



Municipal Heritage Committee Report

Report Number: KLMHC2024-056
Meeting Date: November 7, 2024
Title: 2024 Provincial Planning Statement
Description: Overview of the new 2024 Provincial Planning Statement
Author and Title: Emily Turner, Economic Development Officer – Heritage Planning

Recommendations:

That Report KLMHC2024-056, **2024 Provincial Planning Statement**, be received;
and

That the presentation from staff be received for information.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

On August 20, 2024, the province issued the final version of the new Provincial Planning Statement (PPS) which took effect on October 20, 2024. This new PPS replaces both the Provincial Policy Statement (2020) and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2019) and integrates them into a single document with some significant changes to policy direction. In general, the policy changes through the new PPS are intended to encourage residential development and build complete communities. All planning decisions made by planning authorities, including decisions by Council and its Committees, must be consistent with the PPS. This includes decisions and recommendations made by the Municipal Heritage Committee, particularly with regard to the designation of properties and heritage conservation districts, heritage permitting, and commenting on Planning Act applications. The new PPS is attached as Appendix A.

Draft versions of the PPS were released to the public on April 14 2023 and April 14, 2024. The final version is substantially different from the 2023 drafts and has changes from the 2024 draft. The Municipal Heritage Committee provided comments to the province as part of the municipal submission related to cultural heritage policies.

Planning staff presented a report to Committee of the Whole at its meeting on October 8 which includes a summary of the major policy changes contained in the new document. The report PLAN2024-056 is attached to this report as Appendix B and their topic-by-topic summary of the major changes between the 2020 PPS/2019 Growth Plan and the 2024 PPS is attached as Appendix C.

The vision statement of the new PPS notes that "Cultural heritage and archaeology in Ontario will provide people with a sense of place." The PPS includes a section containing specific policies related to the preservation of cultural heritage resources, as well as definitions supporting these policies. These policies are broadly similar to the policies contained in the old PPS, but have some notable differences that the Committee should be aware of. This report provides an overview of the changes to the PPS related to cultural heritage policies. These changes were not addressed through Report PLAN2024-056 as they are minor in nature and do not change in any substantive way the City's approach to heritage preservation.

Staff will also provide a brief overview presentation of the policy changes at the Committee's meeting.

Rationale:

Section 2.6 of the 2020 PPS contained policies related to the preservation of cultural heritage resources, including archaeology, in the land use planning context. This section has remained in effect in the 2024 PPS and has been renumbered to Section 4.6. The structure of this section has remained the same, although the policy directions have been modified. A redline version of the new Section 4.6. is attached as Appendix D and a summary of the major changes can be found below.

Protected Heritage Properties

Municipalities are now direct to conserve protected heritage properties as opposed to significant heritage properties during the land use planning process. This aligns with changes the Ontario Heritage Act where a property must have some form of heritage protection (listing or designation under Part IV or V of the Act) for cultural heritage value to be considered as part of a Planning Act application.

Strategies for Heritage Property Conservation

Municipalities are now encouraged to develop strategies for conserving significant cultural heritage resources. This aligns with the new emphasis on identifying and conserving heritage properties prior to the receipt of development application and as a separate process from the development process.

Evaluation of Adjacent Development

Policies regarding the impact of adjacent development on a heritage property have been maintained but their wording has become less clear. There is now no requirement that a development must be evaluated and must only ensure that the heritage attributes of an adjacent property are conserved. It is not entirely clear how this will impact municipal requirements for studies, including HIAs. It is likely that municipalities will continue to require HIAs as prior to the new PPS until there is a challenge made to and a decision from the OLT. This will be the approach at the City.

Indigenous Engagement

Municipalities now must ensure early engagement with Indigenous communities on archaeological resources, built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscape. The emphasis on early engagement is new and reinforces the need to involve Indigenous

communities early in the development process, particularly around cultural heritage resources.

Next Steps

The policy landscape for heritage conservation has shifted slightly but not drastically with the new PPS. The Committee will need to be aware of the new policy requirements around conserving protected as opposed to significant heritage properties under the PPS when reviewing and commenting on Planning Act applications.

The City may also consider the development of a more robust strategy for conserving heritage properties. At present, the City has the following strategies that specifically discuss the conservation of cultural heritage resources in the City:

- Heritage Inventory Framework
- Heritage Conservation District Strategy
- Cultural Heritage Landscape Strategy
- Archaeological Management Plan (in process)

Staff are currently looking at the possibility for bringing these strategic documents together into a high-level built heritage strategy that will respond to the direction to develop strategies for conservation.

Other Alternatives Considered:

There are no recommended alternatives.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

There are no financial or operational impacts as a result of the recommendations of this report.

Consultations:

Outreach Subcommittee
Economic Development Officer – Curatorial Services

Attachments:

Appendix A – 2024 Provincial Planning Statement



Adobe Acrobat
Document

Appendix B – Report PLAN2024-056



Adobe Acrobat
Document

Appendix C – Summary of Major Policy Changes



Adobe Acrobat
Document

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