

Committee of the Whole (Working Session) Report

DATE: Wednesday, June 18, 2025

WARD(S): ALL

**TITLE: 2024 WARD BOUNDARY AND COUNCIL COMPOSITION
REVIEW FINAL REPORT**

FROM:

Micheal Genova, Deputy City Manager, Strategic Initiatives

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To provide Council with a final report on the completion of the 2024 Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review, containing options for Council's consideration under both the existing governance arrangement and an arrangement in which the role of local and regional councillor has been abolished.

Report Highlights

- The project team conducted interviews with the Mayor and Members of Council as part of the second phase of consultation on the boundary configurations contained in the final report.
- 395 residents completed the online survey and 141 people attended community pop-ups to provide feedback on the boundary options.
- The City of Vaughan has retained Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., in association with ICA Associates and Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer to conduct a comprehensive and independent Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review.

Recommendations

1. That Council provides direction on the composition and ward boundaries of the City of Vaughan under a governance arrangement without local and regional councillors;

2. That Council directs that the existing ward boundaries under the current governance arrangement be maintained; and
3. That staff bring forward any necessary by-laws to the June meeting of Council to codify the decisions made respecting composition and boundaries.

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.

The first phase was started 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.

The second phase of consultation occurred in March, 2025.

The second phase began with a second round of interviews with the Mayor and Members of Council to review the ward boundary options as detailed in the consultant team's final report. Members of the public had the opportunity to provide their feedback through an online survey and a series of community pop-ups organized in late March.

Previous Reports/Authority

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

[CONSIDERATION OF PRELIMINARY OPTIONS FOR THE 2024 WARD BOUNDARY AND COUNCIL COMPOSITION REVIEW:](#) January 28, 2025.

Analysis and Options

The final report of the consultant team details the comprehensive assessment of Vaughan's electoral boundaries.

The final report of the consultant team (Attachment 1) details the comprehensive assessment of Vaughan's electoral boundaries within the framework of the principles of the Carter decision. The final options on ward boundaries and council composition

presented in the report reflect the results of the two phases of stakeholder engagement and public consultation.

Two ward boundary options for a governance structure without local and regional councillors are being presented.

As directed by Council at the meeting of January 28, 2025, the consultant team developed a series of ward boundary options for a governance structure without local and regional councillors, including boundary options with council compositions of 6, 7 and 8 local councillors. Council may decide which option to approve respecting the composition and preferred electoral boundaries for a governance structure without local and regional councillors.

Status quo under the existing governance structure.

As directed by Council at the meeting of January 28, 2025, there are no changes proposed to the existing ward boundary system, under the existing governance structure that includes local and regional councillors.

Financial Impact

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

Operational Impact

There are no operational impacts associated with this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

External stakeholders were consulted as part of the first phase of the project, that feedback was incorporated into the preliminary options report.

Conclusion

Following an extensive process of evaluation and public engagement, the consultant team from Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. in association with ICA Associates, Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer, have developed final options for ward boundary configurations, based on Council's direction to develop options for a governance arrangement without local and regional councillors. Council is being asked to identify a preferred council composition for a governance arrangement without local and regional councillors and approve one of the associated boundary options contained in the final report from the consultant team.

Any by-laws necessary to codify the decisions respecting composition and boundaries will be presented to Council in June.

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 Final Report, Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., June 18, 2025

Prepared by

Evan Read, Manager, Election, Registration and Protocol Services, ext.8241.