

REPORT

LIVABLE OAKVILLE (OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW) COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING DATE: JANUARY 14, 2019

FROM: Planning Services Department

DATE: January 8, 2019

SUBJECT: Provincial Updates

LOCATION: Town wide

WARD: Town wide

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RECOMMENDATION

That the report titled “Provincial Updates” be received.

KEY FACTS

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The purpose of this report is to provide updates on recent provincial activity to the Livable Oakville Council Subcommittee
- Since forming a new government following the election in spring 2018, the province has undertaken a number of initiatives that result in changes to the *Planning Act*, including:
 - An Implementation Working Group process around the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2017).
 - A public engagement titled “Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario.
 - The release of a plan to address climate change titled “Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan.”
 - Royal Assent of Bill 34, An Act to repeal the *Green Energy Act*, 2009 and to amend the *Electricity Act*, 1998, the *Environmental Protection Act*, the *Planning Act* and various other statutes.
 - Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act.

COMMENT/OPTIONS

Growth Plan Implementation Working Group

From September-November 2018, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ontario Growth Secretariat, hosted a series of Growth Plan Implementation Working Group sessions on the following topics:

- Planning for Employment
- Agricultural and Natural Heritage Systems Mapping
- Planning for Major Transit Station Areas
- Intensification and Density Targets
- Settlement Area Boundary Expansions

The purpose of each session was to discuss specific, practical, workable solutions to challenges implementing the Growth Plan policies under the topic areas. Each session consisted of a presentation brief from ministry staff, small group facilitated discussions and report back plenary sessions intended to highlight solutions.

Working Group participants included lower-tier and upper-tier municipal staff with detailed, technical knowledge about Growth Plan policies as well as counterparts from conservation authorities. Participants also included representatives from the development industry and Non-Governmental Organization sectors.

Staff participated in each session with as many as 3-4 representatives depending on the topic area. The results of these sessions were to be shared with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to help inform future policy, statutory and regulatory changes. No specific timeline was given for any future changes.

Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario, Consultation Document

On November 28, 2018, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing released “Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario, Consultation Document” through the Environmental Registry under the EBR Registry Number 013-4190.

The provincial Consultation Document is seeking information to help increase the housing supply in Ontario and accordingly contains questions around five themes: Speed, Mix, Cost, Rent, and Innovation.

The Consultation Document is designed to inform a Provincial Housing Supply Action Plan that the province intends to create following the consultation. Further information regarding the consultation and how to engage in the process is available at <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page20902.aspx>.

The deadline for comments to the province is January 25, 2019. Comments may be submitted by:

- On-line survey at <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page20902.aspx>
- Emailing to housingsupply@ontario.ca.

Staff has participated in this consultation through the preparation of a Joint Submission by the Halton Area Planning Partnership (HAPP). HAPP includes Halton Region and the local municipalities of the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, and the Town of Oakville.

In addition to the HAPP comments being submitted to the Province, the Joint Submission will be considered by Oakville Council at their meeting of January 14, 2019 and Halton Council at their meeting of January 16, 2019. A copy of the Joint Submission is available on the Planning and Development Council agenda.

Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations

On November 29, 2018, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks released the province's environmental plan titled "Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan".

A copy of the Plan may be viewed at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/made-in-ontario-environment-plan> along with additional information from the Ministry. The Plan addresses four main topics: protecting air and water; addressing climate change; reducing waste; and conserving greenspace.

Staff has undertaken a preliminary review of the Plan and provided commentary to the province through its participation as a municipal partner in the Clean Air Council. The Clean Air Council is a network of 28 municipalities and health units from across the Greater Toronto, Hamilton and Southwestern Ontario Area who collaboratively work on the development and implementation of clean air and climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.

Bill 34, An Act to repeal the Green Energy Act

On December 6, 2018, Bill 34, An Act to repeal the *Green Energy Act*, 2009 and to amend the *Electricity Act*, 1998, the *Environmental Protection Act*, the *Planning Act* and various other statutes, received Royal Assent.

The Bill and additional information may be viewed at <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-34>.

Bill 34 affects several provincial statutes including the *Planning Act*. Key amendments to the *Planning Act* will have the effect of restoring municipal planning application requirements and municipal decision making authority with respect to renewable energy projects.

Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act

On December 6, 2018, the province undertook first reading of Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018. The Bill is proposed by the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade and contains over 30 actions, impacting 12 ministries with a stated intent to "eliminate red tape and burdensome regulations so businesses can grow, create and protect good jobs for the people of Ontario."

Bill 66 is the second in a series of bills through "Ontario's Open for Business Action Plan" being brought forward by the province. According to the proposal summary on the Environmental Registry of Ontario, the intent of the bill is "to stimulate business investment, create good jobs, and make Ontario more competitive by cutting unnecessary regulations that are inefficient, inflexible or out of date."

Among other things, Bill 66 proposes to amend the *Planning Act* to allow local municipalities to pass "open-for-business planning by-laws" (OFBPBL) for certain prescribed purposes, which is currently limited to new major employment uses.

Bill 66 is intended to provide a new process under the *Planning Act* to expedite planning approvals by allowing municipalities to act quickly to attract new businesses seeking development sites in cases where there are major employment and economic growth opportunities.

The proposed process would exempt OFBPBLs from complying with current statutory requirements such as the *Clean Water Act*, 2006, *Great Lakes Protection Act*, 2015, and *Greenbelt Protection Act*, 2005, as well as the Provincial Policy Statement, Growth Plan, and municipal official plans.

Provincial approvals would be obtained within one year so that qualifying businesses could begin construction. The use of this proposed new planning process is optional and there is currently no proposal to make the adoption of this process by municipalities mandatory.

Bill 66 will be considered by Oakville Council at their meeting of January 14, 2019. The deadline for comments to the province on the proposed bill and the accompanying regulation is January 20, 2019.

CONSIDERATIONS

(A) PUBLIC

There are no public impacts from this report and no notice requirements.

(B) FINANCIAL

There are no financial implications from this report.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

There are no effects on other departments and users from this report.

(D) CORPORATE AND/OR DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal to:

- be the most livable town in Canada.

(E) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

Consideration of the sustainability goals and objectives of the Livable Oakville Plan are part of all town reviews of Provincial initiatives.

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