

ROCKY VIEW/CALGARY BOUNDARY REVIEW PROJECT – DEFERRAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request a deferral of the Rocky View County/City of Calgary Boundary Review Project. The project identifies opportunities and possible solutions for sites where the current municipal boundary between Rocky View and Calgary presents challenges to development. While Administration has completed its review, direction from the Rocky View County – City of Calgary Intermunicipal Committee (IMC) is required before the project can proceed. This was anticipated to occur on 2014 November 07. However, as two members of the IMC were unable to attend, the IMC deferred direction to staff and requested that reports to Council be deferred. Deferral of this report until no later than Q2 of 2015 will enable the IMC to provide direction to Administration on this project.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Intergovernmental Affairs committee recommends that Council defer the report on the Boundary Review Project until no later than Q2 of 2015.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

At 2014 January 27 Regular Meeting of Council adopted report IGA2014-0043 (Process, Implications and feasibility of annexation of the Blazer Water Treatment Plant by Rocky View County) which included a recommendation to “Direct Administration to initiate discussions with Rocky View County to identify possible locations, including the Blazer water treatment plant, where adjustments to the municipal boundary through an annexation could be mutually beneficial. Report to Council through the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee on the outcome of those discussions and a strategy for possible annexations no later than 2014 December.”

At the 2013 July 22 Combined Meeting Council approved a Motion Arising, moved by Alderman Pincott, that with respect to Bylaw 74D2013 (CPC2013-083), the following be adopted: “that Council direct Administration to bring forward a report to City Council on the process, feasibility, and implications of ‘de-annexing’ the private water treatment plant on Bears paw Meadow Way, no later than 2013 December”.

BACKGROUND

At the 2013 July 22 Combined Meeting, Council considered a land use amendment intended to allow the expansion of the Blazer Water Treatment Plant. This privately operated facility is located within The City of Calgary but largely serves development in Rocky View County. As a result, a Motion Arising was approved to investigate the process, feasibility and implication of “de-annexing” the water treatment plant to Rocky View County. During the investigation for the subsequent report, Administration identified potentially significant implications with respect to a County initiated annexation process. Most notably it would involve significant Administrative and elected official time to resolve a single issue. It was also noted that focusing on a specific site would also not address similar municipal boundary challenges emerging in other boundary areas.

While the Blazer investigation was underway, discussions at the 2013 September 27 Rocky View/Calgary Intermunicipal Committee (IMC) meeting identified a number of additional geographic areas along the shared municipal boundary that currently present challenges in terms of logical areas for planning and development such as parcels isolated by roads and

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natural features or where access is challenged. The IMC directed Administration to prepare a list of areas that may benefit from an adjustment of the municipal boundary and to return to the IMC for further discussion. As a result of the discussions at IMC, Administration included the consideration of further municipal boundary challenges within the report on Blazer investigation; IGA2014-0043 (Process, Implications and feasibility of annexation of the Blazer Water Treatment Plant by Rocky View County).

The Administrations of both municipalities jointly identified lands in both the city of Calgary and Rocky View County that have become functionally isolated from their jurisdiction and may naturally function better within the adjacent municipality. The work involved regular meetings of the Rocky View/Calgary Intermunicipal Committee that provided direction on selection and project scoping to ensure that the project was mutually beneficial.

At the 2014 October 03 IMC meeting, both Administrations jointly proposed recommendations that could be used to address the particular challenges of the boundary lands.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Since receiving the Council direction, Administration from both Rocky View County and The City of Calgary have collaborated to complete the following stages of work:

1. Determined appropriate principles that will inform the boundary review project and presented this to IMC to ensure agreement from both jurisdictions.
2. Analyzed lands with regard to issues or constraints due to servicing, access, intermunicipal context, and policy alignment.
3. Identified lands that merit consideration in the project and evaluated how they meet the principles. Presented the results to IMC and proceeded with a selection of lands to be considered within the project scope.
4. Prepared a list of six tools that could be used to address outstanding technical issues within the selected lands: joint planning, annexation, agreements related to taxation, access or service, a shared land use district, residual long-term growth area or entranceway guidelines.
5. Evaluated the lands both individually and as a collective group, according to the six tools to determine which tools could address multiple issues and provide a potential solution.
6. Prepared recommendations for which tools could be used to address various lands comprehensively and presented this to IMC on 2014 October 03.
7. Prepared a report for IMC proposing three options for addressing the project work.

During this process, City Administration analyzed City lands and their associated issues or constraints, according to their risk to the Corporation.

At the 2014 November 07 IMC, Administration was anticipating a decision from committee as to whether to proceed with scoping for two potential planning projects presented at the previous IMC meeting. IMC deferred the decision until the meeting of Intermunicipal Committee on 2015 January 09 and directed Administration to prepare a deferral report to Council.

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Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Engagement with Rocky View County administration and Intermunicipal Committee was a continuous part of this project and will be discussed in the report to Council no later than Q2 2015.

Strategic Alignment

The Municipal Development Plan notes that “Regional alignment with Rocky View County is administered through the Rocky View/Calgary Intermunicipal Development Plan”. The intent of the plan is to coordinate planning activities within the intermunicipal area and establish intermunicipal cooperation on various issues.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

None associated with this report.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

There are no operational budget implications identified with this report.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no capital budget implications identified with this report.

Risk Assessment

None associated with this report.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Deferring the decision to accommodate a Q1 2015 Intermunicipal Committee meeting, will allow standing Committee members from Rocky View, who have been engaged throughout the duration of the project, to be involved in decisions that affect their electoral areas and to determine how to proceed with the proposed recommendations for project scoping.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None.