



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Mission Statement: As stewards of the Town of Amherstburg, we strive to improve the quality of life of all residents through the delivery of effective, efficient, and affordable services.

Author's Name: Christopher Aspila	Report Date: June 20, 2024
Author's Phone: 519 736-5408 ext. 2124	Date to Council: July 8, 2024
Author's E-mail: caspila@amherstburg.ca	Resolution #:

To: Mayor and Members of Town Council

Subject: Official Plan Update Report 3

1. RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. The report titled "Official Plan Update Report 3" **BE RECEIVED for information.**

2. BACKGROUND:

In November 2022, the Planning team began to revisit the approach to updating the Official Plan, Zoning By-law, Heritage Conservation District and related studies. The Manager of Planning Services, in consultation with all members of the Planning team and the Deputy CAO / Director of Development Services, determined that, with the continuing record level of planning applications and building permit reviews requiring the Planning Departments involvement, issuing a Request for Proposals is the recommended way forward to complete these Council directed initiatives.

At the February 13, 2023 Council meeting, Administration brought a report to Council outlining the Major Planning Policy Studies which needed to be complete. This included the Official Plan & Zoning By-law update, and the Heritage Conservation District projects. These projects were identified as requiring specialised consultants to complete the work. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was prepared in consultation with purchasing staff and on March 27, 2023 Council awarded RFP 2023-004 to Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) for the preparation of the Official Plan and Zoning By-law Update.

The associated administrative work with preparing and implementing the contract was completed and formal work started on the project in early May 2023.

At the August 14, 2023 Council meeting, Administration brought a report to Council for information that included an update on the project work completed by Dillon Consulting. As noted in that report a Background Review, Issues & Opportunities Report was drafted. Building on the information gained at the Open House held at the Libro Centre on July 26, 2023 and responses to a survey that was open on Talk the Burg for 3 weeks until August 6, 2023.

At the April 9, 2024 Council meeting, Administration brought a report to Council for information that provided a summary of the three background reports that were brought forward under separate cover at the same meeting:

- 1) Land Needs Assessment Report;
- 2) Town of Amherstburg Urban Structure Plan
- 3) Policy Direction Report.

The work program for Amherstburg's Official Plan Update has continued and has been informed by the concurrent work on the County of Essex Official Plan Review, and Royal Assent of Bill 185 and Bill 200 on June 6, 2024 that made changes to the Planning Act, Municipal Act, Heritage Act and Development Charges Act.

3. DISCUSSION:

The timing and content of the Royal Assent versions of Bill 185 and Bill 200 approved by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario have impacted the timeline of the Official Plan Update. Now that changes to the legislation are complete and in force the Official Plan Update can move forward. Any changes that may occur from the potential forthcoming updates to the Provincial Planning Statement (2024) will be addressed through a separate Official Plan Amendment following the Town's Official Plan Update project.

The Town will be hosting an Official Plan Update Public Information Centre at the Libro Centre on Tuesday August 6, 2024 to present draft Official Plan schedules for comments from the public. This event will be advertised on the Town calendar advertisement in future editions of the River Town Times and details will be posted on TalkTheBurg.ca/Official Plan.

Following the above mentioned Public Information Centre, comments received will be considered by our Consulting Team and a draft version of the new Official Plan will tentatively be brought forward to Council at a Statutory Public Meeting to be scheduled in October 2024. The draft version of the new Official Plan will be made available on the TalkTheBurg.ca/Official Plan website approximately three weeks prior to the Statutory Public Meeting.

It is anticipated that the final version of the new Official Plan will be brought forward to Council for adoption at the November or December 2024 Council meeting. Following Council adoption, the new Official Plan will be forwarded to the County of Essex for approval.

4. RISK ANALYSIS:

There is no risk in receiving this report for information.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

N/A

6. CONSULTATIONS:

Official Plan Update Technical Team

7. CORPORATE STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Vision: Preserving our past while forging our future.

<i>Amherstburg Community Strategic Plan 2022 - 2026</i>	
<p style="text-align: center;">PILLAR 1 Deliver Trusted & Accountable Local Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improve trust between council and staff, and residents, by strengthening governance and internal accountability structures. <input type="checkbox"/> Deliver transparent and efficient financial management. ✓ Increase effective communication and engagement with residents. <input type="checkbox"/> Develop our staff team, resources, and workplace culture. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to deliver strong core municipal services. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure Amherstburg is an inclusive accessible and welcoming community committed to reconciliation. 	<p style="text-align: center;">PILLAR 3 Encourage Local Economic Prosperity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage development of commercial and industrial lands. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to promote local tourism industry, especially overnight accommodation. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to facilitate downtown development for residents and visitors. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to leverage partnership opportunities with other provincial, federal, and local governments, agencies, and organizations.
<p style="text-align: center;">PILLAR 2 Invest in Community Amenities and Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain safe, reliable and accessible municipal infrastructure and facilities. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase access to recreation opportunities for all ages. <input type="checkbox"/> Finalize and execute plans for town-owned lands (e.g. Duffy’s site, Belle Vue) <input type="checkbox"/> Create public access to water and waterfront <input type="checkbox"/> Prioritize opportunities to reduce environmental impacts of Town 	<p style="text-align: center;">PILLAR 4 Shape Growth Aligned with Local Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Define and communicate a vision for the Town’s future and identity. <input type="checkbox"/> Promote and plan for green and “climate change ready” development. <input type="checkbox"/> Review and implement policies that promote greater access to diverse housing. <input type="checkbox"/> Protect the Town’s historic sites and heritage.

operations and increase Town resilience to climate change.

Preserve the Town's greenspaces, agricultural lands, and natural environment.

8. CONCLUSION:

This report provides Council with an update on the status of the Official Plan Update including a timeline for completion and adoption of the new Official Plan.



Christopher Aspila
Manager of Planning Services

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Official Plan Update Report 3.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 26, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Melissa Osborne



Tracy Prince



Valerie Critchley



Kevin Fox