

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 27, 2015

**TO:** HONOURABLE MAYOR & MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

**FROM:** JOHN MACKENZIE, COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNICATION  
MEMBER'S RESOLUTION – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MARCH 3, 2015  
ITEM #18  
OAK RIDGES MORAINÉ CONSERVATION PLAN REVIEW

---

### **Recommendation**

1. That representatives from York Region be requested to provide an update on the status the York Region Municipal Comprehensive (Official Plan) Review to the Committee of the Whole Working Session on May 12, 2015; and
2. That staff report on the timing and parameters of the Provincial Plan review upon its announcement including the formalization of the City's comments on the affected Plans.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this communication is to respond to the Member's Resolution regarding the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Review.

### **Background – Analysis and Options**

Staff concur with the intent to report on the matters referred to in the resolution. However, the report should be considered in the context of the timing of related Regional and Provincial planning initiatives. For example, it is important to note that it is our understanding that the Province is now embarking on simultaneous reviews of a number of Provincial Plans, including the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. The Provincial review will also encompass the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Niagara Escarpment Plan and the Greenbelt Plan. Three of these plans have a prominent presence in the Region of York and the City and are important structural elements of the Vaughan Official Plan. As of this date, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has not announced the detailed parameters of the reviews. As a result, the required timing for preparation of municipal responses is not known. Once the review is announced, it would be appropriate to report back to Committee on the plan for the City's approach to providing input on the review, which would ultimately result in a follow-up report(s) to Council to confirm any formal comments to the Province.

The matters raised in the recital of the resolution related to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan will also be pertinent considerations in the review of the other Provincial Plans. This is particularly the case in considering the accommodation of projected population and employment growth and whether future growth will need to be accommodated by the expansion of the settlement areas or through greater intensification within the existing urban envelope, or both. For the Growth Plan population and employment projections to become effective at the local level, they must be allocated to the local municipality by the Regional government together with a corresponding land budget and intensification targets. York Region has initiated its Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR), for the purpose of updating the Regional Official Plan. Amendment No. 2 to the Growth Plan contains the new population and employment base extending out to 2036 and 2041. The Region's response to Amendment 2 and the outcome of the MCR will be reflected in the updated York Region Official Plan. The population and employment allocated to Vaughan would then be incorporated into the Vaughan Official Plan 2010 at the

time of its next review in accordance with the land budget and intensification targets set out in the Region of York Official Plan.

### **Conclusion**

To provide context to this process and to inform our report back to Council, it would be appropriate to hear an update from York Region on the progress being made on its MCR. Representatives from the Region have been tentatively scheduled to attend the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) on May 12, 2015 to provide an update on the status of the MCR, including consideration of any further impacts resulting from the review of the Provincial Plans. Upon announcement of the Provincial Plan review, staff will be reporting to Council on the parameters of the review and the prescribed timelines for providing formal comments from the City.

Therefore, it is recommended that representatives from York Region be requested to provide an update on the status the York Region Municipal Comprehensive (Official Plan) Review to the Committee of the Whole Working Session on May 12, 2015; and that staff report on the timing and parameters of the Provincial Plan review upon its announcement including the formalization of the City's comments on the affected Plans.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Mackenzie', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**JOHN MACKENZIE**  
Commissioner of Planning

RM/lm

Copy To:      Barbara Cribbett, Interim City Manager  
                 Jeffrey A. Abrams, City Clerk  
                 Roy McQuillin, Acting Director of Policy Planning