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GREENBELT ACT (BILL 135) AND THE GREENBELT DRAFT PLAN

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the following:

- 1. The presentation by Barbara Jeffrey, Principal Planner, Long Range and Strategic Planning, regarding the Greenbelt Act (Bill 135) and the Greenbelt Draft Plan be received; and**
- 2. The following recommendations be adopted:**
 - 1. The comments contained in the attached presentation, as amended by Committee, and the following additional issues be endorsed by Council and provide the basis for the Region's comments with respect to the Greenbelt Act (Bill 135) and the Greenbelt Draft Plan:**
 - 1. Permitted uses and policies relating to recreation in the protected countryside need clarification.**
 - 2. A clear statement for accommodation of future employment lands as a priority should be included.**
 - 3. Constraints on farmers' issues as raised by Rural Mayors' Alliance and York Region Farming Association should be addressed.**
 - 4. More detailed and accurate mapping is required for those municipalities affected by the Plan to determine the impact of the Plan on their municipality. An example is the location of Pickering Airport is not clear.**
 - 5. The Greenbelt Draft Plan may encourage "leap frog" development. This must be addressed through either the Greenbelt Plan or Places to Grow.**
 - 6. Various infrastructure will be needed to facilitate future growth that is coming to the Province. York Region is experiencing extreme difficulties servicing existing lands that are now designated as priority growth areas. A stronger statement and commitment from all provincial ministries regarding existing requirements to service lands under growth is needed.**
 - 7. It is impossible to comprehensively study and analyse the long term financial implications (i.e. reverse pooling for agricultural issues) and land use issues within the two month time frame provided by the Province to review the Plan.**

- 8. Applaud the Province upfront in making the effort to assist in the long term growth management challenges in the GTA by completing the Places to Grow and Greenbelt Planning framework.**
- 2. Staff report to the Planning and Economic Development Committee on December 1, 2004 to confirm the final comments sent to the Province regarding the Greenbelt Act (Bill 135) before the November 27, 2004 deadline.**
- 3. York Region request the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to extend the December 12, 2004 deadline for submitting final comments relating to the Greenbelt Draft Plan so that the Region has sufficient time to evaluate the impacts of the Greenbelt Plan and to consult with the local municipalities and other interested groups and agencies.**
- 4. If the December 12, 2004 deadline is not extended, staff report to the Planning and Economic Development Committee on December 1, 2004 with comments relating to the Greenbelt Draft Plan including input received to date from the local municipalities and other interested groups and agencies, for submission to the Province, with a confirming report to be provided to Council on December 16, 2004.**

(The attachment, as amended, referred to in this clause is attached to this report.)