

STAFF REPORT: ADMINISTRATION



REPORT TO: Council
MEETING DATE: March 12, 2007
REPORT NO.: A.07.14
SUBJECT: Bill 130 – New Municipal Act
PREPARED BY: Stephen Keast, Clerk

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report A.07.14, “Bill 130 - New Municipal Act” and authorize Staff to proceed with necessary implementation steps to achieve compliance with the *Municipal Act, 2001* together with further recommendations on optional provisions contained in the Act.

B. Background

Revisions to the *Municipal Act, 2001* (the Act) as proclaimed on January 1, 2007, will include a requirement under Section 270 for a municipality to adopt Policies in six fields, being:

- Sale and other disposition of land
- Hiring of employees
- Procurement of goods and services
- Provision of notice to the public
- Accountability and transparency of actions to the public
- Delegation of powers and duties

Section 270 is not yet in effect but Staff have commenced on preparation of the six Policies that will be required. Current By-laws address Policies 1 through 4 and 6 and these will be converted to Policy format and updated as required. Policy 5 is a new requirement and a first draft is now being reviewed.

Optional provisions for Council include creation or appointment of the following:

- Creation of a Code of Conduct for Council members
- Appointment of an Integrity Commissioner
- Creation of a Lobbyist Registry
- Appointment of a Municipal Ombudsman
- Appointment of an Auditor General

Any person may now request an investigation into the holding of any closed session of Council to ensure the holding of the closed session was enabled by the Act and conducted in accordance with the Act.

Council also has the option of appointing a Closed Meeting Investigator, however, should such a position not be appointed, the role would automatically fall to the Office of the Provincial Ombudsman.

Staff will continue to review the requirements of the Act and bring forth recommendations to Council on adoption of Policies and creation and appointment of codes and officers where warranted.

There are certain new requirements under the Act for Council procedure and these have been included in the revised Procedural By-law that will be brought before Council in the near future.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Goal Providing a strong, well managed municipal government.

Actions Practice open and proactive communications.

D. Budget Impact

To be determined.

E. Attached

1. Municipality of Chatham-Kent Legal Services Staff Report

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Keast, Clerk