

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNCIL TOBACCO-FREE POLICY (DRAFT 9th October 2018)

Context

Healthy Ireland, the National Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing, aims for an Ireland where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.

- Limerick City and County Council is committed the health, wellbeing and quality of life of all citizens and recognises that tobacco-free environments should be the norm in Ireland rather than the exception, with a strong emphasis on the protection of today's children and the next generation of children.
- Limerick City and County Council also recognises that tobacco dependence is classified internationally as a chronic relapsing disease with extremely serious health consequences and needs to be treated as such. Therefore, Limerick City and County Council values signposting citizens towards a range of safe evidenced-based services, supports and medications to help smokers quit.
- Limerick City and County Council acknowledges that tobacco products, once consumed in public places, are often discarded on the ground.ⁱ Limerick City and County Council is obliged to prevent and control litter (which includes discarded tobacco products) by implementing current legislation (Litter Pollution Act 1997).
- In Limerick, the level and depth of engagement between businesses, third level institutions, representative bodies and statutory bodies is a unique and formidable strength (EY-DKM Economic Advisory Services, 2018). Limerick City and County Council is committed to supporting the priorities of key partners in Limerick including the HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare Organisation, UL Hospitals Group and the University of Limerick – all of whom have tobacco-free policies in place.ⁱⁱ

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, "tobacco product" means any product containing tobacco that is smoked, sucked, chewed or snuffed.ⁱⁱⁱ The policy also includes the use of electronic nicotine and non-nicotine delivery systems.^{iv}

Purpose of policy

Limerick City and County Council supports Healthy Ireland and is committed to supporting the national *Tobacco Free Ireland policy and action plan* in Limerick by:

1. Helping to protect children and young people from second-hand smoke exposure
2. Contributing to the denormalisation of smoking for children and young people
3. Reducing the environmental nuisance, cost of cleaning and damage that discarded tobacco products create
4. Signposting to HSE Quit services

To this end, Limerick City and County Council commits to:

- Ensure all new and existing playgrounds and multi-use games areas (MUGA's) have clear signage indicating the facility is tobacco-free and with information on HSE Quit Support Services. Cigarette bins will be placed outside the spaces and not on the grounds
- Ensure, where playgrounds and MUGA's are not owned and managed by Limerick City and County Council but are insured through Limerick City and County Council, that being tobacco-free is a condition of participation in the insurance scheme
- Stipulate the following as tobacco-free: outdoor areas that are designated for children for play, recreation, cultural or other activities at public/family-oriented events supported (financially or otherwise) by Limerick City and County Council
- Inform all staff working in outside spaces that they should not use tobacco products where children and young people are likely to be (e.g. in and near playgrounds, outside school gates)
- Access Healthy Ireland funding to cover costs associated with implementing this policy, particularly for signage

Compliance

- With regard to the general public: unless or where legislation is in place, this tobacco-free policy is implemented by voluntary measures and supported by communications
- With regard to Limerick City and County Council staff: non-compliance by staff will be managed through existing staff welfare and disciplinary procedures

Communications

- Clear information (FAQ format) on this policy with a link to HSE Quit Support Services will be available on Limerick.ie
- All promotional communications for Limerick City and County Council-supported public/family-oriented events that have outdoor areas designated for children will clearly indicate the tobacco-free status of these designated areas and include a link to HSE Quit Support Services
- Signage which supports this policy and aligns with Limerick City and County Council and Healthy Ireland branding guidelines will be used where and when appropriate in outdoor spaces
- Local Authority staff, management and elected representatives and members of the public will be made aware of this policy and HSE Quit Support Services through existing communication channels and structures

Adoption and review

- This policy was adopted by Limerick City and County Council on **[date]**
- This policy is to be assessed on behalf of Limerick City and County Council by the Social Development Directorate in the first quarter of each year using agreed indicators

Indicators to assess implementation and impact of this policy

- Number of playgrounds and MUGA's in Limerick City and County with upgraded and consistent signage
- Number of event contracts and family-oriented events that implement the tobacco-free policy
- Types of communications undertaken to engage: 1) staff, 2) management, 3) elected representatives and 4) members of the public
- Feedback on implementation of policy from 1) staff, 2) management, 3) elected representatives, 4) members of the public, 5) community playground committees

ENDNOTES:

ⁱ National data indicates that cigarette-related litter accounts for 55% of litter pollution (National Litter Pollution Monitoring System, 2014).

ⁱⁱ University of Limerick (2018): *The University of Limerick aims to create a healthier, smoke and vape free, environment for its employees, students, contractors and visitors. As a result, smoking and vaping will be prohibited on all University campuses from 1st June 2018. 'Vaping' includes the use of electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipes or other such electronic delivery systems intended to simulate smoking, whether they deliver a nicotine dose or not.*

HSE (2018): *From 1st May 2014 the use of e-cigarettes will not be permitted in any HSE building or on any HSE Tobacco-Free Campus. In addition, their use by patients, staff and visitors is prohibited in all healthcare settings and campuses until further notice. The HSE has a legitimate concern that because e-cigarettes resemble ordinary tobacco, their use may promote or re-normalise smoking and make it harder to implement our tobacco free campus policy. Furthermore, scientific testing indicates that the products vary widely in the amount of nicotine and other chemicals they deliver. At present we cannot say that e-cigarettes are safe; WHO is of the view that the safety of e-cigarettes has not been scientifically demonstrated and the potential risks they pose for the health of users remains undetermined.*

ⁱⁱⁱ **Definitions:**

In Ireland: Tobacco product: means— (a) any product consisting, in whole or in part, of tobacco, that is intended to be smoked, (b) a tobacco product within the meaning of the Finance (Excise Duty on Tobacco Products) Act 1977 (inserted by section 86(1) of the Finance Act 1997), or (c) any cigarette paper, tube or filter manufactured for use in the smoking of tobacco, other than a medicinal product within the meaning of the Irish Medicines Board Act 1995.

Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)-Based Definition: Any product entirely or partly made of the leaf tobacco as a raw material which is manufactured to be used for smoking, sucking, chewing, or snuffing. (FCTC Art. 1(f), World Health Organisation)

Analysis: The definition of “tobacco product” in the Public Health (Tobacco) Act (PHA) aligns with the definition of “tobacco product” provided in FCTC Art. 1(f). Although the definition in the PHA is limited to a product “that is intended to be smoked,” the definition of “smoke” in the PHA includes “sniffing, chewing or sucking.” Thus, the definition of “tobacco product” in the PHA aligns with the definition of “tobacco product” in the FCTC.

^{iv} World Health Organisation: Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Electronic Non-Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS/ENNDS) heat a solution (e-liquid) to create an aerosol which frequently contains flavourants, usually dissolved into Propylene Glycol or/and Glycerin. All ENDS (but not ENNDS) contain nicotine.