

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Tim Commisso, City Manager

cc. Nancy Shea-Nicol, Heather MacDonald, Mark Simeoni, Allan Magi and Kevin Arjoon

Date: February 11, 2021

Re: **Health Protection By-law**

On February 2, 2021 a motion was introduced directing staff to undertake a preliminary feasibility study to investigate a city-wide by-law designed to regulate air quality for the purpose of protecting human health. In response to a number of questions raised by members of Committee, staff offered to draft a terms of reference for a study including its potential scope, cost, and resourcing. A question was also raised about the impacts that such a study might have on the strategic work that is currently planned and/or underway in respect of Council's strategic plan and 2018 – 2022 Vision to Focus workplan. Committee referred consideration of the motion to Council for the additional information.

Staff have met over the course of the last week to discuss a terms of reference. It became clear that this issue is extremely complicated. In terms of which part of the organization might be best aligned to undertake a study of this nature, greatest alignment would appear to be with the City's environmental staff who at present time are fully engaged in climate change initiatives including the City's Climate Adaptation Plan coming forward in March to the Environment, Infrastructure and Community Services (EICS) Committee. Undertaking an additional complex study at this time, would require a recalibration of those workplans to accommodate the additional work. Consultation with the Region of Halton would also be required in order to better assess whether a health protection by-law is better suited to the region having jurisdiction over health issues, and issues that transcend the boundaries of any one municipality.

Accordingly, **if** Council wishes to pursue this issue further, staff will require additional time in order to fully canvas all of the issues before bringing forward a comprehensive terms of reference. A further report would be delivered in Q2 2021.

Thank you.