



Planning Advisory Committee Report

To: To the Chair and Members of the Planning Advisory Committee
From: Jennifer Boyer, M.Sc., MCIP RPP, Senior Policy Planner
Date: November 5, 2019
Report: PA-19-61
Subject: Launch of the New Official Plan
Purpose: To provide Committee with the new Official Plan work plan, schedule and preliminary consultation and engagement strategy.

Recommendation

1. That Development Services staff be directed to begin an Official Plan Amendment under Section 26 of the *Planning Act* for purposes of developing a new Official Plan for the County of Brant to be presented for Council's consideration by March 2022.
2. That the work plan and schedule for the new County of Brant Official Plan be approved.
3. That the preliminary Public Consultation and Engagement Strategy for the Official Plan be adopted in principle.

Strategic Priorities

Sustainable and Managed Growth – Grow in a responsible manner that protects and enhances the attributes that are unique to each individual community.

Effective Communication – Engage Citizens in a dialogue that is transparent, multi-faceted and mutually respectful.

Economic Resilience – Facilitate the growth of a diversified local economy.

Reliable Infrastructure – Optimize existing assets and develop new assets to support the current and future needs of the community.

Financial Considerations

Completion of the new official plan will be undertaken primarily by County staff, with some portions completed by external consultants including background technical reports and facilitation of public consultation. The development charge background study recently approved by Council included funding for the completion of the official plan. A capital budget item will be included in the 2020 budget which will open the account and identify funding sources, including development charges to complete the official plan.

Executive Summary

The report overviews the Official Plan process and the work program for the development of a new Official Plan, which is anticipated to be completed during the current Term of Council. Due to meeting timelines, background work on the Official Plan has already commenced to ensure conformity to *A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019* (the “Growth Plan”), and have approval by the Province by July 1, 2022.

The new Official Plan will be prepared in accordance with provincial requirements, such as the Provincial Policy Statement, the Planning Act, the Growth Plan and changes introduced through Bill 108. It will build upon the findings of, and seek to address the vision reflected in the County’s Strategic Plan.

A new Official Plan is also an opportunity to ensure that the plan continues to address local priorities and changing needs. The County of Brant’s current Official Plan was finalized in 2012.

Report

What is an Official Plan?

An Official Plan is a legal statutory planning document required by the province that describes the County’s land-use strategy as required by the Growth Plan. The Official Plan seeks to:

- Make the public aware of the County’s land use planning framework;
- Addresses the location, form, and design of new development;
- Ensure that growth is balanced, managed and coordinated to meet the community’s current and future land needs;
- Assists with the understanding of how land may be used now and in the future;
- Provides a framework to establish municipal Zoning By-laws and sets regulations and standards (i.e. the size of lots and height of buildings);
- Analyzes where and when transportation networks, infrastructure, parks, and other services will be built;
- Provides a local approach to balance Provincial policy and conflicting land uses while meeting the needs of the County’s interests;
- Ensure that County has the financial, human and physical resources, and that they are used most appropriately; and
- Shows Council’s commitment to the management of planned and future growth of the community.

The *Planning Act* (Section 26) requires every municipality to update its Official Plan at every five years, or every 10 years after the approval of a new Official Plan. Plans must have regard for matters of provincial interest and are consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement (PSS). It is expected that Council will regularly update the Official Plan to ensure the plan implements changes to the PPS and the newly updated provincial Growth Plan.

The Growth Plan and Municipal Comprehensive Review

The Growth Plan is a provincial growth management plan that provides a framework for planning our communities. Key policies have to be implemented in an integrated manner through an official plan review process, called a **Municipal Comprehensive Review** (MCR). Background research, analysis, recommendations and policies involved in the integrated planning process are related to growth management.

The following is an overview of the requirements which are the primary focus of the Official Plan which the County of Brant **must** undertake through the Municipal Comprehensive Review process on the basis of assisting the legislative framework:

- Growth Management Strategy
- Phasing of development strategy
- Review and refinement of the population projections.
- Review and refinement of the housing and employment forecasts.
- Identification of growth centres.
- Examination of residential growth in the Settlement Areas; and identification of any specific non-expansion and expansion areas.
- Setting intensification and density targets.
- Calculation of land budget, which determines how much new land will be needed to accommodate growth.

The outcome of the MCR process will bring the County into conformity with the Growth Plan. This means figuring out where growth may be placed and to provide a range of housing types, public services, infrastructure, and the outcome of having Complete Communities.

To determine how to accommodate people and jobs in a municipality based on the planning horizon (2041) with the population and employment forecasts, the County must make decisions throughout the process regarding growth management. The County of Brant will complete the following major studies as part of the MCR (with the assistance of our consultant), as noted in the attached work plan:

1. **Growth Management Strategy**
2. **Employment Strategy**
3. **Housing Strategy**
4. **Intensification Strategy**
5. **Land Needs Assessment (greenfield)**
6. **Commercial Urban Land Needs Analysis (settlement areas)**
7. **Community Structure Analysis**
8. **Housing Market Analysis**

Section 26 of the *Planning Act* does not require us to have public consultation on these background studies. However, staff are recommending public and stakeholder input be obtained on these studies, given their importance to shaping growth and the Official Plan for the next 25 years.

Why a *new* Official Plan?

The planning horizon for our Official Plan is now to 2041 to be in conformity with the Growth Plan. The advantage of a longer planning horizon is that it will allow the County to make sound long-term decisions related to the planning of major infrastructure, and better manage the required supply of developable land.

A “new” Official Plan, rather than an amendment is an opportunity for Council, stakeholders and the public to set a new direction for the County, in which the planning framework has not changed since 2012.

Rather, an amendment to the Official Plan would focus on housekeeping matters, new policies to conform to the Growth Plan but keep the structure/sections of the current document.

There are a number of other reasons why staff are recommending a new Official Plan:

- New policies and changes to land use designations will be a departure from the current framework, and developing a new Official Plan makes sense.
- Changes to the Planning Act exempt new Official Plans from review for 10 years, unlike the normal five-year review for plans updated by amendment.
- Recent amendments to the Planning Act have removed the right to appeal Official Plan amendments that require Ministerial approval.
- The current policy framework in the Official Plan reflects an approach to growth management that has been in effect since post-amalgamation.
- A new policy structure will be needed to address the policies in the Growth Plan and recommendations from our Municipal Comprehensive Review process.
- The current structure of the County’s Official Plan was adopted in 2012 and has undergone extensive appeals in the last eight (8) years.
- All aspects of the Official Plan and site-specific policies will be reviewed and, where appropriate, updated and/or simplified, so that the new Official Plan is easier to read, understand and apply.

The Official Plan is a foundational document that works in conjunction with several other critical County master planning studies such as the Transportation Master Plan (TMP), and updates to Master Servicing Studies. The Official Plan process will run in coordination with the update to the Transportation Master Plan and any future updates to the Development Charges By-law.

In addition, the Official Plan will include policies and harmonize with other County approved plans such as the Financial Plan, Economic Development Strategy, and other Council approved corporate strategies and master plans.

A Simply Grand Plan

The County has the opportunity to take ownership of and shape planning and growth management. In addition, a new Official Plan is the time to review current policies – what policies are working and what may be refined. The Official Plan review process will also include a policy review of the following major themes, at a minimum:

- Complete Communities framework and policies.
- Climate Change and Mitigation strategy and policies
- Review of Housing Options and types (i.e. tiny homes), the ‘Missing Middle’ and review of Secondary Unit policies.
- Determination of affordable housing policies and Inclusionary Zoning review
- Review of site specific policies governing Recreational Trailer Parks and the potential for permanent Mobile Home Communities.
- Review of the current Rural Lot Creation policies and rural servicing.
- Integration of Master Plans and Transportation Master Plan
- Inclusion of the County’s Strategic Plan, Economic Development Strategy, Development Charge By-law, Asset Management, and Financial Plan.
- Consideration of the County’s ability to provide future infrastructure servicing in existing settlement areas.
- Development of appropriate transportation and mobility policies, including active transportation.
- Employment policies which consider a changing and mobile economy.
- Creation of agricultural diversification, agri-food and agri-network policies.
- Review of mineral resource extraction and aggregate resource policies.
- Review and enhancement of the natural environment policies and protection of the natural heritage and water resources systems.
- Full review of all Official Plan Schedules and Land Use Designations.
- Direction for Secondary Plan policies for Settlement Areas of Paris, St. George, Burford and Mount Pleasant.

As part of the consultation strategy, County staff will engage the public and stakeholders on policies tied to the Growth Plan and emerging trends and issues that County will need to address. It is intended that Staff will develop discussion papers on these topics of interest for consultation purposes. These topics are intended to trigger the critical evaluation and discussion of the County’s growth management strategies and future planning framework in the following areas:

- Building Healthy and Complete Communities
- Economic Development and Prosperity
- How we Green
- Protecting what we Value
- Planning for Infrastructure
- Transportation and Mobility

Consultation and Engagement Strategy

When amending an official plan, the *Planning Act* requires Special Meetings of Council or Committees that are open to the public at certain points in the process. This is intended to provide an opportunity for the public to make comments and suggest revisions that may be required to an official plan. Our engagement and consultation processes intend to go above and beyond the statutory requirements required by the *Planning Act*.

Official Plans reflect a municipality's future vision and strategic land use planning. The process seeks to engage and get the community involved. Staff will be collaborating with the public and stakeholders from across the County to gather input on key issues facing Brant today, and how we want to see our County evolve in the future. The public consultation process aims to:

- Ensure transparency and improve efficiency.
- Discuss the goals and aspirations for the community.
- Contribute opinions, ideas and recommendations on growth and development.
- Provide an opportunity to participate in the planning process.

Staff have developed a preliminary public consultation and engagement program that aligns with the Official Plan work plan and schedule. The program outlines a new approach to consultation and engagement for the Official Plan to ensure meaningful dialogue. The approach focusses on meeting residents in their communities and ensuring underrepresented voices have a meaningful opportunity to participate in the new Official Plan.

External and Internal Consultation will include at a minimum:

- Engaging with internal County staff and departments.
- Consulting with External agencies and targeted stakeholder groups.
- Ensuring our Duty to Consult and engage with our Indigenous and Métis Communities.
- Forming a County of Brant Interdepartmental Steering Committee.
- Development of a Councilors' Sponsor Group.

Planning Advisory Committee will be the main County of Brant Committee to receive all reports and recommendations regarding the Official Plan, prior to Council.

The Consultation and Engagement Plan and a list of the External and Internal Stakeholder groups is attached as Document 2.

Official Plan Work Plan and Schedule

A new Official Plan will involve a complete review of all existing policies, land use designations and mapping, even for those components that are working well and may be retained in the new Plan. Staff anticipate that the new Plan will consolidate portions of the existing Official Plan. This includes land use schedules, appendices, and site-specific policies (which will be reviewed to remove duplication or conflicting policies and directions).

The work plan is broken down into five (5) phases, each with significant milestones throughout the process. Staff anticipate that the new Plan will take two and a half years to complete, with a final version of the Official Plan to be submitted for consideration by Council by March 2022. The adopted Official Plan will be then submitted to the Province for approval. This will meet the July 1, 2022 date to be in conformity with the Growth Plan.

Once Council adopts the updated growth management scenarios, staff will proceed to evaluate urban land, transportation and infrastructure needs to the new planning horizon to 2041 and prepare a draft Official Plan, as listed in the Work plan in Phases 2 and 3.

These reviews and the writing of the new Official Plan will involve a considerable amount of work as will the co-ordination of the consultation proposed by the County and required by the *Planning Act*.

The Transportation Master Plan and any servicing related Master Plans will be prepared in parallel with the new Official Plan.

The new Official Plan Work plan and Schedule can be found as Document 1 of the report.

Report prepared by:



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Senior Policy Planner

Reviewed by: Rob Trotter, MAES RPP
Director of Planning

Submitted by: Pam Duesling, MAES, MCIP, RPP, Ec.D. CMM3
General Manager of Development Services

Attachments

1. Official Plan Work Plan and Schedule
2. Official Plan Public Consultation and Engagement Strategy
3. [County of Brant Official Plan](#) (current)

Copy to

1. Michael Bradley, CAO
2. Heather Boyd, Manager of Council Services, Clerk
3. Jyoti V. Zuidema, Solicitor & Corporate Counsel
4. Senior Management Team

In adopting this report, is a bylaw or agreement required?

By-law required (No)

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and /or Clerk (No)

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? (No)



NEW OFFICIAL PLAN WORKPLAN & SCHEDULE

Phase/ Meeting	Dates	Work plan/ Deliverable	Consultation and Engagement
Phase 1: Commencement and Strategic Planning	July 2019 to October 2019	Work plan and schedule Consultation & engagement strategy Budget Background Research & Technical Work Consultant Retainer for MCR	Initial Consultation Meetings with Agencies (MMAH, OMAFRA, Ontario Growth Secretariat, GRCA, Health Unit) Internal Staff strategic discussions
Special Meeting of Planning Advisory Committee	November 5, 2019	Official Plan launch report and presentation	Open to the public
Burford Master Servicing Open House	November 6, 2019	Official Plan information as part of presentation	Open to the public
Agricultural Advisory Committee	December 16, 2019	Official Plan launch report and presentation	Open to the public
Council Workshop on the Official Plan	TBD	<p>Mayor and Council will participate in an Official Plan workshop after the presentation to Council on the Official Plan. Discuss roles and responsibilities, deliverables, consultation events.</p> <p>Toolkit for Council and the Mayor to reach out to citizens at various engagement events.</p> <p>This will also include selecting members of Council who will be part of a <u>Councillors' Sponsors Group</u> as champions of the new Official Plan.</p>	With members of Council



NEW OFFICIAL PLAN WORKPLAN & SCHEDULE

Phase/ Meeting	Dates	Work plan/ Deliverable	Consultation and Engagement
<p>Phase 2: Background Studies and Identification of Issues</p>	<p>November 2019 to April 2020</p>	<p>Development of Discussion Papers on Policy Themes/key Issues will be released for public consultation in March 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Healthy and Complete Communities • Economic Development and Prosperity • Transportation and Mobility • Planning for Infrastructure • Protecting what we Value • How we Green <p>Draft Technical Summaries (MCR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Draft Growth Management Projections and -Land Needs Assessment -Housing Options -Employment Land Analysis -Population projections, density and intensification targets. 	<p>Formation of Technical Working Groups</p> <p>Start of Internal and External Stakeholder Meetings</p> <p>Targeted Stakeholder Meetings</p> <p><i>Engage with Us</i> Consultation Strategy: Community Consultation Workshops Engagement Activities</p>
<p>Special Meeting of Planning Advisory Committee</p>	<p>May 2020</p>	<p>Convene a Special Meeting of Planning Advisory Committee on Policy Themes and Direction; Summary of draft Technical Background Information.</p>	<p>Open to the public</p>



NEW OFFICIAL PLAN WORKPLAN & SCHEDULE

Phase/ Meeting	Dates	Work plan/ Deliverable	Consultation and Engagement
<p>Phase 3: Preliminary Policy Directions</p>	<p>May 2020 to December 2020</p>	<p>Finalization of Technical MCR Reports and policy directions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Summary of Growth Management Strategy -Land Needs Assessment -Settlement Area Boundaries -Housing Supply Options -Employment Lands Analysis -Community Structure Analysis -Market Analysis <p>Results of Discussion papers and recommend policy directions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Healthy and Complete Communities Economic Development and Prosperity Transportation and Mobility Planning for Infrastructure Protecting what we Value How we Green Natural Hazard and Resource policies <p>Infrastructure and servicing draft policy recommendations Transportation Master Plan draft policy recommendations</p>	<p>Circulate to Commenting Bodies and Agencies on draft Technical Background Studies.</p> <p>Public consultations on the high level policy directions will occur through to November 2020: Community Roundtables; Stakeholder Engagement, Workshops.</p> <p><i>What we Heard</i> Summary and Report based on consultation and engagement events.</p> <p>Continue with Technical Working Groups</p> <p>Internal and External Stakeholder Meetings</p>
<p>Special Meeting of Planning Advisory Committee</p>	<p>January 2021</p>	<p>Convene a Special Meeting of PAC to recommend that Council give direction to table a draft Official Plan in September 2021, under Section 26 of the Planning Act.</p> <p>Preliminary policy directions to be in the</p>	<p>Meeting open to the public.</p> <p>Advertised as a public meeting.</p>



NEW OFFICIAL PLAN WORKPLAN & SCHEDULE

		<p>Official Plan: Growth Management strategies and settlement boundary review. Total population, total housing and intensification/density targets. Employment Lands concepts and total jobs to 2041</p>	
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NEW OFFICIAL PLAN WORKPLAN & SCHEDULE

Phase/ Meeting	Dates	Work plan/ Deliverable	Consultation and Engagement
<p>Phase 4: Prepare a Draft Official Plan</p>	<p>February 2021 to August 2021</p>	<p>A draft Official Plan will be prepared during this time, based on policy directions approved by Council at the January 2021 Special Meeting of PAC. Prepare First Draft Official Plan which will include:</p> <p>New sections of the Official Plan with policy text prepared. Schedules for Settlement Areas. Land Use Designations/ Changes Mapping Updates, Schedules, Site-specific amendments</p>	<p>Consultation ongoing, Open House</p> <p>Submit to County staff, Agencies, and Province of Ontario for review and comments.</p>
<p>Special Meeting of Planning Advisory Committee</p>	<p>September 2021</p>	<p>Convene a Special Meeting of Planning Advisory Committee for the statutory public meeting required under Section 26 of the Planning Act on revisions that may be required to the Official Plan.</p> <p>Following tabling of the draft Official Plan, a 90-day statutory circulation to the public, technical agencies and Ministry will occur from September 2021 through December 2021.</p>	<p>Meeting open to the public.</p>



NEW OFFICIAL PLAN WORKPLAN & SCHEDULE

Phase/ Meeting	Dates	Work plan/ Deliverable	Consultation and Engagement
<p>Phase 5: Final Official Plan</p>	<p>September 2021 to December 2021</p>	<p>Final Official Plan will be prepared based on draft Official Plan consultation and comments/revisions.</p> <p>Additional requests for review from public and stakeholders (site specific, schedules, policies). All Official Plan Amendments (schedules) to be completed Land Use Schedules and Mapping.</p>	<p>Statutory Public Open Houses will be held throughout September to November 2021 (more than one anticipated)</p> <p>Public consultations will continue through to February 2022.</p>
<p>Statutory Public Meeting/ Special Meeting of Council</p>	<p>March 2022</p>	<p>Convene a meeting of Planning Advisory Committee for the statutory public meeting required under the Planning Act, Section 17, subject to such sessions as are required, to receive submissions from public delegations in respect of the adoption of the new Official Plan.</p> <p>Presentation to Council for Adoption Council adopts new Official Plan.</p> <p>Approval by the Ministry is expected by July 2022.</p>	<p>Adequate notice and information, including a copy of the proposed plan, is made available to the public in advance of the public meeting.</p> <p>Following adoption by Council, the Plan will be sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.</p> <p>The Ministry has up to six months to review and approve the Official Plan.</p>
<p>Phase 6: Implementation of the Official Plan</p>	<p>Fall 2022 to 2025</p>	<p>Comprehensive Zoning By-law Update Secondary Plans for Settlement Areas Implementation Guidelines Municipal By-laws</p>	<p>Through Planning Act processes.</p>



New Official Plan: Public Consultation and Engagement Strategy

The County of Brant has developed a Public Consultation and Engagement Strategy for the new Official Plan process. The stakeholder engagement piece will ensure that all voices are heard through a variety of different channels. Stakeholder consultation will engage various community groups, development industry representatives, agencies, business leaders and our Indigenous communities.

The strategy outlines how the public and stakeholders will engage in the process.

The Planning Act Requirements

Statutory requirements under Section 26 of the Planning Act require, when considering an official plan, Council or the Planning Advisory Board must ensure that:

- At least one public meeting is held, notice of which must be given at least 20 days ahead of time, usually through local newspapers or by mail.
- The approval authority is consulted and given the opportunity to review all supporting information and material.
- For the statutory official plan update, a special meeting of council that is open to the public, as well as an open house information session and at least one public meeting are held.
- Adequate information, including a copy of the proposed plan, is made available to the public in advance of the public meeting.

Any person or public body may provide written comments and/or speak at the public meeting about the proposed plan. Council may consult with agencies, boards, authorities or commissions before making a decision.

Tentative Timeline

New Official Plan Launch - November 2019

- A Special Meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee is planned to discuss the launch of the new Official Plan, present the work plan, timeframe and expected deliverables and discuss consultation and engagement strategy framework.
- A webpage (www.brant.ca/NewOfficialPlan) is available to begin communicating information.

Council Workshop on the Official Plan - TBD

- The Mayor and Council may participate in an Official Plan workshop after the presentation to Council on the Official Plan. We will discuss roles, responsibilities and deliverables. This will also include selecting members of Council who will be part of a Councillors' Sponsors Group as champions of the Official Plan.
- A toolkit for the Mayor, Council and staff will be developed to support engaging the community at various events.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement Launch – starting February 2020

Public workshops will launch the new Official Plan process. Discussion papers/glossies shared on policy themes and policy directions will be available.



Online and hardcopy surveys will collect feedback and input on the new Official Plan vision.

Engaging with the Public

- Public engagement and consultation objectives for the new draft Official Plan will ensure that residents, business owners, and the community are involved. For engagement, easy to understand materials will be provided on background information and thematic pieces to ensure the public are comfortable asking questions. Social media, communication collateral and the County's website will utilize plain language.
- We will engage our younger generation as our time horizon for our Official Plan is to 2041.
- We will ensure innovative engagement, rather than traditional Open Houses; and our engagement strategy will evolve and adapt during the length of the Official Plan review. A request has been put into the County of Brant budget to assist with consultation and engagement consulting services and may include a workshop by a third party facilitator. County Planning staff will utilize the resources of Communications staff to assist with website design, graphics, logos, communication materials and social media.

Deliverables Will Include:

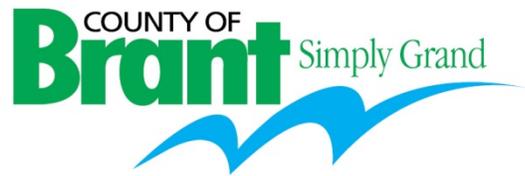
- Inform and engage residents about the County's future growth strategy and why it is important.
- Inform and engage residents about how the Official Plan will establish where and how the County will grow to 2041.
- Reach residents in the community that may be under-represented, e.g. youth, new Canadians, persons with disabilities.
- Use plain language in all communications materials and messaging.
- Obtain feedback from the community on the draft Official Plan and background studies.

The consultation strategy will include a number of techniques in order to reach as many people as possible, including a combination of high tech and in-person tactics. We will have Pop Up consultations at fairs, Community Centres, downtown core areas, and events over the next two years. Rural communities and our hamlets, including our core residential areas, will be included:

- Public events including open houses, workshops, pop-up booths and drop in sessions
- Social media
- Regular updates through the Official Plan mailing lists
- Online and hardcopy surveys

Website

Our website (www.brant.ca) will include surveys, polls, and an interactive mapping. Themes will be placed into buckets. The website will have plain language. Photos will represent the County of Brant.



The new Official Plan webpage will describe:

- What is an official plan
- How to stay informed
- Engagement opportunities
- Milestone markers of where we are in the process, and
- The various themes that we will invite the public to engage with

Additional information will be added to the website as the official plan process unfolds.

www.brant.ca/NewOfficialPlan

This page will be the hub for all updates, proposed policy and opportunities to provide feedback.

Targeted Stakeholder Consultation

Engaging with Internal County Staff

There will be extensive collaboration with County staff throughout the organization as part of the new Official Plan project. The new draft Official Plan will be circulated to all County departments through senior management and feedback will be provided by staff members across the organization. Open houses will also be held to give staff an opportunity to review the project.

Staff will have a chance to provide input, review discussion papers and technical documents, and be part of the ongoing consultations and engagement.

Internal Stakeholder Groups

The following internal stakeholder groups will require consultation throughout the project:

- Council
- Planning Advisory Committee
- Agricultural Advisory Committee
- County of Brant Departments (all)
- Brant Economic Development/Invest Brant
- Brant Public Health
- Other advising groups as directed.

County of Brant Interdepartmental Steering Committee

A Steering Committee comprised of the General Managers or designates of select County Departments will be formed to ensure the coordination of strategic directions, policy and timing of initiatives across the four departments. The Committee will also continue to ensure consistency as the other growth management plans are completed by these departments.

County of Brant Councilors' Sponsor Group

The role of the proposed Council Sponsors Group's is to champion and support the project through the Public Consultation and Legislative Agenda over the course of the three-year project schedule.



To ensure that the Council Sponsors Group will be able to fulfil this role, staff will keep the sponsors group appraised through briefings (briefing notes or briefing meetings) of the review process at key milestones and public engagement events and will provide the Councilor Sponsors all information produced such as discussion papers and “As We Heard It” reports for their information.

External Agencies and Stakeholder Groups

Many agencies, stakeholders and our Indigenous and Métis communities will be notified that the Official Plan process will commence, and that a draft new OP will be available for review and comments will requested. The agencies, stakeholders and Indigenous Communities are considered to be part of the Official Plan process and the County of Brant values the input that as part of the process.

In addition to broader public engagement, Planning staff will undertake targeted consultation with the adjacent Regions and Municipalities, Conservation Authorities, and public and catholic school boards. Key stakeholders that will be targeted are groups such as the local Homebuilders Associations, Building Industry and Citizen Committees of Council and other community groups and organizations. These discussions and any new information will inform the development of the new Official Plan.

External Stakeholder Groups:

The process will engage active participation comprised of a cross-section of the broader County community including representatives from various industries and major employers (homebuilding, high-tech, arts and culture, higher education, health care, retails and industry), special interest groups, community groups and other agencies.

The purpose of stakeholder groups are to explore opportunities and challenges that are predicted to impact and challenge cities globally, and to identify those unique to the County of Brant.

The following are examples of external stakeholder groups; however, the scope is not limited to the following. The consultation team will prepare a plan for engagement for each specific external stakeholder group including:

- Business
- Community
- Cultural
- Development industry
- Education
- Environmental Groups
- Government (Other levels, surrounding municipalities)
- Health and Wellness
- Housing
- Indigenous Communities
- Older adults
- People with disabilities
- Renters
- Rural



- Sports and Recreation
- Transportation

Technical Working Groups

The requirement for one or more Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) will be determined as the projects proceed. The TAC may be comprised internal subject matter experts on various sections of the Official Plan. The project team will determine membership of the TAC and/or internal stakeholders. Potential to develop a public land group that would include internal County departments and other owners of public lands (other government levels, school boards, etc.).

These Technical Working Groups may include experts on the following topics:

- Healthy and Complete Communities
- Transportation and Mobility
- How We Green and Environmental Policy
- Protecting What We Value: Agriculture, Natural Environment, and Heritage
- Planning for Infrastructure
- Economic Development and Prosperity

The County's Advisory Committees will be circulated information as part of the consultation phases of the project and their input may be requested, where appropriate.

These committees include:

- Planning Advisory Committee
- Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Brant Heritage Committee
- Tourism Advisory Committee
- Community Services Committee
- Corporate Development Committee
- Public Works Committee
- Economic Development Advisory Committee
- Community Services Committee
- Accessibility Advisory Committee

Planning Advisory Committee will act as the main Committee to receive all reports and recommendations prior to Council, to fulfil the statutory requirements under Section 26 and Section 17 of the Planning Act for the Official Plan process.