

# Council Meeting – 9 December 2014

## Legal Highs

**Motion proposed by Councillor Federica Smith and seconded by Councillor Simon Coles**

This Council recognises that there has been an impact on the community and welfare of our residents through the ongoing sale of NPS (Legal Highs) within Taunton Deane. We recognise that the South West Action Group has played an important part in bringing the negative impact of these to our attention. We have a duty to remedy this situation through restricting the sale of these substances along with assisting those affected.

- Stop the over the counter sales of NPS (Legal Highs) in Taunton Deane owned premises by a restrictive covenant. This covenant should forbid the sale/distribution of NPS in premises owned or leased by the Council. We also need to contact all local/national commercial landlords within Taunton Deane to ask them to include a covenant in all new lettings within the area.
- Call on the Council to immediately make use of new powers available under Anti-Social Behavioural (ASB) legislation which includes ensuring that a community trigger is put in place by the end of December 2014.
- Ensure that a multi-agency team with the Police, NHS and other third parties meets on a regular basis to discuss ASB within the town and look to make remedies
- Taunton Deane to fund a new post for a full time cleaning operative, building on the December trial, with a brief of assisting in the collection of reported needles, cleaning known hotspots on a daily basis and additional cleaning of our public toilets and park areas.
- Taunton Deane to fund specialist help provision to the maximum of £25,000 per annum to support users in looking to break the addiction through Taunton Association for the Homeless, Citizens Advice Bureau, Turning Point and others.
- Work with Somerset County Council to ensure the introduction of an educational programme for schools, colleges and youth provision providers to ensure impacts and dangers of Legal Highs are addressed.