when compressed by the consumer. It would further be desirable to provide such a material that shows improved retention of volatile liquid additives during storage and improved resistance to moisture and humidity.

According to the invention there is provided a smoking article incorporating a liquid release component, the liquid release component an inner core of a sustained release liquid delivery material and a frangible outer shell encapsulating the inner core of liquid delivery material. The liquid delivery material comprises a closed matrix structure comprising a cross-linked polymer matrix defining a plurality of domains; and a liquid composition that is trapped within the domains and is releasable from the closed matrix structure upon compression of the material, wherein the liquid delivery material provides a sustained release of the liquid composition upon compression of the material over a range of force of at least 5 Newtons. The frangible outer shell comprises at least one film-forming polymer and at least one plasticiser.

According to the invention there is further provided a filter incorporating a liquid release component as defined above.

According to the invention, there is provided a flavour release component for a smoking article, the flavour release component comprising: an inner core of a sustained release liquid delivery material comprising: a closed matrix structure comprising a cross-linked polymer matrix defining a plurality of domains; and a flavour composition that is trapped within the domains and is releasable from the closed matrix structure upon compression of the material, wherein the flavour delivery material provides a sustained release of the flavour composition upon compression of the material over a range of force of at least 5 Newtons; and a frangible outer shell encapsulating the inner core of flavour delivery material, the frangible outer shell comprising at least one film-forming polymer and at least one plasticiser.

~~According to the invention there~~There is further provided a flavour release component for a smoking article, the flavour release component comprising an inner core of a sustained-released flavour delivery material and a frangible outer shell encapsulating the inner core of flavour delivery material. The flavour delivery material comprises a closed matrix structure having a polymer matrix defining a plurality of domains. The polymer matrix is formed of one or more polysaccharides cross-linked by multivalent cations. A flavour composition is trapped within the domains of the polymer matrix and is releasable from the closed matrix structure upon compression of the material. The frangible outer shell comprises at least one film-forming polymer and at least one plasticiser.

In the following description, any references to the features or properties of the liquid release component, flavour release component, sustained-release liquid delivery material or flavour delivery material according to the invention also apply to the liquid release component, flavour release component, liquid delivery material or flavour delivery material of smoking articles and filters according to the invention, unless stated otherwise.

Smoking articles according to the present invention incorporating the liquid release component may be filter cigarettes or other smoking articles in which tobacco material or another combustible material is combusted to form smoke. Alternatively, smoking articles according to the present invention may be articles in which an aerosol forming substrate, such as tobacco, is heated to form an aerosol, rather than combusted. In one type of heated smoking article, tobacco material or another aerosol forming material is heated by one or more electrical heating elements to produce an aerosol. In another type of heated smoking article, an aerosol is produced by the transfer of heat from a combustible or heat source to an aerosol forming substrate. The present invention further encompasses smoking articles in which a