

NOTES

Joint Council Forum - City of South Perth and Town of Victoria Park Discussion on Local Government Reform

Venue: City of South Perth Council Chamber
Date: 5.30pm Thursday 2 May 2013

Present

City of South Perth

Mayor Doherty	
Cr K Trent, OAM, RFD	
Cr Sharron Hawkins-Zeeb	
Cr P Howat	
Cr F Reid	
Cr I Hasleby	
C Frewing	Chief Executive Officer
M Kent	Director Financial and Information Services
S Bell	Director Infrastructure Services
P McQue	Manager Governance and Administration
R Bercov	Strategic Planning Advisor
Ms G Fraser	Senior Strategic Planner

Town of Victoria Park

Mayor Vaughan	
Cr J Bisset	
Cr D Ashton	
Cr V Potter	
Cr C Anderson	
Cr K Hayes	
Cr R Skinner	
Cr A Vilaca	
A Kyron	Chief Executive Officer
A Vuleta	Director Renew Life
T Ackerman	Director Community Life
N Cain	Director Business Life
R Lavery	Director Future Life and Built Life

Presenters

Cr M Congerton	Chairman, Local Government Advisory Board
R Earnshaw	Executive Officer, Local Government Advisory Board

Apologies

Cr V Lawrance
Cr C McMullen
Cr G Cridland
Cr B Gleeson
Cr B Skinner
Cr C Cala
Cr R Grayden

Opening

The Chief Executive Officer of South Perth opened the Joint Council Forum at 5.35 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance. He then invited the representatives from the Local Government Advisory Board to present an overview of the legislation in relation to LG amalgamations and boundary adjustments.

Overview by Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB)

Cr Congerton and Mr Earnshaw provided an overview of a potential amalgamation process for the City of South Perth and Town of Victoria Park. Discussion included the following:

- The LGAB is still functioning as per its terms of reference, and will receive and consider any amalgamation proposal;
- This LGAB amalgamation process normally takes approximately 26 weeks with no poll and 33 weeks with a poll;
- In the event of an amalgamation proposal, the LGAB prepares a Notice of Inquiry and Information Paper, arranges public hearings and would then consider and make a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government;
- Councils need to be aware that there is the potential for 250 residents or 10% of affected electors to request a poll in the event of a proposed amalgamation;
- A poll requires a 50% voter turnout to be eligible and a 50% +1 result for an amalgamation to occur;
- If there is a valid poll and it returns a majority no vote, the amalgamation will proposal will not proceed;
- There is the second amalgamation option of one local government extending its ward boundaries into another local government;
- A proposed amalgamation would require significant resourcing and commitment from both local governments to be successful;
- A proposed amalgamation could come into effect 1 July 2014, with both local governments continuing to work on the many areas which would require to be amalgamated;
- The Department of Local Government has produced an amalgamation guide to assist local governments with this process, including an exhaustive checklist;
- The LGAB is able to provide further advice and assistance should both local governments consider amalgamation the preferred option.

Presentation by City of South Perth

Submission to the Minister for Local Government of Western Australia: Metropolitan Local Government Review April 2013

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.

Residents Survey

- Residents were invited to complete a survey form in January 2013.
- 22,503 copies of the Peninsular were distributed to every residential property.
- Only 238 (or 1.07%) responses were received.
- The majority of residents who responded preferred *option 5* – 'no change' – and the least supporting Robson report 'Recommendation B'.
- The second preferred option was to merge with the Town of Victoria Park (61 responses).
- Because of the extremely poor response, it is clear that no definitive conclusion can be drawn from the results of the survey.

Option	No. of Responses
1. Robson Report Option A	21
2. Robson Report Option B	13
3. Merger with the Town of Victoria Park	61
4. Merger with the Town of Victoria Park and part of the City of Canning	18
5. No change	125
TOTAL	238

Presentation by Town of Victoria Park

Victoria Park Amalgamation Options Community Survey Results

The Views of the Community

Respondents: 723

Methodology:

- On-line survey
- Advertised in the local media
- Sampling precision of +/- 3.6% at the 95% confidence interval. That is to say, we would be 95% confident that the results would be within +/-3.6% should a census of the every resident be undertaken

Survey Results

	Scenarios	Option 1: Stay as is	Option 2: Amalgamate with Perth	Option 3: Amalgamate with S. Perth	Option 4: Split-up and Amalgamate
1	Amalgamate with City of Perth or Split up and Amalgamate or Stay as is	62%	32%	n/a	6%
2	Forced amalgamation with either City of Perth or split-up and amalgamate	n/a	82%	n/a	18%
3	Amalgamate with City of Perth or amalgamate with City of S. Perth or Split up and Amalgamate or stay as is	46%	18%	31%	5%
4	Amalgamate with City of South Perth or Stay as is	52%	n/a	48%	n/a
5	Forced amalgamation with the city of Perth or the city of South Perth or Split up and amalgamate	n/a	23%	71%	6%

Council Decision

At its Special Meeting on 29 January 2013, the Council resolved that:

1. It notes the contents of the report prepared by the consultant entitled Town of Victoria Park Amalgamation Survey 2012 – A Research Report and also notes that the survey exceeds the response rate for surveys required by the State Government Auditor General.
2. Based on the community survey results and the Final Report on the Metropolitan Local Government Review the Council adopts the position to retain the Town of Victoria Park within its current gazetted

boundaries, noting that this position replaces that of the 8 May 2012 Ordinary Council Meeting, where the Draft Findings were presented for consideration.

3. The CEO in consultation with the Mayor continues to be involved in conversation regarding Local Government Reform.
4. It makes a submission to the Hon. Minister for Local Government based on the Council's adopted position on Recommendation 15(c) and also reiterates the remainder of its previous position endorsed by Council on 8 May 2012 on the other Findings made in relation to the Metropolitan Local Government Review Draft Findings document except for the Forum of Mayors which should be chaired by the Minister for Local Government instead of the Lord Mayor of the City of Perth.

General Discussion

There was discussion about a potential amalgamation between the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park, with their being general consensus that it would be in the best interests of both Local Governments to form a working party to examine the issues prior to the outcome of the State Government's Local Government Reform review is known.

It was also agreed that the City of South Perth and Town of Victoria Park continue to explore resource sharing options and continue to discuss reform in the context of the State Government's Local Government Reform review.

Closing

The Chief Executive Officer of South Perth closed the Joint Council Forum at 7.00pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.