

Meeting Date: January 17, 2022
Department: Building, By-law & Planning
Report No.: BBP-2022-13
Submitted by: Jennifer Huff, Director of Building & Planning
Approved by: Fred Tranquilli, Chief Administrative Officer / Clerk
SUBJECT: **County of Middlesex Official Plan Update**

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council receive report BBP-2022-13 for information.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

- Economic Development: Strathroy-Caradoc will have a diverse tax base and be a place that offers a variety of economic opportunities to current and prospective residents and businesses.
- Growth Management: Strathroy-Caradoc will be an inclusive community where growth is managed to accommodate a range of needs and optimize municipal resources.
- Destination Building: Strathroy-Caradoc will provide distinct experiences that celebrate its past and future by prioritizing innovative new ideas that set the community apart.

BACKGROUND:

The County of Middlesex is in the process of updating its Official Plan. While this process has been on-going for some time, it has recently progressed to a point where a first draft has been made available for review and comment by the public and agencies / stakeholders. The first draft is available on line at www.middlesex.ca/departments/planning/official-plan-update.

The County Official Plan provides the land use planning framework with which the Official Plans of all local municipalities must be in conformity. It is important for local municipalities to be aware of any significant changes that would trigger the need for update local Official Plans.

There are a number of ‘placeholders’ in this draft and these reflect that additional policy recommendations are anticipated to come forward in the next few months. The version of the draft Official Plan that is currently available on-line is to be considered a first step in what will be an

iterative process. A second version of the draft plan is anticipated to be released in the next few months.

A component of the County Official Plan update will include public and stakeholder consultation. The Director of County Planning has confirmed that a consultation plan will be formalized in the near term and will include consultation opportunities with local municipalities. Additional opportunities for public and technical / stakeholder consultations will also be incorporated. Consultation opportunities will be posted on the County Website.

In addition, the consultation program has included requesting that the County Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) review and provide feedback on the Official Plan.

By way of background, the County created a 'Planning Advisory Committee' in order to satisfy the requirement of Bill 73 (Smart Growth for Our Communities Act). PAC's are now a requirement of all Upper and Single Tier Municipalities and must include at least one resident who is neither a member of municipal Council or an employee of the Municipality. Currently, the Chair of the County's PAC is Deputy Mayor Richards. In addition to reviewing the Official Plan, it is anticipated that the County PAC could review future proposed Provincial Land Use Planning policies, regulations and guidelines.

COMMENTS:

At this time, internal staff have provided preliminary comments on the draft Official Plan to the Director of County Planning for consideration, however, it is anticipated that further review and comments will be provided as the plan is further refined.

In addition, the County has been consulted throughout the process of updating the Strathroy-Caradoc Official Plan to ensure alignment with the direction of the current County of Middlesex Official Plan review.

Future opportunities for public consultation into the draft County of Middlesex Official Plan will be posted on-line on the County Website.

CONSULTATION:

Staff will provide Council with updates on the County of Middlesex Official Plan review as they come forward, as well as any consultation opportunities that arise.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

ATTACHMENTS:

NONE