



SUBJECT: Local Input into the Region of Halton's Integrated Growth Management Strategy – Evaluation Framework for Growth Concepts

TO: Planning and Development Committee

FROM: Department of City Building - Planning Building and Culture

Report Number: PB-82-19

Wards Affected: all

File Numbers: 150-14-1

Date to Committee: December 3, 2019

Date to Council: December 16, 2019

Recommendation:

Endorse city staff's recommendation contained in department of city building report PB-82-19 regarding the prioritization and weighting of the measures identified in Halton Region's Evaluation Framework; and

Direct the City Clerk to forward a copy of department of city building report PB-82-19 to Halton Region as the City of Burlington's input on the IGMS Evaluation Framework.

Purpose:

This report responds to the following direction from the Strategic Plan:

A City that Grows

- Promoting Economic Growth
- Intensification
- Focused Population Growth

The purpose of this report is to respond to a Regional Council Motion for local input on the evaluation criteria to be used in the evaluation of the Growth Concepts developed through Halton Region's Integrated Growth Management Strategy (IGMS).

Background and Discussion:

Halton Region's Official Plan Review and Integrated Growth Management Strategy

Halton Region is currently undertaking a review of their Official Plan, as required by the *Planning Act*. The Region's Official Plan Review (ROPR) commenced in April 2014 and is being undertaken in three phases. Phase one was completed in October 2016 with the completion of a Directions Report which identified the key policy areas for review through the ROPR and established a high level work plan to complete the detailed research and policy development to be undertaken in phases two and three of the ROPR.

One of the key policy areas identified by the Region is the Integrated Growth Management Strategy (IGMS). The IGMS is a growth strategy for the Region to the planning horizon year of 2041 that will incorporate the population and employment forecasts for the Region in accordance with Schedule 3 to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The result of the IGMS work will be an updated growth strategy for the Region and its local municipalities which is based on the integration of land use, infrastructure and financial considerations, that conforms to both Provincial and Regional policy directives. Halton Region is required to update its Official Plan to be conformity with the Growth Plan, by 2022.

At the April 10th, 2019 Regional Council Workshop, a presentation was made to Regional Council on the IGMS work completed to date, which included information on the initial Growth Scenarios, an initial evaluation framework and information on how the IGMS fits within the overall Regional Official Plan review.

Following the April 10th workshop, a report with a progress update on the IGMS and preliminary growth scenarios was brought to Regional Council on June 19, 2019, for consideration. The report (LPS41-19) profiled 8 preliminary Growth Scenarios, based on a range of intensification rates, and a high level assessment of the potential implications of each Scenario with respect to infrastructure and finance. The report was seeking direction to advance four of the Growth Scenarios as the foundation for further analysis and refinement, resulting in the development of four Growth Concepts.

The report also proposed an evaluation framework to be used as a qualitative analytical tool to guide the evaluation of the four Growth Concepts moving forward. In considering this report, Regional Council unanimously passed the following Motion to Defer:

THAT Regional Council defer Report No. LPS41-19 until the Local Municipal Councils can recommend to Regional Council for each local municipality, in concert with Report No. LPS45-19/PW-18-19 Item No. 2, what evaluation criteria

and weighting of the evaluation criteria best suit the planning needs of each Local Municipality.

Following the motion to defer, Halton Region sent out correspondence to the local municipalities with the expectation that each local municipality review the evaluation criteria and identify what criteria and weighting of the criteria best suits the local planning needs. To assist with this work, an Evaluation Framework Review Package was provided containing the evaluation criteria and corresponding policy references, and a template, to be completed to indicate the priority or weighting of each criterion. The Evaluation Framework Review Package is included in Appendix A.

At the September 11, 2019 Regional Council meeting there was a report with a Fall 2019 Update on the IGMS which provided some information on next steps in implementing Regional Council's direction, including a list of Regional Council decisions required before public engagement can commence on the Growth Concepts and the broader IGMS project.

IGMS Evaluation Framework: Policy Tests to Assess the 2041 Refined Growth Concepts

The IGMS Evaluation Framework which will be used to evaluate the Growth Concepts, was developed around the land use policies and policy directions in the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and the Region of Halton Official Plan. It is not intended to be discretionary, but rather applied holistically, to ensure that the overall assessment of the Growth Concepts is transparent and relevant to decision makers, stakeholders and the public.

The Framework is organized by themes, each with specific objectives and measures. The four overarching themes are:

1. Regional Urban System & Local Urban Structure
2. Infrastructure & Financing
3. Agriculture, Environment & Climate Change
4. Growing the Economy & Moving People and Goods

In developing the measures, the objectives were distilled into evaluation questions which are intended to measure the degree to which the Growth Concept addresses or demonstrates the objective. The Growth Concepts will be evaluated in relation to each other, and the concept that best achieves Provincial objectives and the Region's Planning Vision will score the highest.

IGMS Evaluation Framework Review Package and Template

The purpose of Halton Region's Evaluation Framework Package (Appendix A) is to assist the local municipalities in reviewing, prioritizing and weighting of the measures,

identified in the Evaluation Framework. The template provided can be used to identify which measures (by circling “Yes”) and weighting of the measures (scale of 1 - lowest consideration to 5 - highest consideration) are specifically relevant to the local planning needs. The key Provincial and Regional policy directions that inform the objectives and measures were also provided for added context.

City of Burlington Planning Staffs Recommendation on Prioritizing and Weighing of Measures

The Evaluation Framework is a qualitative tool designed to assess the strengths and weaknesses of each Growth Concept and rank them accordingly. Furthermore, the specific policy themes, objectives and measures in the IGMS Evaluation Framework are based on required policy directions from the PPS, Growth Plan and the Region’s Official Plan.

The 19 Objectives identified in the IGMS Evaluation Framework include:

- Support Regional and Local Urban Structure
- Protect Overall Employment Land Supply
- Provide a Range of Identifiable, Inter-Connected, Complete Communities
- Provide the Opportunity to Develop Healthy Communities
- Provide a Range of Choice for Housing, Jobs and Leisure
- Optimize the Current Infrastructure Capacity
- Cost-Effective Replacement and/or Expansion of Infrastructure
- Sustainable Long-range Financial Planning and Asset Management
- Support Regional Planning (Infrastructure Projects)
- Sound and Sustainable Infrastructure Planning
- Protect the Integrity and Minimize Impact on the Agricultural Land Base and System
- Enhance the Natural Heritage System to strengthen Key Features and Areas and Reduce the Impact of New Development
- Reduce Carbon Emissions and Address Air Quality
- Maintain Resiliency to Impacts of Extreme Weather Events
- Consider Impacts on Region’s Mineral Resource Areas
- Promote Transit Supportive Densities
- Promote Multi-modal Transportation Network that Supports all Modes of Transportation
- Facilitates Goods Movement
- Ensure the Availability of Sufficient Lands to Accommodate Forecasted Employment Growth

City of Burlington Planning staff are of the opinion that all of the measures associated with the Objectives listed above, are important to the City of Burlington, and that they

should all be weighted equally and given the highest consideration from a weighing perspective.

Strategy/process

Halton Region staff have indicated that once local municipal input on the Evaluation Framework has been received, Regional staff will prepare a supplemental report to Regional Council describing the input received and how it is addressed in a final recommended Evaluation Framework for Regional Council's consideration and approval. In addition to the supplemental report, deferred report LPS41-19 will also be brought back to Regional Council for consideration. The timing of this depends on when all the local municipal input is received, however, the Region has indicated that the earliest this would be brought forward is the first quarter of 2020.

Financial Matters:

Not applicable.

Connections:

The City of Burlington Growth Analysis Study, which was shared with Council at the September Committee of the Whole Workshop, was undertaken to inform the process being undertaken at the Region. The study findings will inform the refinement of the Growth Scenarios and assist in the development of the Growth Concepts, which will be evaluated using the approved IGMS Evaluation Framework.

Public Engagement Matters:

Halton Region will be providing opportunities for public consultation throughout the Official Plan Review/IGMS process. As indicated in Halton Region report LPS107-19 which went to Regional Council on September 11, 2019, there are several steps still required before public engagement can commence on the Growth Concepts and the broader Integrated Growth Management Strategy. A future report to Regional Council will seek authorization to proceed with a public engagement program consistent with the Region's OPR Communication and Engagement Strategy endorsed by Regional Council in 2017.

The public will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the IGMS through the Region's consultation process.

Conclusion:

In response to the Halton Region Council motion for local input on the IGMS Evaluation Framework, the City of Burlington believes that all the measures are important to the City and that they should all be given the highest and equal consideration from a weighing perspective.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendices:

- A. Halton Region Evaluation Framework Review Package

Notifications:

Curt Benson, Region of Halton

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.