

14 November 2024

**To inform Members of the Proposed Ban on the
Sale of Single-Use Vapes.**

**Elaine Rudman, Compliance & Regulatory Services Manager, Economy,
Innovation & Growth, Gateshead Council**

Purpose of the report

To inform Members of the Proposed Ban on the Sale of Single-Use Vapes.



- 1. The sale of single-use vapes will be banned in England from June 2025; the Government has confirmed.**
2. Ministers say the move, first announced in January 2024 by the previous government but not enacted before the general election, is intended to prevent environmental damage, and protect children's health.
3. Single-use vapes are difficult to recycle and typically end up landfill, where their batteries can leak harmful waste like battery acid, lithium, and mercury into the environment, the Government said.
4. Batteries thrown into household waste also cause hundreds of fires in bin lorries and waste-processing centres every year.
5. The Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (Defra) estimates almost five million single-use vapes were either littered or thrown into general waste each week last year, a nearly four-fold increase on the year before.
6. Defra's Circular Economy Minister Mary Creagh, whose role focuses on reducing waste in the economy, said the vapes were "*extremely wasteful and blight our towns and cities. That is why we are banning single use vapes as we end this nation's throwaway culture.*"

“This is the first step on the road to a circular economy, where we use resources for longer, reduce waste, accelerate the path to net-zero and create thousands of jobs across the country.”

7. It is already illegal to sell any vape to anyone under 18, but single-use vapes - often sold in smaller, more colourful packaging than refillable ones – have been identified as a "key driver behind the alarming rise in youth vaping", the previous Government said when it first set out its plan.
8. Public Health Minister Andrew Gwynne said single-use vapes had become the *"product of choice for the majority of kids vaping today" and banning them would "reduce the appeal of vapes to children and keep them out of the hands of vulnerable young people"*.
9. The Government plans to introduce legislation to ban the sale of single-use vapes from 1 June 2025, allowing retailers time to sell their remaining stock.
10. The measure is separate from Government plans to end smoking by banning the sale of cigarettes to anyone born after January 2009.
12. The Committee is asked to note the information.

Contact: Darren Coulton, of Sunderland City Council
darren.coulton@sunderland.gov.uk
