



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the General Committee

From: Cynthia Fletcher
Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services

Meeting Date: July 8, 2019

Subject: Report IPSPL19-021
Official Plan Review Project Update and Presentation

Purpose

A report to update Council on the status of the Official Plan Review project.

Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report IPSPL19-021, dated July 8, 2019, of the Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services, as follows:

That Report IPSPL19-021 and presentation be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget or financial implications arising out of the approval of the recommendation of this report.

Background

Pursuant to the **Planning Act**, the City is required to have a current Official Plan. The Official Plan is the City's guiding document that helps set the broad vision and direction for the future growth and development in Peterborough. The City's existing Official Plan, which was first adopted in 1981, has been under comprehensive review since 2011.

In recognition of the challenges posed by continuous legislative changes by the Province and limited departmental resources, Council has committed to expediting the completion of a new Official Plan by:

1. Approving the hiring of Beacon Environmental to complete the Natural Heritage Policy update for the Official Plan Review (Report PLPD17-043 dated September 25, 2017);
2. Increasing the original project budget to retain staff and procure a public engagement software license (MetroQuest) (Report PLPD17-022 dated April 17, 2017);
3. Endorsing a structured public engagement process including the creation of an Advisory Committee and Technical Working Group (Report PLPD17-022); and,
4. Endorsing alternative density and intensification targets for growth and retaining The Planning Partnership and Lett Architects to facilitate a community design charette and to prepare Urban Design Guidelines for the Redevelopment and Intensification of the Built-up Area (Report PLPD18-005 dated February 26, 2018).

In September 2018, staff provided an update to Council on public consultation conducted to that date and on the outcomes of the community design charette. At that time Council approved the document "Official Plan Charette: Nodes, Corridors & Downtown Urban Design Guidelines" prepared by The Planning Partnership and Lett Architects for consideration in drafting the Official Plan (IPSPL18-027 dated September 17, 2018).

Current Status

Since September 2018, the City has retained The Planning Partnership to prepare a draft Official Plan for public review based on the public and stakeholder feedback received to that point, the results of the community design charette, staff input, and natural heritage policies provided by Beacon Environmental. Furthermore, The Planning Partnership has also been retained to lead some of the public consultation on the draft Official Plan and to help facilitate the plan through to Council adoption.

Concurrent with the writing of the Official Plan policy, staff is continuing to finalize a Land Needs Assessment and Employment Strategy in consultation with the Ministry of

Municipal Affairs and Housing to determine how much land will be identified in the Official Plan for future development purposes.

On June 26, 2019, the Official Plan Working Group received the draft Official Plan policy document for review and staff is commencing public consultation, for review of the document, that will take place throughout the summer and early fall. The working group, Council, key stakeholders and the Community will be invited to take part in the public consultation process. A variety of means and methods will be used to include as many people as possible such as public open house meetings, stakeholder meetings, pop-up information booths and online engagement.

Throughout the process of writing the draft Official Plan, staff have focused on implementing the vision and five guiding principles that were first described in Report PLPD18-005 and have since evolved as follows:

Vision

Peterborough is a prosperous community, distinctive in its natural beauty, cultural heritage, and strong sense of community. As a leader in environmental sustainability, growth in Peterborough uses infrastructure and land efficiently, promotes healthy lifestyles and incorporates green initiatives.

Guiding Principles

- Environmental Stewardship;
- Economic Strength;
- Complete Communities;
- Unique and Vibrant; and,
- Connectivity and Mobility.

Based on this vision and these guiding principles, a number of policy directions have emerged in the draft Official Plan including:

- a Natural Heritage System with enhanced protection of features, particularly woodlands, clearer requirements for development proponents, and a focus on the long-term health, resiliency and growth of the system;
- an employment land planning framework that protects key employment areas while providing greater flexibility for the adaptation of older employment lands to new employment uses;

- greater flexibility in commercial planning that facilitates the creation of neighbourhood-serving commercial uses, supports intensification, and promotes the creation of complete communities;
- introduction of strategic growth areas for intensification with more flexible development policies including the Downtown and Central Area and mixed used corridors;
- enhanced commitment to protecting, celebrating and promoting cultural heritage and built heritage; and
- stronger promotion of active transportation, transit, and the integration of land use and transportation.

Project Schedule

Looking forward, staff intends to present the draft Official Plan to Council at a General Committee meeting in January and February 2020 meeting cycles, to host a statutory public meeting and seek Council adoption of the Plan in February 2020, and to submit the final Plan to the Province for approval in March 2020. To achieve this, staff will release the draft Official Plan for public review following Council's receipt of this report and will engage the public and stakeholders throughout the summer and into September to gather constructive feedback and make any adjustments necessary to finalize the Plan. Throughout this process, meetings will be held with the Official Plan Working Group, Technical Group, and area Indigenous communities to gather feedback on both the Official Plan and the consultation process. A final copy of the Official Plan will be made available to Council and the public approximately one month in advance of Council's formal introduction to the Plan in January.

By providing Council with a copy of the final Official Plan in advance and formally presenting the document to Council (and the public) in January, it allows ample time for the document to be available to the public and will facilitate the goal of developing and adopting a document that will serve the community well both now and for years to come.

Summary

The Official plan is the City's guiding document that helps set the broad vision and direction for the future growth and development in Peterborough. The vision for the New Official Plan foresees Peterborough as a prosperous community, distinctive in its natural beauty, cultural heritage, and strong sense of community. As a leader in environmental sustainability, growth in Peterborough uses infrastructure and land efficiently, promotes healthy lifestyles and incorporates green initiatives.

It is intended for Council to finalize the New Official Plan in February 2020, following extensive public consultation. The goal is to develop and adopt a document that will serve the community well now and for years to come.

Submitted by,

Cynthia Fletcher
Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services

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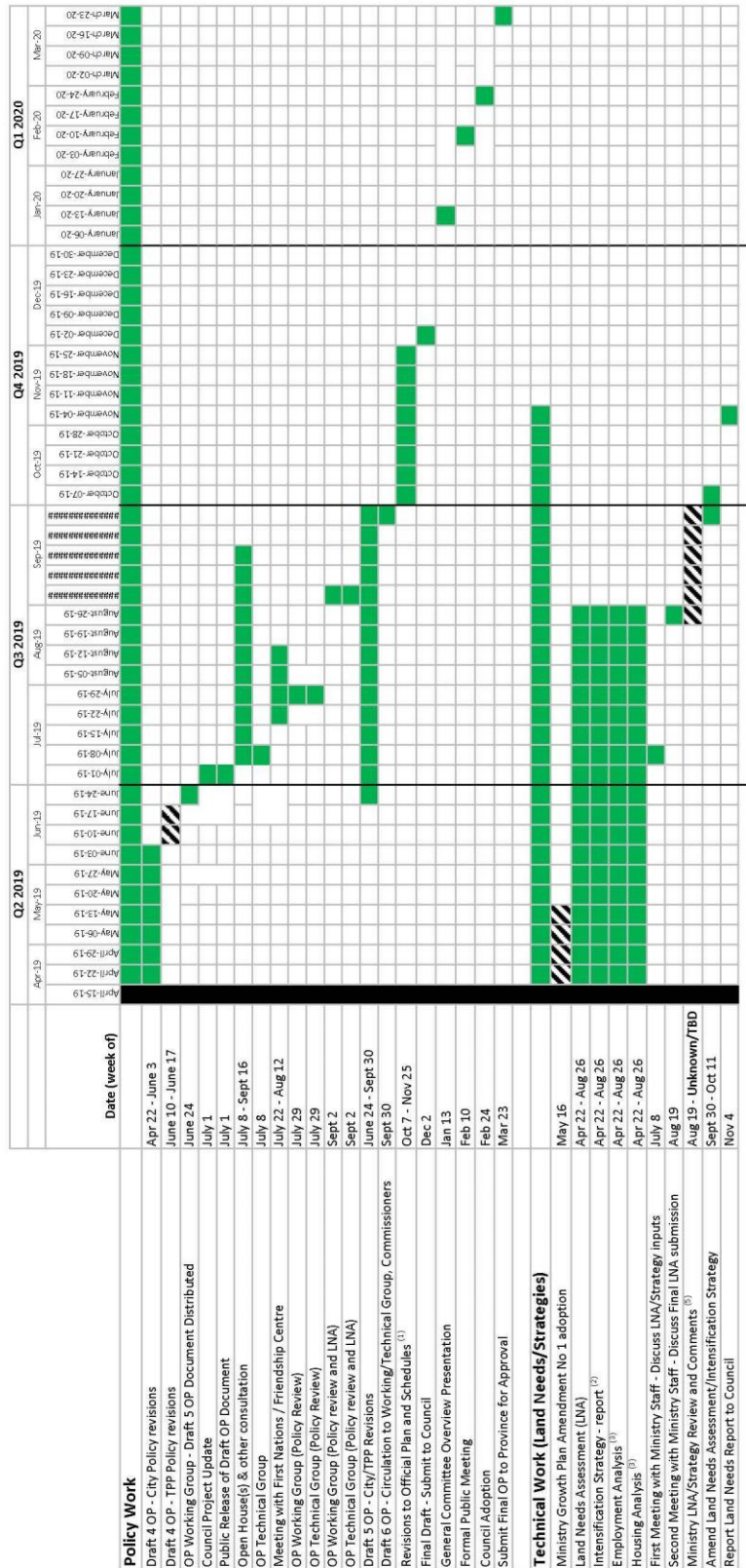
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Attachments:

Exhibit A – Project Schedule

Exhibit A – Project Schedule



Notes:

- ⁽¹⁾ Report to Commissioner November 7; Report to Clerks November 22
- ⁽²⁾ Combine Intensification Strategy report with the Land Needs Assessment report
- ⁽³⁾ 2019 Growth Plan removes requirement for formal strategy/report
- ⁽⁴⁾ Required/Approximate review time for the Ministry to be determined at preliminary Land Needs meeting. Present Land Needs Assessment to Council once the Ministry has reviewed the final document