



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To: Council

From: Jill Hogan, Commissioner, Development Services

Date: June 3, 2024

Report No: DS-051-24

Subject: We Make Milton Official Plan Review - Draft Official Plan Part One

Recommendation: THAT Report DS- 051-24 providing an update on the We Make Milton Official Plan project and a first consultation draft of Phase One of the proposed new Official Plan be received.

AND THAT Council direct Staff to consult with the public and stakeholders regarding the draft Phase One of the new Official Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We Make Milton is the Town's Official Plan review and update project. The project began in 2019 with Council's approval of report PD-030-19.

To date, Staff have completed:

Stage 1 - Listening and Learning: understanding opportunities and challenges

Stage 2 - Visioning and Guiding Principles: determining the land use aspirations

Stage 3 - Big Questions: researching fundamental topic and recommending solutions

The project is in Stage 4 - Drafting and Discussion. During Stage 4, Staff are drafting the new policies using a phased approach. The new Official Plan is being developed in two phases. Draft Official Plan Phase 1 are foundational policies. These policies begin to implement the vision by providing general directions and a framework for managing growth to the year 2051. Draft Official Plan Phase 2 will provide the more detailed development management and implementation directions, including specific land use permissions and designations.

The purpose of this report is to present Draft Official Plan Phase One and to seek Council direction to consult on the draft policies. The input received during these consultations will

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

be used to refine and finalize the draft Phase One new Official Plan policies before developing the detailed implementing policy direction in Phase Two.

REPORT

Background

We Make Milton is a multi-year project to review and update the Official Plan. The project began in 2019 with Council’s approval of report PD-030-19. Council approved a work plan and direction for staff to develop contemporary, strategic, and forward-looking policies for Milton.

The We Make Milton project is being completed in five stages.

Table 1: We Make Milton Work Program and Status

Stage	Name	Purpose	Status
1	Listening and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to ideas about planning issues, opportunities and challenges in Milton. Generate awareness about the project. 	Completed 2019
2	Visioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new land use planning Vision and Guiding Principles for future planning and development. 	Completed 2021
3	Big Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and answer big questions about how to manage change to the year 2051. Develop recommended policy directions based on community input. 	Completed 2023
4	Drafting and Discussing	Phase One	This Report

Background

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare first draft of the new Milton Official Plan framework policies. • Undertake preliminary consultation on the first draft. • Finalize foundational policies. • Seek Council endorsement and Provincial approval. <p>Phase Two</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare first draft of the new Milton Official Plan detailed implementation policies. • Undertake preliminary consultation on the first draft of these. • Finalize the detailed implementation policies. • Seek Council endorsement. 	
5	New Official Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council endorsement and Provincial approval of new Milton Official Plan. 	2025

This report is a component of Stage 4 - Drafting and Discussion. Based on the research and engagement completed in the previous stages, Staff has written the first set of draft new Milton Official Plan policies that will guide growth and development to the year 2051.

Discussion

Draft new Official Plan

This consultation draft for the Town of Milton Official Plan (the Draft Plan - Appendix A) presents a new municipal structure plan and growth management strategy to guide Milton’s future land stewardship and development. These policies will form Sections 1 to 3 in the new Town of Milton Official Plan and will replace some parts of the existing Plan. The remaining

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sections of the Town of Milton Official Plan will be replaced by policies developed through Phase 2.

The draft document is outcomes focussed and intentional in its response to several factors. First, the new and emerging provincial planning policy direction. Second, the removal of upper tier planning responsibility from the Region of Halton. Third, a new local municipal urban structure and growth management strategy. Fourth, a modern approach to environmental management, agricultural protection, and infrastructure planning that reflects current best practices. Finally, updated strategies responding to Milton's changing community needs and aspirations, informed by the extensive community engagement undertaken through Stages 1 to 3 of the We Make Milton project.

The Draft Plan is structured as follows:

Section 1: Context and Vision. Section 1 contains the Plan's introduction, vision, guiding principles and policy pillars. This section builds on the new land use planning vision and guiding principles endorsed by Council in February 2021. The five "Policy Pillars" of complete, equitable, resilient, healthy, and attractive communities are foundational concepts that underpin the Plan. As such they are common threads that are intentionally embedded through all aspects of the Plan.

Section 2: Sustainable Growth Management. This section contains the growth management policies, including growth targets and phasing. The draft growth management strategy is reflected in a new municipal structure for Milton's urban and rural areas. Also updated is the policy direction to protect and enhance the natural environment and integrate sustainable transportation options.

Section 3: Fostering Livable Communities. This section contains town-wide policies to support complete communities and neighbourhoods. These draft policies promote a range and mix of homes for all, including students and seniors. The parks and open space policies promote a healthy and active lifestyle for the whole community. The proposed institutional policies respond to the changing demands for community facilities, including places of worship. Policies to better encourage and coordinate good urban design, cultural heritage, economic development and capital infrastructure are also found here.

Public Consultation

Staff are seeking Council direction to commence the next round of community engagement. This is an initial round of consultation to inform stakeholders and the public on the proposed policies in the draft Plan. Feedback confirming or recommending additions, deletions and revision to the policies will be invited through the consultation process. Public and stakeholder feedback provides Staff with information to ensure the Plan represents a robust yet adaptable framework to guide land stewardship and development.



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The draft policies will be made available on the Town's website. Comments can be submitted through the "Let's Talk Milton" platform. Other public engagement opportunities would include events such as a booth at the farmers' market, displays at community facilities, an open house and focus meetings with community groups. Staff will also be directly engaging with specific stakeholder groups such as the school boards, conservation authorities and First Nation representatives.

Document Approval

Following consultation and revision to the draft policies, Staff will bring forward the final draft policies for Council consideration. Under the Planning Act, the statutory approval process would involve holding an open house and a public meeting prior to Council approval. Following Council adoption of the Plan, it will be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, who are the new approval authority.

Concurrently, Staff will commence Phase 2 of the new Official Plan. This second phase will cover land use specific permissions and more detailed development management and implementation policies and schedules, together with any other updates needed to finalize the Plan. Public and stakeholder consultation and Council endorsement of this work will be brought forward at a later date.

Financial Impact

The Official Plan capital project currently has an approved budget of \$1,174,961, consisting of the originally approved budget of \$448,081, and subsequent forecast change increases of \$726,880. Of the total, \$217,433 remains available at the time of this report. Based on the work plan described herein, including remaining steps in Phase 2 of the drafting and discussion stage, additional funds are expected to be required to complete the full scope of work envisioned. Additional requests for funding, including the recommended funding sources, will be brought forward to Council for approval through the Town's budget and variance processes.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Hogan
Commissioner, Development Services

For questions, please contact: Gail Anderson

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Attachments

Appendix A - Draft Town of Milton Official Plan

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.