

Review of Bruce County Land Use Planning Division: Structure, Service Delivery Model, Roles and Responsibilities





Introductions:

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Provincial Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Modernization Funding

GOAL: To support the delivery of modern and efficient
(planning) services

Current Service Delivery Model

Four (4) areas of Planning Service:

- County level (required):
 1. County level long-range policy planning (e.g. County Official Plan)
 2. County level development applications (e.g. County Official Plan Amendments, Severances, Plans of Subdivision/Condominium)
- Local Municipalities-Memorandums of Agreement (voluntary):
 1. Local Planning Development Applications-Processing and Review (site specific Official Plan and/or Zoning By-law Amendments to permit development)
 2. Some long-range policy planning projects on a one-by-one agreement basis (e.g. Official Plan updates, 5-year reviews. Community Improvement Plans, etc.)



Role of Land Use Planning Division-provide independent, professional planning opinion

Role of County or Local Council-consider planning opinion in making final decisions

Methodology

- Interviews with key Staff stakeholders/key informants-eight (8) local municipalities (e.g. CAO, Clerk, CBO, etc.)
- Interviewed-cross-section of County Planning Staff from three Hub offices
- Interviews, analysis and comparison of four (4) other Counties
- Review and consideration of provided documentation:
 - Legal/Procedural basis/mandate for providing planning services (e.g. Memorandums of Agreement)
 - Application volumes, turnaround, staff workloads/responsibilities, LPAT Appeal history, etc.
 - Current state of special projects, policy planning initiatives (e.g. Official Plan)
 - 2020 Departmental Business Plan & Key Projects
 - Job descriptions and recent job advertisements
 - Current operating and capital budgets

Some Key Findings

- Local municipal stakeholder feedback VERY POSITIVE and APPRECIATIVE
- Number of suggestions for possible improvement in process; NOTE-diversity of needs
- Long-range policy planning-lower priority to development planning-County and local municipal level
- Potential ideas from County Comparators:
 - Cross-training for planners (development and policy planning roles)
 - Formalize and enhance long-range policy planning role and function

Key Recommendation Areas

- Update Memorandums of Agreement-clarify roles, responsibilities, process, costs, etc.
- Continuous improvement of processes
- Prioritize and enhance long-range policy planning role and delivery at County and local municipal level
- Review planning application fees; increasing to level to cover a greater proportion of processing development applications and special projects
- Consider Development Charges financing growth-related planning
- Enhance Education, Communication and Engagement mechanisms

Thank you!

Questions?