

FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE WARD BOUNDARY COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ward Boundary Commission (WBC) was appointed by Council, as an independent body, to undertake “major revisions to ward boundaries and provide recommendations to Council” for adoption ahead of the next General Election in 2017, when the newly adopted boundaries would come in effect. The Commission Report is Attachment 1.

THE WARD BOUNDARY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. The Proposed Ward Boundaries, Attachment 2, be adopted by Council to take effect on General Election day 2017;
2. That the Returning Officer be directed to return with a Bylaw to amend Bylaw 19M91 no later than March 2016, and
3. Direct Administration to amend Council Policy CC017, to reflect the change in term of office to 4 years and 2 election cycles.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

City Council reappointed the Ward Boundary Commission under NM2014-10 to undertake the major revision of the Ward Boundaries in accordance with the criteria named in Council Policy CC017, Attachment 4

BACKGROUND

This is the first time that Council has appointed an independent commission for Ward Boundary changes to ensure an impartial and objective process. The aim of this process is to produce Ward Boundaries that would not require major revisions for at least two elections.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The Commission employed the following steps in reaching its recommendations:

1. Meetings with members of Council and School Board Representatives,
2. Public input
3. Review of 2014 and 2015 Civic Census results
4. Review of population growth projections and patterns for Calgary
5. Review of historical growth patterns and cycles

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Discussed in Attachment 1

Strategic Alignment

A well run City has been identified as a Council priority, with strategic action w5 calling for greater collaboration and encouraging public participation in City decision-making.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

These are discussed in the Final Report and Recommendations of the Ward Boundary Commission, Attachment 1

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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 to cover 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:

The recommendations do not have any capital budget implications for the City of Calgary.

Risk Assessment

Adoption of the recommendations does not carry any risks for the Corporation of the City of Calgary. There are risks 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 of Canada decisions.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

The reasons behind the Ward Boundary Commission's recommendations are outlined and discussed in the attached report, Attachment 1.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment 1 - Final Report and Recommendations of the Ward Boundary Commission
Attachment 2 – Proposed Final Scenario
Attachment 3 – Population Deviation Statistics
Attachment 4 – Council Policy CC017 Boundary Determination and Review