

**REPORT FOR INFORMATION****Land Use Bylaw Refresh Update****Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee an update on the Land Use Bylaw refresh project and the proposed timing of the public hearing.

**Our Strategic Goals**

Goal 4 - Municipal Excellence

Goal 4 Priority - Optimal use of resources that meets the community's needs

**Report**

The County's Land Use Bylaw refresh project has been ongoing and is part of our overall efforts to reduce red tape and improve public understanding of regulations and how they affect residents, property, and business owners. The refresh project is a holistic review of the Land Use Bylaw with the primary objectives being increasing the clarity and consistency of the content, removing ambiguity in regulations, modernizing terms, and improving the ease of use and look of the document. The refresh project does not propose nor intend to change the current zoning of any property or to introduce limitations to what could currently be considered on any given lot.

Although our Land Use Bylaw receives ongoing review and scrutiny, it is prudent to periodically complete a holistic review ensuring its organization is still appropriate, and to identify improvements. The organization and structure of a bylaw play a large role in ensuring it can be easily understood by all affected. The use of plain language ensures regulations in the Land Use Bylaw are clear and concise without sacrificing the necessary precision in setting out rights and obligations.

**Interactive website**

A key focus of the Land Use Bylaw refresh has been to identify improvements to the public interface with the Land Use Bylaw. Currently, the Bylaw is organized on the County website in the form of 25 PDF files making it cumbersome to cross-reference sections or to find definitions of terms which adds to the difficulty for readers to navigate without assistance. In coordination with the refresh project, Planning and Development Services (PDS) has been working with Information Technology Services (ITS) and Communications in developing a new interactive public-facing website for the Land Use Bylaw, with improved functionality including pop-up definitions for terms, easy links for cross-section references, and higher quality presentation.

**Next steps**

Planning and Development Services intends to present the updated Land Use Bylaw document to Council for approval through a Public Hearing to be scheduled on September 10, 2024. The Public Hearing will be advertised over the summer in the newspaper and on the County website prior to its scheduled date. The proposed timeline, being the first Council Meeting following summer break, ensures the least impact on any Land Use Bylaw amendment applications that may be in progress. The timeline also allows for the corresponding alignment of the launch of the new interactive website with the implementation of the proposed new Land Use Bylaw, if adopted.

## **Priorities Committee Meeting\_Jul09\_2024**

---

Given the size of the document and the updates throughout, a list of the proposed modifications will be included in the Council package for the future public hearing.

In summary, the proposed improvements are intended to create a Land Use Bylaw that is more intuitive, uses plain language, removes redundancy, and is displayed in a format and organization that makes it clearer and easier to understand and incorporate future amendments.

### **Council and Committee History**

September 12, 2023      Priorities Committee received an update on the Land Use Bylaw refresh including a demonstration of the improved functionality of the new website

March 10, 2015      Council approved Land Use Bylaw 6-2015, with an effective date of May 11, 2015

### **Other Impacts**

**Policy:** n/a

**Financial/Budget:** n/a

**Legislative/Legal:** Section 640 of the *Municipal Government Act* requires that every municipality pass a Land Use Bylaw.

**Interdepartmental:** Legislative and Legal Services has been involved in the preparation of the Land Use Bylaw refresh document. PDS is also working with ITS and Communications to develop a new interactive website for the Land Use Bylaw.

**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a

### **Communication Plan**

The future public hearing for the Land Use Bylaw refresh will be advertised in the newspaper in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act* as well as on the County website.