



Committee Report

To: Councillor Steve Hammell, Chair and
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

From: Claire Dodds
Director of Planning and Development

Date: January 26, 2023

Re: Letter from the Warden & Bruce County Council to Minister Clark
regarding the lack of consultation with municipalities on Bill 23

Staff Recommendation:

That staff be directed to finalize the letter regarding the lack of consultation on Bill 23 and forward it to Minister Steve Clark, the Premier, local MPPs and Bruce County member municipalities.

Background:

The Government of Ontario introduced an omnibus package of legislative changes called the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (Bill 23) on October 25, 2022. This legislation was introduced by Minister Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to address the housing supply shortage across the province. The legislation makes significant changes to the planning and development charges system across Ontario. Further legislative and policy changes are anticipated including updates to regulations to implement changes introduced under Bill 23.

The commenting period on many aspects of Bill 23 was initially established with a 30- or 31-day commenting period, ending November 24, 2022. On November 23, 2022, the provincial government extended the commenting timeline to December 9, 2022. The province then passed the legislation with third reading and royal assent on November 28, 2022. As the commenting period was during the transition time between Council terms due to the October 2022 municipal elections, there was no opportunity for staff to bring comments on Bill 23 to County Council for endorsement before the legislations was passed.

At the December 15, 2022 Planning & Development Committee meeting, Committee requested staff prepare a letter to send to the Province to express Council's concerns with the lack of meaningful consultation with municipalities on the changes proposed by Bill 23.

Staff has drafted the attached letter for Committee's consideration and endorsement.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

The Planning and Development Department consulted with the Office of the CAO on the preparation of the letter to Minister Clark on the timing associated with consultation on Bill 23.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

- Goal # 1 Develop and implement tactics for improved communications
 - B. One county - with a unified voice

- Goal # 9 Coordinated, concerted effort to advance our agenda
 - B. Politicians and staff lobby associations and government in support of local policy needs.
 - C. Make political and staff participation in provincial and federal committees a priority

Approved for Submission:

Derrick Thomson
Chief Administrative Officer