**ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES**

In July 2012 the Council adopted a dedicated no smoking policy, conforming to the requirements of the smoke-free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006, smoke-free (Exemptions and Vehicles) Regulations 2007, smoke-free (Signs) Regulations 2007, and other legalisation.

The current smoke free legislation does not cover the use of electronic cigarettes and therefore it is not an offence to use an electronic cigarette within Council Buildings.

However there are concerns over the use of electronic cigarettes:

1. they may be mistaken for actually smoking encouraging others to

smoke believing either that that it is permitted to do so or that no

action will be taken against them for doing so.

b) many public health advocates are concerned that the availability and

use of electronic cigarettes could re-normalise smoking, so encouraging their use among children and acting as a gateway to smoking;

1. Councils and others in society do have a role in creating role models,

particularly to children and to endorse positive messages to the public.

One such message would be to encourage less smoking, in any form, so that less smoking is seen as “normal behaviour” especially to children.



 the Council has a role in projecting a clean and healthy image for its

premises and therefore should discourage smoking.

 electronic cigarettes do produce vapours which some people find as unpleasant as passive smoke.

 whilst it is acknowledged that there is no proven health risks from using an electronic cigarette or to those around the user, there are health concerns about the effects of vapour from electronic cigarettes but they have not been in use long enough to yet fully understand the risks and this matter is still being researched.

Some concerns have also been expressed on the safety of electronic cigarettes.

The Council wishes to take a proactive approach at being a role model to encourage smoking reduction and providing no endorsements to children regarding the acceptability of any form of smoking, whilst also being cautious of any potential risks to health posed by electronic cigarettes, but taking account that some nicotine containing products may also help smokers to quit.

This policy therefore treats cigarette lookalikes and those that produce a vapour, as if they were cigarettes so as not lead to any confusion with people mistakenly perceiving that people are smoking.

This policy does not prevent other forms of nicotine such as medicinal nicotine available on prescription and over the counter including lozenges, mouth sprays and gums which are used by many people to find an alternative aid to stop smoking.

Scope of the policy

This policy applies to all North West Leicestershire District Council members,

employees (including agency and temporary employees, independent contractors and peripatetic workers), external contractors and visitors to our premises.

This policy applies to all parts of the premises that are directly controlled by the Council

15th October 2015