

MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE



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TO: Chair and Members of Planning Committee

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DATE: April 27, 2018

27 avril 2018

FILE NUMBER: ACS2018-PIE-EDP-0027

**SUBJECT: "Ottawa Next - Beyond 2036" and the next update of the City's Official Plan**

**OBJET : «L'Ottawa de demain - après 2036» et la prochaine mise à jour du plan officiel de la Ville**

## PURPOSE

This memorandum has two purposes:

1. To provide a brief status of the “Ottawa Next - Beyond 2036 Study”
2. To outline the timing of the next update of the City’s Official Plan

## BACKGROUND

City Council approved the initiation of the planning study, which is now referred to as “Ottawa Next – Beyond 2036”, on the 14 December 2016. “Ottawa Next” is being undertaken by City staff with the assistance of internationally-recognized consultants Joe Berridge and Dan Leeming, and a Sounding Board comprised of representatives from industry, agencies, employers and community groups. To-date the study has identified a number of emerging trends and challenges (drivers of change) that will test the City’s resiliency as it continues to grow over the next century. The conclusions arising from “Ottawa Next” will be presented to Planning Committee and Council in July 2018.

The challenges emerging from the Ottawa Next study are pointing towards the need to test and update the City’s growth management strategies and plans. Central to this will be the review and possible replacement of the City’s Official Plan in the next term of Council. In July, staff will present a work plan and seek direction from Council to undertake the next Comprehensive Review of the Official Plan and associated Master Plans, beginning in 2019. The work plan will also be designed to address matters arising from the City’s Strategic Plan and any priorities that will come from the next Council.

## DISCUSSION

### 1. Ottawa Next –Beyond 2036

Recent work of the Ottawa Next Sounding Board identified challenges in four major areas of change that the City should be prepared for and address as it plans for the future. Those major areas are:

- Urban Form and Mobility – How emerging trends in housing and transportation could influence the physical form of the City.

- Economic development – How the City positions itself globally to attract new business, and embraces changing work patterns and new economies as they emerge.
- Environment – How evolving climate changes impacts the way we use and develop land, use natural resources and create and use energy.
- Social/Cultural and Quality of Life – How the city is perceived as a place to live and how influences such as immigration and population age and composition have on social services and community health and cohesion.

Some of these changes will see an evolution in the form of the City and will directly influence the approaches the City, business and other organizations take to attract people, jobs and development to Ottawa.

These broad areas will be broken down into component parts with inter-relationships and policy implications or actions associated with each will be identified. The Consultants' draft Final Report will be presented to the Sounding Board on May 8, 2018 and to Planning Committee on July 10, 2018. The July Staff report will identify how this document and the public feedback to the Ottawa Next process may be used to inform the City's strategic planning and the next update of the City's Official Plan and other Growth Management Plans.

## 2. Timing and content of the next Official Plan

At amalgamation, the new City Ottawa adopted the land use policy framework of the former Regional Official Plan and incorporated a number of unchanged secondary plans and policies of former municipalities. Since its adoption in 2003, the City Official Plan has undergone three major updates but still reflects the former regional approach to growth management. Recent Official Plan updates have taken small steps away from the former Regional Growth strategy but more may be required. In the next term of Council, Ottawa's population is expected to exceed 1 million people; the greater metropolitan area will then reach 1.5 million. The next term of Council and these growth milestones offer the opportunity for the City to undertake a completely new City Official Plan that reflects the future anticipated by Ottawa Next, rather than continuing to rely on the now-quarter-century-old legacy from before amalgamation.

The adoption of a new Official Plan provides the following opportunities:

- A review period of 10-years after adoption rather than the standard five–year interval for an Amended Official Plan.
- The Minister’s approval of a new Official Plan cannot be appealed.
- The review of the structure of land use designations and policies and how they can be tailored to better address built form and end results.
- The need for Secondary Plans and site-specific policies or their update for greater clarity or relevance.
- The opportunity to align of the City’s Employment policies and Employment designations to support Ottawa’s employment needs as envisaged by Ottawa Next.
- The ability to factor in changes in travel patterns post LRT on city mobility and urban form.
- The opportunity to consider a longer planning horizon (2046) and the changes in the population over the next 25 years.
- The opportunity to review and update the City’s current intensification targets and to quantify the demand for new urban and village land for residential, industrial and other land uses.
- To identify and evaluate the appropriateness of adding new suburban and village land in one or more locations and is appropriate to accommodate growth in and environmentally, socially and fiscally sustainable manner.

A replacement of the Official Plan and Secondary Plans, is anticipated to take three years to complete.

## CONCLUSION

When the final report of the Ottawa Next – Beyond 2036 Study is presented to Planning Committee and Council, Staff will be seeking direction from Council to use the study’s conclusions to inform the next Comprehensive Review of the City’s Official Plan and Master Plans beginning in 2019. Staff will recommend the development of a new Official Plan as well as new supporting Secondary Plans where necessary. This review be supported by updated growth projections and the identification of how much land needs

to be added to the urban area and in what locations to meet the needs for housing, employment and other uses to a recommended planning horizon of 2046.

*Original signed by*

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