

PLANNING REPORT

Date: April 13, 2026
To: Mayor Ritsma and Council
From: Stuart Filson, Supervisor of Planning Policy and Placemaking
Adam Betteridge, Director of Building and Planning Services
Report Number: COU26-046
Attachments: None

Title: University of Waterloo Student Presentation on Official Plan Monitoring and Evaluation

Objective: To receive a presentation from a team of students in the University of Waterloo School of Planning course PLAN 452/652, outlining their recommendations for an Official Plan monitoring and evaluation framework for the City of Stratford.

Background: The City of Stratford participated as a “real-world” case municipality for senior undergraduate and graduate-level plan evaluation projects led by Dr. Mark Seasons. Stratford was selected alongside six other municipalities/jurisdictions, including Vernon (BC), Saanich (BC), Calgary (Alberta), Airdrie (Alberta), Kitchener (Ontario), and Hollywood (Florida).

The students’ work focuses on official plan monitoring and evaluation practices, with the intent of supporting municipalities in developing practical approaches to track Official Plan implementation and outcomes over time.

Analysis: As part of Stratford’s Official Plan Review/Update, staff continue to advance work to modernize policy direction and strengthen implementation practices. The student team have prepared recommendations intended to support a structured monitoring and evaluation approach, including proposed indicators and responsibilities that can be considered as part of the Official Plan update and associated implementation tools.

The presentation provides an overview of the recommended monitoring framework (including example indicators for housing, sustainability, transportation, and employment) and how an approach could be applied following adoption of an updated Official Plan. Planning Staff will review and consider the recommendations as part of ongoing Official Plan work.

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

Staff Recommendation: **THAT Council receive the presentation from the University of Waterloo School of Planning (PLAN 452/652) student team regarding recommended Official Plan monitoring and evaluation approaches for the City of Stratford, for information.**

Recommended by: Stuart Filson, MSc, GDPA, MCIP, RPP, Supervisor of Planning Policy and Placemaking
Adam Betteridge, MPA, MCIP, RPP, Director of Building and Planning Services

Approved for Council by: André Morin, CPA, Chief Administrative Officer