

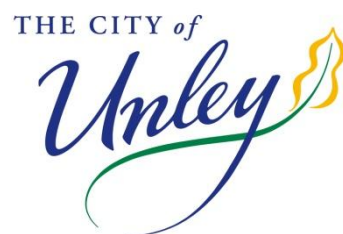


ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW

## **REPRESENTATION REVIEW REPORT**

(SECTION 12(8a) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999)

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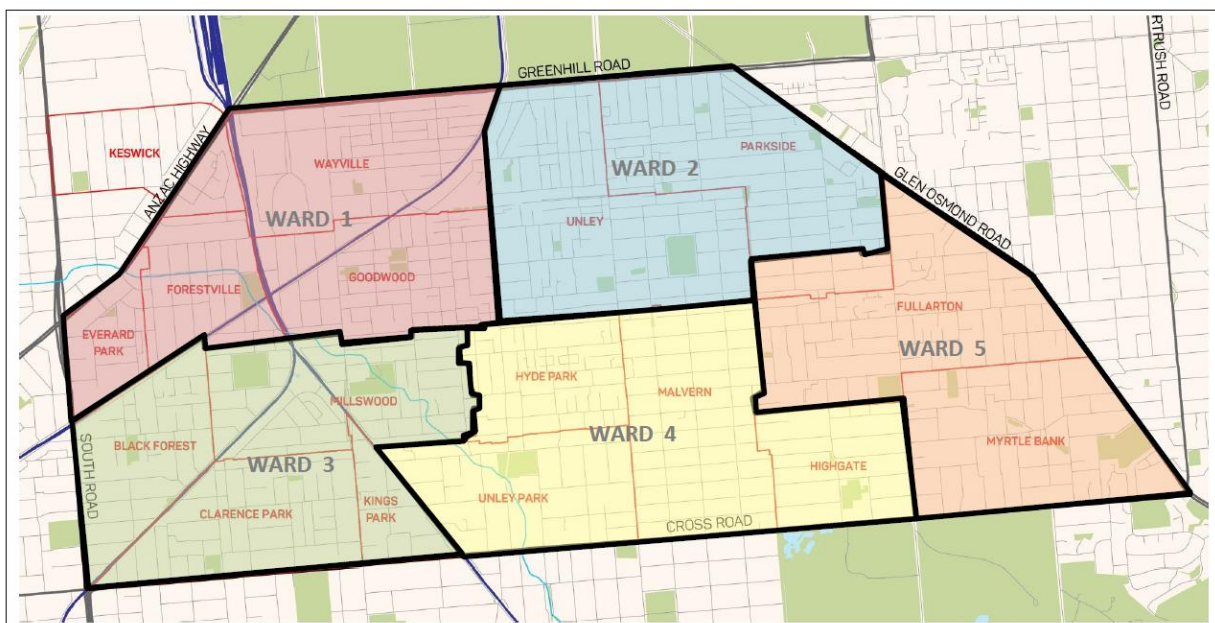
## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Unley is required to undertake a review of its representation structure approximately every eight years. The last review was undertaken in 2012/13, and the Minister for Local Government has specified that this current review must be completed during the period June 2020 – October 2021.

The elector representation review must consider whether the principal member of Council (the Mayor) should be elected by the community or chosen by and from amongst the elected members; whether the council area should be divided into wards, or alternatively whether wards should be abolished; whether there should be area councillors in addition to ward councillors (under a ward structure); and how many elected members are required to provide fair and adequate representation of the community.

Having completed the first round of consultation, which provided a number of representation structure options to the community, Council has identified its preferred future elector representation arrangements. In brief, Council proposes to:

- retain a Mayor, elected by the community, as the principal member; and
- introduce a new ward structure which will comprise five (5) wards (refer below), with each ward being represented by two councillors (i.e. a total of ten (10) councillors).



The full details of, and the results from, the first round of consultation are provided in this report, as well as the rationale for the choice of the preferred representation arrangement.

Community feedback regarding Council's proposed future elector representation arrangement, which will take effect from the Local Government Elections to be conducted in November 2022, is now sought. To provide feedback visit [yoursay.unley.sa.gov.au](https://yoursay.unley.sa.gov.au) before Friday 30 April 2021.



## 2. INTRODUCTION

Section 12(4) of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) requires each Council to undertake a review of all aspects of its composition and the division (or potential division) of the council area into wards, with the view to determining whether the local community would benefit from an alteration to the current composition and/or structure of Council.

The Minister for Local Government has specified that Council is required to undertake and complete a review during the period June 2020 – October 2021.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 12(8a) of the Act. It:

- provides information on the initial public consultation undertaken by Council;
- sets out the proposal that Council believes should be carried into effect; and
- presents an analysis of how Council's proposal relates to the relevant provisions and principles of the Act.

The key issues that need to be addressed during the review include:

- the principal member of Council, more specifically whether it should be a Mayor elected by the community or a Chairperson chosen by (and from amongst) the elected members;
- the need for area councillors in addition to ward councillors (if a ward structure is to be retained);
- the division of the council area into wards, or alternatively the abolition of wards;
- the number of elected members required to provide fair and adequate representation to the community; and
- if applicable, the level of ward representation and the name of any proposed future wards (if required).

The review process commenced in June 2020 and since that time Council has had numerous briefings and discussions regarding the various review issues; has deliberated over a range of representation and ward structure options; has considered the opinions and comments received from the community during the initial public consultation stage of the review process; and has taken into account the current legislative requirements and the potential implications of the Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Bill 2020 (the Bill), including the proposal to cap the number of elected members within a Council.

Whilst the proposal presented herein reflects the current position of the Council (following the extensive review process to date), no final decision will be made in respect to Council's future composition and/or structure until consideration has been given to any and all public submissions which may be received during the current public consultation stage.

### 3. BACKGROUND

The City of Unley covers approximately 14.29km<sup>2</sup> and had an estimated resident population of 39,208 as at the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. In March 2021 there were 27,485 eligible electors within the council area, this equating to an elector ratio (i.e. the average number of electors represented by a councillor) of 1:2,290.

The council area is currently divided into six ward (refer Map 1), with each of the wards being represented by two councillors (i.e. a total of twelve councillors). The Mayor is the thirteenth and principal member of Council. The current structure, which was adopted by Council at the previous elector representation review in 2012/2013, came into effect at the periodic Local Government elections in November 2014.

Table 1 provides current data pertaining to the number of electors within each of the existing wards, and demonstrates the variance in respect to the elector ratios between the wards.

Table 1: Current ward structure - elector numbers and elector ratios

	Councillors	H of A Roll	Council Roll	Electors	Ratio	% Variance
Unley	2	4,616	25	4,641	1:2,321	+1.31
Parkside	2	4,343	9	4,352	1:2,176	- 5.00
Fullarton	2	4,929	9	4,938	1:2,469	+7.80
Goodwood	2	4,505	24	4,519	1:2,260	- 1.13
Clarence Park	2	4,336	7	4,343	1:2,172	- 5.19
Unley Park	2	4,677	5	4,682	1:2,341	+2.21
<b>Total</b>	12	27,406	79	27,485		
<b>Average</b>					1:2,290	

Source: Electoral Commission SA (4 March 2021)

Council commenced its current elector representation review in June 2020 and completed the prescribed initial six (6) week public consultation stage of the review process on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Twenty-two (22) submissions were received by Council.

At its meeting on the Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 Council considered all matters relevant to the review; made "in principle" agreements in respect to its future composition and structure; and resolved to initiate the second of the prescribed public consultation stages (including the preparation of this Representation Review Report).

## 4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The initial public consultation relating to the elector representation review was undertaken in accordance with the provisions of Sections 12(7) and 12(8) of the Act.

Public consultation commenced on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 with the publishing of public notices in "The Adelaide East Herald" newspaper and the Government Gazette. A notice and a copy of the Representation Options Paper were displayed on the Council website; and a copy of the Representation Options Paper was provided for viewing at the Civic Centre, the Unley Civic Library, the Goodwood Library, the Clarence Park Community Centre, the Fullarton Park Community Centre, the Unley Community Centre and the Goodwood Community Centre.

At the expiration of the public consultation period (i.e. close of business on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020) Council had received twenty-two (22) submissions, twenty-one (21) electronically via "Your Say Unley" and one (1) by email. The "Your Say Unley" website page recorded 244 visits during the public consultation period; and 52 visits to the "Your Say Survey" page.

A summary of the submissions is provided in Attachment A. For privacy sake the details of the respondents have been withheld.

The receipt of twenty-two submissions is considered to be a reasonable response, given that at the same stage of the previous elector representation review (October/November 2012) Council received only one (1) submission. Whilst the opinions and comments expressed within the submissions could not be considered to represent the attitudes of a community which comprises 27,485 electors, they did provide Council with some insight in respect to several specific issues being addressed by the representation review.

It should be noted that feedback from the community was not specifically sought (via the "Your Say Unley" survey) in respect to the issues of the principal member (i.e. elected Mayor or appointed Chairperson); area councillors (in addition to ward councillors); or ward names/titles. These matters had previously been discussed by the elected members; and are, in part, subject to the legislative reforms proposed by the Bill.

The following tables provide details of the support demonstrated by the community for the various composition and ward structure options.

Table 2: First preference – ward structure options

Ward option	Respondents	%
Option 2 (Five wards, ten councillors)	7	31.81
Option 1 (Six wards, twelve councillors)	6	27.27
Option 4 (Three wards, nine councillors)	3	13.64
Option 5 (No wards)	3	13.64
Option 3 (Three wards, ten councillors)	2	9.09
Other – Variation of Option 4 (2 councillors/ward)	1	4.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	

Table 3: Second preference – ward structures options

Ward option	Respondents	%
Option 2 (Five wards, ten councillors)	8	36.36
Option 1 (Six wards, twelve councillors)	4	18.18
Option 3 (Three wards, ten councillors)	4	18.18
Option 4 (Three wards, nine councillors)	2	9.09
Option 5 (No wards)	2	9.09
No response	2	9.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	



Table 4: Preferred number of councillors

Preferred number of councillors	Respondents	%
Ten	6	27.27
Twelve	5	22.73
Nine	4	18.18
Eleven	3	13.63
Eight	1	4.55
Six	1	4.55
Three	1	4.55
Fifteen	1	4.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	

In summary:

- sixteen (16) or 72.7% of the respondents favoured a reduction in the number of councillors, albeit to various numbers ranging from three (3) to eleven (11), whilst only five (5) or 22.7% favoured the retention of twelve councillors and one (1) proposed an increase to fifteen (15) councillors; and
- the ward structure presented as Option 2 in the Representation Options Paper (i.e. five wards, ten councillors) was the most supported ward structure option (for both first and second preferences), followed by Option 1 (the existing ward structure); Option 3 (three wards, ten councillors); and Option 4 (three wards, nine councillors).

It should be noted that the provisions of Section 12 of the Act do not require Council to provide the individuals who made written submissions with the opportunity to address Council at this stage of the review process.

## 5. PROPOSAL

Having duly considered all relevant provisions of the Act; the information and alternatives contained within the Representation Options Paper; the submissions received from the community; and the potential ramifications of the Bill, Council proposes the following in respect to its future composition and structure.

- The principal member of Council continue to be a Mayor elected by the community.
- The council area be divided into five wards (as per Option 2 in the Representation Options Paper), with each of the proposed wards being represented by two (2) councillors (refer Map 1).
- The future elected body of Council comprise the Mayor and ten (10) ward councillors.

The proposed wards are described as follows.

Ward 1 incorporates the suburbs of Everard Park, Forestville, Goodwood, Keswick and Wayville.

Ward 2 incorporates the suburbs of Parkside (part) and Unley.

Ward 3 incorporates the suburbs of Black Forest, Clarence Park, Kings Parks and Millswood.

Ward 4 incorporates the suburbs of Highgate, Hyde Park, Malvern and Unley Park.

Ward 5 incorporates the suburbs of Fullarton, Myrtle Bank and Parkside (part).

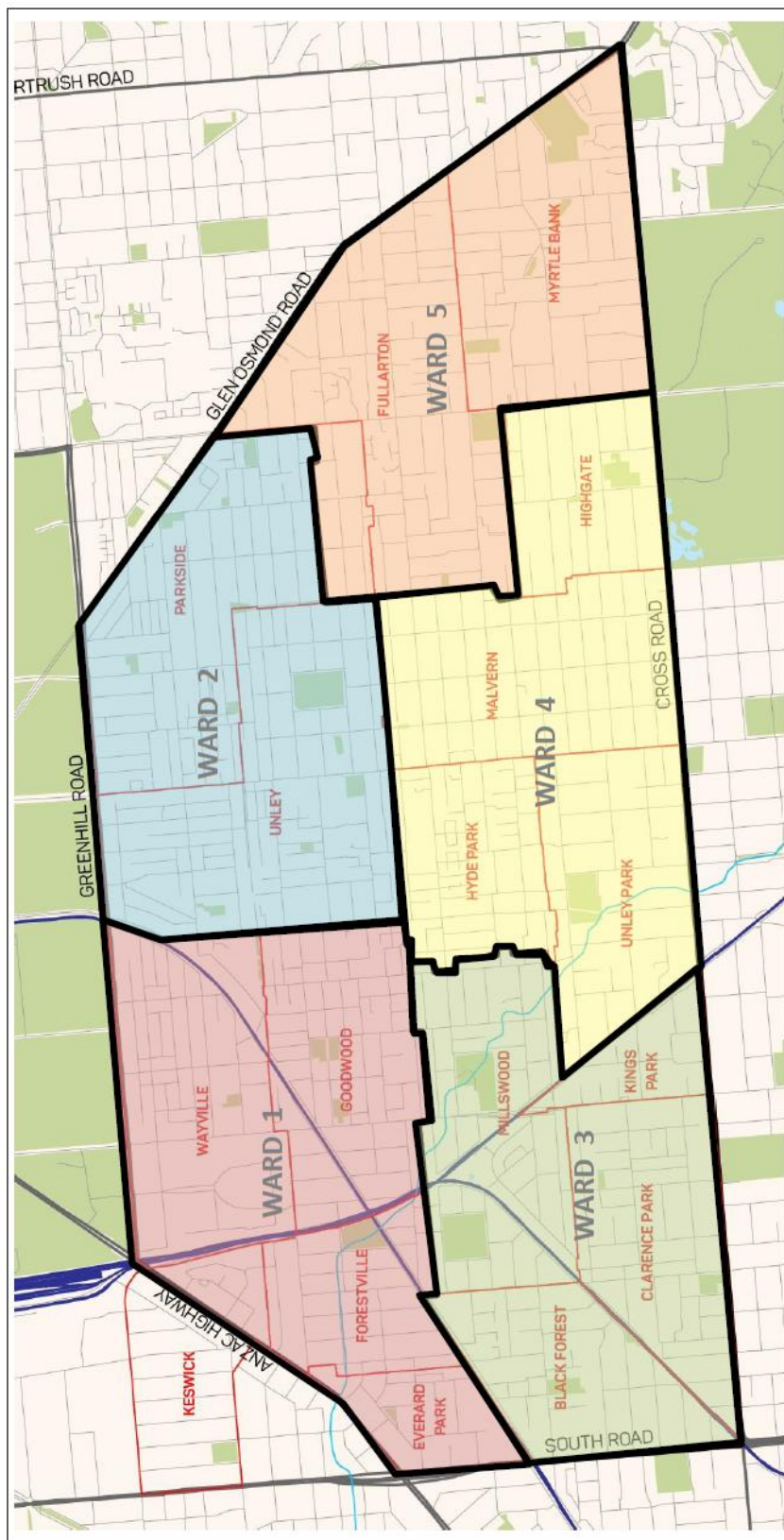
Table 5 provides data pertaining to the number of electors within each of the proposed wards, and demonstrates the variance between the elector ratios within the proposed wards and the current elector ratio for the City.

Table 5: Elector data per ward and variance to quota (Proposed ward structure)

WARD	COUNCILLORS	ELECTORS	RATIO	% VARIANCE
Ward 1	2	5,022	1:2,511	- 6.49
Ward 2	2	5,694	1:2,847	+ 6.02
Ward 3	2	5,278	1:2,639	- 1.72
Ward 4	2	5,368	1:2,684	- 0.05
Ward 5	2	5,491	1:2,746	+ 2.24

The reasons for Council's "in principle" decisions, together with an analysis of compliance with the relevant provisions and requirements of the Act are provided hereinafter under key issue headings.

Map 1: Proposed ward structure



## 6. PROPOSAL RATIONALE

### 6.1 Principal Member

The principal member of Council has long been a Mayor who is elected by the community.

Council believes that:

- a Mayor elected by the community is in accord with a fundamental principle of democracy – choice;
- the election of a Mayor affords all eligible members of the community the opportunity to express faith in a candidate, should they choose to do so, and provides Council with an identifiable principal member who is directly accountable to the community;
- the office of Mayor has served the City of Unley well since its proclamation in 1906;
- the retention of an elected Mayor brings stability and continuity to the Council, given the four year term of office;
- little practical benefit will likely be achieved by changing to a Chairperson at this time; and
- the retention of an elected Mayor as the principal member is consistent with the structure of the majority of councils within the state.

Further, Council is mindful of the potential ramifications of the Bill which is presently being considered by state parliament, the provisions of which seek to abolish the office of Chairperson.

Council must conduct its current review in accordance with the relevant provisions and requirements of the Act which are in existence at this time. This being the case, should it have been Councils' desire to change from an elected mayor to a Chairperson, a poll of the community would have had to be conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 (11a-d) of the Act; and the result thereof would have had to clearly support the proposed change. Such a poll would have to be conducted by Electoral Commission SA at the cost of Council. This course of action is considered to be superfluous, given the intent and likely ramifications of the Bill.

Having duly considered all relevant matters, Council believes that the principal member should continue to be a Mayor elected by the community.

## 6.2 Wards/No Wards

The City of Unley has always been divided into wards.

Council believes that wards provide for direct representation of all areas and communities within the council area; ensure local interests and/or issues are not overlooked in favour of the bigger "council-wide" picture; and provide recognizable lines of communication with Council through the ward councillors. It is also considered that ward councillors should have some empathy for, and an affiliation with, all of the communities within their ward; and that ward councillors deliberate and make decisions on the basis of achieving the best outcome for the whole of the council area.

Further, the community knows and accepts the division of the council area into wards and the structure of representation that it provides. As such, the retention of a ward structure may be perceived as an indication of stability within Local Government.

Council acknowledges that the "no wards" alternative affords electors the opportunity to vote for all of the vacant positions on Council; allows for the most supported candidates from across the City to be elected; and enables the elected members to be free of parochial ward attitudes. Notwithstanding this, Council is concerned that the "no wards" alternative:

- does not guarantee direct representation of all communities across the council area;
- may make it easier for single interest candidates and/or groups to gain support (than does the existing ward based system);
- has the potential to make the task and expense of contesting council-wide elections difficult and excessive; and
- has the potential to increase the cost of conducting elections and supplementary elections, given that all contested elections must be conducted on a council-wide basis.

Council is of the opinion that the aforementioned present sound reasons for supporting the retention of a ward structure.

## 6.3 Area Councillors (in addition to ward councillors)

Council is aware that area councillors (in addition to ward councillors) are unique to the City of Adelaide, and considers that this form of elected member/representation affords few advantages. Under a ward structure area councillors hold no greater status than a ward councillor; have no greater responsibilities than a ward councillor; nor need comply with any extraordinary or additional eligibility requirements. Furthermore, ward councillors generally consider themselves to represent not only the ward in which they were elected, but the council area as a whole.

The introduction of area councillors (in addition to ward councillors) would also be a difficult proposition to support, given the provisions of the Act which speak against over-representation and require Councils constituted of more than twelve (12) members to examine the question of whether the number of members should be reduced.



For the reasons espoused herein Council considers that the introduction of area councillors (in addition to ward councillors) is unwarranted, unnecessary and could potentially be a costly additional tier of elector representation.

#### **6.4 Ward Names**

Council is of the opinion that, in the main, the existing ward names reflect the geographical locations of the existing wards and, as such, are appropriate for the current ward structure. However, Council is proposing a new five ward structure and, as such, if the proposed ward structure is progressed, new and/or different ward names will need to be identified.

Council believes that the allocation of letters, numbers and/or compass points (e.g. north, south, central etc) are all acceptable means of ward identification, but they lack imagination and fail to reflect the character and/or history of the council area. The same cannot be said for the allocation of place names (other than suburb names) or names of local heritage/cultural significance.

Council believes that the identification/allocation of appropriate ward names is an important element of the review and, as such, further consideration needs to be given to this matter once Council's final preferred ward structure is determined later in the review process. In the meantime, and for the sake of the current exercise, each of the proposed wards has simply been allocated a number.

Council welcomes suggestions from the community in respect to the issue of ward names/identification.

#### **6.5 Number of Councillors**

Council has long comprised twelve (12) ward councillors. However, Council now believes that a more efficient and effective elected body should enable fewer elected members to adapt to, and meet the demands and needs of, the local community. Further, Council has strived for a balance between the provision of fair and adequate representation of the community and the on-going demands of fiscal management and constraint. Accordingly, Council proposes to reduce the number of elected members (councillors) to ten (10).

In reaching this "in principle" decision, Council was mindful of the following.

- The provisions of Sections 26 and 33 of the Local Government Act stipulate the need to ensure adequate and fair representation while at the same time avoiding over-representation in comparison to other councils of a similar size and type (at least in the longer term).
- The provisions of Section 12(6) of the Local Government Act require a Council that is constituted of more than twelve members to examine the question of whether the number of elected members should be reduced.
- The Bill seeks to set the maximum number of elected members in a council (including the principal member) at twelve (12).

- Of the twenty-two (22) submissions received to date, sixteen (16) or 72.7% favoured a reduction in the number of councillors, albeit to various numbers ranging from three (3) to eleven (11). Of these, six (6) preferred a reduction to ten councillors (as proposed).
- In comparison to the other metropolitan councils, the City of Unley is one of the smaller councils in terms of area and elector numbers; has an average number of elected members; and exhibits a relatively low elector ratio of 1:2,284 (refer Table 6).
- The proposed reduction in elected member numbers will serve to increase the elector ratio across the City to approximately 1:2,741. This elector ratio will still only be "mid-range" when compared to the elector ratios exhibited by the other metropolitan councils.
- The council area only covers 14.29 km<sup>2</sup>, this being the fourth smallest area of the metropolitan councils.
- There are obviously councils throughout the state and the nation which are similar in size (elector numbers) and type to the City of Unley which seemingly operate successfully with fewer elected members (and therefore higher elector ratios).
- Sufficient elected members must be available to manage the affairs of Council.
- The elected member's workloads should not become excessive.
- There needs to be an appropriate and adequate level of elector representation afforded the community.
- Diversity in member's skill sets, experience, expertise, opinions and backgrounds needs to be maintained, where possible, in order to ensure robust discussion amongst the elected members.
- Adequate lines of communication must exist between Council and the growing local community.
- The proposed reduction in the number of elected members could save Council and the community a minimum of \$138,160 in elected member allowances alone over a four year term of Council (given the current elected member base allowance of \$17,270/pa), with the resulting savings being available for redirection to community projects and/or programs.
- The proposed reduction in the number of elected members may serve to expedite the discussion in the Council chamber, given the potential for fewer participants. However, Council does not believe that a reduction in the number of elected members will detrimentally impact the decision making processes and/or the expression of opinions within the chamber, but rather may serve to reduce the incidence of similar opinions being expressed during debate.
- The proposed level of ward representation will be the same as that which has been provided to, and experienced by, the local community for many years.

Table 6 presents, for comparison purposes only, information pertaining to the composition, size and elector ratio of a number of councils which are considered to be similar in size (i.e. elector numbers) and type (i.e. metropolitan councils) to the City of Unley.

Table 6: Elector data and representation (Metropolitan Adelaide councils)

Council	Councillors	Electors	Elector Ratio
Walkerville (1.34 km <sup>2</sup> )	8	5,729	1:716
Gawler (41.10km <sup>2</sup> )	10	18,247	1:1,825
Prospect (7.81 km <sup>2</sup> )	8	14,904	1:1,863
Norwood Payneham & St Peters (15.1 km <sup>2</sup> )	13	25,575	1:1,967
<b>Unley (14.29 km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>27,412</b>	<b>1:2,284</b>
Holdfast Bay (13.72 km <sup>2</sup> )	12	28,150	1:2,346
Adelaide Hills (795.1 km <sup>2</sup> )	12	29,600	1:2,467
Burnside (27.53 km <sup>2</sup> )	12	31,722	1:2,644
West Torrens (37.07 km <sup>2</sup> )	14	41,843	1:2,989
Campbelltown (24.35 km <sup>2</sup> )	10	35,837	1:3,584
Mitcham (75.55 km <sup>2</sup> )	13	48,668	1:3,744
Adelaide* (15.57 km <sup>2</sup> )	7	27,964	1:3,995
Playford (344.9 km <sup>2</sup> )	15	63,633	1:4,242
Port Adelaide/Enfield (97.0 km <sup>2</sup> )	17	86,084	1:5,064
Charles Sturt (52.14 km <sup>2</sup> )	16	87,107	1:5,444
Marion (55.5km <sup>2</sup> )	12	66,137	1:5,511
Tea Tree Gully (95.2 km <sup>2</sup> )	12	73,659	1:6,138
Salisbury (158.1 km <sup>2</sup> )	14	96,240	1:6,874
Onkaparinga (518.4 km <sup>2</sup> )	12	127,327	1:10,611

Source: Electoral Commission SA (20 October 2020)

\* City of Adelaide also comprises four (4) "area councillors".

Council believes that the proposed reduction in the number of elected members is the right and responsible course of action at this time. Ten councillors should be sufficient to provide adequate and fair representation to the community, and to perform the roles and responsibilities of Council. Whilst the task of a councillor may become a little more demanding than previously experienced, the role of an elected member has changed over the years to a decision and policy maker, and a communication conduit between Council and the community. This being the case, it is envisaged that the demands to be placed upon the future elected members should be manageable and may, in part, be mitigated by ever improving telecommunications and information technology.

Council is confident that ten councillors should be able to represent and serve the community of the City of Unley adequately over the coming years.

## 7. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The provisions of Sections 26(1)(c) and 33(1) of the Act require Council to take into account, as far as practicable, the following when developing a proposal that relates to its composition and structure.

### 7.1 Quota

Section 33(2) of the Act states: *"A proposal that relates to the formation or alteration of wards of a council must also observe the principle that the number of electors represented by a councillor must not, as at the relevant date (assuming that the proposal were in operation), vary from the ward quota by more than 10 per cent..."*.

According to Section 33(2a)(b) of the Act, ward quota is determined to be: *"the number of electors for the area (as at the relevant date) divided by the number of councillors for the area who represent wards (assuming that the proposal were in operation and ignoring any fractions resulting from the division)."*

The breakdown of elector data provided in Table 5 (page 6) indicates that the elector ratios in all of the proposed wards lay comfortably within the specified quota tolerance limits and, as such, it is expected that all of the proposed wards will be capable of sustaining reasonable future fluctuations in elector numbers.

### 7.2 Communities of Interest and Population

The Act speaks of the desirability of reflecting communities of interest of an economic, social, regional or other kind.

"Communities of interest" have previously been defined "as aspects of the physical, economic and social systems which are central to the interactions of communities in their living environment", and are generally identified by considering factors relevant thereto, including neighbourhood communities; history and heritage communities; sporting facilities; community support services; recreation and leisure communities; retail and shopping centres; work communities; industrial and economic development clusters; and environmental and geographic interests.

The obvious existing communities of interest within the council area are the suburbs of Black Forest, Clarence Park, Everard Park, Forestville, Fullarton, Goodwood, Highgate, Hyde Park, Keswick (part), Kings Park, Malvern, Millswood, Myrtle Bank, Parkside, Unley, Unley Park and Wayville.

Council considers that there are numerous communities of interest within the City, including but not limited to the seventeen long-established suburbs. When developing the proposed ward structure, care was taken to ensure that, where possible, identified land use precincts were maintained in their entirety within the bounds of a ward, taking into account the features of the landscape and/or urban development. In order to achieve this, Council aimed to maintain entire suburbs within wards (where possible).

### 7.3 Topography

The City of Unley is 14.29km<sup>2</sup> in area; comprises long established residential suburbs and commercial precincts (the latter generally being located along the main roadways); and exhibits an extensive road network and a railway line which traverses the council area in the west.

Despite the above, it is considered that the topography of the council area has little or no impact upon Council's proposal, given that the proposed ward structure has been developed with the view to maintaining entire "communities of interest" (suburbs) within the bounds of the proposed wards.

### 7.4 Feasibility of Communication

Council believes that the proposed level of representation (i.e. ten councillors) will provide adequate lines of communication between the elected members of Council and the community, taking into account the small council area and the ever improving communication and information technology.

### 7.5 Demographic Trends

During the review process Council has taken into account the following information.

#### 7.5.1 Elector Numbers

According to data provided by Electoral Commission SA, the number of eligible electors within the City of Unley has increased by 1,077 (4.01%) between June 2013 (i.e. the completion of the previous elector representation review) and March 2021. It is also noted that the growth in elector numbers occurred across the council area in general, albeit at varying rates.

#### 7.5.2 Residential Development

Council believes that in-fill residential development will continue across the whole of the council area, with the most active areas likely to be Fullarton, Clarence Park and Black Forest.

Overall, opportunities for significant future residential development/redevelopment are limited, with the exception of the Urban Corridor Zone, the provisions of which afford opportunities for medium and high density residential development in the form of medium and high rise buildings in linear corridors along Greenhill Road (Wayville, Unley and Parkside), Unley Road (Unley, Parkside, Hyde Park and Malvern), Anzac Highway (Everard Park), Leader Street (Forestville) and Maple Avenue (Forestville).

#### 7.5.3 Population Projections

Population projections prepared by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (2020) indicate that the population of the City of Unley is anticipated to increase by 1,993 (5.1%) during the period 2016 – 2036.



#### 7.5.4 Census Data

According to data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (refer 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Australia), the estimated population of the City of Unley increased every year during the period 2005 – 2019 (i.e. from 36,805 to 39,208), which equates to an increase of 2,403 or 6.52%).

### 7.6 Adequate and Fair Representation

For the reasons espoused earlier, Council is confident that its proposed future composition will provide the number of elected members required to manage the affairs of Council; provide an appropriate level of elector representation; maintain an appropriate diversity in the skill set, experience and expertise amongst the elected members; and present adequate lines of communication between the community and Council.

### 7.7 Section 26, Local Government Act 1999

Section 26(1) of the Act requires that a number of broader Principles also be taken into account during the review process. These are similar in nature to those presented under Section 33 of the Act and include the following.

- The desirability of avoiding significant divisions within the community.
- Proposed changes should, wherever practicable, benefit ratepayers.
- A Council having a sufficient resource base to fulfil its functions fairly, effectively and efficiently.
- A Council should reflect communities of interest of an economic, recreational, social, regional or other kind, and be consistent with community structures, values, expectations and aspirations.
- Residents should receive adequate and fair representation within the local government system, while over-representation in comparison with Councils of a similar size and type should be avoided (at least in the longer term).

The composition and structure being proposed by Council is considered to comply with the cited legislative provisions, in that it will:

- incorporate sufficient elected members to undertake the various roles and responsibilities of Council;
- have little if any detrimental impact upon the ratepayers and/or existing communities of interest;
- provide adequate and fair representation to all electors; and
- compare favourably with the composition and elector ratios of other metropolitan councils that are of a similar size (in terms of elector numbers) and type.

## 8. CURRENT PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In accordance with Section 12(9) of the Act, interested persons are invited to make a written submission to Council in respect to this report, and more specifically the composition and structure that Council proposes to implement at the date of the next Local Government elections in November 2022. Any person who makes a written submission at this time will be afforded the opportunity to address Council or a committee thereof, either in person or by a representative, in support of their submission.

Interested members of the community are invited to make a submission expressing their views on the future composition and structure of Council. Submissions can be made as follows, and will be accepted until 5.00pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

- In writing to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 1, Unley 5061.
- Via "Your Say Unley" on the Council website (<https://yoursay.unley.sa.gov.au/>)
- Emailed to [pobox1@unley.sa.gov.au](mailto:pobox1@unley.sa.gov.au).

Further information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained on Council's website or by contacting Kathryn Goldy, Principal Governance Officer, on telephone 8273 8750 or email [kgoldy@unley.sa.gov.au](mailto:kgoldy@unley.sa.gov.au).



## ATTACHMENT A - SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

Respondent	Preferences
1 - Clarence Park Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six councillors</li> <li>• Option 4 (but two councillors per ward)</li> </ul>
2 – Goodwood Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twelve councillors</li> <li>• Option 1</li> <li>• Preferred structure is a fair cross section of the Unley community</li> <li>• Should have to live in Unley to be eligible to be elected</li> </ul>
3 – Unley Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine councillors</li> <li>• Option 4</li> <li>• Streamline the Council</li> <li>• A council area the size of Unley does not need twelve elected members</li> </ul>
4 – Fullarton Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twelve councillors</li> <li>• Option 1</li> <li>• Ensures a better and more personalised voice for our suburbs.</li> </ul>
5 – Parkside Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fifteen councillors</li> <li>• Option 1 (Option 2 as second preference)</li> <li>• Need to be represented by someone who lives in my area and knows our needs</li> <li>• A variety of people and a variety of opinions will give the best outcome</li> </ul>
6 – Goodwood Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten councillors (plus Mayor)</li> <li>• Option 2 (Option 4 as second preference)</li> <li>• Looks fairer on a map and more economical</li> <li>• Councillors should live in their wards.</li> </ul>
7 – Clarence Park Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten councillors</li> <li>• Option 5 (Option 2 as second preference)</li> <li>• One election across the whole area tends to see all positions elected (reduces the chances of members elected unopposed) and reduces the chances of members being elected with a small number of votes</li> <li>• Option 2 proposes small reduction in numbers with wards retained</li> </ul>

Respondent	Preferences
8 – Parkside Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten councillors</li> <li>• Option 2 (Option 3 as second preference)</li> <li>• Reduces the size of Council to a figure under the proposed limit set by legislation and retains the idea of wards. To move away from wards would mean that the cost burden to become a councillor would increase substantially</li> <li>• To reduce the size of Council much below 10 means that the skills required for a Council to function effectively might not be found in the elected body</li> <li>• Concerned that reducing the numbers of councillors might lead to demands from councillors for a higher allowance (because of higher workload) thus negating the cost saving argument</li> <li>• Concerned that the election of Mayor inevitably leads to one or more experienced councillors dropping out of Council</li> </ul>
9– Goodwood Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eight councillors (Ten councillors as second preference)</li> <li>• Option 5</li> <li>• Council area is small. Any division by ward is artificial and difficult to pinpoint by community of interest. Does someone living between Goodwood and King William Roads, for example, identify more closely with the Goodwood or Unley Park ward? Fewer councillors without boundaries would give greater democratic representation and make councillors more accountable. This would minimise the ability for candidates to marshal a relative few to vote for them based on narrow agenda and self-interest.</li> </ul>
10 – Goodwood Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine councillors</li> <li>• Option 4 (Option 5 as second preference)</li> <li>• Least number of councillors, less bureaucracy, streamlined</li> <li>• Option 5 enables electors to vote for all councillors</li> </ul>
11 – Clarence Park Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten councillors</li> <li>• Option 2 (Option 1 as second preference)</li> </ul>
12 – Goodwood Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twelve councillors</li> <li>• Option 1 (Option 2 as second preference)</li> <li>• Fair distribution of areas and two representatives should give a wide representation with diverse talents and interests of the ward</li> <li>• Political membership declarations should be mandatory when nominating for election</li> </ul>

Respondent	Preferences
13 – Goodwood Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten councillors</li> <li>• Option 2</li> <li>• Ward councillors should remain in close contact with electors</li> </ul>
14 – Unley Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine councillors</li> <li>• Option 3 (Option 4 as second preference)</li> <li>• Prefer a ward structure with 3 councillors per ward as the ward split is equitable with so called prestige suburbs across all 3 wards whereas other options keep the elitist Hyde Park, Malvern structure.</li> <li>• Number of wards needs to be reduced overall. Would prefer less council representation overall as we are not getting value for money on the headcount compared to other council areas</li> <li>• Consider a 2 ward model with either King William Road or Unley Road being the dividing boundary</li> </ul>
15 – Goodwood Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine councillors</li> <li>• Option 5 (Option 3 as second preference)</li> </ul>
16 – Unley Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twelve councillors</li> <li>• Option 1</li> <li>• None of the other options come without unintended consequence</li> <li>• Worth reviewing but the cost benefit analysis doesn't stack up</li> </ul>
17 – Goodwood Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten councillors</li> <li>• Option 2</li> <li>• Ward councillors should know their ward intimately. The 5 ward and Mayor option fits within the strictures of the new legislation at the same time as enabling ward councillors to have or develop a close knowledge of the ward, its facilities and its needs</li> </ul>
18 – Fullarton Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten councillors</li> <li>• Option 2 (Option 3 as second preference)</li> <li>• Prudent trimming of the current structure, while still retaining sufficient local knowledge and council members to undertake the required workload.</li> <li>• Concerned about retaining the status quo, and the other options will invoke too much change</li> <li>• Option 3 still reduces the existing number of councillors, which is prudent, without too drastic a change</li> </ul>



Respondent	Preferences
19 – Unley Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twelve councillors</li> <li>• Option 1 (Option 2 as second preference)</li> <li>• Change does not seem necessary, so it would be better to focus on more important issues than the structure of the Council</li> <li>• Option 2 - Cheaper to run with fewer councillors</li> </ul>
20 – Parkside Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten councillors</li> <li>• Option 3 (Option 2 as second preference)</li> <li>• It is important that elected members have a strong connection to their 'ward' or immediate area within the Council rather than be elected to represent the entire Council.</li> <li>• If numbers of elected members are to be reduced, this allows for those elected to remain connected to their area and communities but is also larger than currently is the case.</li> <li>• Option 5 is terrible - imagine all candidates trying to campaign across the entire council district (like the Mayor). It is overkill</li> <li>• Prefer having 10 elected members, which is a drop of 2. This allows differing views to be represented (as opposed to smaller numbers of elected members)</li> </ul>
21 – Fullarton Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten councillors (plus Mayor)</li> <li>• Option 2</li> </ul>
22 – Unley Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine councillors</li> <li>• Option 4</li> <li>• Option 4 not only provides flexibility, diversity and representation, but also financial benefits</li> <li>• Future composition and structure of City of Unley should reflect changing community</li> </ul>