

Foothills County–City of Calgary Intermunicipal Committee Revised Terms of Reference

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee recommend that Council:

- 1) Rescind the current Terms of Reference for the Foothills County – City of Calgary Intermunicipal Committee as approved on 2017 July 24; and
- 2) Approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Foothills County – City of Calgary Intermunicipal Committee (Attachment 2).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, 2022 NOVEMBER 9:

That Council:

1. Rescind the current Terms of Reference for the Foothills County – City of Calgary Intermunicipal Committee as approved on 2017 July 24; and
2. Approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Foothills County – City of Calgary Intermunicipal Committee (Attachment 2).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Following direction from the Foothills County – City of Calgary Intermunicipal Committee (IMC), Administration is bringing forward a proposed revised Terms of Reference for the Committee. The Committee requested a review of the Terms of Reference primarily to consider the establishment of the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board and to address protocols for meetings held virtually.
- What does this mean to Calgarians? This Intermunicipal Committee helps to resolve issues and explore opportunities between The City and Foothills County to improve and build on intermunicipal relations.
- Why does this matter? A revised Terms of Reference provides an improved framework and will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the committee. The revised Terms of Reference also better reflects the current regional structure with the formation of the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A well-run city
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

The City of Calgary has established Intermunicipal Committees (IMCs) with three neighbouring municipalities: Rocky View County, Foothills County, and The City of Chestermere. IMCs are intended to provide a forum for appointed elected officials (with Administrative support) to discuss matters of shared interests, develop collaborative solutions, and problem solve.

A Terms of Reference for the Foothills County (then Municipal District of Foothills) – City of Calgary IMC was first approved by both Councils in 1995. A new Terms of Reference was adopted in 2010 and was subsequently amended in 2017.

At the 2022 January 21 Foothills County – City of Calgary IMC, a motion was approved to direct Administration “to review the TOR for the IMC to address house-keeping items (e.g., virtual meetings)

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and bring it back to the committee for review.” The revised Terms of Reference was reviewed by the IMC on 2022 June 17 and Administration asked to proceed to the approvals process.

The revised Terms of Reference provides for several amendments and updates including:

- 1) Updated language to reflect the change of name to Foothills County from the Municipal District of Foothills;
- 2) Recognizing the establishment of the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board while highlighting the continued importance of bilateral discussions to both municipalities;
- 3) Providing for the appointment of the co-chairs by each respective municipality to better reflect the current practice of Foothills County;
- 4) Clarifying the hosting and chairing of meetings and including consideration for virtual committee meetings;
- 5) Clarifying the Committee’s decision-making structure; and
- 6) Enabling the co-chairs to act as spokespersons for the Committee.

Foothills County approved the revised Terms of Reference on 2022 July 06.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Stakeholders were informed
- Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken

IMPLICATIONS

Social

A revised Terms of Reference reflects the updated regional structure that The City and Foothills County exist in. It also reflects aspects of engagement and procedure to ensure a productive forum for discussing issues and exploring opportunities to further improve relations between The City and Foothills County.

Environmental

The Terms of Reference provides the ability for the municipalities to consider environmental matters of shared interest. As environmental issues are often cross-jurisdictional, the IMC provides and opportunity to develop collaborative solutions to environmental challenges.

Economic

Disputes between municipalities may lead to delays in development projects resulting in greater risk and costs. The Terms of Reference facilitates the platform for better collaboration between municipalities. This can provide greater certainty for investors and projects resulting in less risk and has the potential to attracting investment at a regional level when collaborating towards regional economic goals.

Service and Financial Implications

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No anticipated financial impact

The work outlined in this report does not require any additional financial or other resources for execution.

RISK

There is a small risk to intermunicipal relationships should The City of Calgary decide to not approve the revised Terms of Reference. Given that Foothills County has already approved the Terms of Reference seeking to amend the Terms of Reference further could be viewed negatively by Foothills County.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment 1 - Previous Council Direction, Background

Attachment 2 - Terms of Reference – Foothills County–City of Calgary Intermunicipal Committee
Terms of Reference