

NEW REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN

HIGH LEVEL PROCESS & FRAMEWORK

OBJECTIVES

- Promote and achieve great development outcomes that contribute to complete community solutions and an authentic urban experience
- Protect Regional Natural and Agricultural Resources and adequately respond to the challenges of Climate Change
- Provide clear policy direction where necessary and discretion where appropriate.
- Address Provincial requirements, Regional mandate matters and provide guidance to LAMs.
- The New Official Plan will be processed under Section 26 of the Planning Act

Decision To Initiate

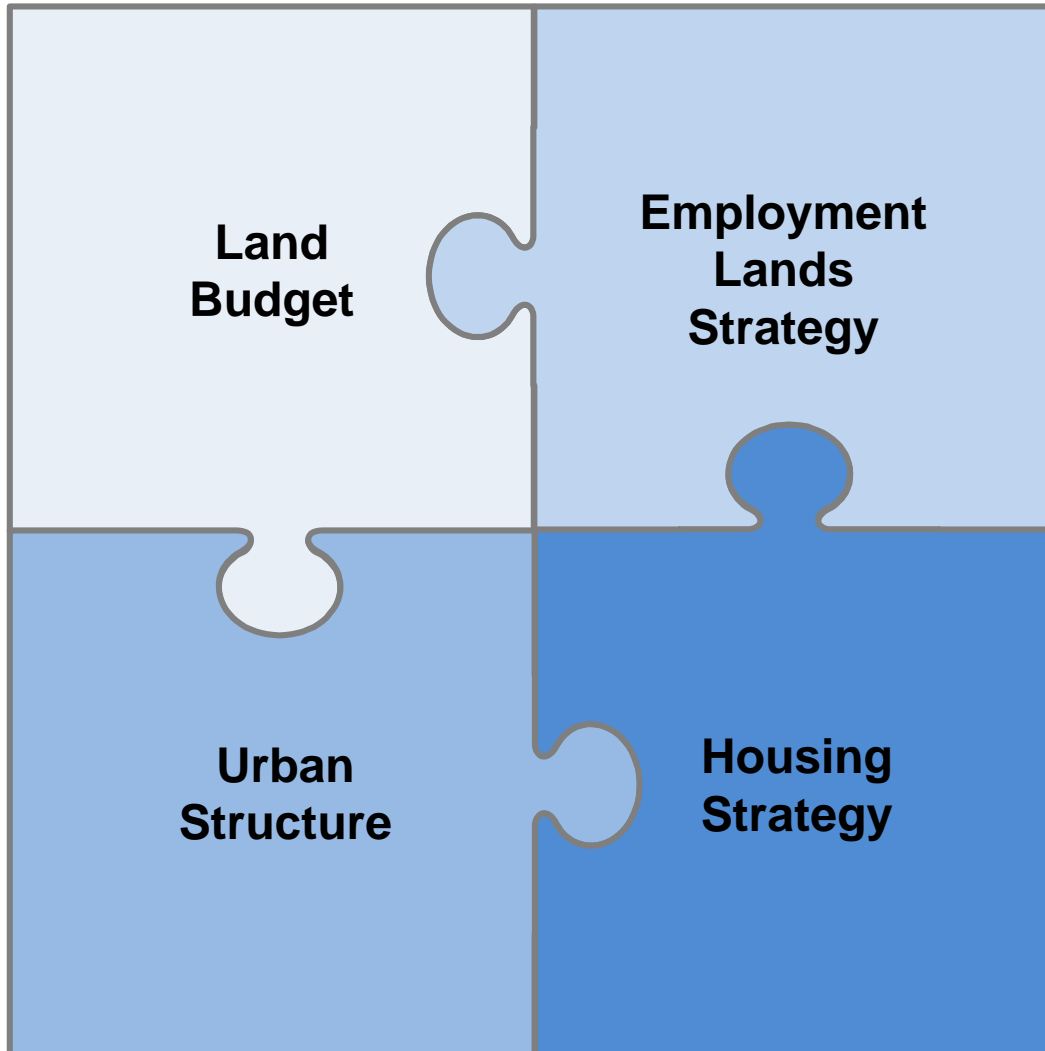
- In November, 2016, Regional Planning and Economic Development Committee approved the recommendations of Report PDS-40- 2016 allocating staff resources and budget to complete the Regional Official Plan over the next 5 years.

Required Work

- Evidence Based Background Studies to inform the Official Plan have been prioritized considering the following:
 - completion of MCR Background Study work
 - strategies required by the 2017 Ontario Growth Plan or address other Provincial Plans
 - some Background Studies already initiated
 - time required to complete the background studies

Growth Management Puzzle

Goal- Substantial Completion Q2-2018



Land Budget

- the amount of developable urban land needed for residential and employment purposes to 2041
- identify any excess lands (not developable by 2041)
- guidance from the Province is expected by Q1 2018



Employment Lands Strategy

- ensure sufficient and marketable supply for traditional industrial employment
- identify *Regional Employment Areas* - areas of business and economic activity for long term employment development which are to be protected from conversion
- ensure sufficient population based employment lands to serve the growing regional population



Urban Structure

- identify important strategic regional growth nodes
- assign population and density accordingly
- strategic growth targets will be established for downtown St. Catharines which is identified as an Urban Growth Centre.



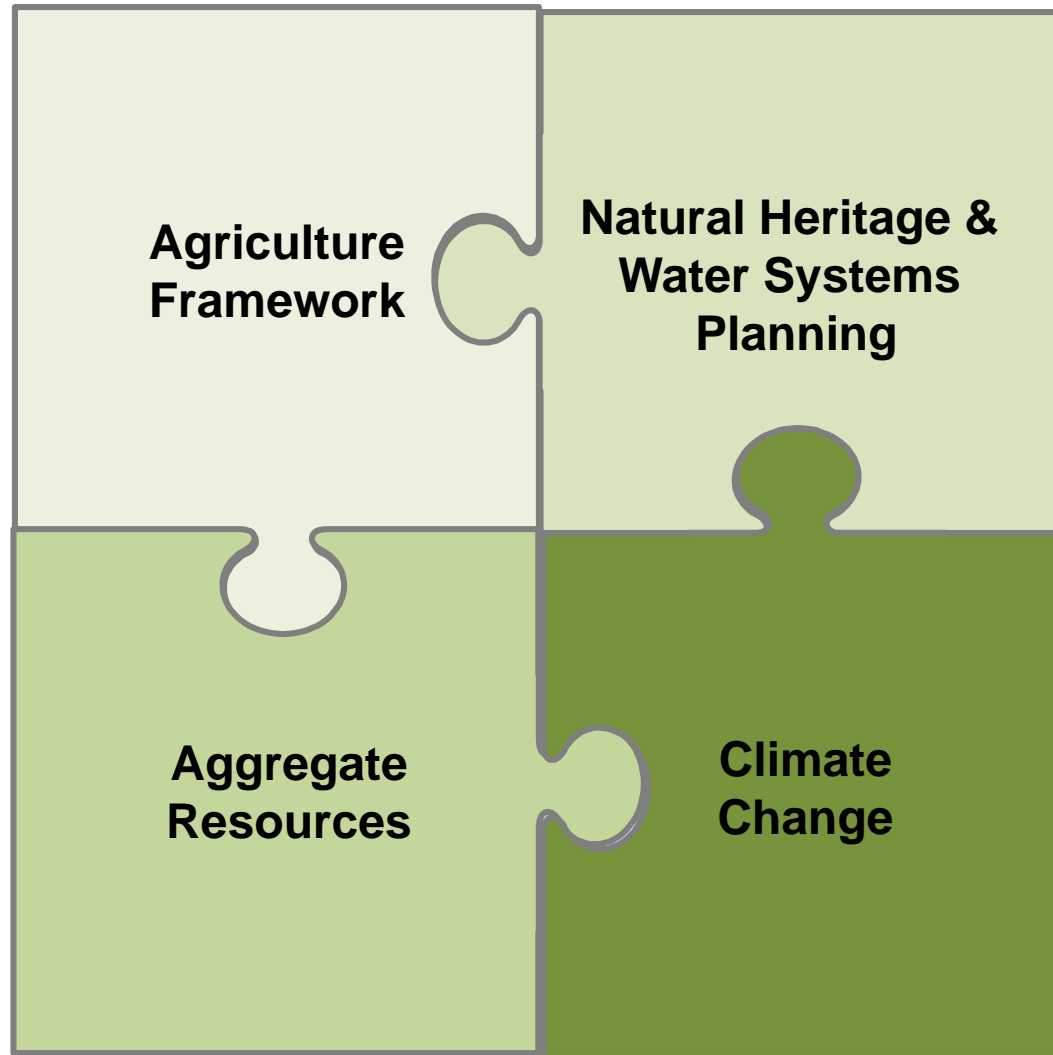
Housing Strategy

- promote an appropriate density and mix of housing forms
- promote choice, aging in place opportunities and affordability
- set affordable housing targets
- identify tools to support affordable housing



Rural and Natural Systems Management Puzzle

Framework completions- Q2-2018



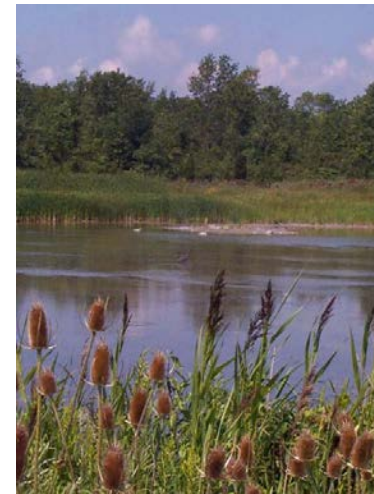
Agriculture Framework

- recognize agriculture is a primary driver of the regional economy
- protect the unique land base as reflected in Provincial planning documents
- Update specific policy, such as agricultural-related and on-farm diversified uses to support the interest of the local agricultural industry
- ensure conformity and supportive policies for the agricultural economy/industry.



Natural Heritage & Water Systems Planning

- Will be a significant component of the new ROP to meet Provincial policy direction
- watershed planning is required to ensure water resources and storm water management are properly addressed
- assess natural heritage and water systems options for policy and mapping
- establish criteria and identify features for provincial compliance
- develop watershed planning policy framework



Aggregate Resources

- aggregate resources are located throughout the region and are essential to the economy
- extraction of the resource is necessary - a need to address land use compatibility
- an amendment to update Aggregate Resource policies in the ROP initiated through Imagine Niagara will be carried forward as a section of the new ROP



Climate Change

- climate change and the reduction of GHG is the foundation of the 2017 Growth Plan
- focus on transit supportive development, complete communities, multi-modal transportation, complete streets, watershed planning and natural heritage protection
- climate change guidance will be integrated throughout the New ROP (watershed planning and low impact development standards)
- a climate change study will assess obligations and options on the region's role relative to GHG targets.

Low Impact Development (LID) Strategies

Means of stormwater management

- Rainfall collection
- Runoff reduction
- Infiltration enhancement
- Evapotranspiration (ET) enhancement



(CIC & TRCA, 2010)

Select examples:

- Rainwater harvesting
- Green roofs
- Bioretention
- Permeable pavement
- Infiltration galleries
- Swales
- Etc.



(EVC & TRCA, 2010)



Engagement Process Considerations

- Engagement of Ingenious Peoples at the start
- Carry forward essential information and direction
- Clear understanding that one policy decision impacts another
- Ensure Council members feel involved
- Ensure the “Regional Mandate” is considered and identified
- Ensure broad based and personal consultation
- Provide strategic facilitation where necessary

Moving Forward

- Endorsed of ROP Framework Report/Work Plan by PED Committee
- Comply With Planning Act Requirements - Special Council Meeting & Open Houses
- Complete ROP in Sections for endorsement and consolidate endorsed sections for Council adoption
- Present to Local Council's to highlight approach and invite involvement
- Use *Imagine Niagara* to theme public topics, visioning and engagement

QUESTIONS?