

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Dr. Alexander Summers, Medical Officer of Health
Emily Williams, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: 2022 May 19

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW SUBMISSION

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Health receive Report No. 32-22, re: “County of Middlesex Official Plan Review Submission” for information.

Key Points

- Under the *Ontario Public Health Standards*, the Middlesex-London Health Unit must inform the development of local healthy public policy related to promoting healthy built and natural environments.
- In April 2022, MLHU staff in the Healthy Living and Environmental Health and Infectious Diseases Divisions reviewed and submitted written comment to the County of Middlesex Official Plan Amendment Consultation Draft ([Appendix A](#)).

County of Middlesex Official Plan Review

Built and natural environments that are well planned help to create healthy communities with resulting positive impacts on overall physical and mental health, social wellbeing, sense of safety, and reduced exposure to health hazards. Public health has mandate under the *Ontario Public Health Standards* to support the creation of healthy public policy that reduces exposures to health hazards and promotes the development of healthy built and natural environments. Official Plans are an important municipal-level policy framework that can help ensure that land use planning decisions support healthy communities.

Middlesex County is in the process of updating its Official Plan to conform to changes made to the Provincial Policy Statement in 2020 and to set new goals and priorities that will shape future growth and development in the County over the next 25 years. In April 2022, MLHU staff in the Healthy Living and Environmental Health and Infectious Diseases Divisions had an opportunity to review and submit written comment, including potential enhancements for consideration, to the County of Middlesex Official Plan Amendment Consultation Draft. The submission is included in [Appendix A](#). Many existing and amended policies contained within the Official Plan align with and enhance public health’s mandate to reduce health inequities, promote healthy behaviours and contribute to the development of safe, supportive and healthy environments. The County of Middlesex Official Plan will provide strong policy support for health-supporting built and natural environments for the next 25 years.

This report was prepared by the Healthy Communities and Injury Prevention team, Healthy Living Division.



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