



Hamilton

Planning and Economic
Development

Meeting Notes

Date: October 29, 2024

Subject: **Meeting Notes – Climate Change Advisory Committee – Draft Framework for Processing and Evaluating Urban Boundary Expansion Applications.**

Meeting: Climate Change Advisory Committee

Date/Time: October 29, 2024, at 6:00pm

Location: Room 264, Hamilton City Hall

Attendees: Alex Wilson, Shelley Rempel, Su Heenan, Jeff Harti, Lucia Iannantuono, Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko, Lynda Lukasik, Trevor Imhoff, Cathrin Winkelmann, Bayode Akomolafe, Tristan Maclaurin, Adan Amer, Maryluz Velasco, Cameron Kroetsch, Giuliana Casimirri, Aditya Khetan, Matthew Tutty, Mary Ellen Scanlon, Tran Ngyuen

1 Presentation made by City Staff.

2 Items of Discussion

2.1 Strength of the Framework

- Committee member expressed concern regarding the framework having the necessary 'teeth' to deny applications. Committee member asked if the goals identified in the Dillon memo will lead to denial of applications? Committee needs a clear idea of how the framework will help achieve the goals identified in the memo provided by Dillon.
- Staff Response: The framework won't be able to stop applications from being received or appealed but will allow for the application to go through a rigorous process. The Framework will control what information comes in with the applications so the City will have a full picture of all the land use implications and will require that the criteria and goals identified in the framework are considered by the applicant in their application.
- Committee member asks if the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) will take the Urban Boundary Expansion Framework seriously when making decisions.
- Staff Response: Unable to comment on how the OLT will decide on these matters. However, when the framework is implemented through Official Plan Policy, it provides something that the City can point to support their position at the OLT.
- Suggestion by committee members to include additional technical details to give the framework more 'teeth'.

- OCCI Staff suggest that the technical detail may come from the development of specific guidelines or terms of reference for reports such as the Energy and Climate Change Assessment Report, which can then be referenced at the OLT.

2.2 External Agency Review Fees

- Committee member asked how external agencies will be compensated for their review of these applications, is it the responsibility of the City?
- Staff Response: External agencies have the ability to set their own fees for application review.

2.3 Impacts to Servicing

- Committee member asked what the relationship is between this new Urban Boundary Expansion Framework process and the City's Servicing Plans? Is the City under an obligation to service expansion lands?
- Staff Response: If an urban boundary expansion is approved by either Council or the OLT, there will be an expectation that development of those lands be on full municipal services. If an urban boundary expansion is approved, a Secondary Plan is required before development applications can proceed. Similar to urban boundary expansions, landowners can appeal Council's refusal or delay in making a decision on a Secondary Plan directly to the OLT. Hamilton's infrastructure plans are continuing on the basis of a no urban boundary expansion framework (meaning making sure we increase infrastructure capacity within the built-up area to meet our growing population and employment. A major challenge is understanding what impacts an 'unplanned' expansion would have on those larger infrastructure plans.

2.4 Suggested Criteria to be Included.

- Committee members suggested the following be considered for inclusion in the framework:
 - Specific Green House Gas (GHG) targets for applications.
 - Carbon Budget for Urban Boundary Expansion Area – Which will set a cap for the amount of emissions in a particular area.
 - A requirement that development not rely on fossil fuels.

2.5 Associated Methodologies, Terms of Reference, & Guidelines.

- Suggestion provided by a committee member to provide specific technical guidance to applicants to make submissions more consistent. As an example, staff should consider identifying specific methodologies or tools to calculate Green House Gas emissions for a development to help make applications more consistent. An example provided by the committee member is the Sustainability Solutions Group GHG Calculator for municipal projects.

3 Next Steps

- Additional written comments from the Climate Change Advisory Committee can be provided in any manner the committee prefers.
- Staff ask that the comments be provided by December 9th, 2024.
- Comments received will be made public and submitted to Council as part of an engagement summary report.