

Council Presentation NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Study Overview



- The Consultant Team: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., in association with ICA Associates Inc. and Drs. David Siegel and Robert J. Williams.
- Retained by the City of Guelph in January 2020 to conduct a comprehensive Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review:
 - Phase 1 Council Composition and Employment Status Review
 - Phase 2 Ward Boundary Review

Phase 1 – Key Questions to Address



- How many Councillors are appropriate?
- Should Councillors continue to be elected in wards or city-wide?
- If so, how many Councillors should be elected in each ward?
- Would the City of Guelph benefit from having City Councillors who could devote themselves full-time to their Council responsibilities or should they remain part-time?

Public Engagement



- Phase 1 engagement and consultation significantly exceeded expectations. (Target 300+ citizens providing detailed input).
- 670 citizens shared thoughtful, detailed insights in a survey, generating thousands of data points. Many more visited the site and joined a webinar to learn about the project.
- Methodology: Five key questions were closed-ended and mandatory. Optional follow-up questions allowed respondents to explain their reasoning. Most did.
- Respondents' views and ideas were considered and inform the Consultant Team's recommendations to Council.

How many Councillors should sit on the Council?



- Council has the legislative authority to change the composition of council: Municipal Act, 2001 s. 217 (1).
- No clear principles, standards, or formulas to apply in determining the appropriate size of a municipal council (see Phase 1 Report).
- Appropriate number of Councillors "a balancing act": impact on Council decision-making, representation, costs, population growth.

Elections by Wards or City-Wide?



- Council has the legislative authority "to divide or redivide the municipality into wards or to dissolve the existing wards" through a by-law: Municipal Act, 2001 s. 222 (1) - subject to appeal to the LPAT.
- Each system has its own attributes and implications but wards more appropriate in large municipalities like Guelph.
- Some respondents endorsed a hybrid system but the Consultant Team concluded that two types of Councillors is unwarranted.

Ward Magnitude?



- Many Guelph residents only familiar with a two-member system.
- Guelph only city of its direct comparators with two-member wards.
- Many see advantages in having two Councillors to contact but shortcomings more numerous: contributes to a larger Council, increases the size of wards, leads to confusion and duplication when a constituent approaches both Councillors.
- One-member wards provide the flexibility to increase the number of wards while decreasing the number of Councillors.

Number of Wards?



- Question intersects with previous question(s).
- Fewer than six wards for a City the size of Guelph does not seem desirable.
- Adding (two-member) wards means adding two Councillors for each new ward which would increase the total size of Council.

Full-time or part-time?



- Only three municipalities in Ontario pay Councillors what would be considered a full-time wage (Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa) - all are single-tier municipalities.
- Fitting a regular full-time or a traditional part-time job with regular hours around the significant and irregular time commitments of a Councillor is very difficult.
- Many respondents understood that increasing demands on Councillors require them to be fully engaged: "They cannot do this part-time."

Principles and Recommendations



Principle 1. The City of Guelph should have at least six wards.

 Principle 2. The City of Guelph should have no more than 12 Councillors.

Principles and Recommendations



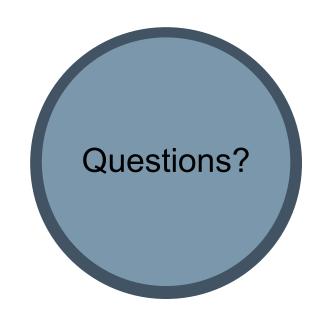
- Recommendation 1. The City of Guelph should continue to use a ward system.
- Recommendation 2. The City of Guelph should switch to a system of one member per ward.
- Recommendation 3. The City of Guelph should have eight singlemember wards.
- Recommendation 4. Councillors for the City of Guelph should be considered full-time Councillors and should be compensated accordingly.

Phase 2 – Ward Boundary Review



- If Council determines in Phase 1 to maintain a ward system in Guelph,
 Phase 2 will see the Consultant Team develop alternative ward options for consideration by the community and Council
- Development of preliminary ward options Q1 2021
- Final Ward Options to Council Q2 2021
- Consultation and engagement activities will replicate the Phase 1 process unless public health regulations permit a return to live events







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