

After reading the consultant's report and examining the ward boundaries as shown on the interactive map, I would like to express my preference:

1. I firmly believe that a four ward – 2 councillors per ward system is not the way to go. The geographical areas are too large, and having two people accountable for the same area would easily lead to potential problems. I do not believe that our city would be best served by this model.
2. Of the two eight ward options, I prefer option 1. Option 2 divides the larger centre of Lindsay into three areas that would be combined with rural areas. My experience is that combining rural and urban areas in ridings is not always the best policy. The rural areas tend to be underserved by their representatives. This was recognized in the last federal riding reorganization in Saskatchewan, where the city of Regina which had been combined with several rural areas surrounding it was reorganized to minimize those combinations. They found that they just did not work. Option 1 limits that problem.

Therefore, I hope that the city council will see their way clear to choosing the 8 ward Option 1.

Regards,

Beth Hicks