

Meeting: GENERAL PURPOSE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Date: September 15, 2008

Dept: Planning and Public Works

Report No: PLAN-2008-43-GP&A

Title: TOWNSHIP OF SCUGOG OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW –
PROPOSED STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT this Committee recommend to Council that the Township of Scugog Official Plan Review document entitled *Proposed Strategic Directions, September 2008*, appended as Attachment 1, be received for information and released for public and stakeholder comment until October 3, 2008.

BACKGROUND:

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to release the Official Plan Review document entitled *Proposed Strategic Directions*.

2. OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW PROCESS TO DATE

In January 2007, Council authorized initiation of the Township of Scugog Official Plan Review (see Report No. PLAN-2007-02) and approved the budget and terms of reference for the update in March 2007 (see Report No. PLAN-2007-11). The review is being carried out over 2007 and 2008.

Phase I (Issues Identification) of the Official Plan Review was completed in early 2007, with the release of the *Planning Issues Report* and the *Growth*

Management Discussion Paper, and three public meetings to hear comments on the documents. Since that time, the Review process has produced a series of background papers that will be used to form the basis for an updated plan.

On June 30, 2008, the General Purpose and Administration Committee authorized Staff to release the final background paper, entitled *Planning Directions Report*. This paper constitutes the completion of Phase II (Key Policy Papers and Directions) of the three stage review process. The staff report (PLAN-2008-34-GP&A) introducing the paper also made the following recommendation, which was endorsed by Committee:

THAT stakeholders also be consulted on the Foundation, Principles and Objectives of the Official Plan during the public workshops to assist the Township in preparing overarching community strategies to guide future municipal operations.

Over the summer, the Township's planning consultant, Meridian Planning Consultants, initiated preparation of the new Township Official Plan in preparation for the public meetings this fall. One of the initial components prepared by the consultant was the *Strategic Directions* for the plan.

3. PROPOSED STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The proposed Strategic Directions, contained in Attachment 1, provide the foundation upon which the updated Township Official Plan will be based. These directions are intended to establish the framework for the policies in the Plan. Where situations of uncertainty or conflict arise in the interpretation or implementation, reference will be made to the directions.

There are eight proposed directions:

1. *Growth Management* provides guidance for ensuring sustainable development, given expected growth pressures. Direction for reaching employment targets is also provided.
2. *Natural Heritage and Resource Management* provides direction for protecting natural heritage features in the Township consistent with the policies of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Plan.

3. *Agriculture* provides direction for the continued protection and promotion of agricultural and value-added agricultural operations and resources in the Township.
4. *Housing* provides direction for the provision of a diverse housing stock in terms of type, tenure, density and affordability within the Township. Intensification and infill development will also be encouraged and supported.
5. *Culture* provide direction for the protection and enhancement of the distinct cultural and historical heritage of the Township and for the promotion of its value through the community.
6. *Infrastructure* provides direction regarding the provision of infrastructure to meet the needs of present and future residents and businesses in an efficient, economical, and environmentally sensitive manner.
7. *Economic Development* provides guidance to encourage development that provides opportunities for economic growth that is compatible with the character and environment of the Township.
8. *Sustainability* provides direction for decisions relating to future land use, public works and capital expenditures, so as to ensure such decisions have consideration for the long term impacts on the environment, economy and the community.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

As noted in Report No. PLAN-2008-34-GP&A, workshops are being planned for September 23 and 24, 2008 in Port Perry and Blackstock, respectively, as part of the next round of public consultation for the Official Plan Review. The workshop format planned will provide an ideal opportunity to engage stakeholders in an assessment of the proposed Strategic Directions.

During the workshops, participants will be asked for their feedback on the proposed Strategic Directions, to confirm whether these overarching principles are aligned with community expectations.

5. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

The *Proposed Strategic Directions* constitute the first step of Phase III of the Township Official Plan Review, and provide the foundation upon which the updated Plan will be based. It is recommended that the document be released and the public and agencies be provided an opportunity to comment until October 3, 2008. During this period, the document will be presented and discussed at the two upcoming workshops for the Official Plan Review. Staff will report back to Council on the outcome of these sessions, in particular the feedback on the Strategic Directions.

It is recommended that notification of the document release be provided in the Bulletin Board and on the Township website. The report will be made available at the Scugog Memorial Public Library and in the Municipal Office, and placed on the website.

FUNDING OPTIONS: Approved 2008 Planning and Public Works Department Budget (Official Plan Review)

Respectfully submitted:

Approved for presentation to Committee:

Gene Chartier, P.Eng.
Commissioner of Planning &
Public Works

Bev Hendry
CAO