

CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF HURON

Planning and Development Department

To: Warden and Members of County Council – Day 1
From: Monica Walker-Bolton, Planner
Date: January 29, 2019
Subject: **Huron County Official Plan, 5 Year Review**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with a 5 Year Review process for the Huron County Official Plan in 2019;

AND FURTHER THAT Council hold a Special Meeting on May 8, 2019, County Council – Day 1, in accordance with Section 26 (3) of the Planning Act to discuss possible revisions that may be required to the Huron County Official Plan.

BACKGROUND

One of the major projects on the Department's work plan for 2019/2020 is a 5 Year Review update to the Huron County Official Plan. A new Official Plan to replace the 1973 Plan came into effect in May, 1999. The last 5 Year Review was undertaken and came into full effect with an Ontario Municipal Board decision in June, 2013. A substantial housekeeping amendment to the Official Plan was approved in 2015 to be consistent with policy changes from an update to the 2014 Provincial Policy Statement. Aside from the housekeeping amendment, it has been 5 years since the last full review of the Plan.

The Planning Act requires that municipalities update Official Plans every 10 years after adopting a new Official Plan and every 5 years after that. The purpose of each 5 Year Review update is to ensure that the community vision/values, directions, policies and actions in the Plan meet the needs of the community into the future, include new policies to reflect changes in the community, and to review for consistency with the Provincial Policy Statement.

COMMENTS

The review of the Plan needs to provide maximum opportunity for residents of the County to be informed of and participate in the review of the Plan and the development of any new policy. Over the next year, there will be opportunity through public, agency and stakeholder workshops to discuss and gather input. In addition, the recent and ongoing Community Consultations being undertaken by the Libraries is also very valuable information to inform policy directions.

Possible revisions to the Huron County Official Plan as part of the 5 Year Review may include the following and will be further informed by a community, agency, stakeholder and Council consultation process:

- Policies to address Climate Change in accordance with Bill 139;
- Housing policies (including attainable/affordable housing) in accordance with Bill 139;
- Updated language regarding public consultation in accordance with Bill 73;
- Inclusion of Drinking Water Source Protection policies;
- Updates in the Economy section to reflect the County's Economic Development Strategy;
- Policy updates to the Agriculture, Natural Environment, Extractive Resources, Settlement Patterns and Community Services Sections as identified through the public, agency, stakeholder and Council consultation process.
- Policy additions, as needed to be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement such as Active Transportation policies;

OTHERS CONSULTED

Planning & Development Department Staff, Cody Joudry and Chris Watson- Economic Development Department, Marion-Frances Cabral- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

BUDGET IMPACTS

Within the 2019 proposed draft budget.

Monica Walker-Bolton
Planner

Sandra Weber
Planning Director

Meighan Wark
CAO