



INFORMATION REPORT
TOWN OF NEWMARKET
395 Mulock Drive
P.O. Box 328
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

www.newmarket.ca
info@newmarket.ca
905.895.5193

February 29, 2016

REPORT – INFORMATION REPORT # 2016-09

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
SLT/OLT

SUBJECT: 2015 Coordinated Provincial Plan Review

ORIGIN: Development & Infrastructure Services

COMMENTS

The purpose of this Information Report is to advise Members of Council and SLT/OLT on the status of the comments previously provided by the Town to the Province regarding the review of the Niagara Escarpment Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, Greenbelt Plan and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (known collectively as the 2015 Coordinated Provincial Plan Review).

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any Member of Council may request this Information Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion through the Clerk's office.

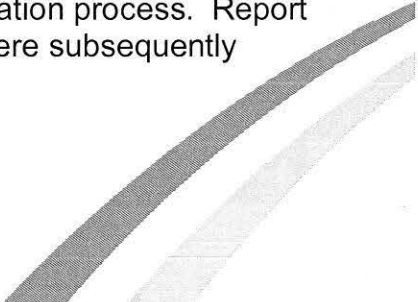
Background

On February 27, 2015, the Province initiated the process regarding the Coordinated Provincial Plan Review. The following Plans were included in the 2015 Provincial Review:

- Niagara Escarpment Plan (1985) - revised in 1994 and 2005
- Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (2002)
- Greenbelt Plan (2005)
- Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2006)

To support the coordinated review, the Government of Ontario appointed an Advisory Panel to develop recommendations on how to amend and improve the plans. The Advisory Panel carried out a public consultation process wherein approximately 19,300 submissions were received, including 60 from municipalities. In addition, 17 regional town hall meetings were held throughout the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

The Town of Newmarket submitted comments as part of this public consultation process. Report 2015-13, prepared in May, 2015, contained the Town's comments which were subsequently forwarded to the Province.



The Advisory Panel reviewed all received comments and prepared the document: "Planning for Health, Prosperity and Growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe: 2015-2041" which contains the Advisory Panel's recommendations to the Province based around six strategic directions:

- Building complete communities
- Supporting agriculture
- Protecting natural and cultural heritage
- Providing infrastructure
- Mainstreaming climate change
- Implementing the plans

Analysis

Staff have reviewed the recommendations contained in the "Planning for Health, Prosperity and Growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe: 2015-2041" document and provide the below analysis. Each of the Town's comments is provided in italics, followed by a determination on whether or not the Advisory Panel's recommendations adequately address each comment.

- *The Town supports a consolidated/coordinated review of these plans as they need to work together to appropriately direct growth in the Region and Greater Golden Horseshoe, and to promote consistency between definitions and overall land use planning, environmental, and economic development goals.*

Recommendation 23 includes revising the Growth Plan's definitions with those of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) as they relate to employment areas, and Recommendation 33 includes aligning agricultural terminology and policies in the four plans with the PPS. Most significantly, Recommendation 75 proposes to streamline the policy framework provided in the four plans to the extent possible to increase clarity and consistency while ensuring that the primary intent and highest standards currently set by the plans are not compromised. In addition, Recommendation 76 seeks to streamline the conformity process wherever possible by synchronizing the process and timelines among the Greenbelt Plan, Growth Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. Based on these recommendations, Staff are satisfied that this comment has been addressed.

- *A portion of the Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) lands within Newmarket is shown as "Settlement Area" in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP), but have been designated as Environmental Protection lands in Newmarket's Planning documents. As part of the ORMCP review, portions of the land within the ORM that are outside of the urban boundary as has been defined through our Planning documents, and that are not needed to support growth, could potentially be re-designated in the ORMCP from "Settlement Area" to be consistent with our Planning documents. A detailed analysis would need to be undertaken to determine which, if any, lands might apply.*

Recommendation 73 provides that within the time period of the Coordinated Provincial Plan Review, the Province should address designation and boundary concerns associated with

the existing ORMCP (as well as other Plans), through policy changes based on recommendations related to such matters including settlement area expansion and complete communities. This recommendation sets out a framework and timeframe for considering re-designations within the Plans, and therefore, based on this recommendation, Staff are satisfied that this comment has been addressed.

- *It may be appropriate, with the concurrence of East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville, to review land on the east side of Highway 404 adjacent to Newmarket with the purpose of removing it from the Greenbelt. The Growth Plan indicates that the use of existing infrastructure is to be optimized and encourages the use of existing infrastructure by promoting development where infrastructure expansions would be minimal and that employment lands be strategically located within urban areas near major transportation corridors. This was not intended to reflect a desire by Newmarket for municipal boundary adjustments; rather, it reflects an opportunity to support growth for employment lands in appropriate locations with minimal infrastructure expansion.*

The document notes that the Province has received many inquiries and requests to revise policies, change designations, remove lands from the Greenbelt and adjust its boundaries based in part on the creation of future employment lands along existing infrastructure corridors. Recommendation 24 seeks to update the Growth Plan to require municipalities to identify strategic employment lands within settlement areas at the regional level based on criteria set out by the Province, such as proximity to major transportation infrastructure including ports, railroads and highway interchanges. Staff are comfortable with this recommendation, however note that the lands in question are currently in the Greenbelt Plan area. As noted above, Recommendation 73 provides that within the time period of the Coordinated Provincial Plan Review, the Province should address designation and boundary concerns associated with the existing Greenbelt Plan (as well as other Plans), through policy changes based on recommendations related to such matters including strategic employment lands. Based on these two recommendations, Staff are satisfied that this comment has been addressed.

- *There may be an opportunity to consider portions of the ORM lands within Newmarket as additional Greenbelt land.*

Through the consultation process, some municipalities and stakeholders expressed interest in adding specific hydrological and agricultural areas as well as major urban river valleys to the Greenbelt area. Recommendation 71 seeks to establish a Provincially led process, in consultation with the Niagara Escarpment Commission, municipalities, conservation authorities, stakeholders and the public, to grow the Greenbelt (including the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation and Niagara Escarpment Plan areas) beyond its current boundary, using a systems approach, based on areas of ecological and hydrological significance where urbanization should not occur. Therefore, this recommended process contemplates and sets a framework for converting ORM lands to Greenbelt Protected Countryside. Based on this recommendation, Staff are satisfied that this comment has been addressed.

Staff are satisfied that the Advisory Panel's recommendations adequately address the Town's comments previously submitted as part of the Coordinated Provincial Plan Review.

CONSULTATION

Not applicable to this Information Report.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

Providing input on Provincial plans and legislation supports the *Well-respected* branch of the Community Strategic Plan by being an influential contributor to regional and provincial affairs.

HUMAN RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

There are no Human Resource impacts associated with this Information Report.

BUDGET IMPACT

There are no Capital or Operating Budget impacts associated with this Information Report.

CONTACT

For more information on this report, contact Adrian Cammaert, Senior Planner, Policy, 905-953-5321, ext. 2459, or by email at acammaert@newmarket.ca




Adrian Cammaert, Senior Planner, Policy



Jason Unger, Assistant Director of Planning



Rick Nethery, Director of Planning & Building Services



Peter Noehammer, Commissioner Development and Infrastructure Services