



# **Town of Essex New Official Plan**

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## **Special Meeting of Council**

June 6, 2022

**essex**  
*Where you belong*



# Agenda

- Purpose and Introductions
- Project Overview
- Focus on Colchester
- Focus on Growth
- Work Plan and Schedule
- Discussion
- Next Steps

# Purpose of this Meeting

- Under Section 26(3)(b) of the *Planning Act*, before revising its Official Plan (OP), the Municipality is required to hold a Special Meeting of Council, open to the public, to discuss potential revisions.
- At the end of this presentation, the floor will be open to receive feedback from Council and registered delegates.



# Introductions



## **Town Steering Committee**

Lori Chadwick, Director of Development Services

Rita Jabbour, Manager, Planning Services

Jeff Watson, Senior Planning Advisor

## **Consultant Team**

Greg Bender, Director, Urban and Community Planning, WSP Canada

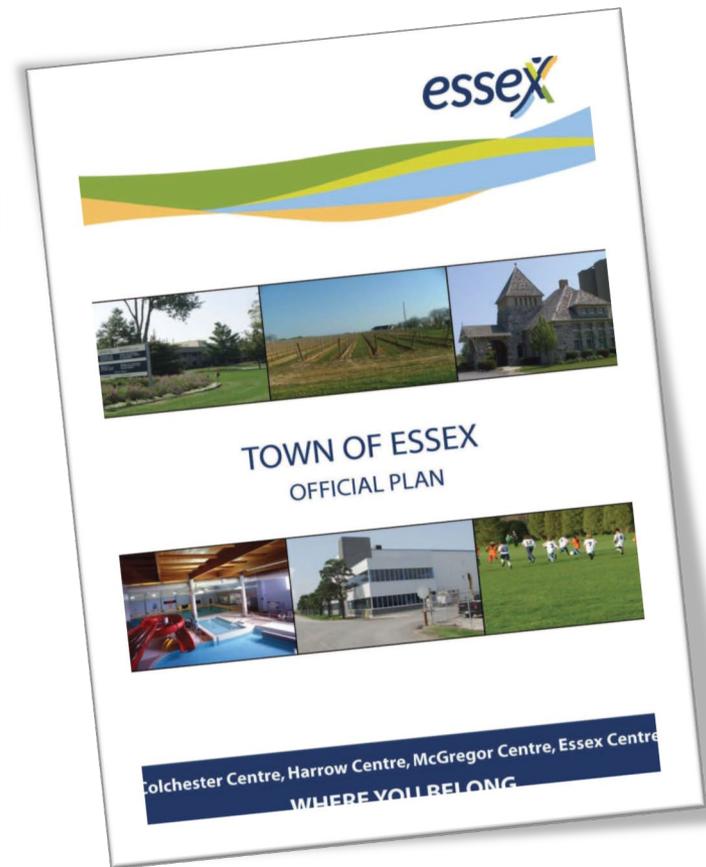
Marisa Williams, Project Manager/Senior Planner, WSP Canada

Will Lamond, Planner, WSP Canada



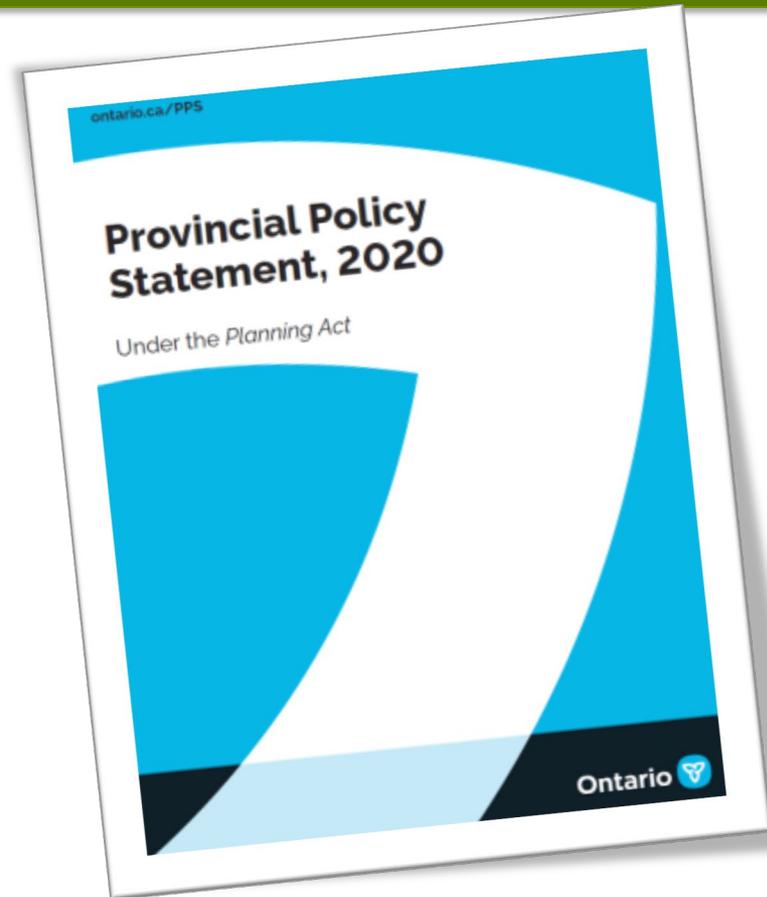
# Why a New Official Plan?

- Current OP came into force in 2009 and was subsequently updated in 2015
- *Planning Act* requires Official Plans to be updated every five years
- Developing a new OP allows for new and innovative policies



# Policy Drivers – Province of Ontario

- The Town's OP must conform to the *Planning Act* and be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 (PPS)
- Several updates to both the *Planning Act* and PPS since 2015 which must be implemented in the new OP



# Policy Drivers – County of Essex

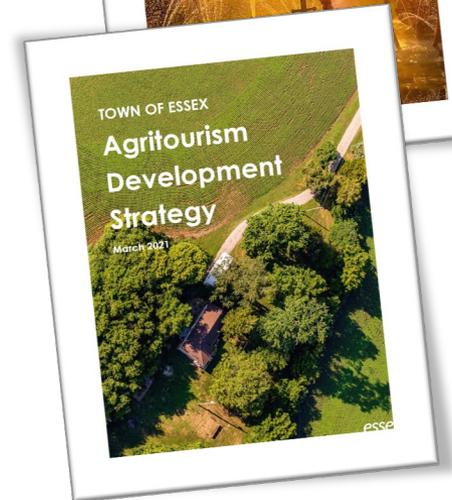
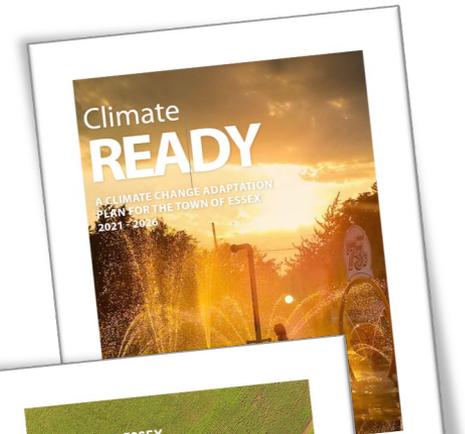
- New Town OP must also conform to the County of Essex's Official Plan
- County is undertaking an Official Plan Review, to be completed in late 2023
- Town project team is working with County staff to ensure alignment of the two projects



County of  
Essex

# Policy Drivers – Town of Essex

- Official Plan will be informed by several initiatives undertaken since 2015, including:
  - 2019 - 2022 Strategic Plan
  - Climate Change Adaptation Plan
  - Agritourism Development Strategy
  - Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan
  - Development Standards, Streetscape Plans, and Urban Design Guidelines
  - Short-term Rental policies



# Areas of Concentration



Growth  
Management



Water Source  
Protection



Parks and Open  
Space



Residential  
Intensification and  
Affordable Housing



Cultural,  
Architectural, and  
Archeological  
Heritage



Agriculture  
and Specialty  
Crops



Energy Conservation  
& Climate Change



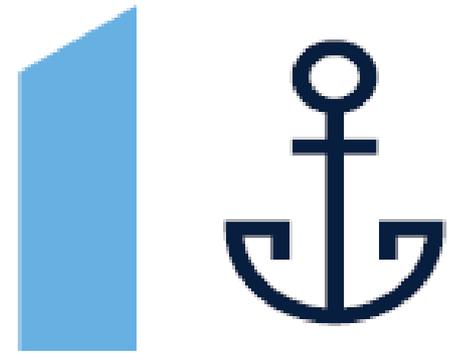
Natural Heritage



Implementation  
and  
Interpretation

# Colchester Secondary Plan Update

- Existing Secondary Plan, Urban Design Guidelines, and Demonstration Plan completed in 2007/2008
- Work will consist of:
  - Review and update of Urban Design Guidelines
  - Parking study
  - Heritage feasibility study for area around Colchester Schoolhouse



Colchester Secondary  
Plan Update

# Growth Management



Population,  
household,  
employment  
forecasts



Feedback on growth  
allocations for Town  
of Essex



Land needs  
assessment for  
local  
municipalities



Allocation of  
growth within  
Town of Essex



# Allocation of Growth

- **Intensification** Growth is captured through intensification and redevelopment within existing settlement area boundaries
- **Boundary Adjustment** Growth is accounted for by removing lands from one settlement area and adding to another
- **Boundary Expansion** Growth is accounted for by adding additional lands to an existing settlement area if allocated growth cannot be accommodated through development of vacant lands, infill, or intensification
- **Annexation** Expansion of Essex Centre could potentially be achieved through annexation of lands from the Municipality of Lakeshore or Town of Kingsville (or through swapping of lands), subject to negotiation

# Branding



- Logo is intended to provide a unique identity for the Town of Essex Official Plan, while complimenting the current Town of Essex branding.

# Engagement and Consultation

**2 meetings**

**Community  
Stakeholder  
Working Group**

**2 meetings**

**Development  
Working Group**

**3 meetings**

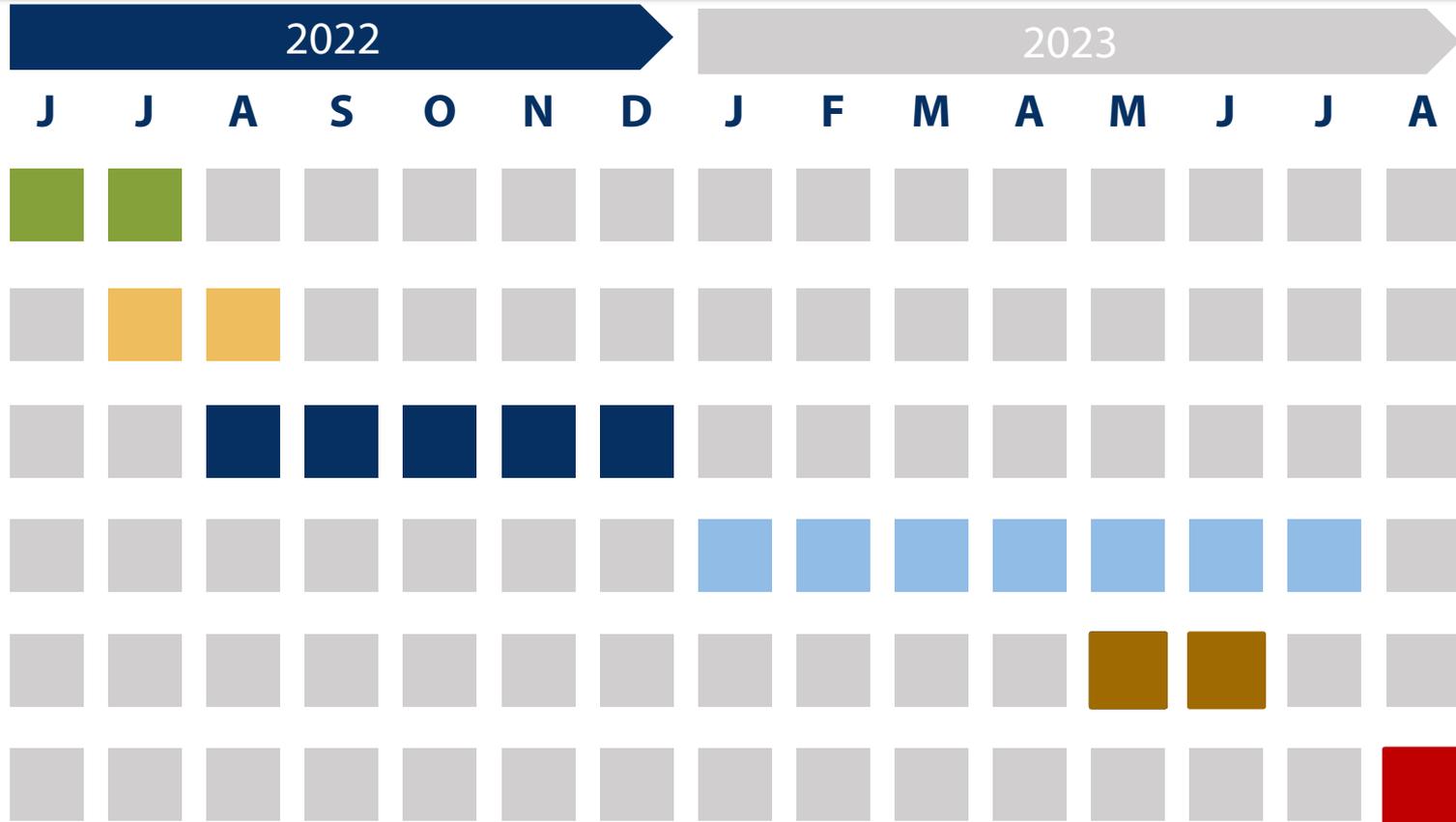
**Public Focus  
Groups**

**Statutory**

**Consultation**

**Public Open  
House and Public  
Meeting**

# Work Plan



Background Review and Policy Gaps

Review of County Growth Forecasts

Policy Directions (non-Growth)

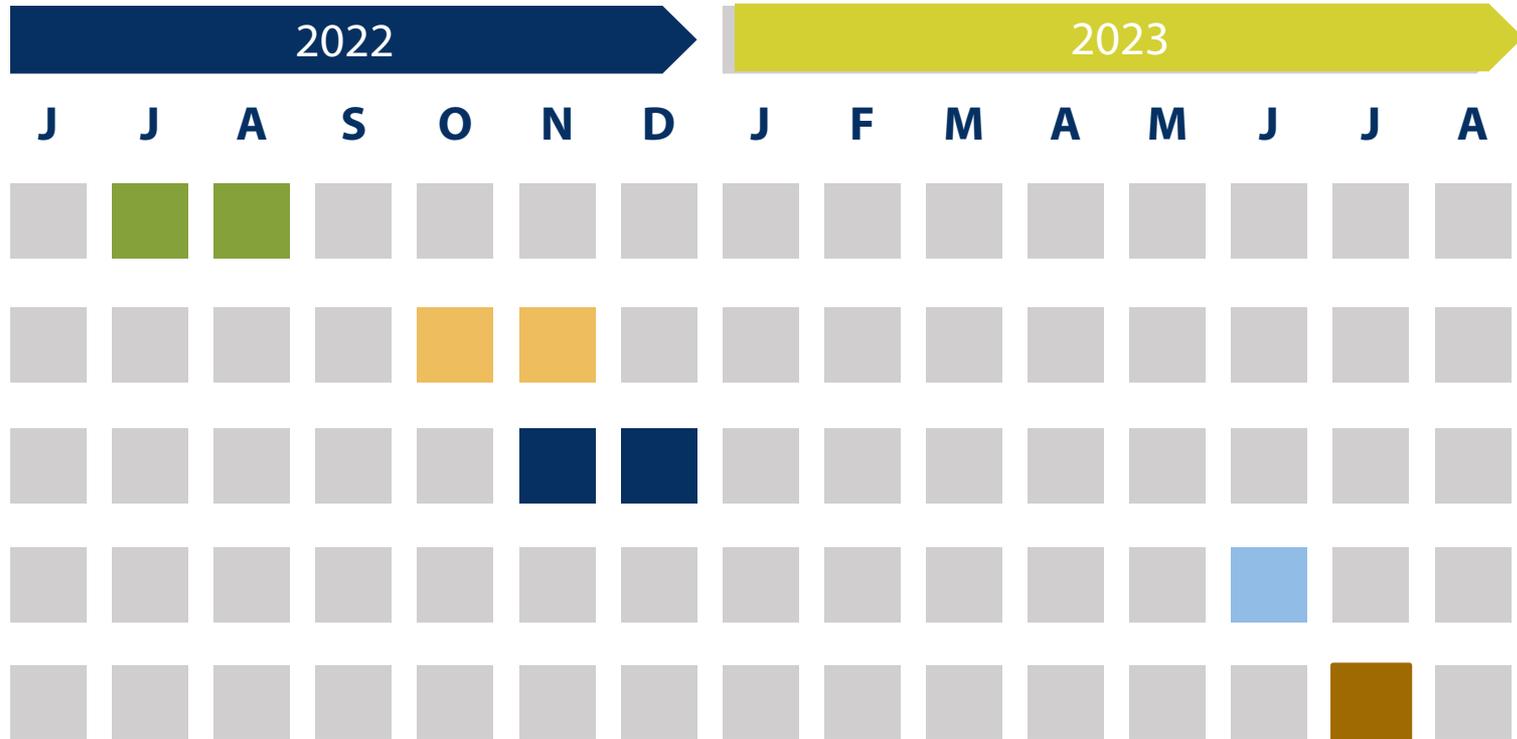
Draft Official Plan

Policy Directions (Growth)

Adoption of New Official Plan



# Public and Stakeholder Consultation



Stakeholder Cluster #1

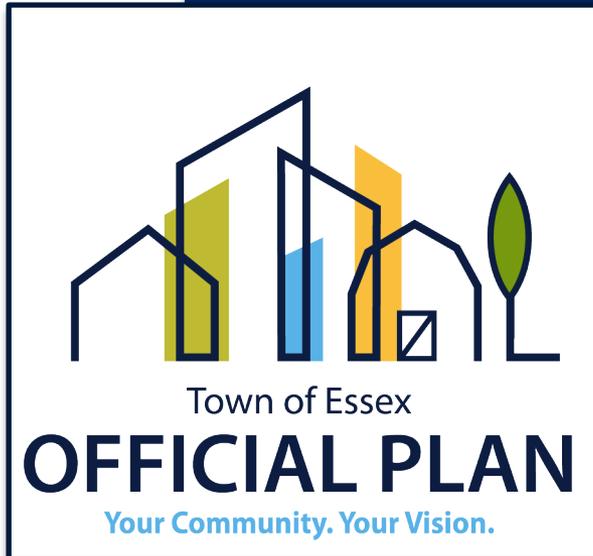
Public Focus Groups

Stakeholder Cluster #2

Public Open House

Public Meeting

# Next Steps



- Late June 2022: Stakeholder Consultation Cluster #1
- June – July 2022: Background Review and Policy gaps analysis
- July – August 2022: Review of County Growth Forecasts
- Fall 2022: Policy Directions, Public Focus Groups, Consultation Cluster #2

**For more information please contact:**

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# Discussion/Questions?