

DATE: March 30, 2004

TO: Chairman and Members of the Planning and Development Committee

FROM: Edward R. Sajecki, Commissioner of Planning and Building

SUBJECT: **Proposed Regional Official Plan Amendment 03-004
Human Services Policies
MEETING DATE: April 19, 2004**

ORIGIN: Planning and Building Department

BACKGROUND: Regional Council, on July 11, 1996 adopted the Regional Official Plan (ROP). The *Planning Act* requires that, not less frequently than five years, a council shall hold a public meeting to determine the need for a revision to the Official Plan.

Regional Council, at a special meeting held on March 21, 2002, determined that the ROP be reviewed in a scoped, issues-oriented approach. Human Services Planning in the ROP was one of the areas identified for review. The other areas were:

- the Environment, but only with respect to the Oak Ridges Moraine, updated environmental mapping, and water resource policies;
- Regional Structure, which includes updating growth forecasts and a review of the urban boundary; and

- Transportation, limited in scope to address such matters as a Caledon Transportation Needs Study, goods movement, transportation for persons with disabilities, transportation demand management, and a consolidation of the Regional Transportation Plan.

The purpose of the amendment (Exhibit 1) is to update the human services policies in the ROP, to address human services issues resulting from rapid growth and shifting demographic patterns, and to respond to the changing Provincial initiatives in human services areas.

This review of the proposed Human Services Policies was undertaken in consultation with Legal Services, Transportation and Works Department , and the Finance Department.

Exhibit 2 is a strike out version which illustrates the proposed changes to the existing Human Services Policies, and includes staff comments and recommendations on each part the amendment.

COMMENTS:

1. Overview

The existing and proposed Human Services Policies have been reviewed with reference to Section 1.3.2, Five Principles of the Plan, of the Regional Official Plan. These principles state that:

- "The Plan must be strategic in nature, setting broad, high level, long term policy directions for Peel and incorporating the strategic objectives of the area municipalities;
- The Plan should aim to disentangle area municipal, regional and provincial activities in planning, eliminate duplication and not complicate municipal planning efforts. To accomplish this, the Plan must remain focussed on the responsibilities mandated in the *Regional Municipality of Peel Act*;
- The Plan must add value to the planning and development

process in Peel. The Plan must not duplicate or infringe on area municipal planning efforts and must have a distinct, complementary and productive role;

- The Plan should not act as a vehicle for Regional involvement in matters that are established as area municipal planning and servicing responsibilities; and
- The Plan must be prepared with a view to having the Province delegate authority to the Regional, area municipal and/or conservation authority level."

While most of the proposed amendment is supported, a few parts of it appear to be outside the Region's legislative mandate and, in staff's view, could infringe on local municipal planning activities. It appears that some of the proposed policies stem, in part, from attempts to link land use planning and human services planning and delivery, as stated in the Preamble of the amendment.

The "stated" link between land use planning and human services planning and delivery represents an opportunity to improve the Human Services Policies to be more in keeping with the Principles of the Regional Official Plan. Given that Human Services are a substantial component of the Region's budget, the possible impact of land use planning on their planning and delivery should be further considered. To do so, the Region must clearly articulate this link, while having regard for the responsibilities of both the Region and local municipalities. In doing so, it is believed that the role of the Region in land use planning with respect to human services will be better identified, thereby, improving human service delivery, and possibly reducing costs. Until this occurs, it is suggested that the Region of Peel be requested to defer further processing of Regional Official Plan Amendment 03-004, Human Services Policies, until the possible link between land use planning and human services planning and delivery is clearly articulated and demonstrated having regard for the responsibilities of both the Region and local municipalities.

CONCLUSION:

The purpose of the amendment is to update the human services policies in the ROP to address human services issues resulting from rapid growth and shifting demographic patterns, and to respond to the changing Provincial initiatives in human services areas. While most of the proposed amendment is supported, a few parts of it appear to be outside the Region's legislative mandate and, in staff's view, could infringe on local municipal planning activities. The possible link between land use planning and human services planning and delivery represents an opportunity to improve the Human Services Policies to be more in keeping with the Principles of the Regional Official Plan. To do so, the Region must clearly articulate and demonstrate this link, while having regard for the responsibilities of both the Region and local municipalities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Region of Peel be requested to defer further processing of Regional Official Plan Amendment 03-004, Human Services Policies, until the Region clearly articulates the link between land use planning and human services planning and delivery while having regard for the responsibilities of both the Region and local municipalities.
2. That subject to Recommendation 1, the Region of Peel be requested to amend Regional Official Plan Amendment 03-004, Human Services Policies in accordance with the recommendations in Exhibit 2 of the report titled "Proposed Regional Official Plan Amendment 03-004 Human Services Policies" dated March 30, 2004 from the Commissioner of Planning and Building.

3. That a copy of the report titled "Proposed Regional Official Plan Amendment 03-004 Human Services Policies" dated March 30, 2004 from the Commissioner of Planning and Building be forwarded, by the City Clerk, to the Region of Peel, the City of Brampton and Town of Caledon.

Original Signed By: _____

Edward R. Sajecki

Commissioner of Planning and Building