

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 1 December, 2015

E-cigarettes (vapourisers) - update on health considerations

Item number 7.2
Report number
Executive/routine
Wards

Executive Summary

In September 2015, the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee approved the Smoke Free Policy, which introduces smoking restrictions to e-cigarettes (vapourisers). Members requested an update on developments in relation to evidence on the health risks from the inhalation of e-cigarettes as it relates to the Smoke Free Policy.

The health risks of e-cigarettes will take time to fully emerge. Given the relatively short time they have been in widespread use, there is still a lack of data on the long term health effects of their use and for public health.

There is also a lack of conclusive evidence on the role of e-cigarettes in reducing smoking rates. Whilst the Scottish Government recognises that e-cigarettes may help some smokers to stop or reduce their tobacco use, it recognises there is not the weight of evidence from good quality clinical trials which would allow the public health community to advise on how they can be used to support smoking cessation.

In the absence of any material developments since September 2015 in relation to evidence on the health risks from the inhalation of e-cigarettes, no change to the Smoke Free Policy is recommended.

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E-cigarettes (vapourisers) - update on health considerations

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee is requested to note the update on health considerations for e-cigarettes (vapourisers) as it relates to the Smoke Free Policy. Also to note that any material changes which develop, such as Scottish or UK Government advice or significant public health research findings, will be reported to Committee, together with any implications for the Smoke Free Policy.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Smoke Free Policy ('Policy') was approved by the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee on 1 September, 2015. The implementation date is 1 December, 2015.
- 2.2 The Council recognises its role in exemplifying Scotland's smoke free ambitions. For the purposes of this policy, restrictions have been applied to the use of e-cigarettes: these will be treated in the same way as cigarettes. Smoking is not permitted in enclosed areas including Council premises and vehicles used on Council business, nor in surrounding areas for Council premises (including entrances areas, car parks, playgrounds and courtyards). In addition, smoking restrictions will apply in outdoor areas under the Council's jurisdiction such as play parks.
- 2.3 Members requested an update on any subsequent developments in relation to evidence on the health risks from the inhalation of e-cigarettes.

3. Main report

- 3.1 In March 2013, the Scottish Government launched its current tobacco control strategy (Creating a Tobacco-free Generation). The strategy recognises the challenges for tobacco control by novel products, including e-cigarettes.
- 3.2 Subsequently, the Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Bill was introduced by the Scottish Parliament on 5 June, 2015. The main objectives of part 1 of the Bill are to support its tobacco control strategy.

- 3.3 The Bill introduces restrictions on the sale of nicotine vapour products (NVPs) such as e-cigarettes and shisha pipes. These restrictions will include; a minimum purchase age of 18, prohibiting the sale of NVPs via vending machines, requiring NVP retailers to register on the tobacco retailer register, prohibiting proxy-purchasing for under 18s, restricting domestic advertising and promotions, implementing an age verification policy for the sale of NVPs and banning staff under the age of 18 from selling tobacco and NVPs. The Bill would also make it an offence to smoke within a designated no-smoking area around buildings in NHS hospital grounds.

The Stage 1 report was published on 9 November, 2015. The general principles of the Bill are supported, and the Health and Sport Committee have recommended that the Scottish Parliament agrees to them.

Scottish Parliament will debate the general principles of the Bill and will vote on the next stage by 11 December, 2015.

- 3.4 The health risks of e-cigarettes will take time to fully emerge. Given the relatively short time they have been in widespread use, there is still a lack of data on the long term health effects of their use and for public health.
- 3.5 There is also a lack of conclusive evidence on the role of e-cigarettes in reducing smoking rates. Whilst the Scottish Government recognises that e-cigarettes may help some smokers to stop or reduce their tobacco use, it recognises there is not the weight of evidence from good quality clinical trials which would allow the public health community to advise on how they can be used to support smoking cessation.
- 3.6 In the absence of any material developments since September 2015 in relation to evidence on the health risks from the inhalation of e-cigarettes, no change to the Smoke Free Policy is recommended.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 A safer, healthier environment in all Council owned properties and designated external areas under the jurisdiction of the Council.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 There will be costs associated with provision of signage in Council grounds.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 No impact is envisaged.

7. Equalities impact

7.1 No impact is envisaged.

8. Sustainability impact

8.1 No impact is envisaged.

9. Consultation and engagement

9.1 Full consultation with our recognised Trade Unions has been undertaken.

9.2 The draft policy was reviewed by the Corporate Leadership Team.

9.3 The proposed policy was approved by the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee.

10. Background reading/external references

[Smoke Free Policy - Report to Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 1 September 2015](#)

Minutes of CP&S Committee, 1 September 2015

The Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee: Stage 1 Report on Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Bill, 14th Report, 2015 (Session 4)

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