

Returning Officer's Report to
Combined Meeting of Council
2019 December 16

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
C2019-1584

Ward Boundary Review Engagement Plan & Timelines

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends an engagement plan and timelines for the ward boundary review occurring in 2020.

RETURNING OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the engagement plan and timelines for the ward boundary review set out in Report C2019-1584.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

At the 2019 October 21 Combined Meeting of Council, Council approved the following:

"Direct the Returning Officer to conduct a Minor Review in keeping with the proposed Ward Boundary Determination and Review Policy and present ward boundary recommendations in June 2020 for Council's consideration."

BACKGROUND

As presented on 2019 October 21 in Report C2019-1195, Wards 3, 7 and 12 have population deviations and Ward 5 has an elector count deviation inconsistent with the Ward Boundary Determination and Review Policy (the Policy).

The Policy also requires the Returning Officer to recommend review timelines and a public and stakeholder engagement plan for Council's consideration.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The purpose of the public engagement is to engage Calgarians in a manner that provides input into the Returning Officer's proposed ward boundaries.

The Returning Officer, Customer Service Communication and Corporate Analytics and Innovation teams are developing ward boundary scenarios that will be used as part of the engagement process. An engagement plan (Attachment 1) has been developed to encourage participation in the review process.

Participants will be invited to provide feedback, through a variety of engagement opportunities on ward boundary scenarios developed by the Returning Officer. The engagement plan will target geographic areas of the city that are most likely to be impacted by the potential changes.

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The engagement includes the following outcomes:

- Participants will be provided with the rationale for the review and the key criteria considered in the development of the scenarios;
- Participants will have opportunities to provide feedback to the Returning Officer to be considered in the review; and
- Raise awareness with participants on proposed changes to ward boundaries in anticipation of communications that will be included in the 2021 Election communication strategy.

Awareness of input opportunities will be supported by general and targeted communications and through existing City and partner networks such as digital and print advertising, social media and direct communication. The engagement tactics outlined in Attachment 1 will include a blend of methods to provide easy and accessible opportunities to provide feedback including pop-ups at targeted community gathering spaces, online engagement and a central open house for participants.

The Returning Officer's report to Council on the engagement will include:

- a summary of participant feedback by ward and themes; and
- how participant feedback was considered in the recommendations.

Timelines

The following outlines proposed engagement and reporting timelines.

Activity	Timeframes
Develop ward boundary scenarios	December, 2019 – January, 2020
Obtain participant feedback on ward boundary scenarios	February, 2020 – April, 2020
Report back to Council with recommendations, including proposed ward boundary maps	May, 2020
Advertise for Public Hearing	June, 2020
Final Approval by Council with Public Hearing	July, 2020
Prepare maps and information in preparation for the 2021 General Election	July, 2020 – September, 2020

Strategic Alignment

This report aligns with One Calgary's citizen priority: A Well-Run City (*One Calgary 2019-2022*).

This report aligns with Council's Engage Policy (CS009/PFC2013-0235), which recognizes that decisions are improved by engaging participants.

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Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

There are no social, environmental or economic impacts associated with the recommendations of this report.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

There is no impact on current and future capital budgets.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There is no impact on current and future capital budgets.

Risk Assessment

If public consultation and feedback is not conducted there is a risk of losing public trust in the ward boundary review process.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Council endorsement of timelines and an engagement plan is required as part of the ward boundary review.

ATTACHMENT

1. Attachment 1 – Ward Boundary Review Engagement Plan Overview