

Deputy City Manager's Report to
Strategic Meeting of Council
2019 September 16

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
C2019-0903

Calgary Metropolitan Region Board – Voluntary Policing Services Subcommittee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Intermunicipal Servicing Committee of the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB) has formed a voluntary police services subcommittee to examine different models of delivering policing services in the Calgary metropolitan region. A follow-up request by the CMRB's Chief Officer for voluntary representation was sent to all member municipalities. The purpose of this report is to determine Calgary's participation on this subcommittee. If participation is determined to be warranted to direct Administration to engage the Calgary Police Commission to provide additional input on City of Calgary's representation and governance of this matter.

This report summarizes issues that Council may wish to consider in making this decision.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Decide if The City of Calgary should participate on the CMRB voluntary policing services subcommittee as part of discussions on report C2019-0868 Calgary's Evolving Role in Our Changing Region – Our Past, Present and Future;
2. If Council decides that participation is warranted, direct Administration to:
 - a. Further engage the Calgary Police Commission on matters of representation and governance.
 - b. Determine additional City representation; and
3. That the closed session discussion remain confidential pursuant to Sections 21, 23 and 24 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act until reviewed by 2029 June 10.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2018 October 22 at the Organizational Meeting of Council, City of Calgary elected official representatives and alternates were appointed to the CMR Board and to three of the four CMR Committees with terms set to expire at the 2019 Organizational Meeting of Council. (The details of Council representation at the CMRB are found in the Attachment of this report).

On 2018 July 26, (IGA2018-0846) Council appointed a representative and alternate to the newly formed CMRB Advocacy Committee.

BACKGROUND

At the 2019 June 06 Joint meeting of the CMRB Land Use and Intermunicipal Servicing Committee, the following motion proposed by the City of Chestermere was unanimously approved:

WHEREAS, the delivery of policing services is a municipal responsibility;

AND WHEREAS, the mandate of the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board empowers the Members to coordinate regional service delivery;

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NOW THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING MOTION IS PROPOSED: That the CMRB form a voluntary subcommittee of the Intermunicipal Servicing Committee to examine differing models of delivering policing services in the Calgary Metropolitan Region. Further that CMRB Administration provide coordinating services to strike the subcommittee and that this work be separate from the delivery of the Servicing Plan, outlined in the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board regulation 190/2017.

The CMRB's governance structure is based on elected official participation at the Board and committees. There are four elected official committees that make recommendations to the Board. Attachment 1 provides an overview of the elected official committees and technical administrative working groups of the CMRB.

This police subcommittee will be the first to include both elected official and administrative representation. It will be supported by CMRB Administration and will be separate from the delivery of the Servicing Plan. It is anticipated that this subcommittee will report to the Intermunicipal Servicing Committee. At this point no Terms of Reference have been established.

Administrative working groups have been struck on the topics of Land Use, Transportation, Recreation, Transit, Agriculture and Water but they directly support the development of the Growth Plan and Servicing Plan, and consist solely of administrative subject matter experts from the member municipalities.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Because participation in this subcommittee is voluntary, Council must carefully consider Calgary's involvement. When The City's participation has been determined, The Calgary Police Commission (CPC) should be further engaged to determine appropriate representation and governance frameworks.

Calgary is unique in that it is the only municipality in the Calgary Metropolitan Region with its own municipal police service. With that comes the independent governance provided by CPC, whose input should be considered in this matter.

Outside Calgary, there are numerous challenges to policing that should be considered:

- The members of the Calgary Metropolitan Region Intermunicipal Servicing Committee expressed concern with the existing situation.
- In March 2019, on behalf of urban municipalities, the AUMA submitted its priorities for the first phase of the Alberta Police Act review. These priorities included a new and more equitable funding model where all municipalities contribute directly to the costs of police servicing. New mechanisms are required to establish local policing priorities and accountabilities. There should be equitable access to police services for all Albertans.

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AUMA noted that high RCMP vacancy rates and long response times have contributed to the perception that some communities are not safe¹.

- In July 2019, in response to concerns from several AUMA members regarding the Province's review of police funding grants and lack of confirmation of police funding, the AUMA submitted a letter to the Province. In the letter, the AUMA expressed its support for the police funding grants to be fully funded².
- The Rural Municipalities Association of Alberta has a public position statement on *Policing and Rural Crime*. Challenges of policing in rural areas related to response time, police funding, and collaboration between police and municipal leaders were noted³.
- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are in the process of being unionized. This may impact how police services are delivered to those who use their services.

If it is determined that The City should participate, Council in concert with CPC must also determine who should represent The City. CPC and Calgary Police Service (CPS) members and staff have deep understanding of the delivery of police services to the citizens of Calgary. Their participation in any discussion around regionalizing services will be valuable.

Because of Calgary's expertise, Calgary representatives to this subcommittee may be expected to provide more information and advice than any other member municipality.

Conversely, if The City decided not to participate in this subcommittee, The City would be in a more reactive position. The City would receive subcommittee updates and recommendations as they come forward to the Intermunicipal Servicing Committee and Board. City Administration and elected officials supporting the Intermunicipal Servicing Committee would need to react quickly to form positions, without in depth understanding of the evolution of the discussion.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Staff from CPS and CPC have been informed about this report. No significant stakeholder engagement was undertaken.

Strategic Alignment

There is no Council position or policy on regional policing.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

n/a

¹ AUMA Letter from President B. Morishita to Honourable Kathleen Ganley, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General (March 18, 2019)

² AUMA Letter from President B. Morishita to Honourable Doug Schweitzer, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General (July 25, 2019)

³ Rural Municipalities of Alberta website - <https://rmalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Policing-and-Rural-Crime-Position-Statements.pdf>

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Financial Capacity

None anticipated with this report.

Current and Future Operating Budget:

Support to this subcommittee was not a foreseen administrative activity. There is limited understanding of the administrative requirements of this subcommittee.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

No capital budget impacts associated with this report.

Risk Assessment

Overall, Calgary's participation could be viewed as a signal of interest in the regionalization of our police services.

Based on previous and ongoing experiences with CMRB subcommittees, participation is likely to require significant staff resources. Other risks associated with this report include:

- Participation is likely to mean heavy reliance on Calgary expertise, which may be a distraction from other priorities.
- Not participating will put The City in a reactive position.
- There is no Council position on the regionalization of the Calgary Police Service or other regionalization options.
- There has been no CPC/CPS input on the regionalization of policing services.
- Issues with rural policing in general as identified by AUMA and RMA.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Because participation in this subcommittee is voluntary, Council should consider and determine Calgary's involvement. Council should decide if it is warranted to participate and if so, Administration will engage the Calgary Police Commission on representation and governance. This report summarizes high level issues that Council may wish to consider in making this decision.

ATTACHMENT

Summary of City of Calgary Representation to Calgary Metropolitan Region Board, Committees and Administrative Working Groups