

Update

Municipal, Planning and Property Tax

June 24, 2009

The Region of York's Draft Official Plan

The Region of York's draft Official Plan is now available on the Region's website. A report on the draft official plan was considered by Planning and Economic Development Committee at its meeting on June 17th and will be considered by Regional Council on June 25th. A copy of the staff report, which includes a copy of the draft Official Plan Amendment, can be found at:

<http://www.york.ca/Departments/Planning+and+Development/Growth+Management/default+Growth+Management.htm>.

The draft official plan; which is an update of the existing official plan, is intended to guide development in the Region for the next 25 years based on the principles of sustainability and growth management. The document is divided into three sections dealing with sustainability, growth management and implementation. Policies provide for the identification and protection of natural heritage features, the creation of healthy communities and economic growth. There are much stronger policies for the protection of employment lands, including specific policies which prevent the conversion of employment lands to other uses during the planning horizon of the official plan.

It is anticipated that by 2031, the population will increase by 570,000 which will bring the Region's

total population to 1.5 million people. The anticipated employment growth of 780,000, which represents an increase of 345,000 jobs, is consistent with the Growth Plan. New growth will be accommodated through intensification within the existing urban areas and as well, will be directed to new community areas. Potential areas for urban expansion are identified in the plan.

The draft official plan policies also address the recent provincial initiatives including those found in the Growth Plan, the Greenbelt Plan and the Metrolinx Act, as well as the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

Next Steps

It is anticipated that at the June 25th Council meeting, Council will direct Staff to circulate the draft Official Plan to various Provincial Ministries, First Nation communities and local municipalities. A number of public information meetings will be held in early September and the scheduled dates for the information sessions will be advertised in local newspapers and on the Region's website.

The statutory public meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2009. Staff will report back to Committee and Council on November 4, 2009 which would permit the adoption of the draft Official Plan by Regional Council sometime in November 2009. Comments should be submitted to the Region by the end of September.

If you have any questions with respect to the draft official plan, please do not hesitate to contact one of the members of the Goodman's Administrative Law Group:

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