



Council report

Meeting date:	January 19, 2021
Title:	Official Plan Update – Engagement and Community Strategy
Prepared by:	Lorelie Spencer, Manager of Planning and Development
Reviewed by:	Laura Johnston, CAO

Recommendation

That council receives report Official Plan Update – Engagement and Community Strategy for information purposes.

Executive summary

This report has been prepared with the direction of council in the following resolution:

*That following the statutory public meeting of the draft West Grey official plan update, an engagement and communication strategy will be developed in an effort to gather more community and council input for a revised draft official plan update; That the strategy include a variety of opportunities and methods of engagement; and that staff present a report to council on **January 19, 2021** with the strategy and timelines
Disposition: Carried*

This report outlines the intent of staff to conduct and engage the input of council and the community regarding the update to the Municipality of West Grey Official Plan which applies to the areas of Durham and Neustadt. The County of Grey Official Plan is also in effect in these areas and for the balance of the municipality. Updates to the County Official Plan and areas outside of the settlement areas defined above are not included in this update.

Background and discussion

A council report was provided to council on December 15, 2020 as part of the initial consultation with council regarding the West Grey Official Plan update.

The Municipality’s Official Plan is an overarching policy document related to the primary settlement areas of Durham and Neustadt. It does not extend to the balance of the municipality. The changes to the designation of a settlement area in West Grey must be



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reviewed as part of a County Official Plan review, which is not anticipated in the near future considering the date of approval of their Official Plan in 2019.

The purpose of the Official Plan is to provide a long-term strategy for managing growth and development within Durham and Neustadt to the year 2041. The projected development growth will be defined by the County's updated Growth Management Strategy (GMS) which is intended to be approved by County Council in Q1 of 2021. The county has requested that council include the forecast from this report in their Official Plan to ensure that projections are included to the 2041 versus the current data available to 2038.

The County of Grey will approve the West Grey Official Plan once it has been adopted by West Grey Council as the lower tier.

The review of the Official Plan was requested by the council in 2020 to bring the current document into conformance with Provincial and Upper-tier documents (2020 Provincial Policy Statement, Bill 108 – More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019, and the County of Grey Official Plan).

This report will outline the initial components contemplated as part of the Official Plan review and provide an overview of the intended engagement process for council, authorities having jurisdiction and the public.

The process is in the very initial stages and is intended to provide multiple opportunities for engagement over the course of the next few months as the process continues and comments are received and considered by staff and our municipal consultant.

The following represents the initial engagement and communication plan proposed by staff:

1. Staff and commenting agency initial review for updates to the document (December 15, 2020)
2. Staff and consultant review of council and public comments and consideration for revision (ongoing)
3. Revision of document and circulation to commenting agencies for review (late February)
4. Review of comments and preparation of a recommendation report to council by staff and consultant (late March / early April)
5. Consideration of revised document by council and scheduling of a Special Council Meeting regarding the draft updated Official Plan (April)
6. Special Council Meeting (May)
7. 30 day commenting period



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8. Review and revision of document based on comments received (May – June)
9. Presentation to council and scheduling of a Special Council Meeting (early June)
10. Special Council Meeting and Virtual Open House (July)
11. Review and revision of document based on comments received (July / August)
12. Presentation of document to Council for adoption and recommendation for approval to the County (approval authority) (August)
13. Approval of updated Official Plan by County Council (September)

Please be advised that the above noted timelines are highly reflective of the comments received from the county as they have a vested interest in ensuring that our Official Plan is in conformity with the County Plan. Council is permitted to be more restrictive but cannot be less restrictive than the policies of the province and the county plan.

The public engagement piece of the process would be more direct than current circumstances. Typically, it would involve an in-person Open House, a forum for discussion and response and a final presentation of the Plan to the public.

To adapt to the current situation, staff are in the process of implementing 'webinars' or 'lunch and learn' opportunities for the public. These sessions would require registration but can be posted to the website for reference and consideration of those members of the public who cannot attend. As always, written comments mailed, couriered or emailed will be considered as part of the process.

There is also merit to the dedication of specific email address on the website directed to comments related to the update which shall be located on the homepage of the website.

In advance of each stage (once the timeline has been received, reviewed and supported by council), there will be an update report to council and subsequent social media blasts from the municipality's accounts, in addition to the placement of dedicated link from the homepage of the website to ensure that the updates and information are accessible without website review.

The process has not been formulated with definitive timelines at this point as this will be flushed out with comments received from authorities having jurisdiction (including council direction). The intent is for a formal schedule of events to be provided in mid-February to council for consideration. Staff will continue to review and receive comments throughout the process and revise the document based on merit and careful consideration related to relevance.

Staff will present the information to council in advance at every stage of the proposed process with monthly updates.



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Legal and legislated requirements

The legal and legislated requirements were provided to council in detail on December 15, 2020 as part of the planning department staff report. These requirements remain in effect in accordance with the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended.

Financial and resource implications

None.

Staffing implications

None.

Consultation

- County of Grey Planning and Development Department (comments and direction received to date)
- Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (comments received to date)
- Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (wellhead protection comments received to date)
- Council comments (received to date)
- Public comments (received to date)

Alignment to strategic vision plan

Pillar: Build a better future

Goal: Invest in business

Strategy: Review and update the Official Plan policy document and zoning by-law

Attachments

None.

Next steps

A report will be submitted to council to define specific timelines and deadlines. This will include any further information received and formal dates for public engagement.

During consideration of the draft Official Plan, staff will continue to review the implementation components and impacts with the subsequent review of the municipality's zoning by-law.



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Respectfully submitted:



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