

Report #6 of the Planning & Economic Development Committee

For consideration by Regional Council

June 28, 2023

The Planning & Economic Development Committee recommends approval of the following:

1. Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and 2023 Workplan ([2023-P-16](#))

 - A) That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee's 2023 Terms of Reference be approved, as outlined in Attachment #1 to Report #2023-P-16 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development;
 - B) That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee's 2023 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment #2 to Report #2023-P-16; and
 - C) That a copy of Report #2023-P-16 be forwarded to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Durham Federation of Agriculture, the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance and the area municipalities.
2. Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee 2023 Workplan and Terms of Reference ([2023-P-17](#))

 - A) That the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee's 2023 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment #2 to Report #2023-P-17 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development; and
 - B) That a copy of Report #2023-P-17 be forwarded to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee, Conservation Authorities, and the area municipalities.
3. Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) 2023 Workplan ([2023-P-18](#))

 - A) That the Durham Active Transportation Committee's 2023 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment #1 to Report #2023-P-18 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development; and
 - B) That a copy of Report #2023-P-18 be forwarded to the Durham Active Transportation Advisory Committee, Conservation Authorities, and Durham's area municipalities.

4. Durham Region's Response to Provincial Consultation on Bill 97 – The Helping Homeowners, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023, the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, and Related ERO Postings #019-6821, #019-6822, #019-6813 ([2023-P-19](#))

- A) That the letter dated May 5, 2023 (Attachment #1 to Report #2023-P-19 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development) from the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, be endorsed as Durham Region's comments on Bill 97;
- B) That the following recommendations form the Region's comments on the proposed Provincial Planning Statement, namely that the province:
 - i) make stable and predictable funding available to Indigenous communities to facilitate their fulsome participation in the planning process;
 - ii) require municipalities to develop population and employment forecasts to a common 25 to 30-year time horizon based on a standard methodology provided by the province;
 - iii) continue to require that settlement area boundary expansions be permitted only through municipal comprehensive reviews, informed by a standardized methodology. Within a regional context, the implications of infrastructure and servicing on settlement area boundary expansions collectively should continue to rest with upper-tier municipalities as the jurisdiction responsible for the infrastructure and servicing, regardless of planning approval responsibility;
 - iv) continue to consult on the implementation framework so that municipalities within the Greenbelt Plan area can understand how they will be affected by the proposed policy changes;
 - v) permit municipalities to designate Strategic Growth Areas (SGAs) in their official plans and clarify if the Highway-2 BRT in Durham would be captured as a higher order transit corridor following repeal of the Growth Plan;
 - vi) continue to support intensification targets and approaches to calculation within municipal official plans;
 - vii) continue to consult with upper-tier municipalities that may no longer have planning approval authority under Bill 23 on how the proposed new PPS can be implemented through their role as a Housing Service Manager to facilitate the coordinated delivery of affordable housing;

- viii) provide definitions (e.g. affordable and attainable) and establish clear policy that enables the delivery of affordable housing and include targets, definitions and policies in the proposed new PPS;
- ix) uphold agricultural systems planning and strengthen language in the proposed new PPS to require municipalities to use an agricultural systems approach;
- x) allow the ability for limited lot creation on rural lands, but only if it is locally appropriate while discouraging residential lot creation in prime agricultural areas, aside from those created through surplus farm dwellings;
- xi) not permit light industrial, manufacturing and small-scale warehousing within SGAs as it would undermine the ability for sensitive uses, particularly residential uses, to locate within SGAs;
- xii) include policy language that will strengthen a municipalities' ability to require mixed use developments in SGAs, and not solely residential developments, which could undermine the province's objectives related to complete communities;
- xiii) clarify the general intent of the proposed policy that requires municipalities to "leverage the capacity of development proponents" in planning for infrastructure and public service facilities as it may be interpreted to mean that municipalities will be compelled to enter into agreements with proponents for the provision of infrastructure and public service facilities;
- xiv) release proposed natural heritage policies and definitions as soon as possible and in turn allow stakeholders time to comment on the proposed new PPS holistically;
- xv) develop policy approaches to intensification and settlement area boundary expansions within the context of a changing climate;
- xvi) include a policy framework for natural hazards within the final proposed new PPS to support municipalities in their efforts to ensure public health and safety, protect property, and avoid the creation of new or aggravate existing natural hazards;
- xvii) retain policy direction for on-site and local reuse of excess soil, and provide planning authorities with guidance on how to accommodate expected increases in excess soil generated as residential development accelerates; and

C) That a copy of Report #2023-P-19 be forwarded to Durham's area municipalities, conservation authorities, and neighbouring municipalities for information.

5. Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee Resolution re: Appointment of a DECAC Representative on Friends of Second Marsh Board of Directors

That Muaz Nasir be appointed as the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) representative on the Friends of Second Marsh Board of Directors.

6. Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Resolution re: City of Pickering – Backyard Chickens in Pickering

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee is in support of the City of Pickering's resolution to not proceed with a backyard chicken pilot program, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the area municipalities.

7. Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Resolution re: Impacts of Bill 97

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee strongly opposes Bill 97 as it does not consider the impact of severances on Minimum Distance Separations in relation to animal operations; and it encourages farmland fragmentation which will negatively impact long-term farm environmental and economic sustainability.

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair, Planning & Economic Development Committee