

2015 September 15

CALGARY METROPOLITAN PLAN UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Calgary supports sustainable and efficient regional growth to enhance quality of life for citizens and economic competitiveness. The Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) provides a triple bottom line policy framework and plan for growth in Calgary's metropolitan area. The Calgary Metropolitan Plan was first adopted by the Calgary Regional Partnership and endorsed by The City of Calgary in 2009. Despite a number of efforts to resolve outstanding issues, the Province has not legislated the plan nor have key rural municipalities voluntarily re-joined the Calgary Regional Partnership. The municipalities of the City of Airdrie, City of Calgary, City of Chestermere and Town of Cochrane wish to further evaluate options to implement the Calgary Metropolitan Plan in our shared sub-region. To evaluate options, a Task Force of elected representatives is proposed. This Task Force will be time limited and focused on how best to move our region towards more sustainable regional growth patterns. City Council is requested to designate two members of Council to participate as members to the *Urban Municipalities Task Force* (Task Force) and adopt the Task Force Terms of Reference attached to this report.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee recommend that Council:

1. Establish the Committee and Adopt the Terms of Reference of the *Urban Municipalities Task Force* as attached to this report pursuant to Section 9(1) of the Procedure Bylaw 44M2006, as amended;
2. Appoint two (2) members of Council to represent The City of Calgary on the *Urban Municipalities Task Force*;
3. Forward this report, attachment, and recommendations to the 2015 September 28 Regular meeting of Council.
4. Direct that this report, presentation and discussion remain confidential under Section 23(1)(b) and 24(1)(a) & (c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection Act until this matter is resolved.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, DATED 2015 SEPTEMBER 15:

That Council:

1. Establish the Committee and adopt the Terms of Reference of the Urban Municipalities Task Force as attached to this report pursuant to Section 9(1) of the Procedure Bylaw 44M2006, as amended;
2. Appoint **Councillor Stevenson and Councillor Carra** to represent The City of Calgary on the Urban Municipalities Task Force; and
3. Direct that this report, presentation and discussion remain confidential under Section 23(1)(b) and 24(1)(a) & (c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection Act* until this matter is resolved.

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PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

2015 June 29 in-camera verbal report C2015-0570, Council authorized the City Manager to file a Municipal Government Board appeal with respect to the Rocky View County Conrich Area Structure Plan (the "ASP") under section 690 of the Municipal Government Act should Rocky View County Council adopt the ASP without amendments that adequately address The City's concerns.

2015 March 05 in-camera report to IGA Committee IGA2015-0143, IGA directed Administration to proceed with the short term actions as contained in this report and report back by Q4 2015 with further information as directed by Council on longer term strategy alternatives.

2015 February 09 in-camera report C2015-0210 - *CMP Legislation Update*, Council directed the Mayor to provide a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs reflecting Council position on legislating the Calgary Metropolitan Plan.

BACKGROUND

Since the 2009 adoption of the Calgary Metropolitan Plan by the Calgary Regional Partnership, The City of Calgary has remained committed to the ideal of a legislated metropolitan plan that applies to all municipalities in the Calgary region. The goal of the CMP was to help ensure a significantly more sustainable regional settlement pattern as compared to the status quo. Thinking beyond our own municipal boundaries is critical to Calgary's overall quality of life as the combined population of The City and region is projected to reach three million people by 2076.

The City of Calgary participated in a mediation process at the request of the Minister of Municipal Affairs in 2013. Mediation included The City of Calgary, Rocky View County, Municipal District of Foothills and the Calgary Regional Partnership. A number of concessions and amendments to the Calgary Metropolitan Plan were proposed by The City and the mediation table in attempt to encourage the municipalities who left the Calgary Regional Partnership to rejoin. In early 2015, the newly appointed Minister of Municipal Affairs held meetings with affected municipalities to resolve the legislative options for the Calgary Metropolitan Plan. The City of Calgary's position was that a legislated Calgary Metropolitan Plan that applied to all affected municipalities was the optimal option. Despite these efforts no movement by the Province to legislate the Calgary Metropolitan Plan or voluntary movement of key municipalities to rejoin the Calgary Regional Partnership has occurred.

While the new provincial government may still address the situation, it is presumed that the continued lack of municipal consensus will make the legislation of the Calgary Metropolitan Plan challenging. As a result, The City should consider new approaches to addressing regional matters. One approach is to collaborate with Calgary's geographically closest urban municipal neighbours.

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INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The City of Calgary has a unique relationship with the municipalities of City of Airdrie, City of Chestermere and Town of Cochrane. These municipalities are The City's closet urban neighbours and share common concerns beyond our respective municipal boundaries. One approach for addressing matters beyond The City's boundary is through collaboration with these urban neighbours.

A short term Task Force of elected representatives is proposed to further explore avenues of collaboration. The Terms of Reference for the *Urban Municipalities Task Force* (Task Force) is attached to this report. The Task Force is proposed to be comprised of elected officials with two (2) members appointed by the Councils of each municipality.

The Task Force will provide a forum to investigate options and provide recommendations regarding collaborative strategies to implement the regional growth strategy and other policies of the Calgary Metropolitan Plan. The mandate of this Task Force is described in the Terms of Reference attached to this report.

There are two alternatives to the collaborative approach with our urban neighbours:

- 1) The City of Calgary could proceed on its own to address concerns with regional growth patterns and long term regional sustainability. It is inherently challenging, however, to address issues of regional scope without involvement of the broader region.
- 2) Status Quo which involves resolving existing intermunicipal concerns, encouraging the Province to address outstanding issues, and encouraging Calgary's rural neighbours to re-join the Calgary Regional Partnership. There may be limited benefit in the status quo position.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Five administrative meetings involving representatives from the City of Airdrie, City of Chestermere, City of Calgary and Town of Cochrane were held to discuss opportunities, share concerns and review the draft Terms of Reference for the Task Force.

Strategic Alignment

The Municipal Development Plan states in Policy 1.3.2 and Policy 5.C.5 that The City is aligned with the aspirations of the Calgary Regional Partnership and the Calgary Metropolitan Plan.

The Triple Bottom Line Policy Framework (Oct 2011) under the heading of Smart Growth Framework states that "*The City works with its regional partners to ensure that growth is managed effectively to achieve the goal of long-term urban sustainability.*"

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

The purpose of Calgary Metropolitan Plan is to help ensure the future urban settlement pattern is significantly more sustainable when the population of Calgary and the region approaches 3 million people by 2076.

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The Calgary Metropolitan Plan provides a plan for growth in existing developed areas and higher density complete communities in a “nodes and corridors” development pattern. Efficient and more sustainable development patterns in the region could be connected, in the future, by regional transit and regional servicing infrastructure. Regional planning supported by a metropolitan scaled plan will help protect key environments and the costs of growth would be more effectively managed over the long term.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

Additional expenses such as consulting, meeting hosting and administration of the Task Force are anticipated in 2015-2016.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no implications to the Capital Budget associated with this report.

Risk Assessment

1. Regional planning and sustainability require regional collaboration. While collaboration may be effective it is inherently challenging and more complex. At some point interests may diverge and result in reconsideration of direction. This risk will be mitigated by providing reports to Council as the situation changes. The Task Force has also been given a time limited mandate. It is anticipated that the Task Force will dissolve within a one year period or an updated mandate will be crafted and then approved by Council.
2. The establishment of this Task Force could affect the relationship with The City's most immediate neighbours – Rocky View County and MD Foothills. This risk could be mitigated by retaining existing Intermunicipal Committees, Intermunicipal Development Plans and commitment to various intermunicipal projects and initiatives.
3. The establishment of this Task Force could affect The City's relationship with the Calgary Regional Partnership. The mandate and guiding principles of the Task Force provide certainty that this group is not intended to duplicate or replace the Calgary Regional Partnership. The City can mitigate this risk by remaining members to the Calgary Regional Partnership.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To move forward with regional sustainability, further discussions between The City and our closest urban neighbours (City of Airdrie, City of Chestermere and Town of Cochrane) is considered appropriate. A time limited Task Force comprised of two members from each municipal Council is proposed to investigate options and provide recommendations to respective Councils. This Task Force will further investigate strategies to achieve regional sustainability and implement the Calgary Metropolitan Plan. City Council is requested to

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endorse the Terms of Reference for the Urban Municipalities Task Force and nominate two members from City Council who will become Task Force members.

ATTACHMENT

Terms of Reference Urban Municipalities Task Force

CONFIDENTIAL