

City of Swan Wards and Representation Review --- **Discussion Paper.**



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CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
2. BACKGROUND.....	5
2.1. Local Government Reform	5
2.2. Process to undertake a wards and representation review.....	5
2.3. Review timeline.....	6
2.4. Factors for Consideration.....	7
3. CURRENT SITUATION	9
4. DISCUSSION PAPER	12
4.1. Assessment of factors	12
4.2. Consideration of options.....	18
4.3. Naming of wards	18
5. PROPOSED WARDS AND REPRESENTATION OPTIONS	19
5.1. Option 1 - No wards with a total of 14 Councillors, plus Mayor	19
5.2. Option 2 - Five wards with a total of 14 Councillors, plus Mayor	21
5.3. Option 3 - Five wards with a total of 14 Councillors, plus Mayor	24
5.4. Option 4 - Five wards with a total of 14 Councillors, plus Mayor	26
5.5. Option 5 - Four wards with a total of 14 Councillors, plus Mayor.....	28
5.6. Option 6 - Four wards with a total of 14 Councillors, plus Mayor.....	31
6. IMPACT OF CHANGES	34
7. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION	35



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Due to proposed reforms to the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act), the City of Swan (the City) is implementing the following changes at the local government ordinary elections in October 2023:

1. Changing the method of electing the Mayor to a vote by the electors of the City (a popularly elected Mayor); and
2. Reduce the number of Councillors from 15 to 14 through a review of the City's wards.

To achieve these changes, the City is putting forward 6 wards and representation options (Options) and inviting the community to provide its feedback and comments on these Options.

The Options are:

- Option 1: No wards with a total of 14 Councillors, plus Mayor;
- Options 2, 3 and 4: Five wards (based on existing wards) with a total of 14 Councillors, plus Mayor, but adjust boundaries to ensure a balance between wards; and
- Options 5 and 6: Four wards with a total of 14 Councillors, plus Mayor.

Please refer to pages 19 to 33 of this Discussion Paper to see the details underpinning each of these Options.

Submissions can be provided to the City by the following channels:

- Entered via the City's website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/swanwardreview>
- Emailed to swan@swan.wa.gov.au
- Posted to City of Swan, PO Box 196, Midland WA 6936
- Hand-delivered to City of Swan Administration Centre, 2 Midland Square, Midland.

Submissions should contain the reference 'Wards and Representation Review' and include your name and address.

Submissions close 5pm Wednesday, December 21, 2022.

For enquiries regarding the review, please contact Meghan Dwyer Senior Governance Officer at the City on (08) 9267 9120.



2. BACKGROUND

For the election of Councillors and the representation of electors throughout a district, local governments in Western Australia have either a ward system in place or a no ward system. A ward system provides for the division of the local government district into “wards” (usually a collection of suburbs) with Councillors elected from each ward. A no ward system provides for all Councillors to be elected by all electors throughout its district. Regardless if a local government has a ward system or not, Councillors are to represent all the electors and residents across the whole local government district, not just those electors within their respective ward.

2.1. Local Government Reform

The State Government has proposed reforms to the Act. Some of the changes relate to Council representation, including that all band 1 and 2 local governments are to have directly (popularly) elected mayors and for Councillor numbers to be based on the population of the local government.

The Minister for Local Government (the Minister) wrote to the City on September 20, 2022 and advised that a change to the City’s representation arrangements is required because of the proposed reforms. These changes are required to be implemented for the 2023 October ordinary elections.

At the Council meeting held on October 5, 2022 Council resolved to:

- Change the method of electing the Mayor to a vote by the electors of the district under section 2.11 of the Act; and
- Undertake a review of the City’s wards and representation to reduce the number of Councillors from 15 to 14.

To ensure any required changes are made to the City’s ward structure, the City is required to make a submission to the Local Government Advisory Board (Advisory Board) by February 14, 2023.

2.2. Process to undertake a wards and representation review

The Advisory Board is established by the Act and is responsible for considering proposals for changes to district boundaries and ward and representation structures of local governments.

The review process must be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Act. This is set out in the Act, as part of Schedule 2.2.

2.3. Review timeline

October 5, 2022	Council resolved to change the method of electing the Mayor to a vote by the electors and to conduct a ward and representation review.
October 5 to October 31, 2022	Officers prepare Ward and Representation Review Discussion Paper.
November 2, 2022	Council to endorse the Ward and Representation Review Discussion Paper.
Monday, November 7 to Wednesday, 21 December, 2022	Public consultation.
January 2023	Officers prepare report on the assessment of options, considering all submissions.
February 8, 2023	Review presented to Council to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopt wards and representation structure; and • determine how to implement changes. <i>Absolute majority required</i>
by February 14, 2023	City to notify the Advisory Board of the outcome of the review.
February – October 2023	The Advisory Board considers Council's proposal and makes a recommendation to the Minister; and The Minister may accept or reject the Advisory Board's recommendation but cannot change it.
October 21, 2023	Changes come into effect.

2.4. Factors for Consideration

When considering changes to a local government's wards and representation, the Council as part of the review process, must have regard to the following factors:

Community Interest
<p>The term community of interest has a number of elements. These include a sense of community identity and belonging, similarities in the characteristics of the residents of a community and similarities in the economic activities. It can also include dependence on the shared facilities in an area as reflected in catchment areas of local schools and sporting teams, or the circulation areas of local newspapers. Neighbourhoods, suburbs and towns are important units in the physical, historical and social infrastructure and often generate a feeling of community and belonging.</p>
Physical and Topographical Features
<p>These may be natural or manufactured features that will vary from area to area. Water features such as rivers and catchment boundaries may be relevant considerations. Coastal plain and foothills regions, parks and reserves may be relevant as well as similarities and differences between areas within the local government.</p>
Demographic Trends
<p>Several measurements of the characteristics of human populations, such as population size, and its distribution by age, sex, occupation and location provide important demographic information. Current and projected population characteristics will be relevant as well as similarities and differences between areas within the local government.</p>
Economic Factors
<p>Economic factors can be broadly interpreted to include any factor that reflects the character of economic activities and resources in the area. This may include the industries that occur in a local government area (or the release of land for these) and the distribution of community assets and infrastructure such as road networks.</p>
Ratio of Elected Members to Electors
<p>It is expected that each local government will have similar ratios of electors to Councillors across the wards of its district, generally falling within a deviation of plus or minus (+/-) 10%. Of all the assessment factors established by the Advisory Board, the Councillor/elector ratio factor is the most relevant factor.</p>



If the Advisory Board considers the local government has submitted a proposal which correctly takes into account these factors it will recommend the proposal to the Minister.

If, in the Advisory Board's opinion, a proposal does not correctly take these factors into account it may request that a revised proposal addressing all the factors be submitted. If the local government does not comply, the Advisory Board may recommend a proposal to the Minister which correctly takes these factors into account.



3. CURRENT SITUATION

The City is a large geographical area with boundaries which extend from Bullsbrook in the north, Bushmead in the south, Ballajura in the west and Gidgegannup in the east.

Currently the City has 15 Councillors elected from 5 wards. The Mayor is elected by the Council from amongst the Councillors.

Wards have been generally constructed to include whole suburbs rather than dividing a suburb between 2 or more wards. Exceptions occur for the suburbs of Caversham and Henley Brook where the western boundary of the *Swan Valley Planning Act 2020 (SVPA)* area is the ward boundary between the Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward and Altone and Whiteman Wards.

The current wards and representation arrangements were a result of a review conducted in 2016/2017. As a result of this review, the number of wards in the City was reduced from 6 to 5, some changes to the number of Councillors per ward were made and 2 of the wards were also renamed.

This was achieved by:

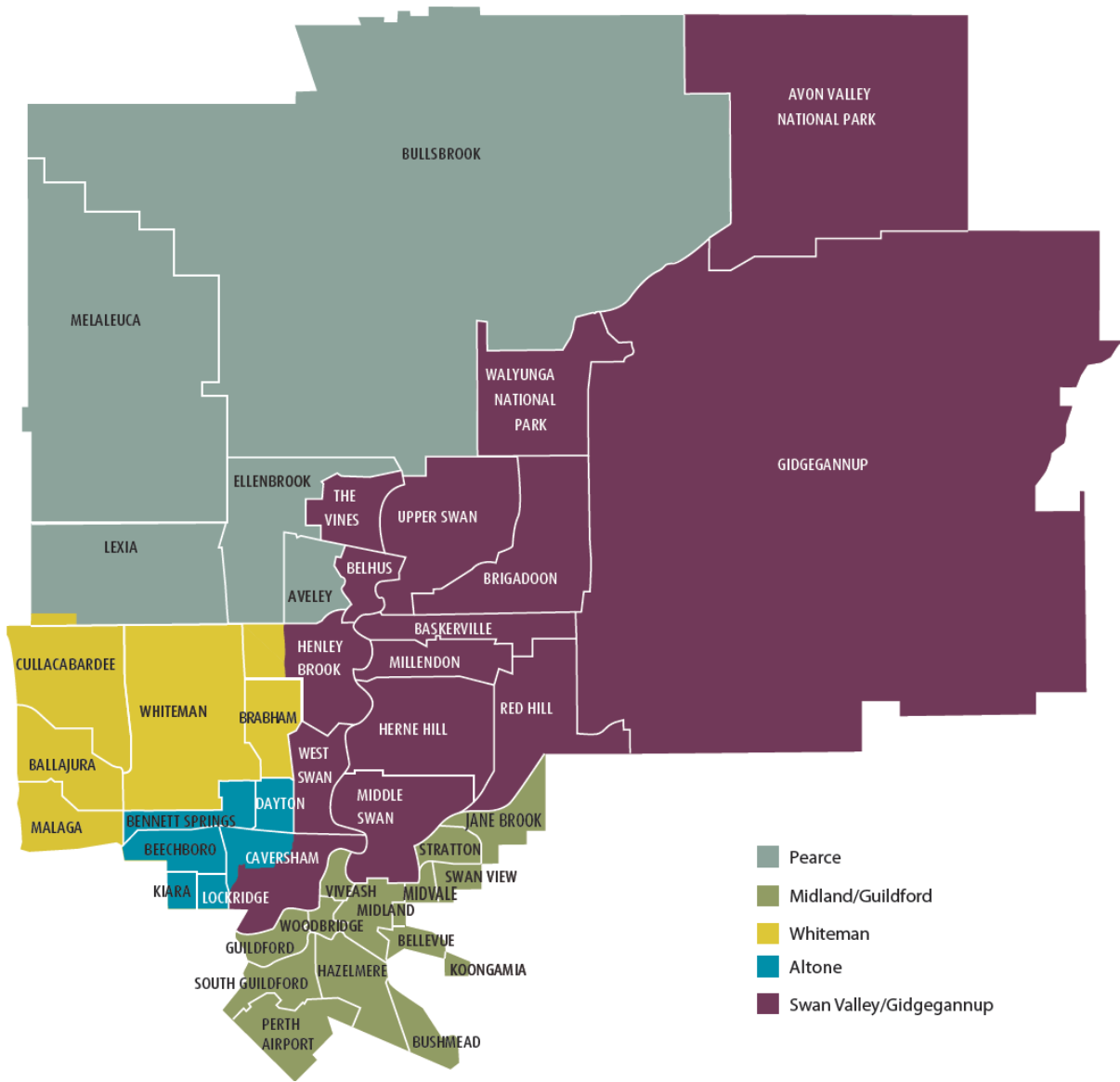
- Merging the previous Ellenbrook Ward and North Ward to form a new Pearce Ward, and setting the number of Councillors in Pearce Ward to 4.
- Moving Whiteman and Brabham from the Altone Ward to the Ballajura Ward, and renaming the ward to Whiteman Ward.
- Moving parts of Henley Brook and Caversham not in the then *Swan Valley Planning Act 1995* to the Whiteman Ward and Altone Ward respectively.
- Moving The Vines and Middle Swan to the Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward.
- Moving Jane Brook to Midland/Guildford Ward.

These changes were implemented for the 2017 local government ordinary elections.

In normal circumstances, the City would be required to conduct a ward and representation review within an 8 year period (i.e. 2024/25). The announcement by the Minister means that a wards and representation review is required to be conducted immediately.



The current ward structure is as follows:



The Councillor to elector ratios as at October 3, 2022, are as follows

Ward	No. of Councillors	No. of Electors	Councillor: Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Altone	3	21,284	7,095	-4.44
Midland/Guildford	3	20,617	6,872	-1.17
Pearce	4	27,431	6,858	-0.95
Swan Valley/ Gidgegannup	2	13,119	6,560	+3.44
Whiteman	3	19,446	6,482	+4.58
Total	15	101,897	6,793	

*The variance must be within a range of +/- 10%.

The variance is calculated by subtracting the Councillor/elector ratio for a ward from the average Councillor/elector ratio for the whole district. The result is then divided by the average Councillor/elector ratio for the whole district and multiplied by 100 to give a percentage. A negative result indicates that the ward is under-represented, and a positive result indicates the ward is over-represented.

Whilst the variances for the wards are currently within allowable limits, the ward representation must change because the number of councillors must reduce to 14. It is not possible to reduce a single Councillor from any ward without affecting the ratio to being +/- 10%.



4. DISCUSSION PAPER

This Discussion Paper has been developed to assist the community to consider options and ideas for the review of the City's wards and representation. The community's feedback is important, and the community is invited through the submission process to propose options. All submissions received must be considered by Council.

4.1. Assessment of factors

A general discussion of the assessment factors as they apply to the City follows.

Community of interest

Local Area Planning

At the City, Local Area Plans (LAPs) help plan for future growth and the provision of community services across a variety of geographically distinct areas. Through community consultation, each LAP identifies a broad range of issues that affect each local area and allows the community to set their key priorities.

There are a total of 13 local areas recognised across the City, for which 12 LAPs have been developed or are scheduled to be developed in the near future. Local area planning involves local community members working together with the City to identify the specific issues affecting their community, to produce a plan that captures the specific needs and sets the priorities for their local area.

Heritage

The local aboriginal people and custodians of the land are the Whadjuk Noongar people. The Noongar people have long since inhabited the historic lands of the Swan coastal plain, dating back some 40,000 years. The land provided a natural abundance of food and water resources and the traditional owners developed a rich history of customs in the area.

The town of Guildford and the surrounding areas in the Whadjuk region sit on important country and have always been an important meeting place for Noongar people. The area contains many campsites and spiritual sites which have been used to the present day.

There are many chapters of the City's unique heritage, including the establishment of agriculture and viticulture in the Swan Valley and the development of the railways and Midland Junction in the late nineteenth century.

European settlement dates back to 1829 when Guildford was established as one of 3 nodes of settlement for the Swan River Colony. As the furthest navigable point on the Swan River, Guildford became an inland port, providing the main link between Perth and the country districts. The first agricultural ventures by colonial settlers began in 1829.

Guildford was declared a Historic Town in 1984, and in 2019 was included in the State Register of Heritage Places. Its historical buildings, rich heritage and proximity to the Swan Valley are an attraction to visitors.



Midland has been occupied by settlers since 1832. However, little development occurred until 1886, when the Midland Railway Company commenced operations. In 1891 the township of Midland Junction was established. Iconic sites such as the former Midland Railway Workshops and the historical civic and retail “junction” of the town centre are important historical elements of Midland.

The City contains a number of Heritage Places in areas including Guildford, Woodbridge, Midland, the Swan Valley and Bullsbrook.

Swan Valley

Viticulture emerged over 181 years ago, making the Swan Valley the oldest wine region in Western Australia and one of the oldest in Australia. The Swan Valley has considerable historical and cultural value as a viticultural, agricultural and tourism region.

Rural

In addition to the Swan Valley, Bullsbrook and Gidgegannup are significant rural areas within the City. These rural areas provide similar services, facilities and amenities to their communities. They are relatively disconnected from other urban areas within the City and the Perth metropolitan region. Land use within these areas includes:

- low density forms of residential land use;
- agricultural rural land and primary production;
- equestrian activities include horse training, agistment, breeding and dealing; and
- basic raw material extraction and mining.

Significant growth is expected within Bullsbrook, with plans for residential, commercial and industrial growth in the near future.

Residential Areas – 1970's onwards

The City's rapid growth has been a relatively new occurrence, but each stage and area of growth has resulted in different characteristics and needs for each of those communities. Examples of growth which have resulted in communities connected by common interests are provided below.

- During the late 1960s, Lockridge was partly developed as a housing estate and underwent urban renewal in the late 1990's. In the 1970s, development of the area north of Benara Road (Beechboro) took off with the first subdivision. The suburb of Kiara was approved and named in 1990 and the suburb now known as Bennett Springs was developed during the 1990s.
- Ballajura was developed as a residential suburb from 1978 and the population increased rapidly during the early 1990s.
- Development of Stratton saw the first residents move into the area in 1991 and Jane Brook was created in 1994.

- The Vines, centred around the development of The Vines Golf Course and Resort, saw its first residents in 1989. Development of Ellenbrook commenced in 1994 and it became one of Perth's fastest growing suburbs. Aveley, previously a part of Ellenbrook, became a suburb in 2006.
- The Urban Growth Corridor (UGC) was identified a critical development to accommodate the growth of the Perth metropolitan region. The UGC includes Brabham, part of Bennett Springs, Dayton and part of Caversham. Major residential development projects are also occurring in Henley Brook, between Brabham and Ellenbrook.

Physical and topographic features

The City covers an area of 1,042 square kilometres and is geographically the largest local government authority in the Perth metropolitan area.

Natural features

The City contains 2 major National Parks - Walyunga and Avon Valley. There are 45 bushland and 73 foreshore reserves totalling approximately 1,200 hectares.

The Swan River flows in a generally south west direction through the City. A number of creeks and rivers that flow into the Swan River are also located in the City: Wooroloo Brook, Avon River, Susannah Brook, Jane Brook, Ellen Brook, Helena River, Blackadder Creek and Bennett Brook.

The Darling Scarp is a low escarpment running north-south to the east of the Swan Coastal Plain in the eastern part of the City.

Transport infrastructure

Major transport corridors and key highways including the Great Eastern, Great Northern, Tonkin, Roe and Reid Highways are all within the City's boundaries. Other major arterial roads within the City include Gnangara Road, Henley Brook Avenue, Marshall Road, Drumpellier Drive, Toodyay Road and Stock Road.

Freight rail and national and state passenger rail routes are also within the City's boundaries.

As part of the State Government's METRONET program, the Morley Ellenbrook Line (Malaga, Whiteman and Ellenbrook stations approved, and a future station planned at Bennett Springs East) and New Midland Station projects will enhance public transport within the City.

This transport infrastructure provides important connectivity for residential and economic activities within the City.



Buildings and Public Open Space

The City has a significant number of assets that support the delivery of community services and act as focal points for community life. They are located across the City and assist in defining each community's identity and provide social, environment and economic benefits. The City's focus is to maintain and improve assets in older developments while planning for future needs in residential growth areas.

Demographic trends

The number of residents in the City has increased rapidly over the last 30 years, growing from approximately 52,000 in 1991 to an estimated population of 167,763 in 2022 and forecast to grow to 309,788 by 2051. Most of the growth has occurred in Ellenbrook, The Vines, Aveley and the UGC (Brabham and Dayton, and parts of the suburbs of Caversham, West Swan and Bennett Springs).

The City's diverse character means that population trends differ widely across the City.

Ellenbrook and the UGC (Brabham, Dayton and Henley Brook) are a focus of residential development. These rapidly developing areas are contributing to very high rates of population growth in the City.

In the medium to long term, the main focus of growth is expected to shift further north to include Bullsbrook and North Ellenbrook.

Population growth is slowly occurring in Midland as infill development occurs in existing residential areas as well as residential developments occurring in suburbs surrounding Midland.

In contrast, there are parts of the City where population change is expected to be minimal. The Swan Valley is protected from major residential development. Suburbs including Ballajura, Kiara, Lockridge and parts of Beechboro and part of Bennett Springs within Altone that underwent their primary development phase during the 1990s, will experience stable, even declining population growth, as households mature.

Economic factors

The City offers a wide variety of locations suitable for all business types. It is home to more than 11,000 businesses, employing approximately 70,000 people. Construction is the largest employment industry within the City, followed by Retail, Education & Training, and Health Care & Social Assistance. The construction industry also has the largest number of registered businesses within the City.

The City's Gross Regional Product is estimated at \$10.18 billion, representing more than 3 per cent of the State's Gross Product. Small businesses account for 97 per cent of the businesses trading within the City.



The City contains major rail and road transport hubs servicing both passenger and freight demands.

Major investment and infrastructure projects include the Perth Darwin National Highway, the completed NorthLink project, the EastLink project, the proposed intermodal transport hub in Bullsbrook, Gateway WA project and METRONET. The build out of these infrastructure projects will see new uses and opportunities for population growth and economic development in these areas

Midland

Midland is the Strategic Metropolitan Centre in Perth's north east sub-region and plays a key role in providing access to goods, services and employment in Perth's east and the nearby Avon Valley region. Through the urban renewal program, Midland's role as a strategic metropolitan centre is strengthening. To date, the program includes the new Midland public hospital, the General Practice Super Clinic and specialist medical services including WA's only bone and tissue bank.

New residential and commercial developments include the redevelopment of the old Railway Workshops and Midland Saleyards, Curtin University medical campus, new private hospital within the historic workshops' precinct, and public open space in Railway Square. Midland is a designated Business Fibre Zone and can support the internet needs of high value office based industries.

Ellenbrook

Ellenbrook has been classified by the State Government as a Secondary Centre. It provides retail, commercial, entertainment and light industrial areas all of which provide business and employment opportunities.

Industrial Areas

The City has a number of existing industrial centres such as Hazelmere, South Guildford, and Malaga. Malaga is one of the City's major industrial suburbs and the City's largest employment centre. Hazelmere and South Guildford have seen significant growth in recent years with ready access to air and rail freight transport as well as being situated very close to major road transport routes. A number of high profile and multinational companies have chosen Hazelmere as the location to invest and establish their business.

The Bullsbrook area has been identified by the State Government as a Priority Industrial Site. Construction has started on the Stock Road upgrade, which will connect Great Northern Highway with Tonkin Highway. The project will provide a new road link for direct access to a new industrial area and to enable heavy haulage and oversized loaded trucks to bypass around the Bullsbrook townsite, and will transform Bullsbrook into an industrial hub.



The Swan Valley

The Swan Valley and surrounds is regarded as one of Western Australia's premier tourism regions. It is a renowned grape growing region containing world-class wineries, restaurants, cafes, galleries, fresh food produce, breweries, distilleries, recreational activities, antiques, nature-based attractions, arts, crafts, trails and accommodation.

Tourism continues to drive economic and social benefits from visitor expenditure, which supports new jobs, investment attraction and better facilities for our communities and visitors. The Swan Valley makes a significant contribution to the local economy with approximately 5.4 million people visiting each year with visitor expenditure in 2019 approximately \$430 million.

Ratio of Councillors to electors in the various wards

The percentage ratio deviation is calculated by subtracting the Councillor/elector ratio for a ward from the average Councillor/elector ratio for the whole district. The result is then divided by the average Councillor/elector ratio for the whole district and multiplied by 100 to give a percentage. A negative result indicates that the ward is under-represented, and a positive result indicates the ward is over-represented.

The options presented in this Discussion Paper achieve balanced representation.

For any ward review it is preferable that any changes to the Councillor/elector ratio consider possible growth and decline in population, thereby resulting in an increase or decrease of Councillor/elector ratio before the next review takes place (required to be conducted within 8 years). However, it cannot be determined with any certainty what increase or decrease in population will occur in each area.



4.2. Consideration of options

The proposed wards and representation Options are detailed in **Part 5**.

Given the size and diverse nature of the City, the Discussion Paper will only include Options for wards and representation based on 14 Councillors (and a directly elected Mayor). This may be reviewed by Council with a subsequent ward and representation review in the future.

Council does not have an established position on any Option and the Options set out below may provoke discussion and are not definitive.

The Options are examples only and there are many variations and members of the community may have other options that fit the criteria for wards that comply with the requirements of the Act.

Elector numbers used for the purposes of this review were the electors number as at October 3, 2022.

4.3. Naming of wards

Suggestions for ward names are welcome and it is encouraged that ward names reflect the ward community's Aboriginal and European history and its growing demographic diversity.



5. PROPOSED WARDS AND REPRESENTATION OPTIONS

5.1. Option 1 - No wards with a total of 14 Councillors, plus Mayor

Under this Option, all existing wards are abolished.

The following advantages and disadvantages are provided by the Advisory Board.

Advantages include:

- Councillors are elected by the whole community not just a section of it. Under the Act, Councillors are required to represent the views of all electors of the City and make decisions in the best interest of the district as a whole. Knowledge and interest in all areas of the City's affairs would result, broadening the views beyond the immediate concerns of those in a Ward.
- The smaller suburbs and rural areas have the whole Council working for them.
- Members of the community who want to approach a Councillor can speak to any Councillor.
- Social networks and communities of interest are often spread across a local government and Councillors can have an overview of these.
- Councillors can use their specialty skills and knowledge for the benefit of the whole local government.
- There is balanced representation with each Councillor representing the whole community.
- The election process is much simpler for the community to understand and for the Council to administer.
- No requirement for wards and representation in the future.
- All possible future growth does not impact ward structures.



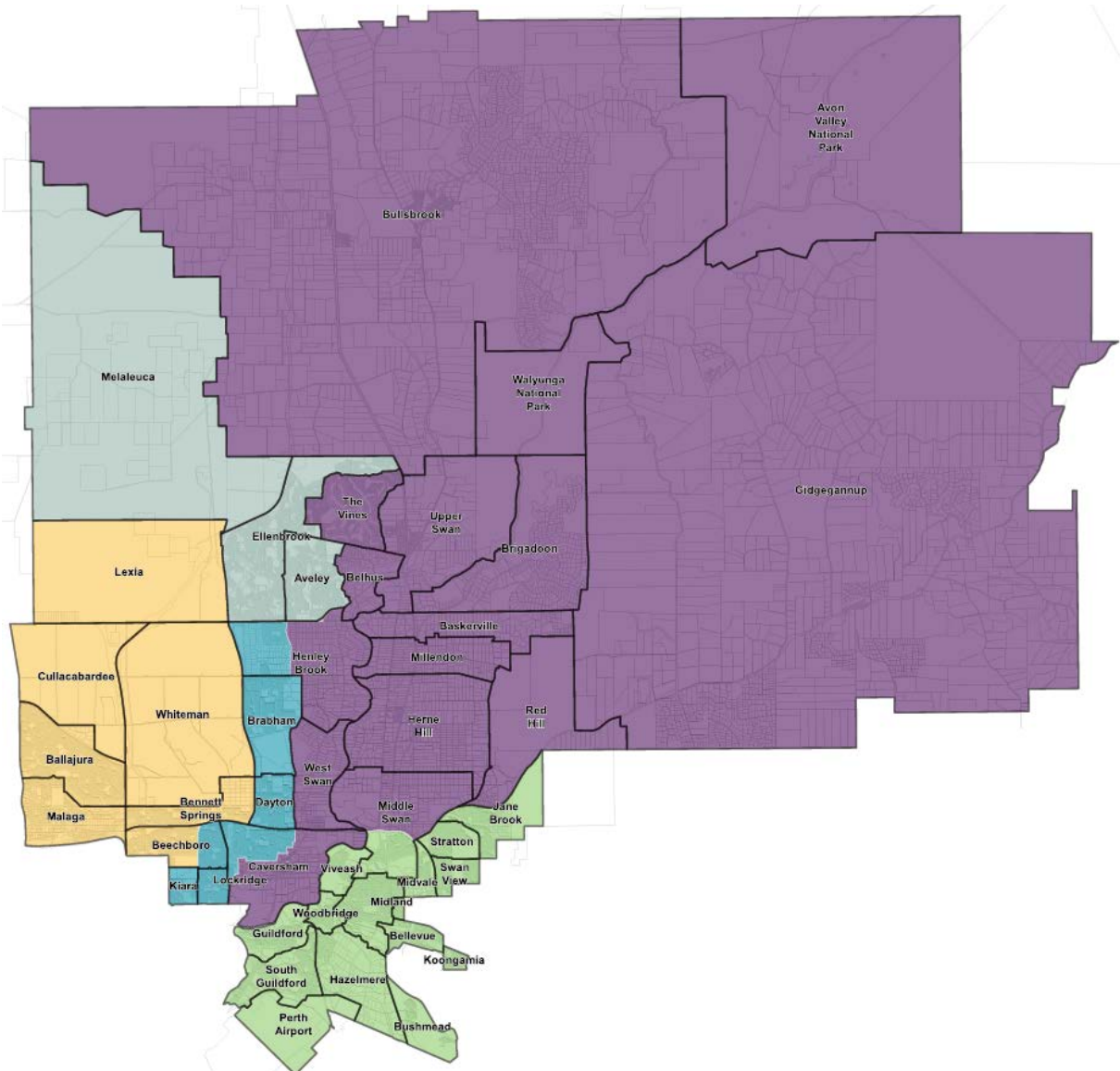
Disadvantages include:

- Electors may feel that they are not adequately represented if they don't have an affinity with any of the Councillors.
- Councillors living in a certain area may have a greater affinity and understanding of the issues specific to that area.
- Councillors may feel overwhelmed by having to represent all electors and may not have the time or opportunity to understand and represent all the issues.
- It may be more difficult and costly for candidates to be elected if they need to canvass the whole local government area.
- It may lead to confusion of responsibilities and duplication of effort on part of Councillors.
- It may lead to significant communities of interest and points of view being unrepresented or for others to dominate.



5.2. Option 2 - Five wards with a total of 14 Councillors, plus Mayor

(based on existing wards but adjusted boundaries to ensure balanced Councillor/elector ratio between wards)



Ward	No. of Councillors	No. of Electors	Councillor: Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
North West (teal)	3	23,485	7,828	-7.56
Central (blue)	3	19,673	6,558	+9.90
East (purple)	2	15,332	7,666	-5.33
South (green)	3	22,350	7,450	-2.36
West (yellow)	3	21,057	7,019	+3.56
TOTAL	14	101,897	7,278	



Changes to the current wards and representation structure:

- (i) Bullsbrook moved from the current Pearce Ward (referred to as the North West Ward) to the current Swan Valley/Gidgegannup (referred to as the East Ward);
- (ii) Brabham and the residential part of Henley Brook (non SVPA area) moved from the current Whiteman Ward (referred to as the West Ward) to the current Altone Ward (referred to as the Central Ward);
- (iii) Beechboro currently in the current Altone Ward (referred to as Central Ward), to be divided at Altone Road between the current Whiteman and Altone Wards (referred to as the West and Central Wards respectively);
- (iv) Middle Swan, currently all in the current Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward (referred to as the East Ward), to be divided at the SVPA area boundary and the residential part (non SVPA area) to be in the Midland/Guildford Ward (referred to as the South Ward);
- (v) Lexia, currently divided between the current Pearce Ward and Whiteman Wards (referred to above as the North West and West Ward), now located entirely within the current Whiteman Ward (referred to as the West Ward); and
- (vi) The number of Councillors in the Pearce Ward (referred to as the North West Ward) reduced from 4 to 3.

Advantages include:

- Retains and is similar to the existing 5 wards structure.
- Provides a minimal amount of change as compared to 4 ward options.
- The % ratio deviation of +9.90% in the Central Ward allows for growth within Brabham, Dayton and Henley Brook, 3 growing suburbs.
- The whole of the SVPA area is within the one ward, East Ward.

Disadvantages include:

- Division of suburbs is required to achieve this i.e. Beechboro (at Altone Road) and Middle Swan (at Roe Highway). However, the division of Middle Swan is at the SVPA area boundary.
- The current Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward (referred to as East Ward) is currently a geographically large ward which will become even larger with the addition of Bullsbrook.

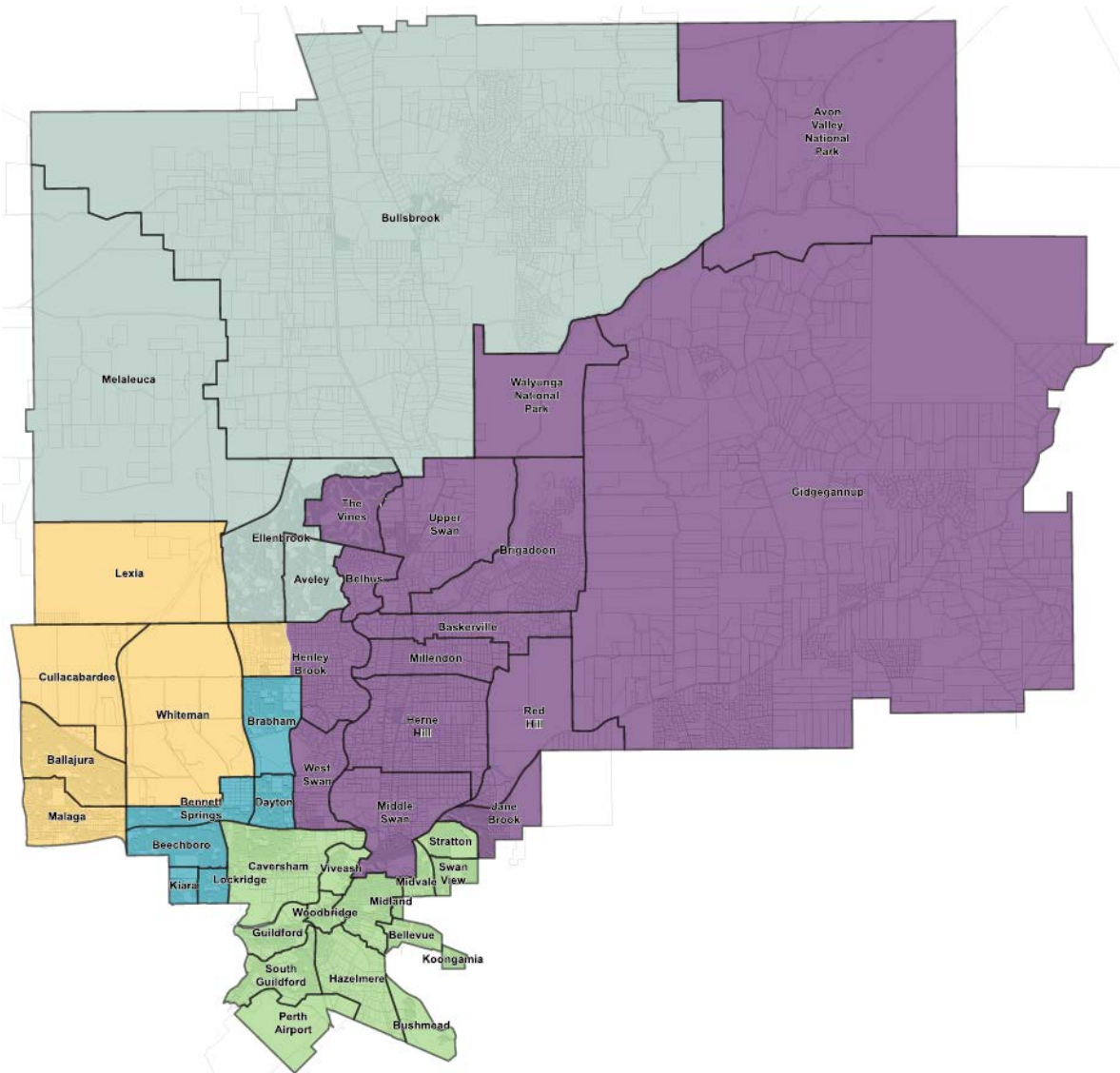


- The % ratio deviation of -7.56% in the North West Ward may not provide for the predicted growth in Ellenbrook and Aveley, resulting in an earlier ward and boundary review before the 8 year period. However, growth within other suburbs outside of the ward may balance this out.
- The % ratio deviation in the West Ward may reach +10% before the 8-year period as it will have limited growth compared to other wards.
- Established suburbs of Kiara and Lockridge are together with growth suburbs of Dayton, Henley Brook and Brabham, but are wholly residential in nature.



5.3. Option 3 - Five wards with a total of 14 Councillors, plus Mayor

(based on existing wards but adjusted boundaries to ensure balanced Councillor/elector ratio between wards)



Ward	No. of Councillors	No. of Electors	Councillor: Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
North (teal)	4	27,431	6,858	+5.78
Central (blue)	3	22,229	7,410	-1.80
East (purple)	2	15,454	7,727	-6.16
South (green)	3	22,572	7,524	-3.37
West (yellow)	2	14,211	7,106	+2.37
TOTAL	14	101,897	7,278	



Changes to current wards and representation structure:

- (i) Brabham moved from the current Whiteman Ward (referred to as the West Ward) to the current Altone Ward (referred to above as the Central Ward);
- (ii) Jane Brook moved from the current Midland/Guildford Ward (referred to above as the South Ward) to the current Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward (referred to above as the East Ward);
- (iii) All of Caversham located in the current Midland/Guildford Ward (referred to above as the South Ward), moved from the current Altone Ward (referred to above as the Central Ward) and the current Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward (referred to above as the East Ward);
- (iv) Lexia, currently divided between the current Pearce Ward and Whiteman Wards (referred to above as the North West and West Ward), now located entirely within the current Whiteman Ward (referred to as the West Ward); and
- (v) The number of Councillors in the Whiteman Ward (referred to as the West Ward) reduced from 3 to 2.

Advantages include:

- Retains and is similar to the existing 5 wards structure.
- Provides a minimal amount of change as compared to 4 ward options.
- The % ratio deviation of +5.78% in the North Ward allows for growth within in the localities of Aveley, Bullsbrook and Ellenbrook, 3 growing suburbs.
- All suburbs, except for Henley Brook which is divided along the SVPA area boundary, are contained wholly within one ward.

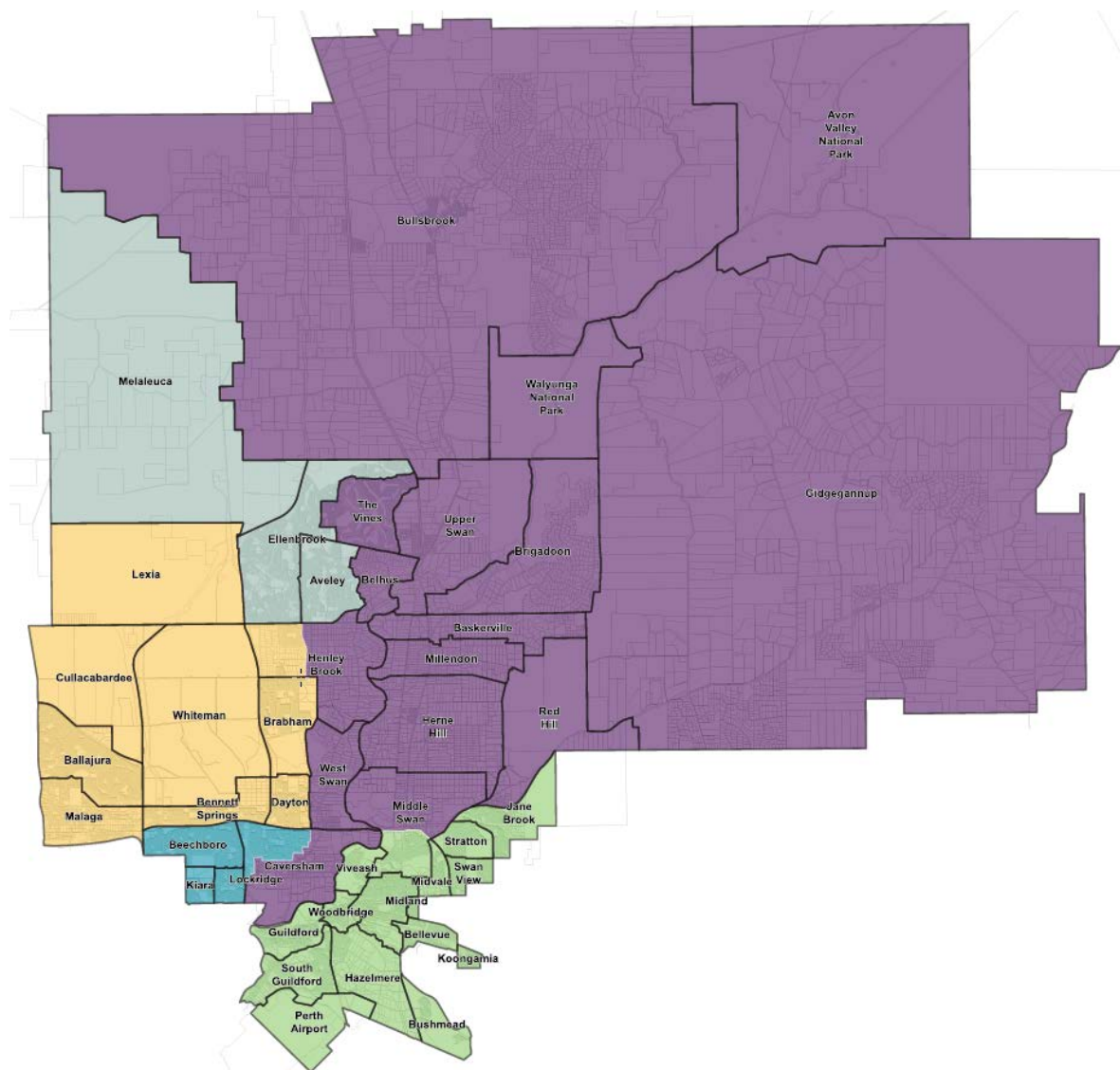
Disadvantages include:

- The % ratio deviation of -1.80% in the Central Ward may not provide for the predicted growth in Brabham and Dayton, resulting in an earlier ward and boundary review before the 8 year period. However, growth within other suburbs outside of the ward may balance this out.
- The whole of Caversham is located within the South Ward (current Midland/Guildford Ward). This disconnects the residential part of Caversham from the Central Ward (current Altone Ward) and the rural area (SVPA area) from the remainder of that area in the East Ward (current Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward). Therefore, the whole of the SVPA area is not contained within the one ward.
- Established suburbs of Beechboro, Bennett Springs, Kiara, and Lockridge are together with the growth suburbs of Brabham and Dayton but are wholly residential in nature.
- Ward shapes are irregular, particularly the Central Ward.



5.4. Option 4 - Five wards with a total of 14 Councillors, plus Mayor

(based on existing wards but adjusted boundaries to ensure balanced Councillor/elector ratio between wards)



Ward	No. of Councillors	No. of Electors	Councillor: Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
North (teal)	3	23,485	7,828	-7.56
South West (blue)	2	14,268	7,134	+1.98
East (purple)	2	15,332	7,666	-5.33
South (green)	3	22,350	7,450	-2.36
West (yellow)	4	26,462	6,616	+9.11
TOTAL	14	101,897	7,278	



Changes to current wards and representation structure:

- (i) Bennett Springs and Dayton moved from the current Altone Ward (referred to as the South West Ward) to the current Whiteman Ward (referred to as the West Ward);
- (ii) Bullsbrook moved from the current Pearce Ward (referred to as the North West Ward) to the current Swan Valley/Gidgegannup (referred to as the East Ward);
- (iii) Lexia, currently divided between the current Pearce Ward and Whiteman Wards (referred to above as the North West and West Ward), now located entirely within the current Whiteman Ward (referred to as the West Ward);
- (iv) Middle Swan, currently all in the current Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward (referred to as the East Ward), to be divided at the SVPA area boundary and the residential part (non SVPA area) to be in the Midland/Guildford Ward (referred to as the South Ward);
- (v) The number of Councillors in the Altone Ward (referred to as the South West Ward) reduced from 3 to 2.

Advantages include:

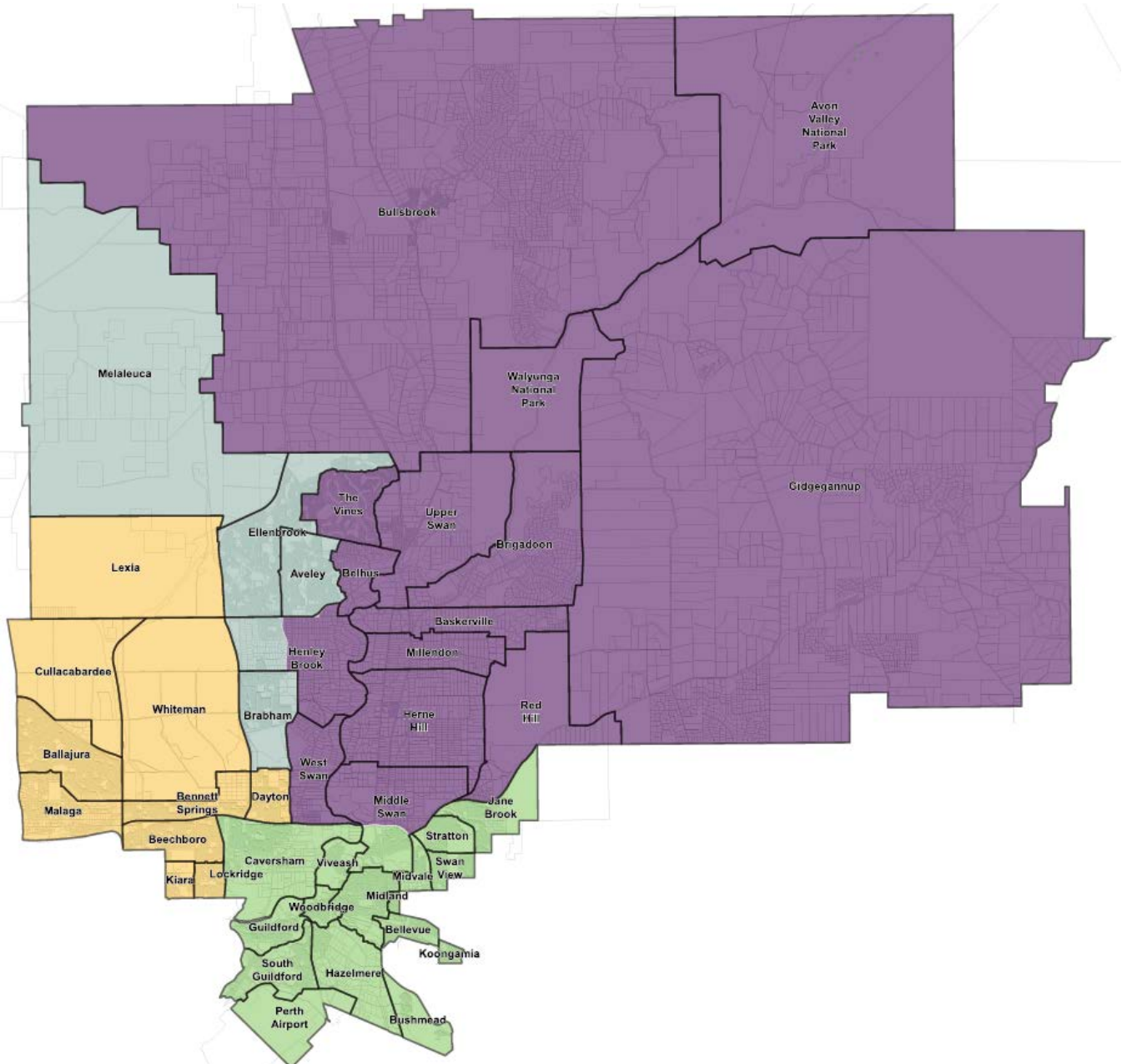
- Retains and is like the existing 5 wards structure.
- Provides a minimal amount of change as compared to 4 ward options.
- The % ratio deviation of +9.11% in the West Ward allows for growth within in the localities of Brabham, Dayton and Henley Brook, 3 growing suburbs.
- All suburbs, except for Caversham, Henley Brook and Middle Swan, are contained wholly within one ward. These suburbs are divided by the SVPA area boundary.
- The whole of the SVPA area is within the one ward.

Disadvantages include:

- The % ratio deviation of -7.56% in the North West Ward may not provide for the predicted growth in Aveley and Ellenbrook, resulting in an earlier ward and boundary review before the 8-year period. However, growth within other suburbs outside of the ward may balance this out.
- Beechboro and Bennett Springs are separated, two suburbs which share a common history.
- The Vines, not necessarily regarded as rural, is combined with the East Ward which is predominately rural in nature.



5.5. Option 5 - Four wards with a total of 14 Councillors, plus Mayor



Ward	No. of Councillors	No. of Electors	Councillor: Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Central (teal)	4	29,941	7,485	-2.84
West (yellow)	4	29,984	7,496	-2.99
East (purple)	2	14,934	7,467	-2.59
South (green)	4	27,038	6,760	+7.13
TOTAL	14	101,897	7,278	



Changes to current wards and representation structure:

- (i) Current Whiteman Ward and Altone Ward combined (referred to as West Ward) and adjusted as follows:
 - Brabham and the residential part of Henley Brook (non SVPA area) transferred to the current Pearce Ward (referred to as Central Ward);
 - The residential part of Caversham (non SVPA area) transferred to the current Midland/Guildford Ward (referred to as South Ward); and
 - Allocated 4 councillors;
- (ii) Current Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward (referred to as East Ward) adjusted as follows:
 - The rural area of Caversham (SVPA area) is transferred to the current Midland/Guildford Ward (referred to as South Ward).
 - The residential area of Middle Swan (non SVPA area) is transferred to the current Midland/Guildford Ward (referred to as South Ward);
- (iii) Current Pearce Ward (referred to as Central Ward) adjusted as follows:
 - Bullsbrook transferred to Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward (referred to as East Ward); and
- (iv) South Ward allocated 4 Councillors.

Advantages include:

- A ward system is retained but is reduced to 4 wards.
- Older growth suburbs on the western boundaries of the City are combined.
- Each ward generally has a mix of land uses i.e. residential, commercial, industrial.
- All suburbs, except for Henley Brook and Middle Swan, are contained wholly within one ward. These suburbs are divided by the SVPA area boundary.
- That part of Middle Swan (north of Roe Highway) which is within the SVPA area is re-joined with other localities within that area.

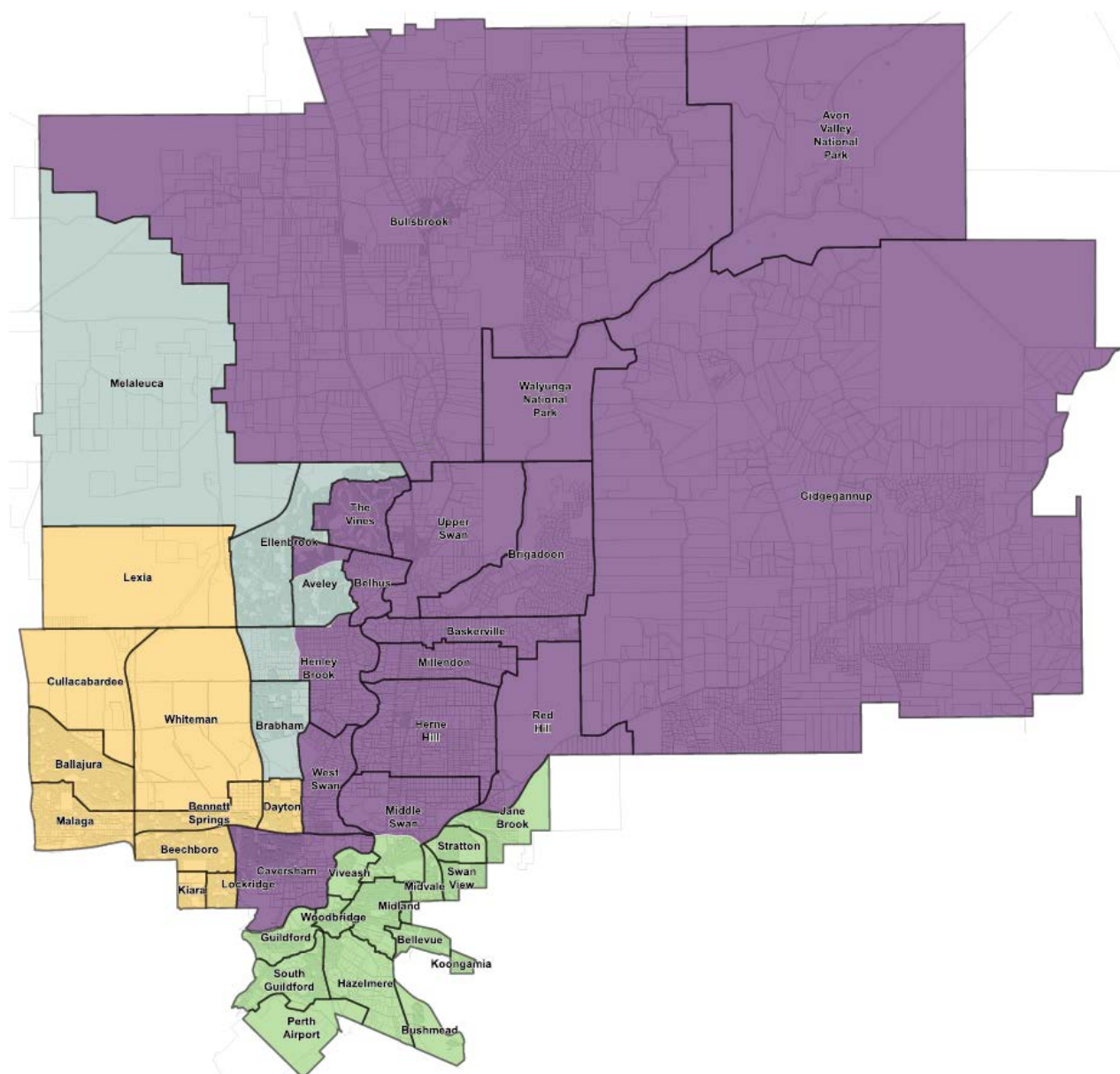


Disadvantages include:

- Larger wards may make it more difficult for Councillors to focus on local issues.
- It may be more difficult and costly for candidates to be elected if they need to canvass a larger ward area.
- Elected members may feel overwhelmed by having to represent a larger number of electors and may not have the time or opportunity to understand and represent all the issues in a larger ward.
- East Ward is a geographically large ward to ensure it includes a sufficient level of elector numbers to allow for 2 Councillors.
- The localities of Aveley, Brabham, Ellenbrook and Henley Brook, 4 growing suburbs, are located within the one ward. The % ratio deviation of -2.84% may not provide for the predicted growth, resulting in an earlier ward and boundary review before the 8-year period.
- The whole of Caversham is located within the South Ward. This disconnects the residential part of Caversham from the Central Ward (current Altone Ward) and the SVPA area from the remainder of that area in the East Ward (current Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward).
- The newer suburb of Dayton is together with more established suburbs, but all are wholly residential in nature.
- The South Ward has a % ratio deviation of +7.13% and whilst it is experiencing some growth, the growth is not as rapid as other suburbs and it may reach +10% within 8 years resulting in an earlier ward and boundary review.



5.6. Option 6 - Four wards with a total of 14 Councillors, plus Mayor



Ward	No. of Councillors	No. of Electors	Councillor: Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
North West (teal)	4	27,676	6,919	+4.94
West (yellow)	4	29,984	7,496	-2.99
East (purple)	3	21,887	7,296	-0.24
South (green)	3	22,350	7,450	-2.36
TOTAL	14	101,897	7,278	



Changes to current wards and representation structure:

- (i) Current Whiteman Ward and Altone Ward combined (referred to as West Ward) and adjusted as follows:
 - Brabham and the residential part of Henley Brook (non SVPA area) transferred to the current Pearce Ward (referred to as Central Ward);
 - The residential part of Caversham (non SVPA area) transferred to the current Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward (referred to as East Ward); and
 - Allocated 4 Councillors;
- (ii) Current Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward (referred to as East Ward) adjusted as follows:
 - The residential area of Middle Swan (non SVPA area) is transferred to the current Midland/Guildford Ward (referred to as South Ward); and
 - Allocated 3 Councillors; and
- (iii) Current Pearce Ward (referred to as Central Ward) adjusted as follows:
 - Bullsbrook and the part of Aveley north of Millhouse Road transferred to Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward (referred to as East Ward).

Advantages include:

- A ward system is retained but is reduced to 4 wards.
- Older growth suburbs on the western boundaries of the City are combined.
- Each ward generally has a mix of land uses i.e. residential, commercial, industrial.
- The % ratio deviation of +4.94% in the North West Ward allows for growth within in the localities of Aveley, Bullsbrook, Ellenbrook and Henley Brook, 4 growing suburbs.
- The whole of the SVPA area is within the one ward. That part of Middle Swan (north of Roe Highway) which is within the SVPA area is re-joined with other localities within that area.



Disadvantages include:

- Larger wards may make it more difficult for Councillors to focus on local issues.
- It may be more difficult and costly for candidates to be elected if they need to canvass a larger ward area.
- Elected members may feel overwhelmed by having to represent a larger number of electors and may not have the time or opportunity to understand and represent all the issues in a larger ward.
- East Ward is a geographically large ward to ensure it includes a sufficient level of elector numbers to allow for 3 Councillors.
- The localities of Aveley, Brabham, Ellenbrook and Henley Brook, 4 growing suburbs, are located within the one ward.
- Aveley is divided at Millhouse Road.
- Ward shapes are irregular.



6. IMPACT OF CHANGES

After undertaking community consultation, the Council will make a proposal to the Advisory Board. The effect of proposed changes on existing Councillors will depend on the precise proposal put forward.

When offices of Councillor are to be redistributed into new wards, the implementation method must give consideration to Schedule 4.2 of the Act.

In summary, this provides that as near as is practical, half of the total number of Councillors are to retire every 2 years and as near as practical to half of the Councillors representing each ward, are to retire every 2 years. It will also be necessary to include a recommendation to allocate the existing Councillors to wards, which must also be done in accordance with the provisions and intent of the Act.



7. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Thank you for your interest in the City's review of its wards and representation. We welcome your submission.

Submissions can be:

- Entered via the City's website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/swanwardreview>
- Emailed to swan@swan.wa.gov.au
- Posted to City of Swan, PO Box 196, Midland WA 6936, or
- Hand delivered to City of Swan Administration Centre, 2 Midland Square, Midland

Submissions should contain the reference 'Wards and Representation Review' and include your name and address.

For enquiries regarding the review please contact the City on (08) 9267 9267.

Submissions close 5pm Wednesday, December 21, 2022.