



## Administrative Report

**To:** Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council  
**From:** Rebecca Belanger, MCIP, RPP, Manager, Planning Services  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024  
**Subject:** Final County Official Plan for Adoption  
**Report #:** 2024-1106-IPS-R30-RB

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### Purpose

To provide County Council with the final County Official Plan and associated by-law for adoption.

### Background

Further to the report presented to County Council on October 16<sup>th</sup> wherein the Official Plan Review team updated Council on the changes to the Official Plan made following the public meeting, overall direction to advance the by-law forward was received. The Official Plan review team had a productive meeting with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (“**MMAH**”) administration on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 to discuss any required changes to the County OP to finalize the conformity review against the Provincial Planning Statement, that had come into effect on October 20, 2024.

### Discussion

As a result of this discussion, very minor changes have been made to the final Official Plan that could be considered typographical updates. For example, the term Provincial Policy Statement has been amended to Provincial Planning Statement throughout the document. A few additional definitions have also been added to the glossary of terms to align with new definitions in the PPS 2024. The Official Plan Review Team has received the support from MMAH to advance the final document for adoption. Following County Council’s adoption of the new OP with by-law 2024-45 later this evening, the document will be submitted to MMAH for final approval. Should the Ministry identify through their review a preference to make any final minor changes to the document this can be completed through modifications issued through their notice of decision.

**Financial Implications**

The costs related to the consulting fees for the completion of the Official Plan (OP) Review have been effectively managed within the allocated budget, drawing from the County Official Plan Review Reserve. This reserve is maintained and replenished annually to ensure there are sufficient funds available to cover the necessary expenses related to the OP review when required.

As for the broader financial implications of the Official Plan, they cannot be fully quantified at this time. The Official Plan lays the foundation for future land use and growth management, including planning for housing, jobs, agriculture, environmental protection, and climate resilience. The financial impacts will be dependent on how these initiatives and policies are implemented over time, and will be influenced by future actions, investments, and decisions made by the County and its community partners. Therefore, the costs associated with the plan’s implementation will appear in subsequent Council reports, aligned with the strategies outlined in the plan.

**Consultations**

The following individuals were consulted during the preparation of this report and review of the Official Plan:

- Gabriel Kim, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Tricia Givens, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Erick Boyd, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

**Strategic Plan Alignment**

<b>Working as Team Essex County</b>	<b>Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence</b>	<b>Building a Regional Powerhouse</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation  <input type="checkbox"/> Focusing “Team Essex County” for Results  <input type="checkbox"/> Advocating for Essex County’s Fair Share	<input type="checkbox"/> Being an Employer with Impact  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Government Working for the People  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Promoting Transparency and Awareness	<input type="checkbox"/> Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harmonizing Action for Growth <input type="checkbox"/> Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

## Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-1106-IPS-R30-RB, Final County Official Plan for Adoption and direct that the associated By-law 2024-45 be presented during the appropriate time on the agenda for approval.

## 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
A	<a href="https://www.countyofessex.ca/en/doing-business/comprehensive-official-plan-review-2021-2023.aspx">https://www.countyofessex.ca/en/doing-business/comprehensive-official-plan-review-2021-2023.aspx</a>