

Impacts of the release and development of Greenbelt lands

Moved by: S. Collier

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WHEREAS Envision Durham, the Municipal Comprehensive Review of our Official plan, was launched in 2019 to meet the Region's growing population;

AND WHEREAS during this multi-year process, the Region has conducted in-depth studies and produced thorough reports about how and where to grow, including the Growth Management Study which included various land need scenarios, and preferred scenarios which were endorsed by Regional Council on May 25, 2022; the 'Draft Settlement Area Boundary Expansions and Area Municipal Growth Allocations' (SABE) report, which was released on November 10, 2022, and the draft Regional Official Plan which was released on February 10, 2023;

AND WHEREAS on November 4, 2022, the provincial government announced amendments to the Greenbelt Plan to remove 7,400 acres from the Greenbelt, including 4,500 acres in Durham Region, to be used to build housing in the near term;

AND WHEREAS the impact of the development of the former Greenbelt lands in Durham Region is not reflected in any of the Envision Durham analysis or growth allocations released by the Region;

AND WHEREAS impacts of development, including municipal servicing capacity and feasibility, transportation connectivity, the financial viability of providing and maintaining services, are likely to result in serious unintended consequences such as project delays and financial hardships;

AND WHEREAS Regional Council has yet to approve the new Regional Official Plan and there is still an opportunity for reflection;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- Staff address the implications of the release and development of the Greenbelt lands in a report;
- That consideration of the new Regional Official Plan by Council not take place until the above mentioned report has been completed.