

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE **DATE:** 2020 January 20

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE:** 33000-00

SUBJECT: **IMPACT OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

PURPOSE: To respond to the Committee's request to review and report on the feasibility and advisability of banning the sale of tobacco products in the City.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee receive this report for information.

REPORT**INTRODUCTION**

The Environment and Social Planning Committee received a presentation from Ms. Claire Preston on the Impact of Tobacco Products on the Environment. Ms. Preston provided background information and requested that the Committee support biodegradable options such as paper filters, 100% organic products; e-cigarettes and vaping; and ban the sale of regular commercial grade cigarettes that are not compostable.

Arising from discussion, the Committee adopted a motion that the matter be referred to staff to prepare a memorandum on the advisability and feasibility of banning the sale of tobacco products in the City. This report responds to that request and summarizes actions currently undertaken by the City to address the impacts of tobacco products on the environment and tobacco sale regulations within the provincial context.

POLICY SECTION

The response to Committee is aligned with the City of Burnaby Corporate Strategic Plan supporting the following goals and sub-goals of the plan:

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Goals

- A Healthy Community
 - Healthy life –
Encourages opportunities for healthy living and well-being
 - Healthy environment –
Enhance our environmental health, resilience and sustainability
- A Dynamic Community
 - Community development –
Manage change by balancing economic development with environmental protection and maintaining a sense of belonging
- A Thriving Organization
 - Organizational culture –
Ensure that our core values are reflected in our policies, programs and service delivery

DISCUSSION

Provincial Regulation

In British Columbia, the sale and use of tobacco and vapour products is regulated and enforced by a number of provincial laws, regulations and policy, including the *Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act*, *Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Regulation*, *Compliance and Enforcement Policy Manual*, and *Tobacco Tax Act*.

Legislation is a key tool in reducing tobacco and vapour product use and covers extensive areas including where products may be sold or distributed; where products may be used (such as bans on use in indoor public and work places, in schools and on school grounds); and restrictions on retail display, advertising or promotion of the use of tobacco products.

Enforcement of the legislation is conducted by Enforcement Officers employed by Health Authorities and includes activities such as retailer education, public education, stakeholder relations, inspections, surveillance operations, and administrative tribunals.

Burnaby Bylaw

In the City of Burnaby, littering is not permitted on any City property in accordance with the *Solid Waste and Recycling Bylaw 2010, Section 8(2)*:

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No person shall deposit or cause to be deposited any waste, garbage, or material on any street, sidewalk, boulevard, park or other lands owned by the City or other public property or upon private property whether owned by that person or not except in a receptacle or facility designed and intended for such waste, garbage, or material.

There are penalties associated with contraventions of this section of the bylaw and enforcement is undertaken as appropriate.

Current Tobacco Waste Management Strategies

The City recognizes that waste such as filters from cigarettes have the potential to enter the environment and pose a risk to local waterways, and wildlife. In order to address waste generated from cigarette filters and other small debris, the City utilizes a few different management strategies. The City's litter management program includes the management of approximately 520 waste receptacles at bus stops, major arterial roads and major urban areas for the deposit of waste and recyclable materials, as well as routine removal of litter and debris from roads, lanes and pedestrian pathways. In addition to litter management, the City undertakes regular street sweeping and maintenance of catch basins which helps to prevent small litter items from entering the City's storm sewer system and waterways.

CONCLUSION

The presentation from Ms. Claire Preston provided information on the impact of tobacco products on the environment and requested a ban on the sale of regular commercial grade cigarettes that are not compostable. Staff recommend that the City continue with current practices of litter management, street sweeping and catch basin maintenance to reduce the potential risk of filters from cigarettes entering the environment and posing risk to local waterways and wildlife. As outlined in this report, the sale and use of tobacco and vapour products is regulated and enforced by a number of provincial laws, regulations and policy and as such, it is not recommended that Burnaby pursue any additional ban on the sale of tobacco products.



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Copied to: City Manager
Director Corporate Services
Director Public Safety and Community Services
City Clerk