

## **Record of Decisions**

### **Notice of Motion - Legal Highs**

#### **Decision Taker**

Mayor on Thursday, 26 September 2013

#### **Decision**

That the motion be supported.

#### **Reason for the Decision**

To respond to the motion.

#### **Implementation**

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Wednesday, 9 October 2013 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

#### **Information**

At the Council meeting held on 26 September 2013, members received a motion, as set out below, notice of which had been given in accordance with Standing Order A14 by Councillors Thomas (D) and Excell. The motion was seconded at the meeting by Councillor Lewis as the relevant Executive Lead.

The Council notes that:

- A recent report, 'No Quick Fix', from the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) dated September 2013 reported a rise in the use of new drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS), sometimes called 'legal highs'. They report that these are doing increasing harm to a growing number of people.
- The report highlights that that 52 people died from 'Legal Highs' in 2012, this being an increase from 28 the previous year. The report goes on to say the numbers of young people in the UK aged 15-24 who have taken a 'legal high' is estimated to be 670,000 (or 8.2 percent) – the highest in Europe.
- The report advises that these are sold in 'head shops' on the high street and over the internet, these new drugs are often chemically similar to banned drugs and have the same effects. The slight molecular differences mean they can be sold as bath salts or research chemicals, provided they carry a caution against consumption. The result of this slight chemical difference means that new drugs are not covered under the A, B, C system of the Misuse of Drugs Act and therefore legal to produce, supply and possess.
- The report states that there are 234 controlled substances that have a classification, but another 251 uncontrolled substances that don't.

The Council resolves that:

- The Government should speedily draw up and implement legislation to make 'legal highs' and any similar derivatives illegal. Furthermore to give new or amended powers to The Police and Local Authorities to enforce the new or amended legislation.

Council further resolves to:

- Write to the Home Secretary
- Write to the Police and Crime Commissioner, and
- Write to the two local MPs outlining the Council's position.

**Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

None

**Is this a Key Decision?**

No

**Does the call-in procedure apply?**

Yes

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

**Published**

1 October 2013

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor of Torbay

Date: 1 October 2013