

Attachment 3 – Topic Specific Land Use Task Force

What: Temporary committee of residents on a specific land use matter, designed to deliver a final report and recommendations to Council.

How: A Task Force would be created through an enabling terms of reference, contained within a bylaw. A Task Force could be structured to receive presentations from external stakeholders and supported by analysis and background studies, policy frameworks, and subject matter experts. A Task Force would have no delegated authorities to direct application approvals / rejections but could recommend policy and regulatory amendments in alignment with their mandate from Council.

Why: Discuss topics such as sector specific industry supports, specific policy questions, etc. and make recommendations.

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 Task Force 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 meetings are often frequent during a defined review period.

Example: The County used this model effectively during its review of Agribusiness and Agritourism Supports. The Task Force was comprised of interested agribusiness operators from across the county, of varying backgrounds and expertise, in addition to members of Council. Task Force members were engaged in the topic and had specific advice to contribute, in addition to the framing of additional public engagement. Provincially, Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) were used to collect input into government planning policy and regulation development for the regional plans prior to dissolution.

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.
- A Task Force has a defined scope and timeframe to undertake its work, established by Council.
- Those residents who may have the greatest interest in the specific topic, or that are most likely to be affected by a specific policy or regulation, could be invited to participate.
- Resource requirements are temporary.

Limitations:

- Would require confirmation of suitable topics, in consideration of legal authorities and Council input.
- Could not supersede the County's statutory obligations, existing plans, designated appeal authorities, etc.
- Often requires subsequent community engagement on recommendations, beyond the limited Task Force membership.
- Often, but not always, requires members to have some expertise in the subject matter.
- May limit continuity owing to when recommendations are completed, the Task Force dissolves.