

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL AND SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**TRADING STANDARDS JOINT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** 18 MAY 2023

**LEAD OFFICER:** DAVID PICKERING  
TRADING STANDARDS MANAGER, REGULATION

**SUBJECT:** TRADING STANDARDS VAPES ENFORCEMENT

**1.0 SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

- 1.1 Vapes are a key tool to stop adults from smoking tobacco. They are much safer than smoking tobacco and can be used to effectively manage nicotine addiction. The sale of vapes is a rapidly growing market. However, the introduction of disposable vapes in the last couple of years has seen a rise in problems in the market.
- 1.2 The report in Annex A discusses problems relating to the safety of the vapes themselves, affecting all users. The report also explores the sharp rise in under 18's (who did not previously smoke tobacco) vaping.
- 1.3 The report at Annex A explains what the Service has been doing in this area and some of the challenges.
- 1.4 The report explains the recent announcement from Government about improving vapes enforcement nationally, what the £3m allocated might be used for and how this might impact or assist locally.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Trading Standards Joint Committee notes how the new funding may be used and considers any local approach it wishes the Service to take.

**3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 3.1 The Joint Committee is required by the Inter Authority Agreement which underpins the service to:
- a) Ensure effective performance of the Service.



#### **4.0 Vapes Enforcement - Details:**

- 4.1 Details are given in the report attached as Annex A

#### **5.0 CONSULTATION:**

- 5.1 No external consultation has taken place. The Public Health Teams in both partner Councils have been engaged in developing the attached report.

#### **6.0 RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

- 6.1 All significant risks affecting the service (which include items beyond budget and performance) are regularly considered by the management team (two monthly for red and amber risks, 6 monthly for green risks).
- 6.2 Where risks become higher, these are shared with the Trading Standards Board for awareness and discussion.

#### **7.0 FINANCIAL & VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The report explores how new money announced by the Government may be spent in this area, with direct and indirect consequences for the Service.

#### **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The 2015 Inter-Authority Agreement provides the legal framework within which the Service operates. As set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report, the Joint Committee is responsible for ensuring the effective management of the Service.
- 8.2 There are no other specific legal issues that need to be drawn to the attention of the Committee.

#### **9.0 EQUALITIES & DIVERSITY**

- 9.1 Tobacco smoking prevalence is greater in lower socio-economic groups and adds to health inequalities. Having a safer alternative to smoking tobacco will help to reduce those health inequalities over the longer term. However the report discusses the increase in vaping among young people and how that might be tackled.

#### **10.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- 10.1 The Service will be alert to the work to develop the use of the funding as it progressed in the coming weeks and will engage where appropriate. The Service will respond to the call for evidence on youth vaping.

<b>REPORT DETAILS</b>
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**Consulted:**

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**Annexes:**

Annex A: Trading Standards Vapes Enforcement Report

**Sources/background papers:**

N/A

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