

## **Mid-Term Governance Review White Paper Summary #5**

### **Proposal regarding Ward Councils**

One way in which to encourage public engagement at the local level is through the establishment of Ward Councils. Some form of ward council exists now in a number of wards, but these councils operate in an advisory capacity to the Councillor.

The White Paper suggests that Council might conduct a pilot for a ward council model where the community has final decision-making authority over some specific local matters (such as parking issues, traffic signal installations, noise exemptions, etc.). The suggestion is that one pilot ward council be developed in each of a rural, suburban and urban ward.

Questions/Issues:

If a Ward Council were to be established, what would be some important factors to consider to ensure that such a Council is as inclusive as possible of a diverse local population?

Are there certain issues that you believe would be well suited to discussion by a Ward Council, as either a decision-making or advisory body? Are there issues that should not be left to such local discussion?