

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE NOVEMBER 19, 2001

PROVINCIAL POLICY STATEMENT FIVE-YEAR REVIEW **CITY OF VAUGHAN COMMENTS**

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Planning recommends:

1. That the York Region comments respecting the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) Five-Year Review (Clause No. 4, Report No. 8 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee, endorsed by Regional Council on October 11, 2001) be endorsed by the City of Vaughan; and,
2. That the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Region of York be advised that the City supports the Ministry in its Five-Year PPS review and endorses the October 11, 2001 comments of York Region; and,
3. That the City of Vaughan reserves its final comments on the PPS and requests that the City be provided with the opportunity to comment on the specific wording of the revised draft Provincial Policy Statement when prepared by the Ministry.

Purpose

To provide the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing with the City's comments as preliminary input into the Ministry's review of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS).

Background - Analysis and Options

In August 2001, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) commenced a Five-Year review of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) document (Attachment 1) under the Planning Act. The PPS came into effect on May 22, 1996 (revised, February 1, 1997). The Provincial Government has requested comments from interested parties to assist its review. The goal of the review is to, "make sure that the province's land use planning policies are effectively protecting Ontario's interests and to determine whether any changes need to be made to the policies."

Due to the short request for comment period, Staff from Vaughan and some other municipalities, were unable to participate fully in the PPS review process undertaken by the Region of York. However, the Region's review and report provides an excellent overview of the objectives of the PPS and input, based on good planning principles.

As noted in the Region's report (Attachment 2), "the PPS is intended to provide policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. The Planning Act requires that, in exercising any authority that affects planning matters, planning authorities shall have regard to policy statements issued under the Act. The PPS is based upon the principles that Ontario's long term economic prosperity, environmental health and social well-being depend on:

1. Managing change and promoting efficient, cost-effective development and land use patterns which stimulate economic growth and protect the environment and public health;
2. Protecting resources for their economic use and/or environmental benefits; and,

3. Reducing the potential for public cost or risk to Ontario's residents by directing development away from areas where there is a risk to public health or of property damage."

The Regional report determined that Staff comments on overall themes, effectiveness and implementation of the current PPS could be made, but a detailed review of the wording of each policy statement was not possible in the time frame provided.

The Region's comments are primarily directed at the province achieving greater balance among the PPS principles of economic prosperity, environmental health and social well-being, and to removing roadblocks preventing this balance. It refers to "Smart Growth" and to the need for a detailed vision and supporting policies for growth management. Greater precision in the language of the PPS is suggested. The report also notes the relationship between land use planning and related provincial programs, such as those directed at housing and human services. It suggests that these linkages need to be coordinated and stated as part of a revised PPS for which there will be provincial funding and/or incentive implications.

Conclusion

The Region of York has forwarded a report containing a number of comments with respect to overall themes, effectiveness and implementation of the current Provincial Policy Statement policies to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Further opportunity will be available to comment on the specific wording of a revised draft Provincial Policy Statement, once prepared by the MMAH.

The comments made by York Region are in keeping with the planning policies and principles embodied in the City's Official Plan plans, and are therefore supportable. The City of Vaughan should, therefore, advise the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing that it supports the Five-Year Review and endorses the Region's report as preliminary comments. It is also recommended that the City be provided the opportunity to review and comment in more detail on the specific wording of the revised draft Provincial Planning Statement, once the Ministry has taken the preliminary comments into consideration.

Attachments

1. Provincial Policy Statement, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, May 22, 1996, as revised on February 1, 1997 (Council only)
2. Clause No. 4, Report No. 8 of the York Region Planning and Economic Development Committee, endorsed by Regional Council on October 11, 2001. (York Region comments respecting the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) Five-Year Review) (Council only)

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