

Policy:	Smokefree Environments – Public Spaces and Community Events
Department:	Office of the Chief Executive
Approved by:	Policy and Services Committee
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1. Purpose

This policy aims to provide more smoke and vape free environments and improve the health and wellbeing of Stratford residents by reducing the prevalence of smoking and vaping and the effects of smoking and vaping on non-smokers. Smoke and vape free messaging in council-owned or controlled outdoor public places and facilities, as well as council supported public events, sends a positive message that people's health and the environment should be protected from the effects of smoking and vaping.

Council aims to achieve its objective of discouraging smoking and vaping in public outdoor places without unduly infringing the ability of people to smoke or vape in outdoor public places if they want to. It also considers enforcement of any ban on smoking and or vaping as impractical and potentially counter-productive. People are encouraged to comply in the spirit of promoting healthy lifestyle choices.

2. Scope

1.1 To encourage people not to smoke or vape in the following Council owned or controlled outdoor public places in the Stratford District:

- Parks, gardens and reserves
- Sports grounds and courts, and swimming pool grounds
- Playgrounds
- Bus passenger shelters
- The main entrances and exits of Council buildings and facilities such as offices, libraries, halls, pools halls, pools and recreation centres
- Areas of footpaths licensed for outdoor dining
- Council-organised, supported or funded events

Areas and events that people associate with Council will be prioritised,

The Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 requires all internal areas of workplaces, licensed premises and certain public enclosed premises, to be smokefree and vape-free. This includes council offices, libraries, swimming pools and other indoor venues. As a result, these are not included in this policy as they are already covered by legislation.

3. Objectives

3.1 The objectives of this policy are to:

- Give effect to Stratford District Council's commitment to support the Government's goals for a smokefree Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities by decreasing the prevalence of smoking and vaping in public places and decreasing public exposure to second-hand smoke.
- Increase the likelihood that people will remain smoke and vape free by reducing the number of places where they see others smoking or vaping.

4. Principles

- 4.1 The Council will provide community leadership in supporting the national goal of New Zealand to become a smokefree nation by 2025 as it improves public amenity the wellbeing of Stratford residents.
- 4.2 Implementation of the Policy takes a non-regulatory approach to supporting individual choices for leading healthy lifestyles. It uses smoke free/vape free signage and messaging via the Council's website, social media, entry foyer and events screens and any other relevant communications channels.
- 4.3 Signage to indicate smoke free/vape free areas will be installed where it is considered to be appropriate and most effective. This may include Council-run events and events taking place on Council-owned land.
- 4.4 The Council will work collaboratively with relevant partners to make sure that information relating to this policy and the health impacts of smoking and vaping are easily accessible to the community and communicated to the public.

5. Background

- 5.1 The New Zealand Government has a vision of New Zealand being smoke-free by 2025.
- 5.2 Council has a duty to improve, promote, and protect public health within its District, as stated in section 23 of the Health Act 1956.
- 5.3 The Smoke-free Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 aims to protect non-smokers, particularly children and young people, from the effects of smoking. It also aims to prevent the normalisation of vaping, discourage people from taking up smoking or vaping, encourage people to stop smoking or vaping and support smokers to switch to less harmful regulated products.
- 5.4 The Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 requires all internal areas of workplaces, licensed premises and certain public enclosed premises to be smoke and vape free. As a result, these are not covered by this policy as they are separately covered by legislation.

6. Smokefree Public Places and Community Events

- 6.1 Town Centre
 - Prospero Place and footpaths along Broadway between the northern and southern roundabouts.
- 6.2 Parks and Open Spaces
 - All Stratford District Council parks and open spaces
- 6.3 Council owned buildings and facilities
 - On or within ten (10) metres of council owned or operated buildings and facilities.
 - Within two (2) metres of all bus stops and shelters within the Stratford District.
- 6.4 Events
 - Public events held at any Council outdoor public places are required / encouraged to be smoke and vape free.
 - If Council contributes funding or other support for an event, the organisers will be required / encouraged to promote the event as smoke and vape free.