



Administrative Report

Office of the Manager, Planning Services

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Rebecca Belanger, MCIP, RPP
Manager, Planning Services

Date: Wednesday, November 01, 2023

Subject: County of Essex Official Plan Review Update- Policy Directions

Report #: 2023-1101-IPS-R39-RB

Purpose

To provide County Council with an update on Official Plan Review work that has been completed to date and next steps in the process.

Background and Discussion

On September 6, 2023 County Council received an update summarizing:

- the four growth management options that had been developed as part of the Phase 2 work, including the rationale for each option and corresponding best practices;
- key takeaways from the growth management analysis and what it means going forward;
- major policy areas in the existing County Official Plan that are working well, and policy areas that will require revisions to ensure compliance with the Planning Act (as amended), to maintain consistency with the revised PPS, and to address the opportunities, challenges and issues identified during Phase 1; and
- the importance of partnerships, building on success, aligning available resources with key priorities, and monitoring, evaluating and revising policies as needed to achieve the Council adopted Official Plan

objectives. The new County Official Plan will be the third Official Plan that has been prepared for and adopted by Essex County Council.

Essex County Official Plan 3.0



In keeping with the direction that has been received from County Council, it will incorporate a comprehensive and robust set of inter-related policies that are fiscally and environmentally responsible, contributing to a County that is sustainable, healthy and vibrant. It will assist Council, working in

partnership with local municipalities, key stakeholders and the community at large, address important growth management goals, increase our housing supply, make housing more affordable, and support job growth, while preserving our valuable farmland and natural heritage land resources.

Since the September 6th briefing, additional Phase 2 work has been completed, including:

- September 14th – Community Stakeholder Advisory Committee (CSAC) Meeting;
- October 10th – Technical Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC) Meeting (Draft Growth Management and Policy Directions Reports circulated to TPAC for input and feedback);
- Additional consultation has taken place with First Nation Communities;
- October 16th, 17th and 18th – Virtual Public Workshops were held to obtain input and feedback pertaining to major policy areas;
- Phase 2 Deliverables (the Growth Management and Policy Directions Reports) have been finalized.

A copy of the Draft Growth Management and Policy Directions Report and the Consultant's PowerPoint Presentation will be made available in advance of the November 1, 2023 County Council meeting. At this meeting County Council will also be provided with a High-Level Overview of the key tasks, timelines and deliverable for Phase 3 of the County OP Workplan.

Financial Implications

The costs associated with the Official Plan review have been approved by County Council as part of the budget deliberations in December 2022 and in prior years.

Consultations

The County's Planning Advisor and the County Consultant have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive Report 2023-1101-IPS-R39-RB from the Manager, Planning Services with regard to the County of Essex Official Plan Review Process.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Belanger

Rebecca Belanger, MCIP, RPP, Manager, Planning Services

Concurred With,

Allan Botham

Allan Botham, P.Eng., Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Concurred With,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
1	Draft Growth Management Report, NPG Planning Solutions
2	Draft Policy Directions Report, NPG Planning Solutions