



Office of the Chief Planner  
Corporate Services Department

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Paul Freeman  
Chief Planner

Date: May 1, 2020

Re: Municipal Comprehensive Review Update

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### **The Municipal Comprehensive Review continues during the COVID-19 state of emergency**

During the COVID-19 state of emergency municipalities are generally continuing to process development applications and advance planning policy initiatives. Regional staff continue to advance the Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) while staff within the Planning and Economic Development Branch, and across the Region, function in a full-time telework arrangement. Public and stakeholder engagement activities are proposed to be addressed as much as possible through virtual means. While collaboration with internal departments and partner agencies has been a relatively smooth transition, the timing of broader stakeholder and public consultation has been impacted.

### **Staff are working to minimize impacts associated with delays in the release of key Provincial documents**

As reported to Council in a memorandum in [February 2020](#), the Province was expected to release a revised Land Needs Assessment methodology in Q1 2020, and a new Growth Plan Schedule 3 (population and employment forecasts) by summer 2020. Both of these documents are key inputs to the MCR. With respect to the Land Needs Assessment methodology, the Province has advised that upper and single-tier municipalities are required to utilize this updated methodology which, at the time of writing this memorandum, has not yet been released by the Province.

Despite delays in the release of the revised Land Needs Assessment methodology, staff remain optimistic that updated Schedule 3 population and employment forecasts will be released by the

Province by summer 2020. Subject to timely release of both of these provincial documents, staff continue to pursue a work plan that would have a draft land need assessment and growth forecast presented to Council early in 2021. Delays by the Province beyond early summer 2020 will impact staff's ability to meet the current proposed timeline.

## **Reporting on the Municipal Comprehensive Review will continue to come forward to Council in 2020**

The following reports were targeted for Committee of the Whole in Q2 2020:

- Natural Heritage Planning Update
- New Community and Designated Greenfield Area Density Update and Directions
- Draft Updated Vision for York Region
- Planning for Employment and Employment Land Conversion Requests Directions Report

Staff anticipate the first two reports noted above will proceed to Committee of the Whole in June 2020. The Vision update report requires additional input and will be presented to Council in Q4 2020. Prior to reporting back to Council on Employment Planning, including employment land conversion requests, a Public Information Centre is required. Staff anticipate holding the Public Information Centre virtually before the summer and discussions with local municipal planning staff are ongoing. It is anticipated that the Planning for Employment and Employment Conversion Request report will be presented to Council in fall 2020.

## **Staff continue to advance technical and policy work related to the Municipal Comprehensive Review**

While advancing the land needs assessment has been delayed pending the materials being released by the Province, staff continue to advance technical and policy work in other areas including an updated Vision for York Region, Natural Heritage and Agricultural planning, urban structure and complete communities, and employment land planning.

Following Provincial release of revised Land Needs Assessment methodology and updated Schedule 3 forecasts, staff will report back to Council summarising those documents and provide an update on the MCR work plan. Staff anticipate a draft updated Regional Official Plan for consideration by Regional Council during the first half of 2021.

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Chief Planner

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