



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

TUESDAY,
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Charting Progress: SCOR EDC's 2023 Update and the Call for a Stronger Economic Future

During a presentation to County Council, Kimberly Earls, Executive Director, and Bernia Martin, Board of Directors Chair of the South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation (SCOR EDC), provided an update on the organization's progress as of 2023.

SCOR EDC was established in 2010 as a result of the decline in the tobacco industry and the need to diversify the regional economies of Norfolk, Brant, Oxford, Middlesex, and Elgin Counties. The organization has played a vital role in advocating for the members and sharing resources, enabling the larger region to have a stronger voice.

Kimberly and Bernia shared SCOR's strategic plan, which focuses on infrastructure, human capital, and the key sectors related to agriculture and agri-food.



Historically, the County of Elgin has provided SCOR with \$25,000 but has requested an increase in membership fees to \$30,000 to provide more of an impact for members.

County Council recommended that this request for an additional \$5,000 be forwarded to the Budget Committee for consideration during the Budget development process for 2024.

Enhancing Inclusivity: Elgin County's Progressive Accessibility Initiatives

Elgin County's Accessibility Coordinator, Sarah Savoie, presented Elgin County Council with updates to the following three policies:

- 2.130 County Accessibility Policy
- 2.130.1 Emergency Workplace Response for Employees with Disabilities Policy
- 2.80.2 Accommodations in the Workplace Policy

Changes to the *County Accessibility Policy* aim at clarity, inclusivity, and legislative alignment. Key modifications include adding Purpose, Legislative Authority, and Scope sections, expanding Definitions, and reorganizing the policy. Additional sections cover diverse areas, emphasizing compliance and regular reviews.

For the *Emergency Workplace Response for Employees with Disabilities Policy*, changes focus on safety, updating the Statement of Commitment, expanding Definitions, and detailing Roles and Responsibilities. Comprehensive procedures for Designated Persons, along with a Supporting Documents section and a Worker Emergency Self Evaluation form, enhance the policy.

Modifications to the *Accommodations in the Workplace Policy* aim at inclusivity and compliance. Changes include adding a Purpose section, repositioning the Statement of Commitment, expanding the Definitions and Legislative Authority sections, detailing the Duty to Accommodate, and refining the Responsibilities sections. A Supporting Documents section is added for policy reference.

Elgin County Council unanimously accepted the changes to all three policies.

Strategic Evolution: Bayham's Official Plan Amendment No. 34 Navigates Bill 23 for Streamlined Development

The Official Plan Amendment No. 34 to the Official Plan of the Municipality of Bayham has been approved by County Council.

The amendment was made to comply with Ontario's Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act*. Arcadis Professional Services (Canada) Inc., acting on behalf of the Municipality, made changes to align with the Provincial Policy Statement and County Official Plan. The amendment addressed residential permissions and Site Plan Control while removing the need for public meetings for subdivision applications. More changes are expected at the local level for the Zoning By-law and Site Plan Control By-law. The proposal underwent a public meeting and was approved by the Municipal Council in August 2023, following all the rules outlined in the Planning Act, PPS, County Official Plan, and the Municipality of Bayham Official Plan.

Landscaping Progress: Township of Malahide's Approved OPA No. 23 Shapes Future Residential Lots

The Official Plan Amendment NO. 23 to the Official Plan of the Township of Malahide has been approved by the County Council.

On September 21, 2023, the Township of Malahide adopted OPA No. 23 to adjust a settlement boundary and allow the creation of two new residential lots. This involves re-designating a portion of land from 'Agriculture' to 'Hamlet' for one residential lot and vice versa for another part to be used for cash crop growing. The adjustment aligns with the Malahide Official Plan, and no policy changes are proposed.

The proposal, including zoning and consent applications, went through the standard process with technical studies and reports. A public meeting was held, and no concerns were raised. The lands are currently designated 'Settlement Area' in the County of Elgin Official Plan, and the proposal aligns with the Provincial Policy Statement 2020. County staff are satisfied that the proposal meets all relevant requirements.



Strategic Approvals for Infrastructure Enhancements and Wastewater Management at Elgin's Long-Term Care Homes

An RFQ was issued for Terrace Lodge's front fascia and soffit replacement. County Council approved DFT Exteriors Inc. to be selected for the Terrace Lodge Veneer Replacement Project at \$95,275.00 (excluding H.S.T). However, the lowest bid exceeded the County's budget by \$11,951.84. Therefore, the remaining funds of \$19,647 from the 2023 budget were reallocated to fund this project.

Elgin County Council also approved Ontario Clean Water Agency to operate the Elgin Manor Wastewater Treatment Plant (EMWWTP) from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2028, at \$553,680 plus H.S.T. The fully automated plant, operated by OCWA since 2006, receives revenue from the Thames Valley District School Board and Diamond Senior Living Corp. through separate agreements for their use of the EMWWTP.

Resilience on Talbot Line: Navigating Road Slope Challenges and Investing in Future Stability

During the Council meeting, Peter Dutchak, the Director of Engineering Services, provided an update on the progress made on Talbot Line in New Glasgow. The Municipality of West Elgin informed the staff that a road slope failure had occurred due to surface erosion along a steep roadside on Talbot Line in Port Glasgow.

County staff immediately visited the site and worked with contractors to complete the repairs as directed and on a "time and material" basis. The project was finished at a cost of approximately \$100,000, with about \$45,000 coming from an existing project for a previous Talbot Line slope repair. The shortfall can be covered from a projected surplus in the Road 4 Resurfacing project. Additionally, the 2024 proposed capital budget includes a project to install asphalt curbs on nearby road sections to prevent future slope erosion from occurring in the area.

Navigating Safety Concerns: Collaborative Solutions for Plank Road in Vienna

The Municipality of Bayham has received a letter regarding the persistent safety issues on Plank Road in Vienna. Since Plank Road is a County Road, Council directed County Engineering staff to work with the Municipality of Bayham to investigate options to address signage concerns on Plank Road at Chute Line and Northern Vienna Bridge. Staff will report their findings at a future meeting of County Council.

Uniting for Compassionate Care: Elgin County's Endorsement of Bill 21

Elgin County Council passed a resolution in support of Bill 21, also known as the *Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act*. This Bill aims to protect the rights of long-term care residents by allowing them to stay with their spouse and have accommodation available for both of them.

The Council of the *Corporation City of Cambridge* had previously shown support for the Bill, and Elgin County Council has now followed suit. They have directed staff to forward a copy of the resolution to the Premier of Ontario, Member of Parliament Karen Vecchio, and all Ontario Municipalities to demonstrate their support.



For the complete **November 14, 2023**, County Council Agenda Package, please visit the Elgin County [website](#).