

# Preparing for the Future in the Almaguin Highlands...

January 2026

Armour's Progress Update  
Mayor's Review - November 2022 to Today

## Township of Armour Perspective

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- *Short-Term Realities*
- *Medium-Term Preparation*
- *Long-Term Vision*

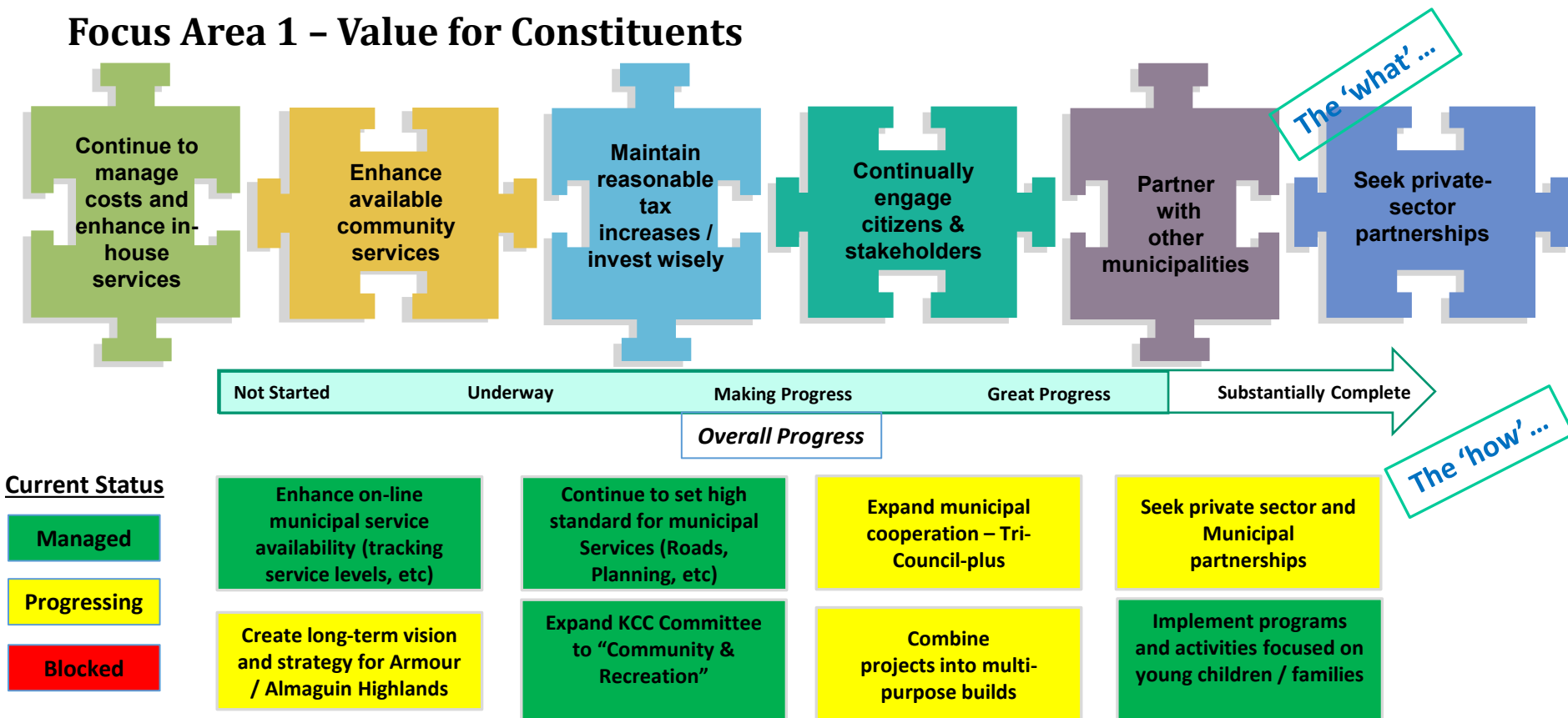


## Areas of Focus...

**Where we as municipality can make a difference and prepare for future...**



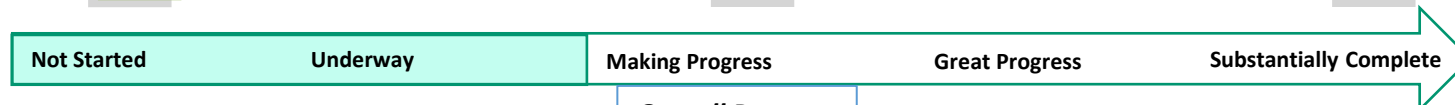
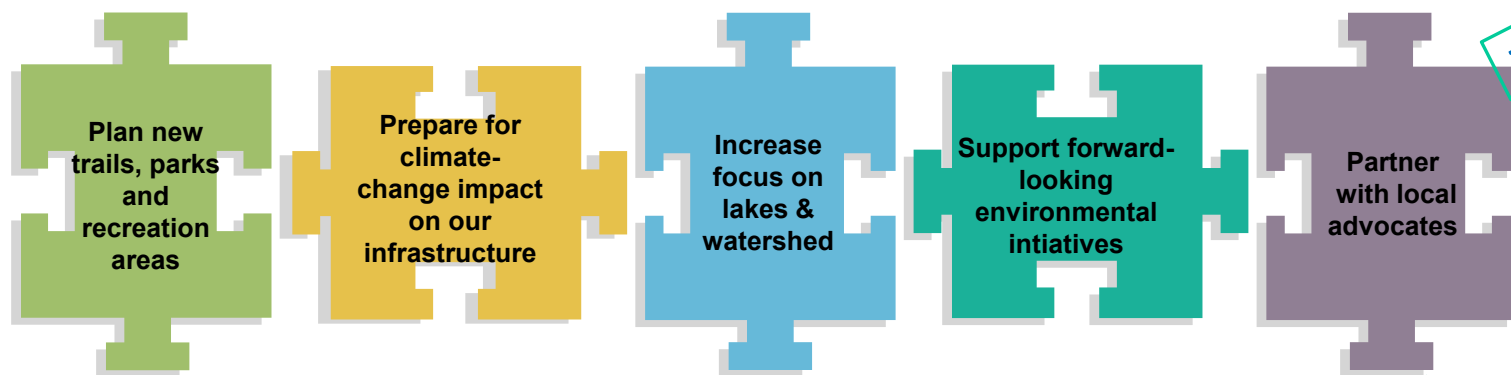
# Focus Area 1 – Value for Constituents



## Progress Highlights – November 2022 to Today

- By-law services expanded Almaguin-wide, serving 7 municipalities
- Major contributor to new tri-council Firehall build (underway)
- Major renovations to Katrine Community Centre and Watt Heritage Farm
- New Recreation Department built, serving all ages
- Building Services expanded, serving multiple municipalities
- Emergency Management services expanded, serving 4 municipalities
- Community engagement and long-term strategy in-progress
- Activated on-line services for Building and Recreation
- Major upgrades and community safety enhancements implemented by Roads
- Shovel-ready investments in commercial properties completed

## Focus Area 2 – Protection of Natural Assets



### Current Status

Managed

Progressing

Blocked

Implement Environmental Advisory Committee – lake associations, public, MNRF; take 'entire-Almaguin' view

Establish Leadership role in 'green' initiatives / Waste management

### Overall Progress

Review Roads' assets through lens of climate change

Review potential for Short Term Rental by-law; public consultations

Include trail systems & recreational opportunities in planning / growth

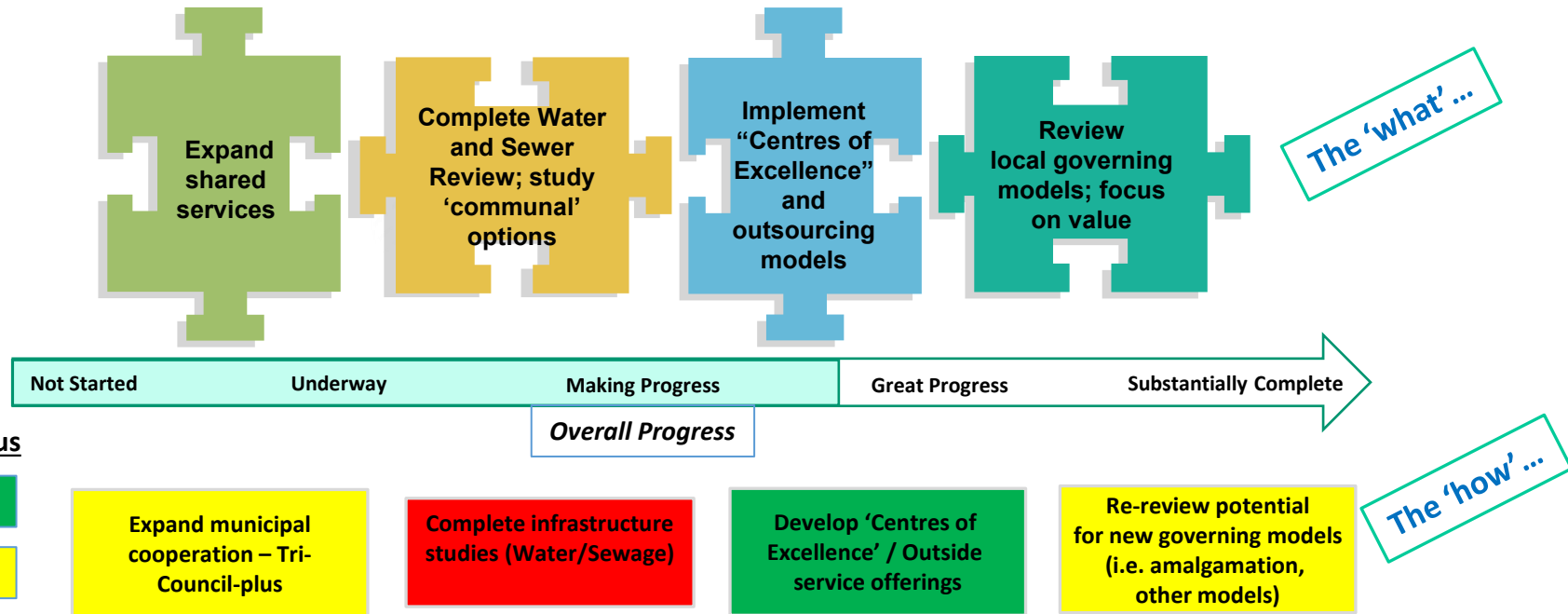
Review OP / Zoning with respect to environmental protection

The 'how' ...

### Progress Highlights – November 2022 to Today

- Purchased / expanded Three Mile Lake park
- Expanded Water Quality Grant Program for all municipal lake associations
- On-going participation with Muskoka - Integrated Watershed
- Reviewing enhancements to septic approvals and testing
- Completed transition to recycling / waste-diversion 'producer-responsibility' model

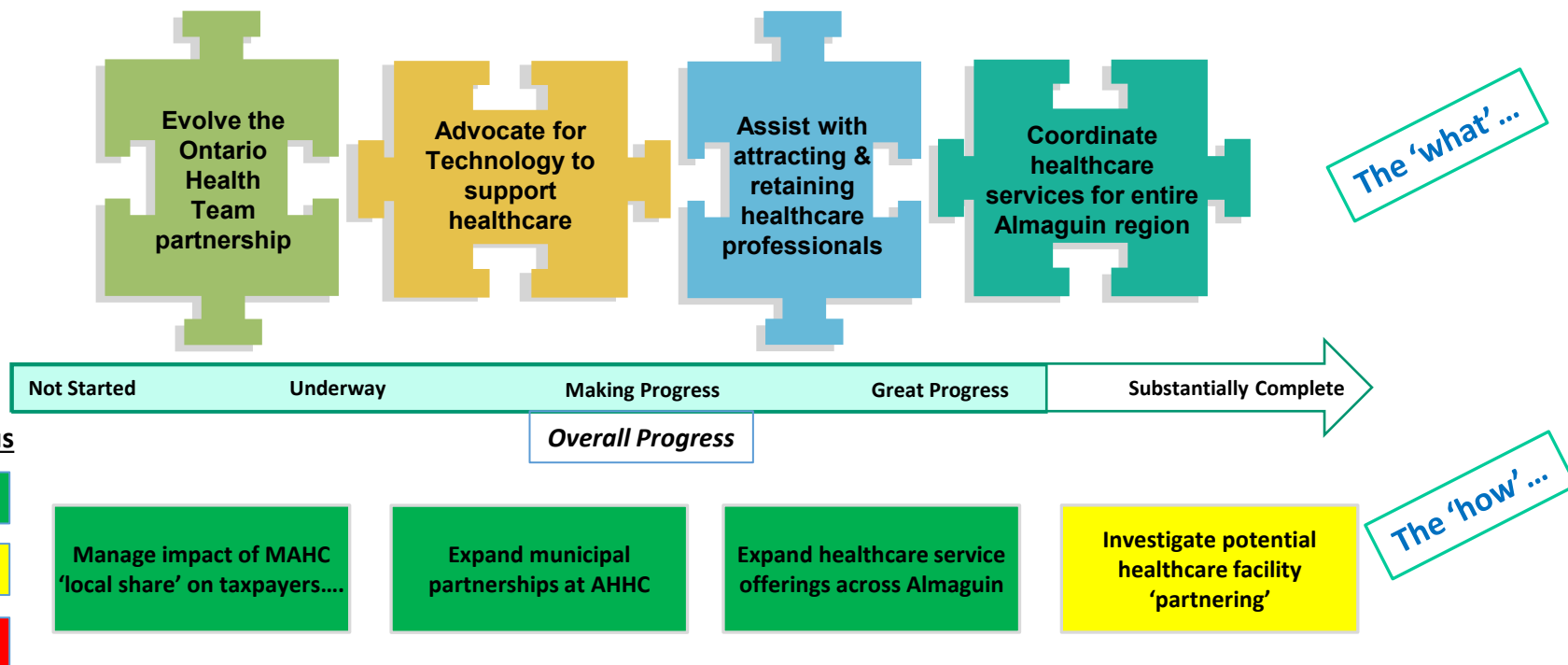
# Focus Area 3 – Cooperation & Shared Services



## Progress Highlights – November 2022 to Today

- New shared service agreements finalized (Fire and Library)
- Fire Hall build in progress
- By-law services serving 7 municipalities; setting regional standards
- Implemented AMPS by-law enforcement for regional standardization & cost reduction
- Activated regional agreement for OSPCA (animal control) services
- Investigating expanded / improved municipal partnerships
- Expanded Centres of Excellence – By-Law, Emergency Management, Building
- Reviewing enhancement to septic approvals and testing
- Initiated Quarterly "Almaguin Mayors" meetings
- Restarted regular Almaguin-wide Clerks meetings

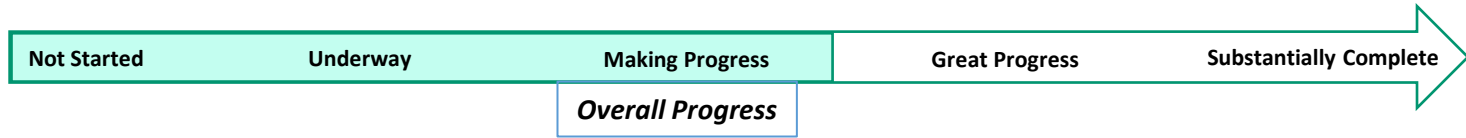
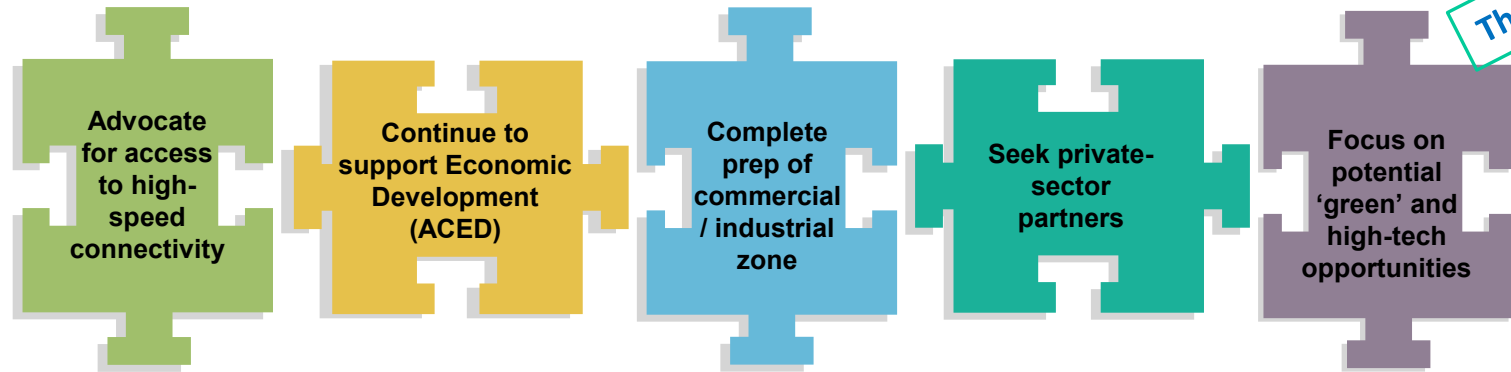
## Focus Area 4 – Health & Wellness



### Progress Highlights – November 2022 to Today

- Armour committed \$1.4-m toward healthcare in Almaguin – 2023 through 2035
- Aligned Almaguin as full partner in Ontario Health Team through Almaguin Highlands Health Council (AHHC)
- Regional Ontario Health Team renamed 'Muskoka Almaguin Ontario Health Team'
- Initial planning/design for new Health & Wellness building for Almaguin Highlands
- Established partnerships for Health & Wellness Centre
- Ongoing discussions with Ministry of Health re: investment in Almaguin (healthcare providers received substantial funding increase in 2024)

# Focus Area 5 – Economic Development



## Current Status

Managed

Fully-leverage ACED  
Almaguin brand strategy

Establish region-wide  
Housing  
& Development  
Task Force

Continue lobbying efforts to  
expand high-speed  
connectivity

Establish leadership role  
in 'green' and tech-based  
industries

Progressing

Blocked

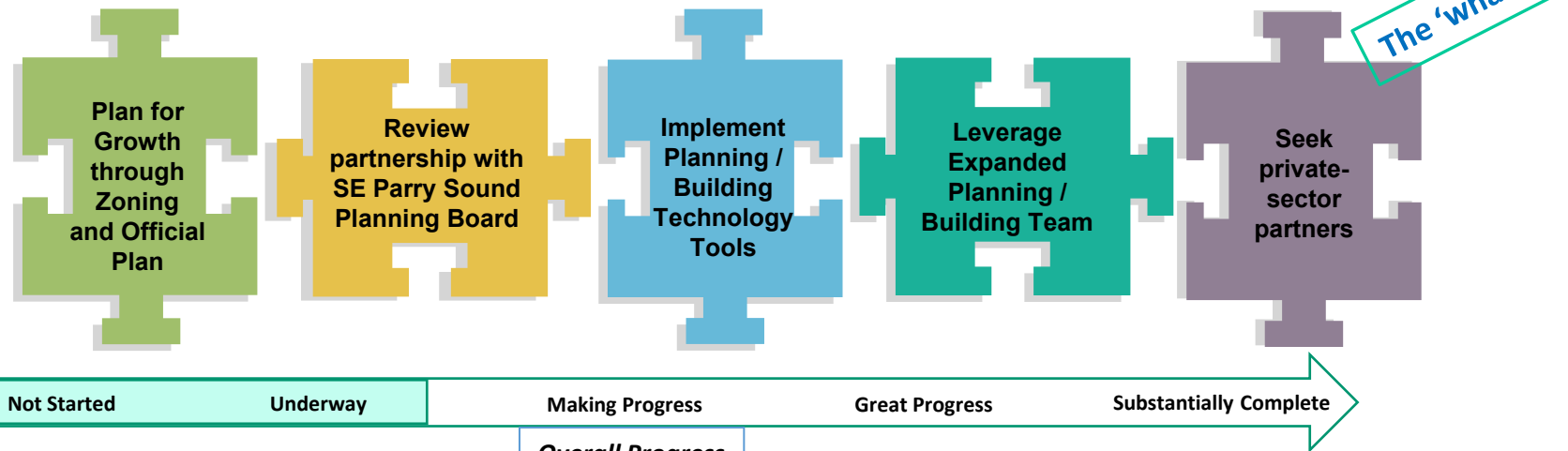
Expand region's use  
of technology infrastructure

The 'how' ...

## Progress Highlights – November 2022 to Today

- Implementing recommendations from Housing Task Force
- Adjusting ACED funding model and regional approach
- Investing to make industrial/commercial lands shovel-ready (services, studies)
- Planning readiness and marketing of industrial/commercial on Highway 520 and Pegg's Mountain
- Supported Community / Regional Transportation initiative
- Finalized region-wide branding and signage initiative
- New high-speed internet services roll-out in progress with private-sector partner

# Focus Area 6 – Housing & Growth



## Current Status



## Progress Highlights – November 2022 to Today

- Implemented smaller minimum house sizes / updated zoning by-law toward Housing Task Force recommendations
- Reviewing next steps for Official Plan / Zoning By-Law updates
- Supporting enhanced community service offerings to support growth



# Looking ahead.

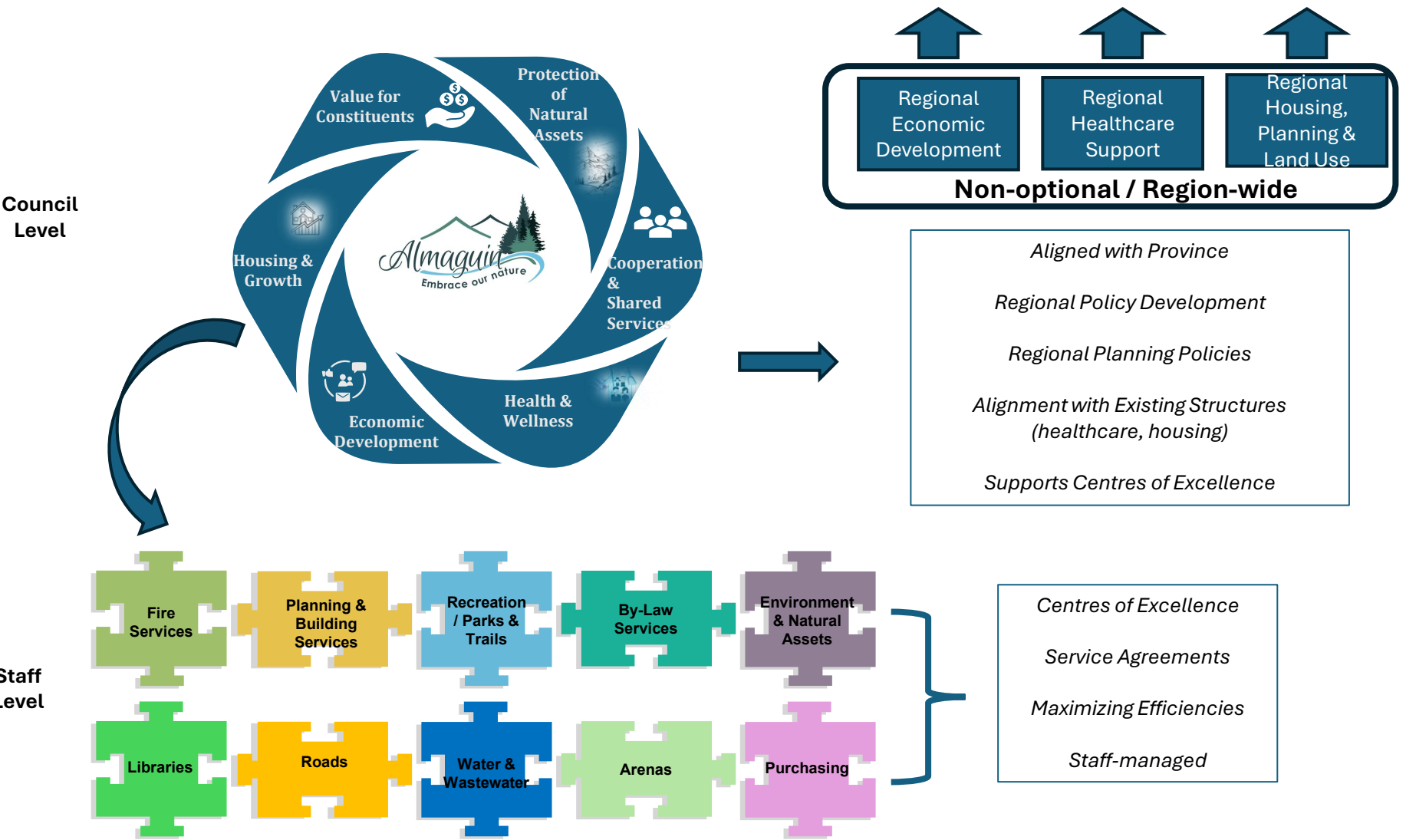
## *Almaguin Highlands regional approach...*

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Expand Armour ideas and approach to  
a more region-wide view...



# Almaguin-wide Agreements / Cooperation



# Building on Existing Capabilities

Service Offering	Current Sharing	Potential Further Sharing	Almaguin-wide Approaches
Fire	5 Fire Stations / Managed by Fire Chiefs	On-going	Shared equipment and facilities
Building & Planning	2 Planning Boards (south and central) 2 municipalities in Building Service Agreement / Managed by Armour	Common Official Plan & Zoning By-Laws / Region-wide Centre of Excellence	Standardized technology Standardized OP / ZBL Standard Reporting
Recreation, Parks & Trails	Ad hoc sharing of staff	Region-wide Centre of Excellence	Resource sharing Program sharing
By-Law Services	7 Municipalities in Service Agreement / Managed by Armour	Region-wide Centre of Excellence / Common By-laws	Standardized By-laws Resource sharing
Health and Wellness	10 municipal partners in Almaguin Highlands Health Council	Full integration with healthcare partners in Muskoka Almaguin OHT	Agreed cost-sharing and long-term strategy
Environmental	2 Tri-Councils / Remainder individual (Landfill)	Region-wide Centre of Excellence	Resource sharing
Emergency Planning	4 municipalities in shared agreement / Managed by Armour	Region-wide Centre of Excellence	Resource sharing
Libraries	Separate Library agreements (some tri-council, some individual)	Review of new builds/renos/existing facilities	Region-wide approach to gain efficiencies
Roads	Ad hoc / tactical agreements	Expansion to Shared Services / “Mutual Aid”	Standardized technology Resource sharing
Water & Wastewater	None	Expansion to neighbouring municipalities	Strategy via Housing Task Force
Arenas	2 Tri-Councils	Policies and procedures	Resource sharing
Purchasing	None	Region-wide Centre of Excellence	Cross-region purchasing power