

Committee of the Whole (Working Session) Report

DATE: Wednesday, January 22, 2025

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF PRELIMINARY OPTIONS FOR THE 2024
WARD BOUNDARY AND COUNCIL COMPOSITION REVIEW

FROM:

Michael Genova, Deputy City Manager, Strategic Initiatives

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To receive Council feedback on the preliminary options for ward boundaries and council composition as detailed in the preliminary options report from the consultant team.

Report Highlights

- The consultant team conducted interviews with the Mayor and Members of Council, senior city staff and external stakeholders as part of the first round of public consultation.
- 217 members of the public completed the survey, providing feedback on opportunities and challenges with the present composition and boundaries.
- The preliminary options contained in the consultant report reflect the broad public engagement on the present ward boundaries and council composition.

Recommendations

1. That Council provides direction on council composition under the existing governance arrangement; and
2. That Council provides direction on the size of Vaughan Council without Local and Regional Councillors.

Background

Council directed staff to conduct a Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review at its meeting of September 26, 2023. The City of Vaughan contracted Watson and

Associates Economists Ltd. to conduct the review, in association with Dr. Robert J. Williams, Dr. Zachary Spicer and ICA Associates Inc.

The first phase of the project was initiated in April, 2024, with a series of internal stakeholder engagements including interviews with the Mayor and Members of Council and senior municipal staff, and a Council Education Session in May. The public launch of the project occurred in September with the launch of the project website, informational materials and videos, an online engagement survey and five in-person open houses across the city.

Previous Reports/Authority

[UPDATE: ONTARIO GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF REGIONAL GOVERNANCE:](#)
September 26, 2023.

Analysis and Options

The consultant team has reviewed the feedback from the public engagement conducted in the first phase of the project and, along with a detailed analysis of demographic and planning data, prepared a series of preliminary options for ward boundaries and council composition. Attachment 1 to this report provides a thorough detail of the information collected and the options being presented to Council now.

The outcome at this stage in the project is feedback from Council on the preliminary options which will help the project team refine the options to build a final proposal for Council's consideration in Q2 2025. A second round of interviews and public engagement will take place during the second phase of the project to help the project team formulate their final recommendations.

Financial Impact

The 2024 Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review funded from the approved capital budget for the project. Changes to the composition of Council will be incorporated into future operating budgets.

Operational Impact

The Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review is funded from the capital budget.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

External stakeholders have been consulted as part of the first phase of the project, that feedback has been incorporated into the preliminary options report.

Conclusion

This report marks the conclusion of the first phase of the 2024 Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review. Following broad stakeholder engagement and a thorough analysis of demographic and planning data, the consultant team has prepared a series of preliminary options for consideration by Council. These options are intended to spur discussion which will help inform the development of final recommendations for Council's consideration in Q2 2025.

For more information, please contact: Evan Read, Manager, Election, Registration and Protocol Services, evan.read@vaughan.ca

Attachment

1. 2024 Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review Interim Report, Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., December 18, 2024

Prepared by

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