



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: Comments on the Provincial Policy Statement 2020 and Places to Grow Review

Staff Recommendation:

That the Director of Planning circulate staff comments on the Provincial Policy Statement 2020 and Places to Grow Review to Clerks/CAOs to share with local Councils;

Background:

Along with Bill 23, the Province is undertaking a housing-focused policy review of A Place to Grow and the Provincial Policy Statement. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing was seeking input on how to create a streamlined province-wide land use planning policy framework that enables municipalities to approve housing faster and increase housing supply prior to December 30, 2022.

The Province identified through [ERO Posting 019-6177](#) that both the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 (PPS) and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (A Place to Grow) provide comprehensive, integrated, whole-of-government policy direction on land use planning matters including:

- Growth management, housing and economic development;
- Infrastructure planning and investment, such as sewage, water and stormwater management services, transportation, transit, energy supply and corridor protection;
- Protection and management of resources, such as aggregates, natural heritage, water, cultural heritage, recreation and prime agricultural areas; and
- Protection of public health and safety, such as mitigating potential risks due to natural and human-made hazards.

The province is proposing to integrate the PPS and A Place to Grow into a new province-wide planning policy instrument that:

- Leverages the housing-supportive policies of both policy documents;
- Removes or streamlines policies that result in duplication, delays or burden in the development of housing;
- Ensures key growth management and planning tools are available where needed across the province to increase housing supply and support a range and mix of housing options;

- Continues to protect the environment, cultural heritage and public health and safety; and
- Ensures that growth is supported with the appropriate amount and type of community infrastructure.

The province has communicated that the intended outcome of this review is to determine the best approach that would enable municipalities to accelerate the development of housing and increase housing supply (including rural housing), through a more streamlined, province-wide land use planning policy framework.

At present, the Places to Grow Growth Plan does not apply to Bruce County. Planning in Bruce County is guided by the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 (PPS), and the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

At the December 15, 2022 Planning & Development Committee meeting, staff received direction to prepare comments and submit comments to the ERO posting associated with the review of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020.

County Planning staff submitted comments on [ERO Posting 019-6177](#), and the associated [ERO Posting 019-2927](#) (Proposed updates to the regulation of development for the protection of people and property from natural hazards in Ontario) on December 23, 2022.

Within the ERO posting, the province had identified several core elements that this new policy instrument could include, as well as outlined several questions on which they were seeking feedback on.

The comments that were submitted to the ERO postings by County staff are attached to this report.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There is uncertainty about the timing of the province releasing a new integrated province-wide planning policy instrument. The timing of the release of a new planning policy instrument may impact the timing of the preparation and adoption of the new Official Plan if there are major changes to the provincial policy instruments. This may add additional staff and consultant time to this project.

Staff are progressing with work on the new County Official Plan as planned in 2023 but are monitoring the release of new provincial legislation and policy very closely. Any impact to the Official Plan schedule will be communicated to County Council.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

The Planning and Development Department consulted with Corporate Services, Transportation and Environment Services, and Human Services to assess the impact of the changes on Bill 23.

Consultation with local Conservation Authorities, Municipal staff and the Saugeen Ojibway First Nation Environment Office has been on-going since the introduction of 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 # 6 Explore alternate options to improve efficiency, service

D. Coordinate working with other agencies

E. Eliminate duplication of services

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