

Priorities Committee Meeting_May17_2016

REPORT FOR INFORMATION**Municipal Development Plan Update****Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee with an update on the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) Update process.

Council History

March 6, 2007 – Council approved Motions 175/2007 and 176/2007, amendments to Municipal Development Plan Bylaw 1-2007.

May 22, 2007 – Council approved Municipal Development Plan Bylaw 1-2007.

March 11, 2010 – Capital Region Growth Plan was adopted by Province.

February 19, 2013 – Council approved Bylaw 42-2012 to ensure the MDP was in conformance with the Capital Region Growth Plan.

April 21, 2015 – Council received an overview of the MDP Update process and public engagement.

July 14, 2015 - Priorities Committee received an update on the MDP Update process and public engagement.

November 10, 2015 - Priorities Committee received an update on the MDP Update process and public engagement.

February 16, 2016 - Priorities Committee received an update on the MDP Update process.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: The economic development section of the MDP will be reviewed to ensure policy aligns with the objectives of the Economic Sustainability Framework and Strategic Plan for a diverse economy and effective and efficient municipal infrastructure.

Governance: The public engagement and communications plan for the MDP Update will aim to create an inclusive process that engages residents and stakeholders.

Social: The MDP Update will review the social development section of the document to ensure it reflects the objectives of the Social Sustainability Framework and Strategic Plan for an active and healthy community.

Culture: The MDP Update will be reviewed to ensure it aligns with the Strategic Plan to create vibrant, creative communities.

Environment: The MDP Update will review the environmental section of the document to ensure it reflects the objectives of the Environmental Sustainability Framework and Strategic Plan to protect our environment and preserve biodiversity.

Other Impacts

Policy: Policy 17.4 of the MDP indicates a major review of the document is to be conducted every five years in order to ensure the Plan remains valid and effective.

Legislative/Legal: Any changes to the MDP will require passage of a bylaw to replace or amend Bylaw 1-2007.

Interdepartmental: Multiple Strathcona County departments are involved in the MDP Update.

Summary

The current MDP was adopted by Council in May 2007. In May of 2015, the County launched the MDP Update project, which was broken down into multiple phases:

- Phase 1 – Foundations
- Phase 2 – Setting Direction
- Phase 3 – Options and Trade-offs
- Phase 4 – Draft Plan – we are currently in this phase.

Administrative staff and the consulting team have been diligently working through the MDP Update Project with emphasis on public outreach, youth engagement, and obtaining valuable input from the community and stakeholders.

The February 16, 2016, update for the Priorities Committee identified that the intent was to complete a draft plan for public consideration and prepare a final draft document to present to Council in early fall 2016. The timeline has been revised with the intent to complete a draft plan for public consideration in the fall of 2016 and prepare a final draft document to present to Council in late 2016/early 2017. The revisions made to the timeline are due to the concurrent *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) review and the update to the Capital Region Growth Plan (CRGP).

The MDP must be in compliance with the *MGA* and the policies of the CRGP. The Province has indicated that the Legislature will complete debate of the Bill regarding the updated *MGA* during the fall 2016 sitting, while the Capital Region Growth Plan is expected to be presented to the Capital Region Board for approval on October 13, 2016.

Given the potential changes to these documents and the impact that they have on the MDP, a more complete and consistent MDP could be prepared and presented to the public and Council once the final drafts of these documents have been prepared. The revised timeline will also allow additional time for research regarding the land use options for the Rural Urban Transition Policy Area (Colchester).

Administrative staff and the consulting team are continuing to work on the necessary changes and additions to the existing MDP to produce a clear, up to date and user-friendly document.

In this regard, the MDP update Open House for public review of the draft MDP originally proposed for June 15, 2016, will be postponed until the fall. This messaging will be communicated appropriately on the project webpage, online engagement hub, e-newsletter, and postcards.

Communication Plan

A range of stakeholders such as community groups, school boards, developers as well as the general public have been, and will continue to be, consulted for the MDP Update. The County has utilized traditional engagement tools such as open houses, stakeholder interviews, posters, newspaper advertisements and the County website. In addition, the County has a white board video, online engagement hub, backgrounder discussion papers, e-newsletters, postcards, bus ads, portable signs and has utilized social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to engage the public.