

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM – 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2014

**Subject: - TO REFRESH THE COUNCIL'S SMOKING POLICY**

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### 1. Summary

This report informs SMT of the issues surrounding the use of electronic cigarettes and the implications for smoking policy.

### 2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council's smoking policy be revised in the context of the increasing use of 'e-cigarettes' or Nicotine Containing Products (NCPs). See draft policy at Appendix A. for discussion.

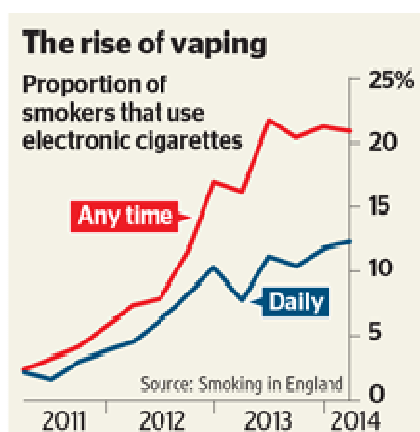
### 3. Reasons for the Recommendation

- 3.1 A breath-operated nicotine device called the 'Voke' that looks and feels like a cigarette but contains no electronics, heat or combustion has received approval from the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (*The Times, September 13, 2014*).

Its backers insist it is not an electronic cigarette but a smoking cessation device intended to help addicts to give up.

The technology is said to be entirely different from an e-cigarette, in that there is no heat or electronics. It contains a pressurised aerosol and a propellant used in asthma inhalers.

Approval from the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency means that eventually doctors could prescribe the devices to smokers. The Voke comes in a box shaped like a cigarette packet, which contains 20 refills. Each one is sufficient for six to ten puffs – to simulate conventional smoking.



The use of alternatives to cigarettes ('Vaping') has surged over the past three years. One in five tobacco smokers and recent ex-smokers are said to use electronic inhalers from time to time.

Action on Smoking and Health, which campaigns against tobacco use, welcomes the device's approval because there are many electronic cigarettes already on the market that are popular with smokers who are trying to cut down or quit smoking, but none of them so far are licensed as medicines.

### 4. Alternative Options considered

That electronic cigarette use be permitted at Council premises.

[Guidance](#) on this has been issued by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health *et al.*

## 5. Budgetary Framework

- 5.1 No budgetary implications are envisaged as a consequence of this review.

## 6. Policy Framework

- 6.1 The Council's Sustainable Community Strategy has the following aim:

**To enable and encourage the people of Warwick District to have an equal access to a healthy life and sense of wellbeing, ensuring that our actions are aligned with the Warwickshire Health & Wellbeing Board's Strategy.**

The priorities:

To make every contact count (MECC) in recognising that the Council has many opportunities to impact on people's mental and physical health and wellbeing by: ...

...Reducing exposure to tobacco smoke (TS)

## 7. Background

Guidance referred to at 4. above recommends the following approach:

*"In order to establish a sensible and justifiable policy, we are advising that you first consider the following five questions:*

1. *What are the issues you trying to deal with?*
2. *What do you think you need to control?*
3. *Do you have concerns about the possibility of harm from NCPs?*
4. *Will restricting or prohibiting use of Nicotine Containing Products support compliance with smokefree policies?*
5. *Do you want your policy to help to improve people's health?"*

ACAS guidance leaves it up to employers but accepts that employers might want to ban it. They say;

*"Employers may want to consider whether such devices are likely to upset other workers, particularly if they are pregnant or trying to give up smoking themselves - or whether it's in keeping with the professional image of an organisation, especially if clients or members of public are likely to come into the office.*

*Since the smoking ban came in, it's broadly recognised that smoking is now associated with break times rather than work time. Employers may be reluctant to allow e-cigarettes into a working environment and prefer them to be treated in exactly the same way as conventional cigarettes. There's also a risk that e-cigarettes might undermine efforts to reduce smoking by normalising cigarette use at work."*