

Attachment 2 – Land Use Advisory Committee

What: Standing / ongoing committee of residents on general land use matters, designed to make recommendations to Council per a specific mandate.

How: The Committee would be created through an enabling terms of reference, contained established by bylaw. The Committee would be supported by analysis and background studies, policy frameworks, and subject matter experts. The Committee would have no delegated authorities to direct application approvals / rejections, or amendments to plans or regulation.

Why: Forum to discuss general land use matters and make recommendations to Council within mandate.

Who: Membership could include member(s) of Council and a cross-section of residents who should be able to apply expertise and strategically consider what is best for the County. The Committee would benefit from members that reflect County demographics (age, sex, race, social and economic characteristics, etc.).

When: Meeting frequency would be dependent on the committee but could vary between 2 - 6 times per year.

Example: Sturgeon County has existing advisory committees, such as for Transportation, Economic Development, and other matters.

Advantages:

- Engages a small group of residents on land use matters, to both educate and provide strategic input on economic, environmental, and social factors impacting municipal land use.
- Members selected to the Committee could more fully engage in the topics to learn more, explore, ask questions, and offer input where legislation allows.
- Ongoing nature could support more integrated input of land use plans.

Limitations:

- Would require confirmation of suitable agenda items / topics, in consideration of legal authorities and Committee input.
- Could not supersede County's statutory obligations, existing plans, designated appeal authorities, etc.
- Would require subsequent community engagement on Committee's recommendations, beyond the limited Committee membership.
- Requires members to have some expertise and competencies in land use, economic development, stewardship and conservation, resource management, etc. As noted, land use in Alberta is highly regulated, and differs from other municipal topics.
- For members, having the interest and the time to participate on a committee often requires more time commitment versus participating on a one time / short term review.
- The Committee's ongoing nature creates ongoing resource requirements for both Council and Administration (to prepare agendas, prepare materials, conduct research, respond to questions, follow up, prepare reports, engage external parties, etc.)