

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

17 November 2014

Report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 TOBACCO CONTROL INITIATIVES

Summary

To present the September 2014 report from the West Kent Tobacco Control and Smoking Cessation Working Group.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The paper at **[Annex 1]** of this report was presented to the 16th September meeting of the West Kent Health and Wellbeing Board.

1.1.2 It is worth noting that there is some concern that the number of referrals to the Stop Smoking Service is declining. There is a school of thought that this is, at least in part, a result of the extensive use of e-cigarettes which research commissioned by ASH (Action on Tobacco and Health) in April 2014 reported has increased threefold in Great Britain over the last two years from 700,000 to 2.1 million.

1.1.3 Whilst the concern is principally that this is an unregulated industry at present, with controls not being anticipated to be in force until 2016, through the Tobacco Products Directive, it is considered by many that e-cigarettes are a helpful alternative to traditional nicotine replacement therapy and are considerably safer than smoking cigarettes which contain many contaminants including tar.

1.1.4 It is anticipated that further work on this agenda will emerge and that this will be incorporated into the future work of the West Kent Tobacco Control and Smoking Cessation group, should it continue, or the Kent Tobacco Control Stakeholder Group.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 None

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 None

1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 Ill health through smoking remains such a significant health and wellbeing issue it is essential that we remain close to developments in this agenda and work to promote smoking cessation where we can.

Background papers:

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Nil

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