

Administrative Backgrounder

Councillor Notice of Motion

Title	Establishment of Land Use Advisory Committee (Councillor McLennan)
Purpose of Report	To provide information in response to Councillor McLennan's notice of motion made at the September 26, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.
Proposed Motion(s)	That Council direct Administration to provide information and options regarding the establishment of a Land Use Advisory Committee comprised of Council and public members to provide advice to Council on land use matters in Sturgeon County to enhance resident needs and expectations regarding land use provisions.
Previous Council / Committee Direction	None.
Strategic Alignment	Collaborative Governance – Ongoing community consultation and engagement, clear and supportive governance processes.
Statutory Requirement Considerations	There is no statutory requirement to establish a Land Use Advisory Committee to advise Council on land use policy.
Alignment to Levels of Service Delivery	None.
Anticipated Human Resource Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff resourcing would be required to provide administrative support to the Committee, including coordination of meetings, agenda preparation, meeting attendance, minute taking, and preparing briefings to Council. The amount of staff time would be dependent on the Committee's meeting frequency, scope and structure. If the Committee were expecting regular administrative briefings and information preparation, the amount of staff time could be considerable and place further strain on resources (particularly mid to senior level administrative positions).
Anticipated Financial Resource Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public members of the Committee would be compensated in accordance with the Board and Committee Public Member

	Remuneration Policy. The cost would be dependent on the Committee's meeting frequency.
Additional Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sturgeon County has been active in land planning and development in recent years, with new development areas being planned / approved and several large-scale reviews, engagement processes, and related bylaw amendments. Going forward, Sturgeon County's planning efforts will transition into more of an implementation focus. • A Land Use Advisory Committee could presumably be an opportunity for residents to learn more and engage in land use planning and development matters, particularly those who are most interested in the topic and who might benefit from additional insight and clarity. • In the converse, a Land Use Advisory Committee has the potential to set expectations amongst members that they would have authorities to adjust policies or approve/deny applications. The Government of Alberta's regulatory system, in addition to the County's statutory plans and Land Use Bylaw are complex, and authorities are assigned to provincial government, municipal Council, municipal Administration, local and provincial appeal boards, etc. • An ongoing committee would also have a different implication than a temporary group assigned to a specific task or educational interest. Often temporary task forces are effective to address a certain policy question and to provide community advice. • Whether or not a Land Use Advisory Committee is established, Sturgeon County has been and remains committed to engaging with and receiving input from the public and subject matter experts on land use matters impacting them. Recent examples include public representation on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force, crafting recommendations to Council on important agribusiness and agritourism land use matters; ○ the Heartland Residents Task Force; crafting recommendations to Council on important heartland resident matters; ○ the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, which has specific authority to rule on local appeals; and ○ the Calahoo-Villeneuve Sand and Gravel Advisory Committee, considering land use and industry matters related to sand and gravel resource extraction.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to participation on boards and committees, Sturgeon County also offers the following engagement opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Residents are invited and encouraged to participate in public hearings that impact them and provide input to Council directly on Land Use Bylaw and other policy changes; ○ There are ongoing opportunities for affected parties to appeal the issuance of permits, and to engage with appeal boards when necessary; ○ Sturgeon County conducts engagements on important land use matters, including large scale engagements on the Villeneuve Airport Area and Sturgeon Valley Area Structure Planning processes, and the upcoming review of the County's Municipal Development Plan; and ○ Sturgeon County obliges developers to engage with area residents separately, in addition to the typical public hearing process, as a means to ensure more robust engagement. For example, resource extraction operators must engage the community prior to a redistricting application, and ongoing throughout the life of the project. • Based on an initial jurisdictional scan, it is rare for municipalities to have a Land Use Advisory Committee to advise Council on land use policy. Prior legal advice also emphasizes the need to carefully consider delegated authorities as land planning and development is subject to numerous local and provincial regulations.
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Attachment(s)	None.
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