICE



**Date of Council Meeting:** 27 January 2025

## Strengthening Measures to Combat Youth Vaping

As recognised by the Motion on Notice “Impact of Vaping on Young People” in September 2023, despite sales being age-restricted, vapes have become increasingly popular among young people, causing issues in schools, impacting on learning, and posing significant public health concerns.

Recent data indicates that in the UK, the proportion of 11–17-year-olds currently vaping has risen from 4% in 2020 to 7% in 2022. In Plymouth, 10% of children and young people surveyed reported using vapes – although this is suspected to be higher amongst some groups of children.

Evidence in adults shows that regulated vape products and devices are less harmful than smoking and can aid adults in quitting smoking, but vaping of any kind is not recommended for children and young people due to potential health risks. Short-term effects include headaches, sore throats, dizziness, and coughs, with long-term effects still unknown.

### This Council:

- Welcomes the Government’s introduction of the Tobacco and Vaping Bill 2024 to strengthen restrictions and regulations around tobacco and vape usage to protect young people and ensure they never start to smoke or vape.
- Recognises the critical role that local authorities’ trading standards will play in building compliance within various areas of both existing vape regulations and those planned for consultation.
- Commends the Council’s Public Health Team, local schools, and other citywide partners for the progress they have made in implementing a broad programme of work around vaping prevention for both children and adults, including action to prevent vaping in schools and reduce school exclusions due to vaping.
- Commends all schools in Plymouth who have committed to address ‘harmful vaping’ through the innovative school place-based improvement plan.
- Concurs with the Chief Medical Officer of England’s public health view that if you smoke, vaping is safer; if you don’t smoke you shouldn’t vape; and marketing to children is utterly unacceptable.

### This Council requests:

- The Leader to write to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health and Prevention, Andrew Gwynne MP, urging the Minister to expedite consultations and introduce stricter regulations on the advertising and sale of vapes as soon as possible. This includes:
  - Restricting branding and packaging to reduce appeal to young people.
  - Banning the distribution of free vapes to children.

- Regulating the contents and flavours of vapes to prevent targeting young people.
- Limiting the display and promotion of vapes in retail environments, including introducing a ban on shop floor sale of vapes.
- The Minister sets out a clear timeframe for when the consultations will happen, and secondary legislation laid before Parliament.
- The Leader to write to Dr Sam Roberts, CEO of the National for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to request that Government consider the development of national guidance on advice, intervention and support that should be available for young people in the following context:
  - Young people under 18 who routinely smoke tobacco (and maybe dependent on nicotine) that wish to switch to vaping as a less harmful method of using nicotine
  - Young people who have become dependent on nicotine through vaping but wish to reduce harm or stop and request help to do so.
- The Director of Public Health engages with and influences fellow Directors of Public Health and other relevant stakeholders to prioritise actions to prevent youth vaping. This includes writing to local businesses and national chains to request they voluntarily take actions to prevent youth vaping, namely, removing vapes and associated products from shop floors.
- It continues its proactive engagement with citywide partners to prevent youth vaping both in and out of school settings.
- That the existing Health and Wellbeing Board's position statement on vaping be reviewed to account for the changing use by children.

**Proposer:** Cllr Daniel Steel

**Seconder:** Cllr Mary Aspinall