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While there is merit in providing public health input at various stages of the planning policy process, participating early in the process and at the highest level can have the greatest impact. The following table provides an overview of the various levels of the municipal planning policy process and outlines where the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) could be involved and how (based on capacity and resources). When providing input, MLHU's Built, Natural, and Social Environments Framework will be utilized.

PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK	HEALTH UNIT ROLE	TYPE OF CONTRIBUTION	PROVIDE HEALTH EVIDENCE / DATA		TIMING OF INPUT		
			YES	NO	INITIATION	DURING	END
PROVINCIAL STATUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate on provincial agencies working group to inform commentary (as appropriate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide written comments coordinated through provincial agencies (as appropriate) 					
PROVINCIAL POLICIES							
OFFICIAL PLANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate on Technical Agency Committee and/or project team Attend public participation meetings (as appropriate) Inform and support community engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide ongoing feedback through working groups, committees and/or project teams to support decisions and recommendations Contribute to presentations on key public health areas of focus Provide written comments to draft and final official plan content 					
SECONDARY PLANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate on Technical Agency Committee and/or project team Attend public participation meetings (as appropriate) Inform and support community engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide ongoing feedback through working groups, committees and/or project teams to support decisions and recommendations Contribute to presentations on key public health areas of focus Provide written comments on content for draft and final plans 					
MASTER PLANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate on Technical Agency Committee and/or project team Attend public participation meetings (as appropriate) Inform and support community engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide ongoing feedback through working groups, committees and/or project teams to support decision and recommendations Contribute to presentation on key public health areas of focus Provide written comments on draft and final plan content 					
LAND USE CONTROLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive, review, and monitor outcomes of plans (depending on criteria) 						

Overview of the Planning Policy Framework

The following table is meant to provide an overview of the planning policy framework and an outline of the purpose and function of each policy level. Although the framework covers a wide range of elements, only certain aspects apply to the Middlesex-London context.

PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK		EXAMPLE
PROVINCIAL STATUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A legislated document which must be enacted without interpretation • Statutes are to be enacted through provincial policies • Some statutes apply province-wide statutes, while others apply only to specific geographic areas 	<p>Province-Wide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ontario Planning & Development Act (1994)</i> • <i>Planning Act</i> <p>Specific Geographic Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Places to Grow Act (2005)</i> • <i>Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act (2001)</i> • <i>Niagara Escarpment Planning & Development Act</i>
PROVINCIAL POLICIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A statutory document outlining actionable policies to achieve the statute • Policies can be interpreted based on the condition and context • Some policies apply province-wide, while others apply only to specific geographic areas 	<p>Province-Wide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) • Localized Development Plans <p>Specific Geographic Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan • Niagara Escarpment Plan
OFFICIAL PLANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A statutory document required by the <i>Planning Act</i> and Provincial Policy Statement • Makes the public aware of general land use planning policies • Makes sure growth is coordinated and meets community needs • Demonstrates how land will be used • Helps decide where various municipal services will be implemented • Provides a framework for zoning by-laws to set standards • Provides a way to evaluate and settle conflicting land uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single Tier Municipal Official Plan • Upper Tier Municipal Official Plan • Lower Tier Municipal Official Plan
SECONDARY PLANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapts and implements the objectives, policies, land use designations, and overall approaches of the Official Plan to specifically address local contexts • Establishes local development policies unique to a specific area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Secondary Plans
MASTER PLANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a comprehensive long-term plan of action for key municipal servicing issues • No statutory impact on a community without reinforcement from the Official Plan • Sometimes, additional more 'topic-specific' master plans are developed to provide further clarification on high-level service topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation / Mobility Master Plan • Parks & Recreation Master Plan • Trails Master Plan • Sustainability Master Plan • Water / Wastewater Master Plan • Cultural Heritage Master Plan • Downtown Master Plan
LAND USE CONTROLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the Official Plan policies are implemented, monitored and enforced • All recommendations that trigger the use of these tools will need to ensure consistency with the Official Plan • All municipalities are required to have a zoning-by-law and other land-use control documents • However, it is up to the municipality whether to implement an interim control by-law or site plan control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Plans • Subdivision Controls • Zoning By-Law • Minister's Zoning Order • Consents • Plan of Subdivision • Holding By-Law • Community Benefit Charges By-Law