

# Information Report

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| Service Area  | Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services |
| Date          | Friday, February 14, 2020                           |
| Subject       | <b>Official Plan Update: Initiation Fall 2020</b>   |
| Report Number | IDE-2020-16   |

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## Executive Summary

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide information related to the Official Plan update process to Council and advise that the process to update the City's Official Plan will be initiated later in 2020.

### Key Findings

The Planning Act requires municipalities to update the official plan regularly.

With the Growth Plan conformity work and the master plan work currently underway, it is an appropriate time for the City to update its Official Plan.

The Official Plan update will be initiated in September 2020.

### Financial Implications

The Official Plan Update will be funded through approved capital budget, Capital Account PL0054 Official Plan Review, for costs associated with consultant services and community engagement consultations.

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## Report

### Details

The Ontario Planning Act requires municipalities to update their official plan every 5 years, or 10 years after a new official plan comes into effect, to ensure that it conforms with or does not conflict with provincial plans, has regard to matters of provincial interest and is consistent with provincial policy statement.

### Background

The City's last update was initiated in 2007 and was completed through a three-phase process which resulted in Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 39, OPA 42 and OPA 48.

OPA 39 was adopted by Council in June 2009 and brought the City's Official Plan into conformity with the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. This amendment was approved by the Minister in November 2009.

OPA 42 was adopted by Council in July 2010 and introduced the City's Natural Heritage System into the Official Plan. This amendment was approved by the Minister in February 2011 and all appeals to the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal (formerly the Ontario Municipal Board) were resolved in June 2014.

OPA 48 was adopted by Council in June 2012 and completed the Official Plan update process. This final phase of the Official Plan update was approved by the Minister in December 2013 and the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal (formerly the Ontario Municipal Board) in October 2017 with the exception of one site specific appeal, one policy appeal and few policies that are still under appeal on a site specific basis.

### **Growth Plan 2019**

Planning Services has initiated the Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR), which is the process that the City is required to follow to conform to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2019. The [Growth Plan Conformity Project Initiation report](#) was considered by Council in October 2019. The Growth Plan Conformity Project will inform amendments to the Official Plan. The MCR is required to be completed by July 1, 2022.

### **Master Plan Updates**

A number of other master plan updates are underway across several City departments. These master plan updates will also inform amendments to the Official Plan either directly or through the Growth Plan Conformity project.

### **Official Plan Update**

Considering both the Planning Act requirement to regularly update the City's Official Plan, along with all of the master plan and growth plan conformity work currently underway, it is an appropriate time to update the City's Official Plan. The commencement of this update is part of Planning Services work plan for 2020.

The Official Plan update will be undertaken in accordance with Section 26 of the Planning Act and will fulfill the requirement to update the Official Plan to ensure that it: conforms with or does not conflict with provincial plans; has regard to matters of provincial interest; and is consistent with the provincial policy statement.

The Official Plan update project will also be designed to ensure that all master plan updates are appropriately incorporated into the updated Official Plan. Further, the project will be designed to review and examine other official plan policies outside of the master plans that may require updating.

Staff are considering completing this update through one amendment rather than the phased process that was undertaken previously.

Community engagement will be an important aspect of the Official Plan update project and will occur throughout the project. To begin the process and as required by the Planning Act, a special meeting of Council will be held to discuss the revisions to the Official Plan that may be required. It is anticipated that the Official Plan Update project will be initiated in September 2020. At that time, we will provide Council with project details including engagement opportunities.

The update must be completed by July 1, 2022 to meeting the legislative requirement for Growth Plan Conformity.

## Financial Implications

The Official Plan Update will be funded through approved capital budget, Capital Account PL0054 Official Plan Review, for costs associated with consultant services and community engagement consultations.

## Strategic Plan Alignment

The Official Plan update will align with the following Strategic Plan priorities:

Powering our future – the Official Plan update will contribute to a sustainable, creative and smart local economy that is connected to regional and global markets and supports shared prosperity for everyone.

Sustaining our future – the Official Plan update will strive to care for and protect the local environment, respond to climate change and prepare the City for a net-zero carbon future.

Navigating our future – the Official Plan update will incorporate recommendations from the Transportation Master Plan into the updated Official Plan considering transportation connectivity, safety and improving connections between our existing community and this future community for all modes of transportation.

Building our future – the Official Plan update will assist in continuing to build a strong, vibrant, safe and healthy community that fosters resilience.

## Attachments

Not applicable

## Departmental Approval

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