



The Corporation of the Township of King Notice of Motion

Date of Meeting: Monday, October 27, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Schaefer

Seconded by: Councillor Anstey

Subject: **Member Motion from Councillor Schaefer Re Review of the Greenbelt**

Whereas the Greenbelt Plan provides permanent protection for farmland and ecologically and hydrologically significant landscapes, working in tandem with Source Water Protection Plans and the Provincial Policy Statement to guide sustainable land use; and

Whereas the Greenbelt Plan is designed as an agricultural forward land use framework intended to permanently protect prime farmland, provide water security, reduce speculative pressure, and support Ontario's food security and rural economies; and

Whereas the Greenbelt functions as a living system of forests, wetlands, rivers and farmland that provides climate resilience by moderating floods, recharging groundwater, sequestering carbon, and sustaining biodiversity; and

Whereas municipalities face increasing pressure from growth, aggregate extraction and climate related risks, and require strong enforceable tools to protect water, farmland and natural systems for future generations; and

Whereas more than 98 percent of King's land base lies within the Greenbelt, encompassing prime agricultural lands, the Oak Ridges Moraine, the headwaters of the Humber and Holland Rivers, and a portion of the Holland Marsh Specialty Crop Area that contributes significantly to Ontario's food security and agricultural economy; and

Whereas the Township's 'Our King' Official Plan identifies four (4) pillars shaping the goals and objectives of the municipality, being environmental, economic, socio-cultural and financial; and

Whereas the 2015 coordinated land use planning review recommended expansion of the Greenbelt into key hydrological areas such as moraines and headwater systems to further safeguard water and ecological health; and

Whereas the Greenbelt Act, 2005 requires a review of the Greenbelt Plan at least every ten (10) years and the next mandatory review must begin in 2025, there is opportunity to reaffirm and strengthen protections for farmland, natural heritage, and hydrological systems; and

Whereas municipalities require clear, consistent, and enforceable tools to implement Provincial policy and protect the integrity of the Greenbelt from the cumulative pressures of growth, aggregate extraction, and climate-related risk.

Now therefore be it resolved that:

1. Council supports the review of the Greenbelt Plan's existing boundaries and policies within and beyond King Township in order to strengthen the protections of the agricultural network that provides food security, the natural ecosystems that provide numerous ecosystem services and the hydrologic systems that provide safe drinking water while recognizing the need to achieve an appropriate balance of the four pillars of sustainability identified in the 'Our King' Official Plan (environmental, economic, socio-cultural and financial).
2. Council calls on the Province of Ontario to collaborate with municipalities, Indigenous communities, the agricultural sectors and other stakeholders in this review to ensure that all interests are considered.
3. Council requests this review must be transparent, evidence-based, and subject to independent oversight to prevent the influence of political or private interests, with all mapping, data, and rationale made publicly available.
4. Council requests that the Province of Ontario provide municipalities with the necessary legislative and regulatory tools to effectively implement the policies and objectives of the Greenbelt Plan, including but not limited to site plan control for residential development within the area of influence of key natural heritage and hydrological features.
5. A copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Stephen Lecce, MPP, King-Vaughan, Caroline Mulroney, MPP, York-Simcoe, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Edward McDonnell, CEO Greenbelt Foundation, York Region, and all local municipalities in York Region.