



SUBJECT: Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review
introductory presentation by consultant

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Legal and Legislative Services

Report Number: CL-24-24

Wards Affected: all

Date to Committee: October 7, 2024

Date to Council: October 15, 2024

Recommendation:

Receive for information legislative services report CL-24-24 Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review introductory presentation by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

PURPOSE:

Vision to Focus Alignment:

(Select all areas that apply)

- ☐ Designing and delivering complete communities
- ☒ Providing the best services and experiences
- ☐ Protecting and improving the natural environment and taking action on climate change
- ☐ Driving organizational performance

Executive Summary:

This report provides context for the transmittal of an introductory presentation, by the consultant, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd, retained by the City to conduct the council composition and ward boundary review.

Background and Discussion:

The purpose of this report is to transmit a presentation for committee consideration on the Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review by consultants, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. as attached in Appendix A.

In March 2024, Council voted to proceed with a council composition and ward boundary review for the City, to be conducted by an independent consultant (report [CL-03-24](#)). Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. has been retained by the City to conduct the review.

Strategy/process/risk

The last ward boundary review for Burlington was done in 2005 when the city's population was 139,000. Since this time, the city's population has grown to approximately 186,948, according to the 2021 Census. Over the next 25 years, the city will continue to grow. This council composition and ward boundary review will evaluate whether to maintain the existing council size and structure and ward boundaries or to pursue alternative arrangements. Public engagement and Council decisions will happen in two phases. In phase 1, residents will be asked for their input on council composition which will help to inform options that will go to Council for consideration in December 2024 as an interim report. In phase 2, expected to begin in early 2025, public engagement will focus on ward boundaries. Options and recommendations will be presented to Council in the Spring of 2025 for a Council decision.

The presentation by Watson & Associates Economists is an opportunity for the consultant team to provide introductions, background information on the project and discuss next steps.

Financial Matters:

Not applicable

Total Financial Impact

Not applicable

Source of Funding

Not applicable

Other Resource Impacts

Not applicable

Climate Implications:

Not applicable

Engagement Matters:

This project will involve extensive public engagement to inform options and recommendations going forward to Council for a decision. An extensive engagement and communications plan is being finalized to ensure residents are aware of the review and are called to action to participate in the various engagement opportunities including in-person and virtual engagements and surveys.

To date, initial engagement has taken place through attendance at Food for Feedback with information provided about the project to the public and feedback gathered on the guiding principles for the review.

Council composition public engagement opportunities have been scheduled as follows:

- **Monday, Oct. 7** - 7 to 8:30 p.m., Tansley Woods Community Centre, 1996 Itabashi Way
- **Wednesday, Oct. 9** - 7 to 8:30 p.m., Central Arena, 519 Drury Ln
- **Thursday, Oct. 10** - 1:30 to 3 p.m., Mountainside Recreation Centre, 2205 Mt. Forest Dr.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 15** – 7 to 8:30 p.m., virtual public meeting
- **Wednesday, Oct. 23** – 7 to 8:30 p.m., Haber Community Centre, 3040 Tim Dobbie Dr.

Residents and business owners can also share their feedback through the council composition and ward boundary survey, available on getinvolvedburlington.ca/boundaryreview starting Oct.7.

Conclusion:

The purpose of this report is to transmit the introductory consultant presentation on the council composition and ward boundary review project currently underway. The presentation provides introductory information, current status and next steps for the review.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Yew

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Appendices:

- A. Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review Introductory Presentation to Council by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.