

10.1.10 REVIEW OF COUNCIL WARD BOUNDARIES AND NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS

File Ref: SUB/2594
Attachments: 10.1.10(a) Review of Council Ward Boundaries and Number of Elected Members Information and Discussion Paper
Responsible Officer: Garry Bird, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Author: Elizabeth Nicholls, Senior Administration Officer
Author Disclosure of Interest: Nil

SUMMARY

It is proposed that Council resolve to undertake a review of its ward system to comply with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act). As part of the review, electors will be invited to make submissions on the options in the attached Discussion Paper. Electors may also submit alternative options they consider to have merit.

BACKGROUND

Schedule 2.2 of the Act requires local governments with wards to carry out reviews of ward boundaries and the number of Councillors for each ward from time to time so that no more than eight years elapses between successive reviews.

The Town of Cottesloe last undertook a formal review of its ward boundaries and representation in December 2010 (gazetted in 2011). The Town is required to undertake another ward review in advance of the 2019 local government elections.

The review process involves a number of steps:

- The Council resolves to undertake the review
- Public submission period opens
- Information provided to the community for discussion
- Public submission period closes
- The Council considers all submissions and relevant factors and makes a decision
- The Council submits a report to the Local Government Advisory Board (the Board) for its consideration
- (If a change is proposed) the Board submits a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government (the Minister).

A Discussion Paper has been drafted outlining the current situation and provides options for consideration. After the consultation period, the views of the community will be provided for Council's consideration.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This report is consistent with the Town's *Strategic Community Plan 2013 – 2023*.

Priority Area 6: Providing open and accountable local governance

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no perceived policy implications arising from the officer's recommendation.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Resource requirements are in accordance with the existing budgetary allocation.

There are no perceived financial implications arising from the officer's recommendation.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

There are no perceived staffing implications arising from the officer's recommendation. Staffing requirements can be met with current staffing resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no perceived environmental sustainability implications arising from the officer's recommendation.

CONSULTATION

Elected Members

OFFICER COMMENT

The Town of Cottesloe's current situation is that a Mayor is elected 'by the community' plus a total of eight Councillors elected from four wards as follows:

Ward	# of Electors	# of Councillors	Councillor: Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Central	1,402	2	701	2.76%
East	1,332	2	666	7.61%
North	1,488	2	744	-3.21%
South	1,545	2	773	-7.16%
TOTAL	5,767	8	721	

Note: Data is from the Electoral Commission and based upon eligible voters as at 2 July 2018.

The Council will consider the following options and members of the community may suggest others:

- Option 1: Maintain the current four ward system with eight elected members and a directly elected Mayor.
- Option 2: Implement a no ward system with eight elected members and a directly elected Mayor.
- Option 3: Implement a no ward system with six elected members and a directly elected Mayor.

The above options are considered further in the attached Discussion Paper using the five criteria established by the Act when undertaking a review.

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

Questions provided by Cr Boulter – Emailed 17 September 2018

Q1. Can the Draft Information and Discussion Paper be amended to include the differences in costs to ratepayers of each of the various options?

A1. Council could resolve this.

Submitted by Cr Tucak via email – 17 September 2018

Q1. Has consideration been given to the Guidance Note point that a discussion paper should generate wide discussion and feedback, not focus on specific outcomes – whereas the Review Options present only a choice of four wards or no wards, and 6 or 8 councillors (i.e. but not any other potential options/changes, e.g. 3 or 2 wards)

A1. The discussion paper outlines a variety of issues and provides three options as a way of generating thought and discussion on the topic. Residents are free to make any submission they like and Council can amend the paper to add further options if they so choose.

Submitted by Cr Sadler via email – 18 September 2018

Q1. What form does the community consultation council ward boundaries take?

A1. Local Public Notice, notices on the Council's website and all other advertising required by the Community Consultation Policy.

Submitted by Cr Pyvis via email – 18 September 2018

Q1. Under p73 STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT, please provide EMs with a list of the relevant sections of the Local Government Act 1995 and applicable regulations?

A1.

Local Government Act 1995

Part 2 - Constitution of local government

Part 4 – Elections and other polls

Schedule 2.1 - Provisions about creating, changing the boundaries of, and abolishing districts

Schedule 2.2 - Provisions about names, wards and representation

Q2. What "local public notice" is required by the Local Government Advisory Board for calling for submissions on the ward review, including in which newspapers must this be advertised?

A2.

Local Government Act 1995

1.7. *Local public notice*

(1) *Where under this Act local public notice of a matter is required to be given, a notice of the matter is to be –*

(a) *published in a newspaper circulating generally throughout the district; and*

- (b) exhibited to the public on a notice board at the local government's offices; and*
 - (c) exhibited to the public on a notice board at every local government library in the district.*
- (2) Unless expressly stated otherwise it is sufficient if the notice is —*
 - (a) published under subsection (1)(a) on at least one occasion; and*
 - (b) exhibited under subsection (1)(b) and (c) for a reasonable time, being not less than —*
 - (i) the time prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph; or*
 - (ii) if no time is prescribed, 7 days.*

Advertisements will be placed in The Post and the Western Suburbs Weekly.

Q3. What is the likely financial cost or expenditure of the local public notice required by the Local Government Advisory Board?

A3. Approximately \$1,000

Q4. What is the itemised annual cost to ratepayers of each of the Deputy Mayor and Councillors?

A4. Costs are listed in summary in the 2018/19 Budget and in more detail in the June 2018 Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Moved Cr Young Seconded Cr Sadler

THAT Council:

- 1. RESOLVE to undertake a review of the Town of Cottesloe's ward system to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995.**
- 2. ENDORSE the attached Review of Council Ward Boundaries and Number of Elected Members Information and Discussion Paper for the purposes of inviting public comment in regards to the review.**

COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT

Moved Cr Boulter Seconded Cr Pyvis

That officer recommendation 2 for Item 10.1.10 Ward Review etc is amended as follows by adding the following words:

"subject to:

1. The inclusion in the Draft Discussion Paper of:
 - a table clearly showing the payments to each Councillor and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and the differences in financial costs arising from each of the three proposed options; and

- a table showing the current Ward and Councillor arrangements at each of the WESROC local governments;
2. The following words on page 5 of the Draft Discussion Paper under the header Options to Consider after the second dot point Creating new wards for example two wards that are north/south OR east/west).
 3. An additional Option 4 under the Review Options on page 7 of the Draft Discussion Paper as follows “ Any Other Options” .”

Lost 3/6

For: Crs Boulter, Tucak and Pyvis

Against: Mayor Angers, Crs Rodda, Sadler, Young, Harkins and Thomas

COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT

Moved Cr Tucak

Seconded Cr Boulter

Amend point 2 of the officer recommendation by adding “subject to:

2. an additional Option 4 under the Review Options on page 2 of the Draft Discussion Paper as follows:
implement a three ward system with six elected members and a directly elected Mayor.”

Lost 3/6

For: Crs Tucak, Boulter and Pyvis

Against: Mayor Angers, Crs Rodda, Sadler, Young, Harkins and Thomas

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

Carried 9/0