



Staff Report

Planning & Development Services – Planning Division

Report To: COW-Operations_Planning_and_Development_Services
Meeting Date: May 27, 2024
Report Number: PDS.24.084
Title: Official Plan 5 Year Review Update
Prepared by: Shawn Postma, Manager of Community Planning

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report PDS.24.084, entitled “Official Plan 5 Year Review Update” for information purposes;

B. Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the status of the Official Plan 5 year Review and proposed next steps in the project.

C. Background

Planning Staff provided [Staff Report PDS.24.014](#) to Council in January 2024 summarizing the public workshops completed over the Fall and Winter of 2023. Since then, SGL Planning Consultants has conducted one-on-one meetings with Council members to share information learned from the public workshops and to gain insight into each council member’s priorities and expectations for the Official Plan project. Policy writing remains underway and will be considering edits to the Official Plan based on the: research completed under the background papers, feedback from public engagement sessions, feedback from letters received, feedback from Council interviews, and also a secondary review of the policy changes considered under Phase 1.

Planning Staff are anticipating that the policy changes will be made available in June 2024. Based on public feedback at previous stages of the project, staff are seeking to ensure there is an extensive review period for the proposed changes and a such, will be targeting late September 2024 for a Public Open House and Public Meeting to be scheduled. Notice of upcoming meetings and the circulation of Official Plan changes will be provided prior to Council summer recess. Depending on the comments received through the Open House and Public Meeting, additional changes to the Official Plan may be required and we anticipate bringing a recommendation report to Council requesting a decision on the Official Plan by late fall this year.

D. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

4. Quality of Life

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

E. Environmental Impacts

Environmental policies will be updated and enhanced to current Provincial Policy, Provincial Plans, and the County of Grey Official Plan. Consultation is inclusive of the Grey Sauble and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authorities. More detailed environmental impacts will be considered in future staff reports.

F. Financial Impacts

The current upset fee limit for the project is \$235,000 which includes approximately \$13,000 of contingency fees. The project is anticipated to remain within upset limits as established at the beginning of the project.

G. In Consultation With

Sierra Horton and David Riley, SGL Planning Consultants
Rachael Magill, Communications Coordinator, Planning & Development Services
Adam Smith, Director of Planning and Development Services

H. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has been subject to significant public engagement and remains to be subject to a future Public Open House and Public Meeting to be scheduled in Fall 2024. Notice will be provided once a date for both events are determined. Any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Shawn Postma, planning@thebluemountains.ca

I. Attached

1. Nil

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Postma
Manager of Community Planning

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	PDS.24.084 Official Plan Policy Development Update.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	May 9, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Adam Smith - May 9, 2024 - 4:08 PM