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Proposed New Official Plan Update

March 13, 2018

Adoption Report Update

A report recommending adoption of Burlington's proposed new Official Plan will be presented to Burlington City Council at a meeting of the Planning and Development Committee on Tuesday, April 24 at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. and, if required, Wednesday, April 25 at 9:30 a.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

Originally scheduled for Wednesday, April 4, the meeting date for the recommendation report has been moved to allow for new provincial maps to be added to Burlington's proposed new Official Plan. The updated natural heritage and agricultural systems mapping was released by The Province of Ontario on Feb. 9, 2018 as part of its Places to Grow program.

The date for a meeting of Burlington City Council to consider the proposed new Official Plan

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The Official Plan (April 2018) that is recommended for adoption will be released the week of March 26th. All subscribers to this email list will receive notification when it is available at www.burlington.ca/newop.

Conformity with Provincial Plans and the Region of Halton Official Plan

As a result of further discussions with the Province and the Region of Halton a number of refinements to policies and mapping have been required to clearly demonstrate conformity with senior plans. Two main areas are highlighted below.

Updated Mapping for Natural Heritage System and Agriculture System

The Province of Ontario recently released new mapping that relates to the Natural Heritage System and Agricultural System in Burlington. As a result, the City is now adding maps to its proposed new Official Plan to incorporate this new provincial mapping.

Background:

On July 1, 2017, the Province of Ontario approved a revised Provincial Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH), which outlines policies for planning and managing growth in the GGH to the year 2041, and which includes the City of Burlington.

The revised Growth Plan policies recognize the importance of both a Natural Heritage System and an Agricultural System to the GGH. The protection of these resources is vitally important to the Plan's long term vision for the GGH.

The revised Plan states that the Province will map a Natural Heritage System for the GGH to support a comprehensive, integrated, and long-term approach to planning for the protection of the GGH's natural heritage and biodiversity. Municipalities are required to incorporate the Natural Heritage System as an overlay in their Official Plans, and apply appropriate policies to maintain, restore, or enhance the diversity and connectivity of the system and the long-term ecological or hydrologic functions of these features and areas.

The revised Plan also states that the Province will identify an Agricultural System for the GGH. Prime agricultural areas, including specialty crop areas, are to be designated in official plans in accordance with mapping identified by the Province and these areas must be protected for long-term use for agriculture in municipal Official Plans.

On Feb. 9, 2018, the Province announced the release of the final mapping for both the Natural Heritage System and the Agricultural System for the GGH to support the Growth Plan. It is now in full force and effect, as of the date of its release. It therefore applies in the consideration of all planning matters, including development applications, within municipalities in the GGH, including the City of Burlington.

The City of Burlington will now be incorporating the Provincial Natural Heritage System and Agricultural System mapping as released by the Province into the mapping of its proposed new Official Plan, in order to conform to the Provincial Growth Plan.

In implementing the Natural Heritage System and Agricultural System, the Province permits municipalities to refine provincial mapping with greater precision in a manner that is consistent with the Growth Plan. However, this is only permitted as part of a "municipal comprehensive review," which is a new official plan or an official plan amendment initiated by the upper-tier or single-tier municipality, in this case Halton Region, that comprehensively

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part of the Region of Halton's next Regional Official Plan Review. The City cannot make refinements to the mapping in the Burlington Official Plan until the Region completes its municipal comprehensive review through its Official Plan Review process.

For a summary and a set of frequently asked questions, please visit the province's website at: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/agsys-sum.htm>.

For additional information please contact:

Leah Smith, Senior Planner

905-335-7600 x7508

Leah.Smith@burlington.ca

Updated Mapping and Policies related to the Region's Employment Area

Staff have received feedback from the Region of Halton related to those lands being recommended for conversion within the Region's Employment Area.

Throughout the Official Plan project it was acknowledged that no decision could be made on lands within the Region's Employment Area until the Region completed its municipal comprehensive review. Further it was acknowledged that the City analysis was to be forwarded to the Region to be considered through that process.

In order to support the demonstration of conformity with the Regional Official Plan the Urban Structure schedule has been modified to show the full extent of the Region's Employment Area and a new Appendix A: "Urban Structure Vision" has been included. The policies of the plan have been modified to, among other things, identify the municipal comprehensive review and the goals of the employment land conversion recommendations presented in policy and shown within Appendix A. This approach details the City's long term urban structure needs given its context as a built out municipality.

The modifications to schedules and mapping maintain the intent of the recommendations that were previously considered by Council, but express that intent in a way to avoid conformity issues with the Regional Official Plan. The approach will be documented in the forthcoming staff report that recommends adoption of the new Official Plan.

For additional information please contact:

Alison Enns, Senior Planner

905-335-7600 x7787

Alison.Enns@burlington.ca

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Should you make a submission on the proposed new Official Plan we would like to advise:

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