

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	25 th June 2014
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	“Legal Highs” – motion by Councillor Ross Thomson
REPORT NUMBER	OCE/14/029
CHECKLIST RECEIVED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report brings before the Council a briefing note as requested from the Aberdeen City Alcohol and Drugs Partnership on new psychoactive substances.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council notes the briefing note provided.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The report has no specific financial implications.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The attached briefing note details some of the legal implications relevant to the subject matter of the report.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

At its meeting of 5th March 2014 the Council resolved to agree the motion by Councillor Thomson in the following terms:

That this Council:-

- i. acknowledges the concerns of communities across Scotland regarding the sale of so called “legal highs”;
- ii. notes that in 2012 there were 37 “legal high” related deaths in Scotland;

- iii. further notes with concern that these substances are sold openly from retail premises in locations in Aberdeen; and
- iv. instructs the Chief Executive to write to both the UK and Scottish Governments asking them to ban these substances, take measures to proactively combat their sale and supply in Scotland, or as a potential way forward consider the licensing of premises where “legal highs” are available.

In agreeing the terms of the motion, the Council also resolved:-

- v. to request officers to investigate if the Council had any powers under Trading Standards and Consumer Protection laws to take action against outlets selling “legal highs”; and
- vi. to refer the motion to the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership for detailed consideration and to instruct officers to report back to Council within one cycle.

At its meeting of 14th May 2014, the Council considered a report by the Chief Executive updating members on progress in relation to Councillor Thomson’s motion (OCE/14/018). The report provided the responses received on the matter from both the Home Office and the Scottish Government.

In addition, the report noted that the issue of “Legal Highs” was due to be addressed at a meeting of the Aberdeen City Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and that a report from the Partnership would be brought to the next meeting of the Council.

Attached is the briefing note now received.

6. IMPACT

The subject matter of the report relates to the Council’s policy statement in relation to quality of life in the City.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The report provides an update on progress in relation to a notice of motion and does not at this time seek a substantive decision of the Council.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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