According to the invention there is provided a smoking article incorporating at least one liquid release component formed of a sustained-release liquid delivery material, the liquid delivery material comprising a closed matrix structure defining a plurality of domains. The closed matrix structure comprises a polymer matrix defining a plurality of domains. The polymer matrix is formed of one or more anionic polysaccharides cross-linked by multivalent cations. The closed matrix structure further comprises a filler within the polymer matrix. The filler comprises one or more amphiphilic polysaccharides. A liquid composition is trapped within the domains of the polymer matrix and is releasable from the closed matrix structure upon compression of the liquid release component. The one or more amphiphilic polysaccharides of the filler are selected from starch chemically modified to be amphiphilic and starch derivatives chemically modified to be amphiphilic.

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

According to the invention there is also provided a filter for a smoking article incorporating at least one flavour release component formed of a sustained-release flavour delivery material, the liquid delivery material comprising: a closed matrix structure defining a plurality of domains, wherein the closed matrix structure comprises a polymer matrix of one or more anionic polysaccharides cross-linked by multivalent cations and a filler within the polymer matrix, the filler comprising one or more amphiphilic polysaccharides; and a flavour composition that is trapped within the domains and is releasable from the closed matrix structure upon compression of the flavour release component.

According to the invention there is further provided a flavour release component for a smoking article, the flavour release component formed of a flavour delivery material comprising a closed matrix structure defining a plurality of domains. The closed matrix structure comprises a polymer matrix defining a plurality of domains. The polymer matrix is formed of one or more anionic polysaccharides cross-linked by multivalent cations. The closed matrix structure further comprises a filler within the polymer matrix. The filler comprises one or more amphiphilic polysaccharides. A flavour composition is trapped within the domains of the polymer matrix and is releasable from the closed matrix structure upon compression of the flavour release component.

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 filters or smoking articles 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 nicotine-containing aerosol is generated from a tobacco material, tobacco extract or other nicotine source, without combustion, and in some cases without heating, for example through a chemical reaction.