Committee Report

To: Warden Mitch Twolan
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

From: Kara Van Myall
Director of Planning and Development

Date: May 16, 2019

Re: Changes proposed in Bill 108, the More Homes, More Choices Act

Recommendation:

That the Changes proposed in Bill 108, the More Homes, More Choices Act have been provided for information; and

That Committee comments will be consolidated as the County of Bruce’s comments on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) registry postings # 019-0016, #019-0017 and #019-0021.

Background:

Bill 108, the More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019 received First Reading on May 2nd and proposes a number of amendments to the land use planning regime in Ontario. The commenting period unfortunately closes on June 1, 2019 which limits the amount of time staff have available to undertake a detailed review on behalf of Committee for commenting purposes. There are four statutes that are receiving overhauls with the objective of stimulating the supply of housing, as follows:

1. Planning Act, 1990
2. Local Planning Appeal Tribunal Act, 2017
3. Development Charges Act, 1997; and
4. Ontario Heritage Act

There is uncertainty of what changes might follow with new regulations or changes to existing regulations that have been identified but have not been released.

Staff would like the opportunity to provide comments on behalf of the County of Bruce before the June 1, 2019 deadline specifically on the first three statutes noted above.

Attached to this report is Bill 108 in its entirety and two recent releases from Aird Berlis LLP which should provide background to Committee on these proposed changes. Staff are seeking Committee’s thoughts and input into the potential comments that will be drafted and submitted for June 1st, with a follow up report to the next Planning and Development Committee, June 20th, 2019.
Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:
There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:
None at this time.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

Goal #7  Stimulate and reward innovation and economic development
Element -  A. Streamline and simplify our planning processes (Official Plan, Zoning By-law)

Goal #9  Coordinated, concerted effort to advance our agenda
Element -  B. Politicians and staff lobby associations and government in support of local policy needs.

Written by:  Bruce Stickney, Manager of Land Use Planning.

Approved by:

Murray Clarke
Acting Chief Administrative Officer