



# Staff Report to Council - for Direction

**Title:** Bruce County Official Plan Amendment - Implementation

**From:** Jack Van Dorp, Director of Planning and Development

**Date:** December 7, 2023

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## Staff Recommendation:

That the County Official Plan Amendment - C-2023-008 Implementation Amendment be received for information; and,

That staff be directed to return to a subsequent Bruce County Council meeting with a report on the December 7, 2023 Public Meeting and a Recommendation regarding proposed County Official Plan Amendment - C-2023-008.

## Report Summary:

The County Official Plan serves to set overall direction for the County, and to function as the detailed land use plan in areas that are not covered by a local Official Plan, such as Hamlets, Rural, and Agricultural areas outside of settlement areas.

The purpose of the Implementation Amendment is to make some valuable changes to the Bruce County Official Plan. The proposed changes affect all of Section 6 (Implementation) and all of Section 7 (Interpretation) of the Plan. Amendments are also proposed to selected portions of Section 4 (General Policies) related to policies for Servicing and the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Overall, the amendment will make these policies clearer and more effective.

## Alignment with Guiding Principles:

This amendment will add or revise policies within the Bruce County Official Plan that enable all available planning tools for the County and Local Municipalities to implement the goals and objectives of the County Official Plan and Local Official Plans. As such, it is aligned with the Guiding Principles and the Vision of a healthy, diverse, and thriving future.

## Summary of Key Changes:

Although some new policies have been added, the overall length of the implementation section remains similar, achieved by shortening existing policies.

Reducing the length of the text has the benefit of making policies easier to read and understand. Another important change has been to reference Planning Act or other Provincial direction instead of repeating this language in the plan. This change is intended to reduce the need to amend the County Official Plan to avoid conformity issues when the province changes or establishes new policies.

As Local Municipalities also experience the challenge of frequently changing provincial legislation, the County Official Plan enables local Official Plans to simply reference the County OP policy in their Plans. This would reduce the requirement to amend both the County Plan and local Official Plan(s) to address policy changes. Municipalities may however choose to provide more detailed policy in their own plans.

As language in the plan is to be removed or simplified, new “Did You Know” information boxes are proposed to be added. These information boxes are provided not for policy direction, but rather for information purposes. These boxes can be updated without an amendment to the Plan.

Existing County Official Plan policies, proposed new policies, and summary of changes are provided in the attached appendix. Changes that have arisen from the agency and public consultation are noted.

**Matters Arising from Agency and Public Consultation:**

A request for comments was circulated to agencies and municipal staff. Information meetings were held with municipal Chief Administrative Officers, Clerks, Chief Building Officials and other Development staff.

All the comments that were received in response to the request for comments are attached to this report.

The attached Comment and Response Matrix provides a summary of the comments received and the changes that have been made in response to comments.

Further comments are undergoing further review and will be addressed in a subsequent recommendation report. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) comments were not received as of the time of writing this report. Saugeen Ojibway Nation requested a number of changes. Staff will meet further with SON to review these changes.

**Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

Potential Appeal to Local Planning Appeal Tribunal

**Report Author:**

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**Departmental Approval:**

Jack Van Dorp  
Director of Planning and Development

**Approved for Submission:**

Derrick Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer