

Background and Previous Council Direction

Background

On 2025 May 01, the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB) was officially dissolved following a unanimous vote by its eight member municipalities. This decision came after the Alberta government announced membership would become voluntary and annual funding would be ending.

Ministerial Order MSD:025/25 came into effect 2025 May 01, requiring all former CMRB member municipalities with shared boundaries to establish Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks by 2027 November 30. The intent is to provide a transitional framework to support ongoing regional collaboration after the dissolution of the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board.

1. **Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDP):** Statutory land-use planning documents jointly prepared and adopted by two or more municipalities that share a common boundary. They are intended to coordinate land use and development near shared borders, prevent conflicting land uses, align transportation and servicing strategies, address environmental matters and establish dispute resolution mechanisms.
2. **Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICF):** Formal agreements between neighbouring municipalities that promote cooperative and efficient service delivery. They address shared services, cost-sharing arrangements, dispute resolution processes, and governance structures for services for which both municipalities have agreed to collaborate.

The City of Calgary shares municipal boundaries with **Rocky View County**, the **City of Chestermere**, and **Foothills County**. Existing Intermunicipal Development Plans are in place with all three municipalities. However, the ones with Rocky View County and the City of Chestermere require updates to better align with current legislative requirements. The one with Foothills County will be updated following the conclusion of the current annexation negotiations.

The Terms of Reference outlines how The City of Calgary and Rocky View County will jointly develop the updated Intermunicipal Development Plan. It references the current Intermunicipal Development Plan area while acknowledging that boundary adjustments will likely be required to support effective intermunicipal planning. It establishes shared principles of **accountability, collaboration, and continuous improvement**, and sets clear goals for the updated Plan, including **coordinated growth management, knowledge-sharing, a defined framework for working together, and proactive approaches to shared challenges**.

The Terms of Reference also defines the decision-making structure, with the **Joint Administration Working-group** leading technical work and engagement, the **Intermunicipal Committee** providing guidance and championing the process, and both **Councils** serving as final approvers. A structured dispute-resolution process is included—beginning with the **Joint Administration Working-group**, escalating to **Project Sponsors**, then to the **Intermunicipal Committee**, and, if needed, to **Chief Administrative Officers, mediation, or arbitration**—with defined timelines to ensure issues are resolved efficiently and do not delay progress.

Previous Council Direction

There is no previous direction from Council on this item, however Ministerial Order MSD: 025/25 requires bordering municipalities to enter into Intermunicipal Development Plans by 2027 November 30. The current Calgary-Rocky View County Intermunicipal Development Plan was approved by Calgary City Council 2012 January 09. Report IGA 2025-0981 requested Council Motion of support for an Alberta Communities Partnership Grant application to support the Intermunicipal Development Plan project work, which has since been successful.