

Background

The Evaluation Framework as provided in Regional Council Report No. LPS41-19 (Re: “Regional Official Plan Review - Progress Update on the Integrated Growth Management Strategy and Preliminary Growth Scenarios”) has been developed around the land use policies and policy directions identified in the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019* (the *Growth Plan*) and the Regional Official Plan (ROP).

The Framework has been informed by meetings with Regional staff, Local Municipal staff, and direction from the Regional Official Plan Review (ROPR) Steering Committee. It has also been further informed through discussions at the ROPR Visioning Workshop held June 7, 2018. Participants at the Workshop included Local Municipal Directors and ROPR Technical Committee members who provided insights on development of the scenarios and assisted in determining the recommended approach for evaluating the Growth Concepts to accommodate growth in Halton Region to 2041.

The Framework identifies a number of important measures to be evaluated against the Growth Concepts. Each measure is associated with specific policy themes based on the required policy directions from the PPS, the *Growth Plan, 2019*, and the ROP.

To develop the measures, the objectives were distilled into evaluation questions that represent Regional and Provincial policy directions. These questions were intended to measure the degree to which the concept addresses or demonstrates the particular objective. From there, specific measures were created for each question that could be used to evaluate the concepts and rank them on how well each meets the evaluation question (and the objective).

Using This Document

The purpose of this Evaluation Framework Review Package is to provide some additional material and an optional template to assist Local Municipalities in prioritizing and weighting the measures identified in the Evaluation Framework.

The template can be used to identify measures that are specifically relevant to local planning needs by circling “Yes” under the Local Planning Needs column of the template. In addition, the template can be used to identify the weighting of the measures by circling the number of stars, between one to five stars, to reflect the desired weighting of the measure. One (1) star indicates a low consideration whereas five (5) stars indicate the highest consideration for weighting.

The optional template is provided in this package for each theme identified in the Evaluation Framework.

Theme 1: Regional Urban System & Local Urban Structure

Policy Directions

The objectives and measures identified under this theme are based on Regional policy directions and addresses urban structure, employment land supply, and complete and healthy communities:

Healthy Communities

As identified in the Regional Official Plan (ROP), Halton believes in building healthy communities that foster well-being of residents, have a full range of housing, employment, recreation and community services, have access to multi-modal transportation, and embraces the principles of sustainability.

Local Identity

It is the objective of the Region to accommodate growth to retain local identity, promote economic prosperity, and to maintain a sustainable natural environment (ROP 72). This theme also requires consideration of local urban structure to ensure the concepts reflect local individualities and objectives.

Evaluation of the Objectives and Measures

Evaluate the measures identified below based on suitability against Local planning needs and identify the appropriate weighting:

Measure	Local Planning Need	Weighting (5 = Highest, 1 = Lowest)
1.1 Support Regional and Local Urban Structure		
1.1.1 Best meets or exceeds transit supportive densities in UGCs, MTSAs, and potential transit priority corridors	Yes	*****
1.1.2 Locates employment development close to existing or potential priority corridors and provides opportunities for multi-modal access	Yes	*****
1.1.3 Locates new residential development close to existing or potential priority corridors and provides opportunities for multi-modal access	Yes	*****
1.1.4 Best reflects the intent of the local urban structure	Yes	*****
1.2 Protect Overall Employment Land Supply		
1.2.1 Protects existing employment and supports opportunities for new employment forms	Yes	*****
1.2.2 Best accommodates the target population and jobs for the gross developable area within MTSAs	Yes	*****
1.2.3 Best protects critical existing employment uses while accommodating demand for mixed use development	Yes	*****
1.3 Provide a Range of Identifiable, Inter-connected, Complete Communities		
1.3.1 Supports locating urban development contiguous with existing built up areas	Yes	*****
1.3.2 Supports maintenance of contiguous Natural Heritage and Agricultural lands	Yes	*****
1.4 Provide the Opportunity to Develop Healthy Communities		
1.4.1 Supports the greatest opportunity for a diversity of land uses, appropriate mix and densities of housing, and promotes a multi-modal transportation system that supports active transportation and transit use	Yes	*****
1.5 Provide a Range of Choice for Housing, Jobs, and Leisure		
1.5.1 Supports a greater degree of access and choice for housing, employment and leisure	Yes	*****

Policy Directions

The objectives and measures identified under this theme are based on Provincial policy directions and addresses financial impact and the efficient use of infrastructure:

Efficient Use of Existing or Planned Infrastructure

Provincial policies direct that communities be sustained by necessary existing or planned infrastructure to meet current and projected needs (PPS 1.1.1). To avoid the need for unjustified and/or uneconomical expansion of infrastructure, land use patterns within settlement areas are to be based on densities and a mix of land uses that efficiently use existing or planned infrastructure (PPS 1.1.3.2) and to manage forecasted growth, the Region must provide direction for an urban form that optimizes infrastructure, particularly along transit and transportation corridors (GP 2.2.1.3).

Promote Intensification

To further this, the Region is responsible for identifying appropriate locations and promoting opportunities for intensification and redevelopment. This must take into account the availability of suitable existing or planned infrastructure required to accommodate projected need (PPS 1.1.3.3, GP 2.2.2.3).

Financial Viability

In order to allow the expansion of the settlement area boundary the Region must demonstrate that existing or planned infrastructure are suitable for the long term and are financially viable over their life cycle (PPS 1.1.3.8, GP 2.2.8.3).

Evaluation of the Objectives and Measures

Evaluate the measures identified below based on suitability against Local planning needs and identify the appropriate weighting:

Measure	Local Planning Need	Weighting (5 = Highest, 1 = Lowest)
2.1 Optimize the Current Infrastructure Capacity		
2.1.1	Maximize the use of existing capacity prior to the upgrade or expansion of infrastructure	Yes * * * * *
2.1.2	Best use of existing or planned infrastructure and that can be most easily expanded to service new development areas	Yes * * * * *
2.2 Cost-effective Replacement and/or Expansion of Infrastructure		
2.2.1	Best supports coordinated construction of transportation and water/wastewater infrastructure to meet development demands	Yes * * * * *
2.3 Sustainable Long-range Financial Planning and Asset Management		
2.3.1	Lowest capital cost for water/wastewater and transportation infrastructure required, while achieving a balance between community development costs and benefits	Yes * * * * *
2.3.2	Lowest operating and maintenance costs	Yes * * * * *
2.3.3	Least negative (most positive) net financial impact on the Region and its Local Municipalities	Yes * * * * *
2.4 Support Regional Planning		
2.4.1	Best opportunity for phasing and scheduling with other planned infrastructure projects	Yes * * * * *
2.5 Sound and Sustainable Infrastructure Planning		
2.5.1	Best supports a sustainable, long term infrastructure planning strategy	Yes * * * * *

Theme 3: Agriculture, Environment & Climate Change

Policy Directions

The objectives and measures identified under this theme are based on Provincial policy directions and addresses impact on the agricultural land base and system, natural heritage protection, and climate change adaptation and resiliency:

Protecting the Natural Heritage System and Prime Agricultural Areas

In order to allow the expansion of the settlement area boundary the Region must demonstrate that the Natural Heritage System, key features, and prime agricultural areas are avoided where possible and any adverse impacts on the agri-food network are avoided or mitigated (PPS 1.1.3.8, GP 2.2.8.3).

Improving Resiliency to Climate Change Impacts

To support the achievement of complete communities, municipalities are directed to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts, improve resiliency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (PPS 1.1.1, GP 2.2.1.4).

Evaluation of the Objectives and Measures

Evaluate the measures identified below based on suitability against Local planning needs and identify the appropriate weighting:

Measure	Local Planning Need	Weighting (5 = Highest, 1 = Lowest)
3.1 Protect the Integrity and Minimize Impact on the Agricultural Land Base and System		
3.1.1 Retains the largest amount of contiguous agricultural land possible	Yes	* * * * *
3.1.2 Protects and avoids Prime Agricultural Land to maintain the most productive and fertile soils for agriculture	Yes	* * * * *
3.1.3 Maximizes the amount of agricultural lands to support the Agricultural System	Yes	* * * * *
3.1.4 Limits proximity of land uses sensitive to agricultural operations (e.g. noise, odour)	Yes	* * * * *
3.1.5 Recognizes the interconnectedness of agricultural and food assets and has the least impact on the Agricultural System	Yes	* * * * *
3.2 Enhance the Natural Heritage System to Strengthen Key Features and Areas and Reduce the Impact of New Development		
3.2.1 Retains the greatest overall area possible of natural heritage lands	Yes	* * * * *
3.3 Reduce Carbon Emissions and Address Air Quality		
3.3.1 Best creates opportunities for residential uses, employment uses, and community services to be located in close proximity to one another and supported by existing or planned transit service	Yes	* * * * *
3.3.2 Generates the fewest lane kilometres, provides transit-supportive densities, and generates opportunities for multi-modal access	Yes	* * * * *
3.4 Maintain Resiliency to Impacts of Extreme Weather Events		
3.4.1 Emphasizes NHS protection within settlement areas and the rural area	Yes	* * * * *
3.4.2 Supports a contiguous Natural Heritage System	Yes	* * * * *
3.5 Consider Impacts on Region's Mineral Resource Areas		
3.5.1 Limits proximity of incompatible uses to mineral aggregate operations and mineral extraction areas	Yes	* * * * *
3.5.2 Retains areas for mineral extraction, which can be rehabilitated to high value agricultural areas	Yes	* * * * *

Theme 4: Growing the Economy & Moving People and Goods

Policy Directions

The objectives and measures identified under this theme are based on Provincial policy directions and addresses multi-modal transportation and transit-supportive densities, goods movement and employment areas:

Planning for Multi-modal Transportation

As identified in the Provincial Policy Statement and the *Growth Plan*, areas with existing and planned frequent transit and Major Transit Station Areas are to be planned and designed to be transit-supportive with multi-modal access to stations and connections (GP 2.2.4.8, 2.2.4.10).

Planning for Employment

In terms of economic development, the Growth Plan directs municipalities to make more efficient use of employment areas and vacant and underutilized employment lands (GP 2.2.5.8).

Planning for Efficient Movement of Goods

For goods movement, facilities and corridors should be linked to employment areas to facilitate efficient goods movement (GP 3.2.4.1).

Evaluation of the Objectives and Measures

Evaluate the measures identified below based on suitability against Local planning needs and identify the appropriate weighting:

Measure	Local Planning Need	Weighting (5 = Highest, 1 = Lowest)
4.1 Promote Transit-supportive Densities		
4.1.1 Directs new mixed use and residential development to nodes and corridors	Yes	* * * * *
4.2 Promote Multi-modal Transportation Network that Supports all Modes of Transportation		
4.2.1 Locates new residential development closest to nodes and corridors	Yes	* * * * *
4.3 Facilitates Goods Movement		
4.3.1 Supports connectivity between Regional roads, rail and highways	Yes	* * * * *
4.3.2 Enhances the connectivity of goods related and land extensive employment areas located adjacent to or near major goods movement facilities and corridors	Yes	* * * * *
4.4 Ensure the Availability of Sufficient Lands to Accommodate Forecasted Employment Growth		
4.4.1 Employment areas have direct access to rail and highways and are near existing or planned transit facilities	Yes	* * * * *