

## **ANNEXATION PRINCIPLES**

In *City of St. Albert v. Sturgeon County*, MGB 123, the Municipal Government Board (“MGB”) set out 15 principles to apply when considering an annexation application. A summary of how the City’s proposed annexation addresses the 15 principles is set out below.

### **Principle 1: Intermunicipal Cooperation**

*Annexations that provide for intermunicipal cooperation will be given considerable weight. Cooperative intermunicipal policies in an intermunicipal development plan will be given careful consideration, weight and support so long as they do not conflict with Provincial policies or interests.*

Strathcona County and City of Fort Saskatchewan support an Inter-municipal Relations Committee (IMRC) that works together to discuss intermunicipal collaboration and cooperation. This proposal was vetted through the IMRC and supported by both municipalities to proceed with an annexation.

### **Principle 2: Rational Growth Directions, Resource Use, Fiscal Accountability and Municipal Purposes**

*Accommodation of growth by all municipalities (urban or rural) must be accomplished without encumbering the initiating municipality and the responding municipality’s ability to achieve rational growth directions, cost effective utilization of resources, fiscal accountability and the attainment of the purposes of a municipality described in the Act.*

The lands within the Annexation Area is a portion of a range road adjacent to a future industrial development in the City’s boundary. There are no hindrances for growth in either municipality with this proposed annexation.

### **Principle 3: Autonomy of Municipalities**

*An annexation or annexation conditions should not infringe on the local autonomy given to municipalities in the Act unless provisions of the Act have been breached or the public interest and individual rights have been unnecessarily impacted.*

The proposed annexation does not infringe on the Strathcona County’s autonomy as granted under the MGA.

### **Principle 4: Supporting Materials Concerning Growth**

*An annexation must be supported by growth projections, availability of lands within current boundaries, consideration of reasonable development densities, accommodation of a variety of land uses and reasonable growth options within each municipality (initiating and responding municipality).*

A Growth Study was provided for a recent annexation by the City that was approved by the Province under Order in Council 274/2019 filed as MGB 042/19 (File: AN18/FORT/C-01) and can be used for this application.

**Principle 5: Logical Extension of Growth Patterns and Services**

*An annexation must achieve a logical extension of growth patterns, transportation and infrastructure servicing for the affected municipalities.*

The Growth Study demonstrates that the city will have industrial growth occur logically to the eastern boundary and that development will gain access from adjacent roads.

The city annexing this portion of range road provides the only means for the city to obtain legal control and authority of the road which provides both municipalities clarity and certainty for the long term management and operational responsibilities.

**Principle 6: Administration of Services**

*Each annexation must illustrate a cost effective, efficient and coordinated approach to the administration of services.*

A Financial Impact Analysis (FIA) was provided for a recent annexation by the City that was approved by the Province under Order in Council 274/2019 filed as MGB 042/19 (File: AN18/FORT/C-01) and can be used for this application. The FIA examined the fiscal impacts of this annexation and there is no significant impact on either the City or the County with this portion of the range road. The annexation will result in a slight net gain to the Strathcona County.

**Principle 7: Key Environmental and Natural Features**

*Annexations that demonstrate sensitivity and respect for key environmental and natural features will be regarded as meeting provincial land use policies.*

Not applicable.

**Principle 8: Use of Resources**

*Coordination and cost effective use of resources will be demonstrated when annexations are aligned with and supported by intermunicipal development plans, municipal development plans, economic development plans, transportation and utility servicing plans and other related infrastructure plans.*

The City and the County adopted an Alliance Exploration Agreement in 2018 that will be analysing and recommending efficiencies in services provided to both communities.

**Principle 9: Financial Impact**

*Annexation proposals must fully consider the financial impact on the initiating and responding municipality.*

The FIA previously provided considers the financial impact of the proposed annexation on the City of Fort Saskatchewan and the Strathcona County and concludes that in both cases, the impact is not significant and manageable.

**Principle 10: Impacts on Other Institutions**

*Inter-agency consultation, coordination and cooperation is demonstrated when annexations proposals fully consider the impacts on other institutions providing services to the area.*

The City notified a number of other agencies and institutions regarding the proposed annexation as set out in the Annexation Application. The City and the County provided opportunity to obtain feedback regarding the proposed annexation from these agencies and institutions.

**Principle 11: Impacts on Property Owners**

*Annexation proposals that develop reasonable solutions to impacts on property owners and citizens with certainty and specific time horizons will be given careful consideration and weight.*

The City provided notice to adjacent property owners. There is no impact to the landowners for this proposed annexation of the range road.

**Principle 12: Public Consultation**

*Annexation proposals must be based on effective public consultation both prior to and during any annexation hearings or proceedings.*

Included in the Annexation Application is a Public Engagement Summary report that details the City’s public consultation process. The City mailed a notice letter to adjacent landowners informing them of the proposed change in jurisdiction for this portion of the range road.

**Principle 13: Special Properties**

*Revenue sharing may be warranted when the annexation proposal involves existing or future special properties that generate substantive and unique costs to the impacted municipality(s) as part of the annexation or as an alternative to annexation.*

There are no special properties within the proposed Annexation Area.

**Principle 14: Financial Impacts on Municipalities**

*Annexation proposals must not simply be a tax initiative. Each annexation proposal must have consideration of the full scope of costs and revenues related to the affected municipalities. The financial status of the initiating or the responding municipality(s) cannot be affected to such an extent that one or the other is unable to reasonably achieve the purposes of a municipality as outlined in section 3 of the Act. The financial*

*impact should be reasonable and be able to be mitigated through reasonable conditions of the annexation.*

The FIA previously provided addresses the financial impacts of the proposed annexation and concludes that it is financially viable and that the impacts on the City of Fort Saskatchewan and the Strathcona County will not be significant.

**Principle 15: Conditions of Annexation**

*Conditions of annexation must be certain, unambiguous, enforceable and be time specific.*

Not applicable.