



# The Corporation of the Town of Milton

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Report To: Council

From: Jill Hogan, Commissioner, Development Services

Date: April 13, 2026

Report No: DS-029-26

Subject: We Make Milton Official Plan Consultations

**Recommendation:** THAT Report DS-029-26 regarding the Milton Official Plan review be received for information for the purpose of a Statutory Public Meeting.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Staff has drafted and are engaging the community on the new fully comprehensive Official Plan.
- In January 2026, a series of consultation events were held.
- The current draft of the Official Plan incorporates the solutions that were reached as a result of those consultations.
- A statutory open house was held on March 31 to provide an opportunity for the draft Official Plan to be reviewed. Staff were available to answer questions. The purpose of this Public Meeting is for Council to hear from community members prior to making a decision. Council is not being asked to make a decision at this time.
- Following this Public Meeting, as directed by Council, Staff will make any final refinements to the draft plan taking into account any written or verbal comments received from the public.
- At a later council meeting Staff will present the final Official Plan for adoption.
- The new Official Plan must be approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing prior to coming into full force and effect.

## REPORT

### Background

The Town's new Official Plan Project. We Make Milton, was launched in 2019 through report PD-030-19. The purpose of the project is to update the Official Plan, bringing it into conformity with Provincial plans and policies and to respond to current local considerations for growth and development. The update is occurring in phases and the project is in the



## Background

final phase. Staff are consulting on the final version of the draft Official Plan policies and schedules. Throughout the process community engagement has been essential. A variety of engagement tools and opportunities have led to the development of the new draft Official Plan.

In accordance with Section 26 of the Planning Act, a Special Meeting of Council was held on November 18, 2019. Staff report PD-043-19 provided a summary of the issues identified through the “Listening and Learning” phase of the project.

In 2021, following extensive community consultation, Council approved a new Official Plan Vision Statement and Guiding Principles. The vision and guiding principles have been used to guide subsequent phases of We Make Milton.

During 2022 through 2023, Council received a series of discussion papers or “Big Questions” reports. The questions allowed for analysis of the options and presentation of solutions for a variety of growth management challenges that Milton’s Official Plan will address. Formal and informal community engagement events were held to seek feedback on the potential approaches to new policies. Community members were also encouraged to submit comments to the Town through the Let’s Talk Milton on-line platform.

The new Official Plan policies have been drafted in two phases. During the first phase, policies that established the framework for guiding growth and development to the year 2051 were prepared. These policies communicated the outcomes that the Town wants to achieve. They replaced the first three introductory chapters in the previous Official Plan. Generally, any existing policies in the remaining chapters that contradicted the new framework were removed and initial amends to the implementation policies were made. The Halton Region Official Plan was amended by merging pertinent policies into the Town’s plan.

Staff held a series of consultations, including focused meetings with community members when requested. Informal community engagement events took place, such as an information booth at the local farmers market, open houses at Town Hall and events in other public venues. As required under the Planning Act, a formal open house and public meeting were held. In March 2025, the changes were adopted by Council through Official Plan Amendment 92. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing then approved the amendment in December 2025.

In the second phase of the Official Plan review, Staff has drafted and are engaging the community on the new fully comprehensive Official Plan (Appendix 1 - Draft Town of Milton Official Plan March 2026). This new Official Plan includes the detailed implementation policies that provide the land use permissions, built form criteria and Official plan administration policies. These policies and revised mapping are the subject of the current consultations.

## Discussion

In January 2026, a series of consultation events were held. Through this engagement process Staff received extensive feedback on the draft plan. Several interested parties submitted written comments (Appendix 2 - Summary of Submissions and Responses). When requested, follow-up meetings were held to discuss the comments and potential solutions. The current draft of the Official Plan incorporates the solutions that were reached.

A statutory open house was held on March 31 to provide an opportunity for the draft Official Plan to be reviewed. Staff were available to answer any questions. The purpose of this Public Meeting is for Council to hear from community members prior to making a decision. Council is not being asked to make a decision at this time.

Presented to Council in this report is the latest draft of the Official Plan. The updated draft builds upon and further refines the new policies that were approved through Official Plan amendment 92 and adds newly developed policies, taking into account feedback received through the consultations. The updated draft is summarized below.

Chapters 1 and 2 set the Milton context for growth and development and present the framework for growth. The population and employment growth targets were based on work completed by Watson and Associates. These targets are the basis for the intensification and density targets, projected timing of growth and the municipal structure that has been identified to facilitate the growing community. The Town's structure will continue to have an urban and rural area that is overlaid by a thriving natural heritage system. Within the urban area, Major Urban Centre, Urban Village Centres, Community Hubs, Neighbourhoods, and Economic Growth Areas will together accommodate a variety of built forms and land uses to create a vibrant and sustainable community. Within the rural area the Prime Agricultural Lands, Rural Lands and Hamlet accommodate the economic, housing, cultural and daily needs of the community.

Refinements were made to this chapter to clarify the intent of the policies, ensure consistent terminology and insert housekeeping amendments. For example, refinements were made to ensure the information in the tables, identification of places and defined terms were consistent with the schedules, secondary plans and provincial plan.

Chapter 3 provides the policies for identifying protecting, enhancing or restoring the Town's Environmental Systems. The policies and mapping have been updated to reflect the updated Provincial Policy Statement, 2024, among other provincial legislation and to incorporate outcomes from local studies. The goal of the policies is to create a long-term healthy and connected environmental system by retaining or restoring the features, areas and their functions. The policies also protect people and property from locating in areas that are unsafe.

All of the policies related to environmental management have been consolidated into one chapter. Refinements removed duplication of policies, clarified the policy wording to better communicate the intent and align with Provincial directions.

## Discussion

The transportation policies have been consolidated into Chapter 4, Sustainable Transportation. The policies recognize that transportation connects people and places and influences quality of life. The new policies reflect the outcome of Town studies such as the Transportation Master Plan and Transit Master Plan. The policies have been updated, as appropriate to reflect the road function and classification requirements. For example, discrepancies in the Classification, Function and Design Requirements Table and Right-of-Way Width Table were corrected. Policies facilitating safe multi-modal travel options have been set out. Policies were updated to clarify the Town's transportation requirements and new policies were added to further facilitate implementation.

Through consultations, it was communicated that housing affordability was a concern to community members. The updated policies in Chapter 5 insert affordable rental and ownership housing targets that are derived from the Town's Housing Strategy. The implementation policies set out a framework for assessing and monitoring the availability of affordable housing. Based on the feedback received staff have clarified the intent of the policies and the reporting requirements related to affordable housing. The affordable housing tables were also updated to simplify and clarify the information.

The policies in Chapter 5 also address creating people-friendly places with parks and open spaces, cultural heritage and accessible institutional uses. It is recognized that major institutions such as colleges and universities are choosing to locate in Milton. The Official Plan fosters their integration into the community. Policies further addressing the integration of additional land uses, including places of worship and employment lands were refined. The intent is to allow these uses to find appropriate places to locate, providing ease of access, while minimizing any adverse impacts to the surrounding community.

Creating diverse options for where community members live, work and grow is central to the Official Plan vision statement. The draft Official Plan creates opportunities to locate land uses in a variety of locations through a wider range of permissions. The draft Official Plan uses tools such as built form criteria to ensure compatibility among the mix of land uses. These permissions and criteria are presented in Chapter 6.

Updated were made to Chapter 6 which removed duplication, corrected errors, clarified the policy intent and ensure consistent terminology. New policies and charts were inserted to facilitate implementation requirements. For example, to avoid confusion, a chart was inserted to communicate the land use permissions within the Secondary Plan Areas.

The administration process for undertaking the land use planning projects is set out in Chapter 7. Many of these processes are directed through Provincial legislation. Others have been determined by the Town as the optimal approach to ensure accountability, clarity and efficiency. The updated policies have been amended to streamline the area specific planning process. The updated policies provide a framework that gives flexibility when advancing development in an orderly manner. The approach delivers complete communities while protecting the fiscal interest of the municipality.



## Discussion

### Next Steps

Following this public meeting, as directed by Council, Staff will make any final refinements to the draft plan taking into account any written or verbal comments received from the public. At a later council meeting Staff will present the final Official Plan for adoption. If adopted by Council, that document would wholly repeal and replace the current in-effect Official Plan, including the Halton Region Official Plan which became an Official Plan of the Town of Milton. The new Official Plan must be approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing prior to coming into full force and effect.

## Financial Impact

There are no financial implications.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Hogan  
Commissioner, Development Services

For questions, please contact: Gail Anderson, Senior Planner Phone: Ext. 2332

## Attachments

Appendix 1 - Draft Town of Milton Official Plan March 2026

Appendix 2 - Summary of Submissions and Responses

Approved by CAO  
Andrew M. Siltala  
Chief Administrative Officer

## Recognition of Traditional Lands

The Town of Milton resides on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people. The Town of Milton shares this land and the responsibility for the water, food and resources. We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.