



Report To Planning & Development Committee

Report Number: PD 21-10

Date: July 5, 2010

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From: Neil Carroll
Director, Planning & Development

Subject: Pickering Official Plan Review
Status Update; and,
Request for Proposals for an
Environment and Countryside Conformity Amendment
File: D-2000-013

Recommendation:

1. That Report PD 21-10 of the Director, Planning & Development, providing a status update on the Pickering Official Plan Review Program and advising of the release of Request for Proposal RFP-6-2010 to engage consultants to undertake the Environment and Countryside Conformity Amendment for the Official Plan Review Program, be received for information.

Executive Summary: In September 2007, Council endorsed a workplan for the review of the City's Official Plan. One of the elements of the workplan was to undertake an Environment and Countryside Conformity Amendment. Among other matters, this amendment would implement the Provincial Greenbelt Plan, new regulations respecting flood protection, the Regional Official Plan changes for environmental, rural and agricultural policies, several watershed strategies, Agricultural Preserve policies in the Central Pickering Development Plan, and the introduction of local food and other policies by Pickering.

Request for Proposal RFP-6-2010 was released calling for proposals by consultants to undertake an Environment and Countryside Conformity Amendment as part of the City's Official Plan Review. The closing date was June 10, 2010. The submission will be reviewed by an Evaluation Committee consisting of City staff, and evaluated according to the criteria in the Request for Proposal. A recommendation will be made in an Addendum Report directly to Council on July 12, 2010. A copy of RFP-6-2010 is attached (see Attachment #1).

The Environment and Countryside Conformity Amendment is a key workplan component of the Official Plan Review Program. With respect to the status of the other components in the workplan, the Bill 51 implementation is half complete, Duffin Heights Neighbourhood planning is complete, Central Pickering planning for Seaton is underway as a separate process and the sustainability amendment will be underway later this year. Completion of the Growth Plan implementation, now underway, will be delayed until the Regional Growth Plan conformity amendment is approved. The wrap-up general Official Plan review amendment will be undertaken in 2011.

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Financial Implications: Although there are no financial implications to receiving this report as information, acceptance of a proposal to undertake the Environment and Countryside Conformity Amendment by Council at the July 12, 2010 meeting will commit the City to pay the costs of the selected proposal. Monies have been budgeted in the 2010 City budget for this purpose.

Sustainability Implications: Revision and updating of environment and countryside policies in the official plan will provide the authority to apply much more sustainable natural heritage, environmental and countryside policies throughout the City of Pickering.

Background:

1.0 Significant Progress has been made on the Official Plan Review Program since its commencement in 2007

After initiating the Official Plan Review at the Special Council Meeting in May 2007, Council endorsed a final workplan for the Official Plan Review in September 2007 and also asked for further information on a strategy for community engagement, including a First Nations engagement strategy.

The Final Workplan included:

- a Housekeeping and Provincial General Policy Implementation Amendment (Provincial Policy Statement and Bill 51 Conformity)
- a Duffin Heights Neighbourhood Amendment
- an Environment and Countryside Policy Amendment
- a Central Pickering Implementation Amendment
- a Sustainable Neighbourhood Plan Amendment
- an Urban Matters Amendment (growth plan, sustainable downtown, Regional population, employment, commercial and transportation policies issues)
- a general Official Plan Amendment (to address remaining issues, including any outstanding Council resolutions)

In February and April 2008, presentations respecting an engagement strategy including a community advisory committee and a strategy for engagement with First Nations were discussed with the Planning & Development Committee. At the time, staff anticipated that a final community and First Nations engagement strategy for the Official Plan Review would be forwarded for endorsement by Council later in the year.

Although significant progress on the Official Plan Review has been made, progress has been somewhat delayed due to the need to address other pressing matters (including the environmental assessments for the Highway #7 widening, Highway #407 extension and Durham Transit Strategy). In addition, the increasing importance of the Sustainability Vision has led to a need for a different emphasis for parts of the Official Plan Review.

What became evident to staff, as work progressed on the different components, is that each amendment was quite focused (either geographically or in terms of the topic), and with a few exceptions, unrelated to the others. The requirement for mandatory compliance with Provincial laws and plans leaves limited scope for creative and meaningful input from a community advisory committee or First Nations into a number of the Official Plan Review workplan components. For example, the task of rewriting the Pickering Official Plan policy to conform to the Greenbelt Plan is very much a technical function.

Thus, upon reflection, staff concluded that establishment of community advisory committee would not be beneficial to moving the Official Plan Review forward. Instead, each workplan component is being undertaken using specific consultation strategies, designed to fit that component.

Also, since the original intent to come back with a First Nations consultation strategy, a new opportunity has arisen through work on Seaton. As part of the preparation of the Master Environmental Servicing Plan, the Regional Environmental Assessment for infrastructure and the City's Neighbourhood Planning Review for Seaton, the Ontario Realty Corporation is developing a special protocol for consultation with First Nations. It is anticipated that the same protocol may be used for other work plan components of our Official Plan Review.

The current status of the Official Plan Review Program reflects major progress on some of the components of the workplan. Table 1 below summarizes the status of the Final Workplan components of the Official Plan Review. A more detailed description is provided in Appendix I.

Table 1 - Status of Workplan Components of the Official Plan Review

Original Component	Completed	Underway	Pending
Housekeeping & Provincial Policy Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill 51 Complete Applications Amendment 17 • Housekeeping Informational Revisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill 51 Development Control Powers • Provincial Policy Statement Implementation and • Housekeeping Policy Revision 	
Duffin Heights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duffin Heights Neighbourhood Amendment 18 		
Central Pickering Development Plan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seaton Neighbourhood Planning Review for urban area and 	

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Original Component	Completed	Underway	Pending
Central Pickering Development Plan (continued)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Preserve (part of Environment & Countryside Amendment) 	
Environment and Countryside Conformity Amendment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for Proposals issued 	
Sustainable Vision			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Vision and • Policy Revisions to implement Sustainable Guidelines and Measuring Sustainability
Growth Plan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Strategy Program 	
Other Urban Matters			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation and • Commercial Policy
Other Components			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Official Plan Review and • Unresolved Issues

2.0 Request for Proposal RFP-6-2010 is seeking consultant proposals to undertake an Environment and Countryside Conformity Amendment

2.1 Environment and Countryside Conformity Amendment

The Pickering Official Plan natural heritage, other environment and countryside policies must be updated to reflect current conditions, conform to Provincial and Region of Durham policies, respond to Conservation Authority initiatives and introduce City initiatives. This provides the opportunity for Pickering policies to align with the new and much more sustainable Provincial policies introduced recently.

The list of environmental and countryside initiatives includes, among others, new regulations respecting flood protection administered by Conservation Authorities, the Provincial Greenbelt Plan, the Durham Region revisions to its Official Plan for environmental, rural and agricultural policies, several watershed strategies, Agricultural Preserve policies in the Provincial Central Pickering Development Plan and the introduction of local food and other policies by Pickering. The revisions will include both policy and mapping/schedule changes.

The Environment and Countryside Conformity Amendment work will be commenced in the summer 2010 by consultants selected through the RFP-6-2010 process and be completed by mid-year in 2011. Once the amendment is prepared, the formal official plan amendment process will commence.

2.2 Request for Proposal No. RFP-6-2010

On May 18, 2010, the notice for RFP-6-2010 was released to invite consultants to submit proposals to undertake an Environment and Countryside Conformity Amendment for the Pickering Official Plan Review. The notice was faxed to a list of consultants (see Attachment #2), posted on the City website and advertised in *Novae Res Urbis* (see Attachment #3). The closing date to submit a proposal was before 2:00 pm (local time) on Thursday, June 10, 2010.

The RFP process ensures a fair process to bidders and ensures the City's financial and corporate interests are fulfilled. The RFP also describes the study components and the list of environment and countryside initiatives that have to be analyzed and reflected in policy revisions. During the evaluation process, the consultants may also be asked to demonstrate how they can balance not only environmental values but also economic and social objectives of the City of Pickering.

The scope of services to be provided is broken into four components.

Component 1 requires: 1) a document review and agency consultation to scope the policy initiatives that require mandatory policy revisions and those which are permissive; and, 2) to obtain the viewpoints of the key agency stakeholders on these matters. A summary report and public consultation will be required.

Component 2 includes a detailed evaluation of options to address each of the initiatives for environment/natural heritage and countryside policies, and to include the maps and schedules necessary to implement the policies. The deliverables for component 2 are: a report, a focus group workshop for strategic stakeholders and a public meeting to obtain input from the general public.

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Component 3 includes the preparation of a report recommending preliminary policy directions for the initiatives, a focus group workshop for strategic stakeholders and a public meeting for the general public. The findings are to be presented to the Planning & Development Committee for endorsement of the policy directions.

Component 4 includes the preparation of a draft official plan amendment (including policies, maps and schedules) and a draft information report to explain the reasoning for the recommended policies.

Completion of the four components of the Environment and Countryside Conformity Amendment is expected by late summer of 2011.

At that point, staff will initiate the formal process to obtain approval of the amendment. The process requires an open house, a statutory public meeting at Planning & Development Committee, a staff report to Planning & Development Committee to recommend formal adoption of the Environment and Countryside Conformity Amendment to the Pickering Official Plan by City Council and approval by the Region of Durham. Typical timelines for the approval process for an amendment are approximately eight months.

The consultants will also be required to attend the open house, statutory public meeting, a Planning & Development Committee meeting and other meetings as assigned.

2.3 An Addendum Report will be prepared for the July 12, 2010 Council Meeting, recommending which proposal should be accepted

Since the evaluation process to select the best proposal cannot be completed in time to recommend a consultant for the July 5, 2010 meeting of the Planning & Development Committee, staff are providing the background and purpose of the RFP in Report PD 21-10, and will forward a recommendation respecting selection of the best proposal directly to Council on July 12, 2010.

Report PD 21-10 has been reviewed by the Manager, Supply & Services, who concurs with the contents. The Addendum Report will be a joint report from the Director, Planning & Development and the Director, Corporate Services & Treasurer.

Appendix

Appendix I Detailed Status of the Workplan Components of the Official Plan Review Program

Attachments:

1. RFP-6-2010
2. List of Consulting Firms
3. Advertisement for RFP-6-2010

Prepared By:

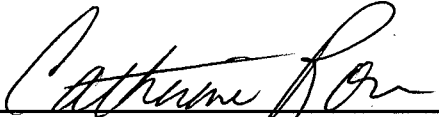
Approved/Endorsed By:



Steve Gaunt, MCIP, RPP
Principal Planner, Policy



Neil Carroll, MCIP, RPP
Director, Planning & Development

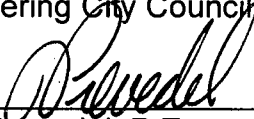


Catherine Rose, MCIP, RPP
Manager, Policy

SG:ld

Copy: Chief Administrative Officer

Recommended for the consideration
of Pickering City Council



June 22, 2010

Tony Prevedel, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer