

**REPORT TO:** Climate Change and Environment Committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** May 15, 2025

**SUBMITTED BY:** Natalie Goss, Manager, Policy & Research, 519-783-8933

**PREPARED BY:** Natalie Goss, Manager, Policy & Research, 519-783-8933

**WARD(S) INVOLVED:** ALL

**DATE OF REPORT:** May 1, 2025

**REPORT NO.:** DSD-2025-206

**SUBJECT:** Kitchener 2051 – Community Conversation Kit

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the comments provided by the Climate Change and Environment Committee as part of the discussion through the Kitchener 2051 Community Conversation Kit be provided to staff for consideration as part of the Official Plan update process.**

## **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The purpose of this report is to have a conversation with the Climate Change and Environment Committee through the Kitchener 2051 Community Conversation Kit.
- Kitchener 2051 is the project under which Kitchener's new Official Plan is being developed.
- Community engagement is currently underway and includes numerous ways of having conversations with the community and collaborators.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Kitchener is preparing a new Official Plan (OP) – referred to as Kitchener 2051. An OP is a document that shapes the way a city grows and develops. Provincial legislation, specifically the Planning Act, sets out what an OP can do, including:

- Directing growth and change, mostly related to how land and buildings are used;
- Guiding decisions on land use, development, transportation, physical and community infrastructure, and more;
- Implementing the City's vision, established through the Strategic Plan; and
- Providing direction for implementing tools like the Zoning By-law.

The existing City of Kitchener OP was adopted in 2014 and has positively shaped growth and development across the City over the last decade. A new OP is needed to respond to current and future conditions and trends. Kitchener is growing fast and facing city-building challenges like the housing crisis, pedestrian and cyclist deaths and injuries, inequity, climate change, social isolation and how to pay for aging infrastructure and city services. The City is also presented with opportunities like new mobility technologies, a young and

highly skilled workforce, strong neighbourhoods and communities, a rich and diverse culture, and a growing desire for urban connection.

Kitchener 2051 presents an opportunity to tackle these issues head-on, ask big questions, and prepare for an uncertain future. It should reflect the City's values and aspirations for what it can become – a thriving city that offers well-being, potential and quality of life, for everyone. Kitchener 2051 will address conformity with Provincial policy and legislation and the Region of Waterloo OP, alongside recently completed plans for the City, such as Housing for All, Places & Spaces, and Cycling & Trails Master Plan, to set out a forward-thinking and contemporary city-wide policy framework.

Kitchener 2051 is occurring over several phases between 2024 and 2026. An overview of Kitchener 2051 was provided to the Climate Change and Environment Committee at their October 2024 meeting. Phase 3 is currently underway and includes conversations about approaches to growth, big ideas and emerging directions.

#### **REPORT:**

A key component of Phase 3 of Kitchener 2051 community engagement is through Community Conversation Kits. The Community Conversation Kits have been designed to understand the community's thoughts and priorities on the Kitchener 2051 Big Ideas and Emerging Directions

A facilitated discussion with the Climate Change and Environment Committee will occur at the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting using the Community Conversation Kit and supporting materials (Attachment A). Comments gathered through this facilitated discussion will be shared with Kitchener 2051 staff to inform, alongside technical considerations, Kitchener's new Official Plan.

#### **PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:**

- [DSD-2024-423](#): Kitchener 2051: Official Plan Project Update

**REVIEWED BY:** Tim Donegani, Senior Planner  
John Zunic, Senior Planner

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A – Kitchener 2051 Community Conversation Kit and Supporting Material