



OAKVILLE

REPORT

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 6, 2019

FROM: Planning Services Department

DATE: July 15, 2019

SUBJECT: Halton Integrated Growth Management Strategy (IGMS): an Oakville planning staff discussion paper

LOCATION:

WARD: Town wide

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the report titled “Halton Integrated Growth Management Strategy (IGMS): an Oakville planning staff discussion paper” be received.

KEY FACTS:

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

- The 2019 Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, which came into effect on May 16, 2019, maintains the same 2041 population and employment forecasts for Halton Region as found in the 2017 Growth Plan. It requires Halton Region to plan to accommodate 1,000,000 people and 470,000 jobs by 2041.
- As part of the ongoing Regional Official Plan Review, Halton Region is determining how to accommodate forecasted population and employment growth in the region to 2041. This work is being conducted through the Region’s Integrated Growth Management Strategy (IGMS) project.
- Proposed growth scenarios and a proposed evaluation matrix were presented to Regional Council on June 19, 2019. Regional council unanimously voted to defer any recommendations on this report until the Local Municipal Councils can recommend to Regional Council, for each local municipality, what evaluation criteria and weighting of the evaluation criteria best suit the planning needs of each Local Municipality.
- The attached discussion paper (Appendix A) is provided for Council’s information. It sets out town planning staff’s initial response and preliminary

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analysis to the Region's proposed growth scenarios and the implications for Oakville.

- Council will have the opportunity to provide a formal position with respect to regional growth management at a future date, likely in the fall after public consultation on the proposed growth scenarios has taken place. It is noted that the full impact of the 2019 Growth Plan and related legislative changes has yet to be determined, so timelines are expected to change as a result of those changes as well.

BACKGROUND:

Provincial Growth Requirements

The 2017 Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe ("2017 Growth Plan") required Halton Region to be planned to accommodate 1,000,000 people and 470,000 jobs by 2041. The 2019 Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe ("2019 Growth Plan") – which came into effect on May 16, 2019 – maintains the those same 2041 population and employment forecasts for Halton Region. Oakville will be growing.

The 2019 Growth Plan acknowledges that the magnitude of growth coming to the Greater Golden Horseshoe presents challenges directly related to the large number of people coming to the region. These challenges are discussed in more detail in the planning staff discussion paper included as Appendix A of this staff report.

Halton Region IGMS Process

The Halton Integrated Growth Management Strategy (IGMS) is a process currently being undertaken and coordinated by Halton Region to figure out where future people and jobs coming to the region should go – including Oakville.

The Livable Oakville Official plan represents the growth management strategy for Oakville. Recent approval of Official Plan Amendment #15 to Livable Oakville solidifies a town-wide urban structure as the underlying foundation for how growth is managed in Oakville. Oakville's urban structure directs future growth to a system of nodes and corridors in order to protect the most valued components of Oakville – our natural heritage, our public open spaces, and our cultural heritage resources. It then works to maintain the character of our established neighbourhoods that make Oakville communities unique and desirable. Our urban structure provides a sound strategy to best address the challenges we face from new population growth in the future and will form the foundation of the Oakville component of the IGMS.

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On June 19, 2019, Regional Council was presented with an initial technical report outlining potential growth scenarios for the region. The scenarios were accompanied by a technical paper from their consultant providing detailed information and preliminary analysis of the various scenarios, a proposed evaluation matrix, and an initial recommendation that only the 'Local Plans and Priorities' scenarios (known as the 'B' scenarios) be evaluated moving forward.

The four proposed growth 'B' scenarios are primarily distinguished from each other by different amounts of new designated greenfield area included in each scenario, ranging from a scenario with no new designated greenfield area to a scenario with 1000 hectares of new designed greenfield area.

Regional council unanimously voted to defer any recommendations on this report until the Local Municipal Councils can recommend to Regional Council, for each local municipality, what evaluation criteria and weighting of the evaluation criteria best suit the planning needs of each Local Municipality.

Staff will be bringing forward a separate staff report that discusses the proposed IGMS evaluation criteria to Oakville Council on September 9, 2019. It is anticipated that the deferred IGMS report will return to Regional council sometime in the fall of 2019.

A more detailed summary of the IGMS process and the proposed growth scenarios is included in Appendix B of this staff report.

Planning Staff Discussion Paper

Town staff support the Region's comprehensive approach to growth management through the IGMS project. The attached planning staff discussion paper (Appendix A) has been prepared to present planning staff's preliminary analysis and response to the IGMS findings from a purely Oakville perspective. It also outlines key messages and considerations with respect to the implications of the IGMS scenarios for Oakville.

The discussion paper is intended to provide Council with an initial set of considerations and implications regarding the regional IGMS, as viewed by local planning staff, that can inform upcoming consultation with residents and future discussions at both the local and regional level.

CONCLUSION:

The discussion paper concludes with the premise that Oakville must be "all-in" with respect to accepting growth – simply choosing a middle-ground or no-growth

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position would be detrimental to Oakville – and Oakville must be decisively strategic in directing where growth should go, and in what form it will take, in order to protect what we value and maintain the existing character of our neighbourhoods.

It is currently staff's position that choosing not to expand the Region's designated greenfield area is a vital way for Oakville to combat climate change, preserve our natural heritage and prime agricultural land supply, and address many of the other challenges we face as we grow.

Avoiding any designated greenfield expansion also makes sense from a regional perspective for the same reasons. This would mean that any greenfield growth in the region would need to occur on existing designated greenfield lands within the region. Staff recognize that public consultation has not yet occurred. As such, this is a preliminary analysis. Public comments and other concerns potentially related to the environment may impact staff's final analysis.

Town planning staff will continue to engage in the IGMS project.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

There are no public impacts from this report and no notice requirements. Public consultation related to the IGMS will occur in the coming months through the Regional Official Plan Review work program.

(B) FINANCIAL

There are no financial implications from this report. However, the implementation of the Region's ultimate growth management strategy – through regional and local official plan amendments and master plan updates – will significantly impact the financing and delivery of municipal programs and services.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

This report has no impact on other departments and users. However, the implementation of the Region's ultimate growth management strategy – through regional and local official plan amendments and master plan updates – will impact most town departments.

(D) CORPORATE AND/OR DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal to:

- enhance our natural environment
- have environmentally sustainable programs/services
- be accountable in everything we do

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- be fiscally sustainable
- be the most livable town in Canada

(E) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

The town's interest in the Regional IGMS is focused on long-term economic sustainability as well as the environmental sustainability goals and objectives of the Livable Oakville Plan.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A Halton Integrated Growth Management Strategy (IGMS): an Oakville planning staff discussion paper

Appendix B Halton Integrated Growth Management Strategy (IGMS): a Summary

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