



		Date Req'd
Information Purposes		
Policy / Action Req'd	X	Aug. 22 ' 22
Strategic Plan		

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No. 79-2022

Date: August 22, 2022

From: Matthew Armstrong, Chief Administrative Officer & Treasurer

Re: Official Plan Review – Adoption

Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Town of Prescott Official Plan; and

That the Official Plan be forwarded as adopted, along with the “Record” as required under the *Ontario Planning Act*, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for final approval.

Background / Analysis:

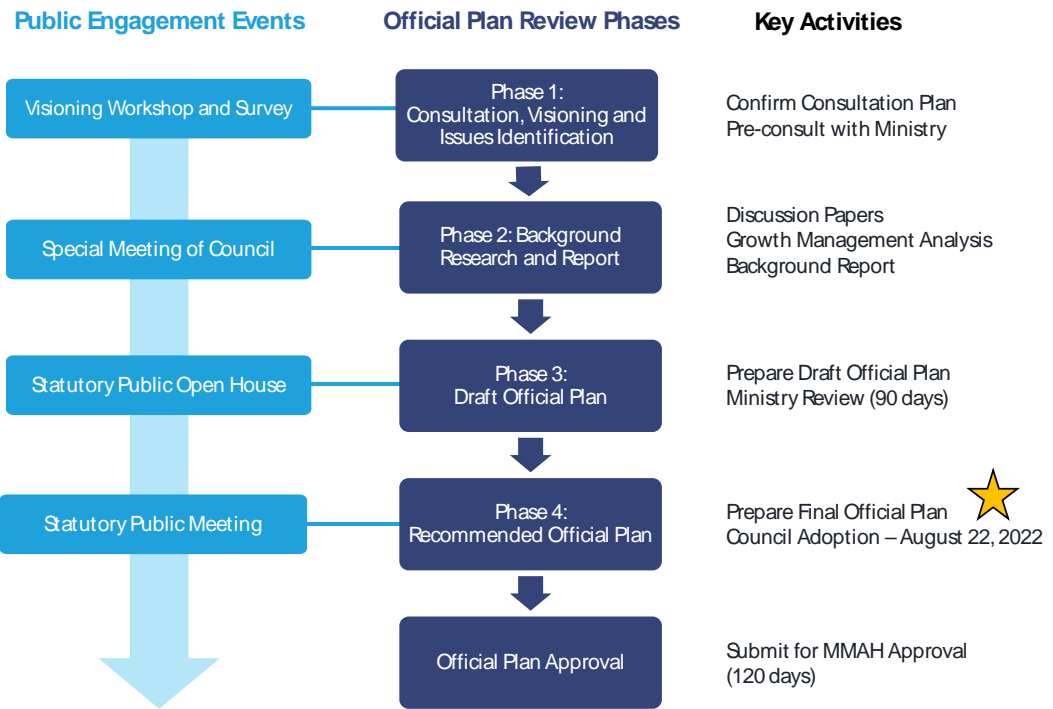
The Town of Prescott is undertaking the legislated review of its Official Plan as required by the *Planning Act*. The Town’s current Official Plan was approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in 2006 and was last amended in May 2018. The Official Plan Review will update and refine the goals, objectives, policies, and schedules of the Official Plan to ensure that it is consistent with the 2020 Provincial Policy Statement and reflects matters of local interest.

It is noted that the formal Official Plan Review process has been ongoing since 2019 and has included an online Visioning Workshop and community survey in October of 2020. Public feedback received has been and continues to be considered in the advancement of updating policies in the Town’s Official Plan. A Special Meeting of Council was conducted on April 19, 2021, to review the public engagement and consultations to date, reflect and provide feedback on the background reports, contemplate the recommendations, and provided the public to speak to revisions that may be required as part of the Town’s Official Plan Review. The Statutory Public Open House occurred on April 25, 2022, where additional public participation and feedback was elicited. On June 27, 2022, the Statutory Public Meeting was held by the Planning Advisory Committee where it was demonstrated how public input was considered and incorporated throughout the process. Key changes were reviewed, and input was obtained from both the Committee and the public.

The graphic below illustrates the steps in the Official Plan Review process.

		Date Req'd
Information Purposes		
Policy / Action Req'd	X	Aug. 22 ' 22
Strategic Plan		

Project Process



The purpose of this report is to recommend to Council the adoption of the Final Official Plan.

Analysis:

The new Official Plan incorporates the various changes that were introduced by the Provincial Policy Statement in 2020. It also incorporates new sections, goals, and policies that will allow for the continued growth of the Town of Prescott both in terms of population and as a commercial and industrial hub. The Town of Prescott is the largest settlement area on the St. Lawrence River between Brockville and Cornwall.

New Sections of the Official Plan



		Date Req'd
Information Purposes		
Policy / Action Req'd	X	Aug. 22 ' 22
Strategic Plan		

An entirely new section has been added to the Official Plan which speaks to Natural Heritage, Culture Heritage, and Development Constraints. This new section brings together, clarifies, and strengthens the goals and priorities specific the Environment and Natural Heritage Management, Cultural Heritage Resources, Hazards, and Mineral Aggregate Resources.

New Subsections of the Official Plan

New subsections have been added to the Official Plan covering Growth Management, Accessory Uses, Buildings or Structures, Compatibility and Built Form, Short Term Rentals, Tiny Homes, and Urban Agricultural. These subsections resulted from change in the Provincial Policy Statement, Council feedback, and Public input.

Key Changes to the Official Plan

There has been a myriad of changes made to update Official Plan which reflect the goals and policies. Some of the key changes of note are as follows.

- Active Transportation
 - o Incorporating active transportation design aspect in new development and redevelopment projects
- Wayfinding
 - o Need for an official way finding strategy to support commerce, recreation, and tourism
- Additional Housing Units
 - o Adds required policies to support the Provincial Policy Statement on additional housing units
- Tiny Home
 - o Adds the required policies to support Tiny Homes in Prescott
- Tourism, Economic Development and Downtown Revitalization
 - o Adds goals and policies that support mixed uses in the Downtown Core
 - o Adds supportive policies for Commercial Lodging in Prescott
 - o Provides the ability to establish and Economic Development and Tourism Committee
 - o Provides supporting policies to strengthen Town Branding
- Urban Agriculture
 - o Adds policies to allow for community and roof top gardens



		Date Req'd
Information Purposes		
Policy / Action Req'd	X	Aug. 22 ' 22
Strategic Plan		

- Indigenous Engagement
 - o Provides to policies that strengthen when and how Indigenous Communities are to be engaged

- Natural Heritage
 - o Adds new policies to mitigate the impact of development on Wetlands, Woodlands, and Wildlife Habitat

- Environmental Protection
 - o Adds new goals and policies on how to assess the environmental impact on sensitive areas
 - o Adds a policy in support of use of native species in development

Alternatives:

Council could choose to make further changes to the plan and have it brought forward to a future meeting for final consideration and adoption.

Financial Implications:

None

Environmental Implications:

None

Attachments:

- Final Official Plan

Submitted by:

Matthew Armstrong
Chief Administrative Officer & Treasurer