



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Planning Committee

FROM: Ken Hetherington, Manager, Planning Division

MEETING DATE: April 30, 2012

SUBJECT: Report PLPD12-020
Official Plan Review
Plan It Peterborough Progress Update

PURPOSE

An information report to update Council on the progress of Plan It Peterborough, the City's Official Plan Review.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report PLPD12-020 dated April 30, 2012, of the Manager of Planning, as follows:

That Report PLPD12-020 be received for information purposes.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No budget or financial implications would result from the decision to approve the above recommendation.

BACKGROUND

The Planning Act requires municipalities to review their Official Plans every five years and hold a public meeting to allow the public to provide comments. In April 2011, staff unveiled PLAN IT PETERBOROUGH – the City's Five-Year Official Plan Review – with the launch of the Plan It Peterborough website (www.peterborough.ca/planit). As described in Report PLPD11-011 (March 21, 2011), PLAN IT PETERBOROUGH is being carried out in two distinct phases. Phase One entails a review of issues and policy options and involves extensive consultation with key stakeholders, advisory groups and the public to determine their views and priorities for the community while Phase Two is a policy renewal phase that will formally update the Official Plan through a series of amendments to reflect the outcome of Phase One.

As part of Phase One, staff have established an interdepartmental advisory committee comprised of representatives from all City departments, reviewed and summarized strategic planning documents that have been completed by other City departments, as well as community stakeholders in recent years, and have conducted extensive research into municipal planning policy trends both in Ontario and across the country, in order to understand current issues and trends affecting municipal land use planning. Additionally, in order to understand the community's values and priorities for shaping Peterborough's future, staff have undertaken extensive public and stakeholder consultation.

As Phase One nears completion, staff are pleased to advise that PLAN IT PETERBOROUGH has generated a significant amount of interest, feedback and valuable ideas from both the public and key stakeholders. To date, staff, with the help of Sue Cumming of Cumming & Company, a professional planner specializing in public consultation, have met with close to 375 individuals at public open houses, stakeholder workshops/meetings and guest speaking engagements. Since June 2011, staff have engaged the public and stakeholders as follows:

- Three public open houses/workshops:
 - Saturday, June 4, 2011 – Evinrude Centre;
 - Thursday, June 9, 2011 – Peterborough Lion's Club Community Centre;
 - Tuesday, June 14, 2011 – Westdale United Church;
- Four issue-themed stakeholder workshops:
 - Healthy Communities and Social Services;
 - Natural Environment and Open Space;
 - Business and Economic Development;
 - Land Development, Home Building and Real Estate;

- Three guest speaking appearances:
 - Peterborough Newcomers Club;
 - James Strath Public School; and,
 - the Affordable Housing Action Committee; and,
- A two-day provincial Municipal Plan Review workshop with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and their partner Ministries.

Additionally, since its launch in April 2011, almost 100 people have responded to a public survey on the PLAN IT PETERBOROUGH website and information banners have been posted at the Peterborough Public Library, the Peterborough Memorial Centre, and at Lansdowne Place Mall. Reports summarizing the key messages emerging from the public open houses and each of the stakeholder sessions are available on the Plan It Peterborough website.

A key focus of the public open houses and the online survey was to elicit participants' vision for Peterborough by having them identify key words that they would like use to describe the City in 10 to 20 years' time. Through this process, many common visions emerged for the City's future including:

- A healthy community with a strong focus on active living, walkable streets, connected trails and opportunities for community interaction;
- A green, attractive, affordable and pedestrian oriented community;
- A community abundant with public spaces, trails, parks and gathering places that are accessible for all and connect neighbourhoods and communities to one another and to nature;
- A community of compact, walkable, mixed-use neighbourhoods with opportunities for playing, working, shopping, entertainment and community uses;
- A community with a vibrant downtown where new development preserves heritage and supports existing stores and destinations;
- An innovative community with growth in businesses and jobs that leverage the strengths of the City;
- A community with multi-sectoral employment opportunities that are stable and supportive of small business, creative culture and youth;
- An inclusive and diverse community with integrated housing for all incomes, ages and ethnicities;
- A community for people of all ages and abilities;
- A community with efficient public transportation and reduced automobile reliance;

- A community that supports safe and accessible active transportation with cycling and walking for all ages; and,
- A community of quality buildings designed to a comfortable scale with appropriate heights, mix of uses and attention to the public realm.

Additionally, through the stakeholder workshops, participants also emphasized creating a community that:

- Strives to achieve environmental sustainability and proactively responds to environmental issues such as climate change, drinking water quality, air quality, waste management, noise, odour and light pollution;
- Fosters business growth and is welcoming to new and innovative business opportunities;
- Is an attractive destination for newcomers; and,
- Is socially responsive by providing an accessible built environment and by enhancing access to healthy, locally-sourced food, affordable housing and community services.

As outlined in report PLPD11-011 at the outset of the PLAN IT PETERBOROUGH campaign, Phase One of the Official Plan Review is to conclude with the preparation of a Policy Direction report for Council's approval together with a formal public meeting to present the priorities of the community to Council in accordance with Section 26(3) of the Planning Act. The report will synthesize the messages heard from the public and stakeholders and identify strategic opportunities and options for translating those messages into Official Plan policy.

To provide guidance for the development of the Policy Direction report, staff have identified five themes that were predominant throughout most of the public and stakeholder comments:

1. Complete, Healthy Communities:

- Healthy mixed-use neighbourhoods that are part of an integrated, vibrant and diverse community that includes a balance of housing, employment, community services, parks and open spaces all within walking distance;
- Compact and inclusive housing; and,
- Context-appropriate intensification of downtown and commercial corridors.

2. Environmental Sustainability:

- Protect and enhance natural environmental systems, functions and resources over the long term; and,
- Incorporate and promote sustainable development practices and initiatives.

3. Economic Strength:

- Promote economic vitality and provide for a balanced and diverse range of innovative employment opportunities that leverage the City's strengths; and,
- Protect employment areas over the long term.

4. Unique and Vibrant Places and Spaces:

- Enhance downtown vibrancy while preserving heritage quality;
- Recognize and enhance the inherent and unique aspects of Peterborough and create focal points, gateways, experiences and landmarks; and,
- Strive for high urban design standards in the public and private realm.

5. Connectivity and Mobility:

- Plan for transit, active transportation, and pedestrian-oriented development to reduce dependency on the private automobile; and,
- Expand and enhance trail systems to promote connectivity, mobility and accessibility within and between neighbourhoods, employment areas, parks and open spaces.

As PLAN IT PETERBOROUGH shifts from reviewing issues to identifying opportunities for land use policy change, staff propose to use these five themes as overarching principles that will provide direction on the development of planning policies. As principles, these themes would act as a basic rule to guide or influence staff's thinking and actions with respect to both identifying priorities for planning policy change and developing future amendments to the Official Plan in order to provide the Plan with a solid foundation that reflects the community's values. Additionally, as staff identify policy priorities for the Official Plan, care will be taken to ensure that, where applicable, the key values or recommendations from ongoing or recently completed City strategic plans are reflected. Some of these strategic plans include:

- Greater Peterborough Area Community Sustainability Plan (2012);
- Municipal Cultural Plan (2012);
- Waste Management Master Plan (ongoing);
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update (2011);
- Urban Forest Strategic Plan (2011); and,
- Little Lake Master Plan (2010).

NEXT STEPS

Staff are currently preparing a Policy Direction report as previously described in order to complete Phase One of PLAN IT PETERBOROUGH and to seek Council's direction on establishing policy priorities for amending the Official Plan. Prior to presenting the Policy Direction report to Council and prior to holding the statutory public meeting for the Five-Year Official Plan Review, those members of the public and stakeholders that have participated in PLAN IT PETERBOROUGH open houses and workshops to date will be given the opportunity to review the draft report to ensure it reflects the priorities and values expressed through the initial consultation. Additionally, the interdepartmental advisory committee with representatives from all City Departments will be consulted to ensure the report reflects corporate policy and relevant outcomes from strategic planning work carried out by other departments.

To reflect work that has taken place to date, the original Work Plan for PLAN IT PETERBOROUGH has been updated and is attached as Exhibit A. Throughout the month of May, consultation on the draft Policy Direction report will be held. Upon finalization of the report, staff anticipates presenting the final report to Council and holding the formal public meeting for the Official Plan Review in late summer or early fall 2012.

Submitted by,

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Attachment:

Exhibit A – Updated Official Plan 5-Year Review Work Plan

EXHIBIT A
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