

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Special Council Meeting

14 May 2013

Notice of Meeting

To: The Mayor and Councillors

A Special Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 May in the Council Chamber, Sandgate Street, South Perth commencing at 5.30 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

Establish a Joint Taskforce between the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park to:

- Explore and implement resource sharing in the region
- Explore opportunities for boundary adjustments; and
- Identify scenario planning for a joint City of South Perth and Town of Victoria Park



CLIFF FREWING
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
10 May 2013

Our Guiding Values

Trust

Honesty and integrity

Respect

Acceptance and tolerance

Understanding

Caring and empathy

Teamwork

Leadership and commitment

Disclaimer

The City of South Perth disclaims any liability for any loss arising from any person or body relying on any statement, discussion, recommendation or decision made during this meeting.

Where an application for an approval, a licence or the like is discussed or determined during this meeting, the City warns that neither the applicant, nor any other person or body, should rely upon that discussion or determination until written notice of either an approval and the conditions which relate to it, or the refusal of the application has been issued by the City.

Further Information

The following information is available on the City's website.

- **Council Meeting Schedule**

Ordinary monthly Council Meetings are held at 7pm in the Council Chamber at the South Perth Civic Centre on the fourth Tuesday of every month between February and November. Members of the public are encouraged to attend open meetings. Special Council meetings are held on an as needed basis and are advertised accordingly.

- **Minutes and Agendas**

As part of our commitment to transparent decision making, the City makes documents relating to council and its committees' meetings available to the public.

- **Meet Your Council**

The City of South Perth covers an area of around 19.9km² divided into six wards. Each ward is represented by two councillors, presided over by a popularly elected mayor. Councillor profiles provide contact details for each elected member.

www.southperth.wa.gov.au/Our-Council/

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Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda

1. **DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

Chairperson to open the meeting

2. **DISCLAIMER**

Not required

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER**

3.1 **AUDIO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETING**

4. **ATTENDANCE**

4.1 **APOLOGIES**

4.2 **APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

5. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Conflicts of Interest are dealt with in the *Local Government Act, Rules of Conduct Regulations* and the *Administration Regulations* as well as the City's Code of Conduct 2008. Members must declare to the Chairperson any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter on the Council Agenda.

6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (IN RELATION TO ITEM 8)**

7. **DEPUTATIONS (IN RELATION TO ITEM 8)**

8. REPORTS

8.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT TASKFORCE BETWEEN THE CITY OF SOUTH PERTH AND THE TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK

Location: City of South Perth
Applicant: Council
Date: 10 May 2013
Author / Reporting Officer: Cliff Frewing, Chief Executive Officer

Summary

In response to the Metropolitan Local Government Review, and having regard to the outcome of a joint City of South Perth and Town of Victoria Park briefing held on 2 May 2013, it is proposed that a Joint Taskforce be established between the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park.

The Joint Taskforce would examine resource sharing; boundary adjustments; and different scenarios for the possible joining of the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park.

The establishment of the Joint Taskforce would put the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park in a better strategic position to both influence and respond to State Government amalgamation plans.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves the immediate formation of a joint City of South Perth and Town of Victoria Park Taskforce to:
 - a) Explore and implement resource sharing in the region
 - b) Explore opportunities for boundary adjustments; and
 - c) Identify scenario planning for a joint City of South Perth and Town of Victoria Park
2. Endorses the membership of the Taskforce in Recommendation 1 above, to comprise of:
 - a) The Mayor, City of South Perth
 - b) The Mayor, Town of Victoria Park
 - c) Two Elected Members from each local government; and
 - d) The CEO's from each local government.
3. Agrees that the findings of the Taskforce be presented to each local government no later than 31 July 2013.

Background

In June 2011 the Minister for Local Government appointed the Metropolitan Local Government Panel (the Panel) to undertake the task of considering the current structures and arrangements for local government in Perth and recommending improvements to maximise benefits to the Perth community.

The Report of the Panel was finalised in July 2012 and the Minister advised that the State Government would not take a definitive position on the Final Report of the Panel's 30 recommendations until after local governments, community members and stakeholders had been able to provide their views". Public comment closed on 5 April 2013.

At a Special Council meeting held on 2 April 2013, the Council agreed to make the following submission to the Minister of Local Government of Western Australia regarding the Metropolitan Local Government Review:

Recommendation 1

The City does not support Option A or B of recommendation 15(c) of the Robson report to either wholly or partly amalgamate with the City of Perth for the following reasons:

- a) *There is no community of interest between the residents of the City of Perth and the City of South Perth;*
- b) *The City of Perth should remain with a 'Capital City' focus and not be side tracked on suburban issues;*
- c) *Assuming governance principles remain the same, the majority of elected members would be elected from south of the river – not the existing City of Perth area – which would be to the detriment of the CBD; and*
- d) *The principles of the Local Government Advisory Board would be compromised in that there is no justification for the City of Perth to be extended south across the Swan river as it is a natural feature and provides an ideal Local Government boundary.*

Recommendation 2

Subject to effective reform occurring in the metropolitan area:

- 2.1) *The City's preferred course of action is to amalgamate with the Town of Victoria Park subject to:*
 - a) *The Burswood peninsular is retained by the Town of Victoria Park;*
 - b) *Boundary adjustments occurring to correct existing boundary anomalies between the Town of Victoria Park and City of Canning;*
 - c) *An extension of the new Local Government area at the existing southern boundary to Leach Highway being agreed;*
 - d) *Both Local Governments retaining existing Reserve funds to be spent specifically on uses in their current area for which the Reserves were created; and*
 - e) *All costs associated with the amalgamation being borne by the State.*

Or that alternatively

- 2.2) *Should the Minister determine that the new structure of Local Government within the metropolitan area be based around Strategic Regional Planning Centres, the City's preferred course of action is to amalgamate with the Town of Victoria Park and with all or part of the City of Canning. Under this proposal, by definition, the new Local Government would need to include Cannington. It is acknowledged that the boundaries of the City of Canning may need to be adjusted in particular locations but the City of South Perth is not in a position to make any informed comments on what the most appropriate options might exist in this regard. This outcome would be subject to:*
 - a) *All affected Local Governments retaining existing Reserve funds to be spent specifically on uses in their current area for which the Reserves were created; and*
 - b) *All costs associated with the amalgamation being borne by the State.*

Recommendation Three

That arrangements be made for an informal meeting to be held with elected members of the Town of Victoria Park to discuss possible amalgamation issues.

Recommendation Four

That the City's Resolution on the topic of Local Government Reform and the Submission be approved and forwarded to the Minister for Local Government.

The City lodged its submission by the due date.

Comment

A meeting of Elected Members and senior management from both local governments was held on Thursday 2 May 2013. A copy of the notes from this briefing session is at **Attachment 8.1**. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a way forward in relation to joining the two local governments. The outcome sought from this meeting was to achieve a consensus for the establishment of a joint taskforce to examine:

- resource sharing;
- boundary adjustments; and
- scenario planning for joining the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park.

Since the briefing was held, the City of South Perth's CEO and Mayor together with the Town of Victoria Park's CEO and Mayor have met to discuss the joining of the two local governments. No position was reached at this meeting or direction identified on the proposed metropolitan local government structural reform other than to recognise the need for further information that may assist both Local Governments to consider the matter further at a later time.

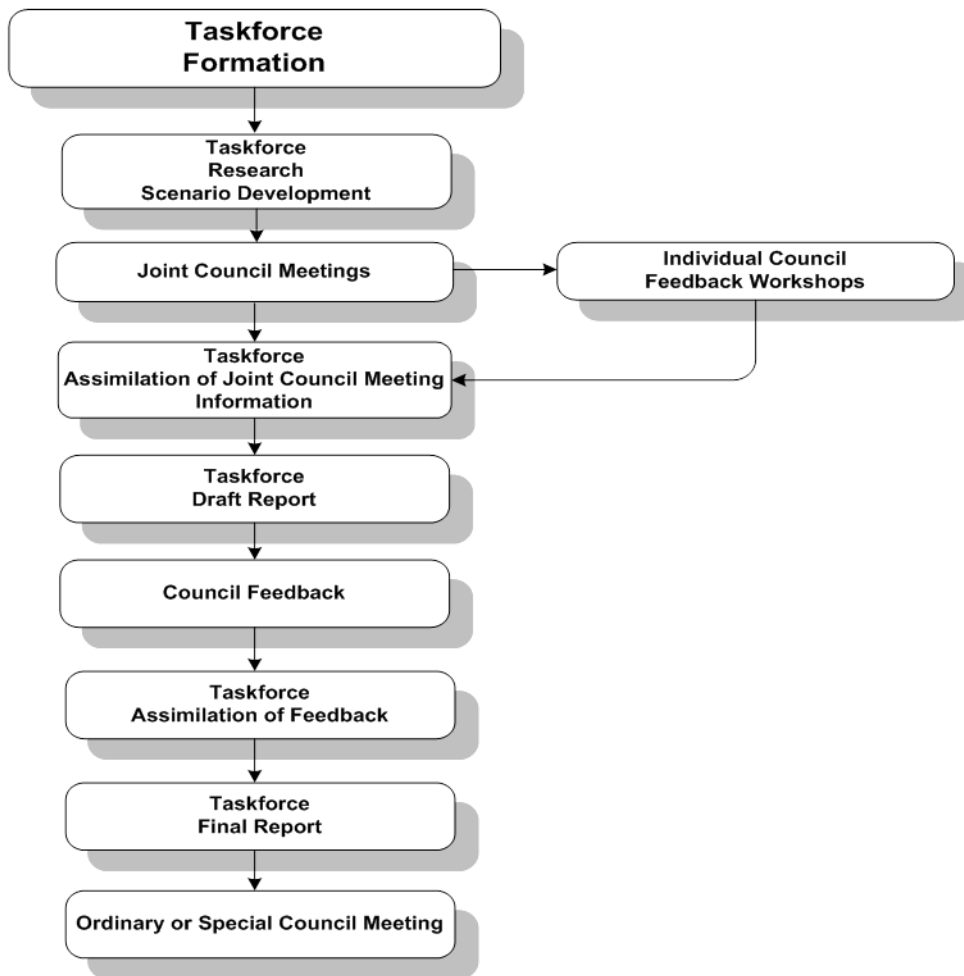
It is considered important to position the respective local governments of South Perth and Victoria Park to be prepared to join together prior to the State Government implementing recommendations made in the Final Report of Metropolitan Local Government Review.

As mentioned in the City's submission to the Minister on the Robson report recommendations, if both local governments are entrenched about not amalgamating, then without an amalgamation scenario, both local governments will not be in the best position to respond when amalgamation occurs.

The recommendations contained in this report are consistent with the outcomes of the joint meeting held on Thursday 2 May 2013. If the recommendations are adopted, the taskforce will review further resource sharing opportunities, examine other boundary adjustment options and look at the various issues to provide the best outcomes for our respective communities should amalgamations continue to be the State Government's objective.

The recommendations contained in this report are also identical to a set of recommendations being considered by the Town of Victoria Park at its Ordinary Council meeting to be held on the same night as the Special meeting.

It is proposed that the taskforce engages with the respective local governments to include joint council meetings throughout its deliberations. The flow chart below shows the process to be followed culminating in each local government considering a way forward with regards to joining for resource sharing, boundary adjustments and other related issues.



Consultation

As part of the review of the Robson report recommendations, all residents were provided with a survey document to make comment. The Local Government reform program has been widely advertised and the public have had opportunities to make submissions directly to the Minister.

Policy and Legislative Implications

There are no policy or legislative implications at this stage. The Act and Regulations provide details that Local Governments must follow should an amalgamation proposal be supported by both Local Governments.

Financial Implications

Internal Budget

The possible cost to engage a consultant to facilitate various scenario planning options is estimated to be \$15,000 which will be shared equally with the Town of Victoria Park.

Total Asset Management

If the City of South Perth and Town of Victoria Park are joined then the assets of the City will form part of a larger local government.

Strategic Implications

This report is consistent with the, Direction 6 – Governance, Advocacy and Corporate Management “Ensure that the City has the organisational capacity, advocacy and governance framework and systems to deliver the priorities identified in the Strategic Community Plan”.

The Reform agenda is now being driven by the State and it is in the City's best interests to respond in a proactive and responsible manner.

Sustainability Implications

This report is aligned to the City's [Sustainability Strategy 2012–2015](#).

The proposal to establish a Joint Task force with the Town of Victoria Park is in response to the Western Australian State Government Metropolitan Local Government Reform process, which is aimed at making the industry more sustainable and stronger into the future.

9. CLOSURE

10. RECORD OF VOTING