

## PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE WARD BOUNDARY SCENARIO

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The final report, WBC2015-0907, of the Ward Boundary Commission (WBC), Attachment 1, was referred to the Returning Officer to consider an alternative scenario which would bring ward population deviations closer to the +/- 10-15% desired in Council Policy.

### RETURNING OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION(S):

#### That Council:

1. a. Adopt the ward boundary scenario (Ward Boundary Commission) contained in Attachment 1 on page 9, to take effect on General Election day 2017; OR  
b. Adopt the Returning Officer's ward boundary scenario presented in Attachment 2 to C2016-0153 to take effect on General Election day 2017;
2. Direct the Returning Officer to return with a bylaw to amend Bylaw 19M91 Ward Boundary Bylaw no later than 2016 May 16; and
3. Direct the Returning Officer to amend Council Policy CC017, to reflect the change in the Council term of office to four years and a major review every two election cycles and obtain input from Members of Council on other potential changes.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

At the 2015 November 23 Regular Meeting of Council the following was adopted;

"Refer. Moved by Mayor Nenshi, Seconded by Councillor Woolley, that Council refer Report WBC 2015-0907 to the Returning Officer to consider;

- a. A phased approach, given the slower population growth and lower housing starts for 2016; which keeps Ward differentials closer to the 10-15% in Council Policy, returning to Council as soon as possible".

### BACKGROUND

In accordance with Council Policy, CC017, Council appointed a Ward Boundary Commission in late 2014 to determine ward boundaries that would last for multiple elections. The Commission consisted of 3 citizen members and the Returning Officer. The WBC presented its final report and recommendations to Council at the 2015 November Regular Meeting of Council.

### INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

On 2015 December 17, a request was sent to Members of Council from Bonnie Hilford, Acting as the Returning Officer, for input into Ward Boundary suggestions, changes and/or recommendations. A response was received from seven (7) Councillors, three (3) of whom supported no change to Ward Boundary Commission's recommendations.

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A review was conducted of the input received from the public consultation undertaken in 2015, the suggestions received from Councillors in January 2016 and the content of the debate on 2015 November 23 Regular Meeting of Council. This analysis and review was applied to the WBC proposed scenario. The resulting alternative ward boundary scenario and current population deviations are provided as Attachment 2.

The following is a summary of the results of the analysis and review of input:

1. The major points brought forward by the public during consultation are addressed in this proposal;
2. All but two (2) of the proposed changes submitted by the Members of Council have been addressed;
3. Only Ward 3 exceeds the +/- 10-15% deviation. To have Ward 3 under -15% would require the addition of Sandstone to Ward 3. Maintaining Sandstone and MacEwan together in one ward is one of the major considerations requested by the public. Although outside of the desired deviation stated in Council Policy CC017, it is within the maximum allowed deviation in the Policy;
4. Several Members of Council provided comments regarding under representation of wards in inner city communities. Attachment 3 shows the wards in the alternative proposal overlaid by the MDP Urban Structure. This map shows five wards represent inner city communities;
5. The proposal is as close to a phased approach to the WBC proposal as possible while addressing items 1-4 above. Adjustments will need to be considered for the 2021 general election; and
6. There are no changes to Wards 3 and 13 in this proposal from the WBC proposal.

### **Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication**

As discussed above

### **Strategic Alignment**

A well run City has been identified as a council priority.

### **Social, Environmental, Economic (External)**

These are discussed in the WBC report Attachment 1.

### **Financial Capacity**

#### **Current and Future Operating Budget:**

There are implications to operating budget to implement the changes and advertise the Bylaw. There is a carry over from one time WBC activity budget over advertising in 2016. Implementation will be covered in existing budget in 2016 and the election one time budget in 2017.

#### **Current and Future Capital Budget:**

No implications for the City of Calgary capital budget.

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### **Risk Assessment**

Adoption of the recommendations does not carry any risks for the Corporation of the City of Calgary. There are risks however to the Corporation of the City of Calgary if Ward Boundary changes are not implemented to ensure acceptable and sustainable levels of population deviation are maintained in accordance with Supreme Court decisions.

### **REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):**

Currently two Wards, 3 and 12, exceed Council's desired population deviation of +/- 15%. These two wards are the fastest growing areas of the city and are most likely to continue to grow but at a slower pace than 2014/2015. If Council is going to change the ward boundaries, a scenario must be adopted at this time as the Ward Boundary Bylaw is an advertised bylaw under the Municipal Government Act. The advertising and petitioning period is three months and third reading to a bylaw must be given in September 2016 at the latest to prepare for the 2017 census, enumeration and election.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

- Attachment 1 – WBC2015-0907, Final Report and Recommendation of the Ward Boundary Commission
- Attachment 2 – Proposed Alternative Final Scenario map and Population & Deviation chart
- Attachment 3 – Municipal Development Plan (MDP) Urban Structure with Ward Overlay