

BRIEFING FORM

SUBMITTED TO: Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL: 

DATE OF MEETING: December 1, 2011

SUBJECT: **Regional Plan Review Project Scope: Environment and Sustainability Subjects**

ORIGIN

This briefing note originates from the staff work resulting from Regional Council's approval of the Project Scope for the 5 year Regional Plan Review and the Committee Workplan efforts.

BACKGROUND

During Committee of the Whole on October 4, 2011, Regional Council approved the Scope of Work for the Regional Plan 5 Year Review. On September 16th, members of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee participated in a work planning workshop with staff to provide direction around prioritization of issues.

Following that, staff reviewed the Scoping Document of the Regional Plan 5 Year Review against the Committee Work Plan Items, and identified the following Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee efforts as aligned and supportive of the project:

- Complete Urban Forest Master Plan;
- Development of Brownfield Redevelopment Policy;
- Open Space Planning Projects; and
- Water Resource Management Policy

Other Environmental items in the Regional Plan Review Project that are within the scope, but not within the Committee Workplan, include:

- Policy direction for Sustainable Suburban and Rural Community Design; and
- Rural Groundwater Mapping & Hydrogeological Assessments.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this briefing note is to highlight some schedule challenges and timeline pressures that staff and members of the committee and Regional Council will face in the completion of the 5 year review.

Staff have committed to completing the project before Fall 2012. As such, all staff work on the Regional Plan Review will be liaised with the Community Design Advisory Committee and Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee prior to presentation to Regional Council.

In December or early January, staff will be providing details on the Public Engagement Plan for the Review.

Members of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee will have the opportunity to participate in the direction of the Regional Plan Review through:

- Participation in Public Engagement;
- Participation or attendance at Community Design Advisory Committee meetings;
- Participation or attendance at Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee Meetings;
- Participation at Committee of the Whole/Regional Council; and
- Direct submissions and discussion with staff.

Regional Plan Review work will not be scheduled to be vetted through the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee due to schedule pressure.

Details respecting Open Space Plan are provided in the November 4, 2011 information report entitled: Open Space Functional Plan - Scope and Process.

ALTERNATIVES AND ASSOCIATED RISKS

There is no recommended alternative. However, should the Committee wish to give direction on Regional Plan Review items, it may. Timing of any direction would be required prior to Spring 2012 to enable incorporation into policy development and preparation of policy options for Regional Council.

IMPACT/BENEFITS:

The purpose of this briefing note is to simply clarify expectations.

COMMUNICATION ISSUES/OPPORTUNITIES:

None identified for this report.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

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