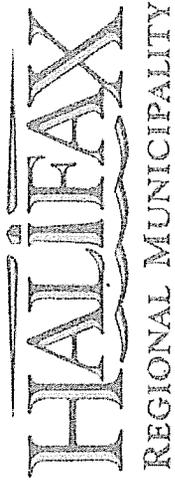


7.3



**Draft Scenarios
District Boundary Review
Committee
November 19, 2009**

Draft 2.0 November 9, 2009

Overview

- Background
- Assumptions
- Methodology
- Dissemination Areas- an overview
- Scenarios
 - Modified Status Quo- current governance model- 23 Districts
 - Board of Governors Model- 8 Districts
 - Modified Board of Governors- 13 Districts/ 2 Community Councils
 - Community Council (3) driven models- 15 Districts

Direction to Staff

- Prepare possible “straw” scenarios to begin discussion
- To represent various governance models as a starting point for committee’s discussions
- Not cast in stone – to start discussion

Assumptions

- Broad Brush Approach – not intended to represent the actual final district configuration
- Base on 2006 Census Information
- Numbers exercise only – influenced somewhat by geography & communities (at highest level)
- Guiding Principle
 - minimize our own biases as much as possible
 - must be “doable” as process moves on
 - Eliminated some options

Evaluation/impact categories

Staff adopted a number of evaluation or impact categories to be considered in the discussion of models

- Impact on number of constituent/residents per district councillor (and provide the committee with comparatives with other municipalities)
- Impact on role of Councillor and support requirements
- Impact on community council structure and decision making
- Impact on public participation
- Legislative impacts (complexity of change legislatively)
- Can it be implemented based on HRM geography & population distribution
- Are communities of interest (at the highest level) a determining factor in implementing a proposed scenario

Today's objective

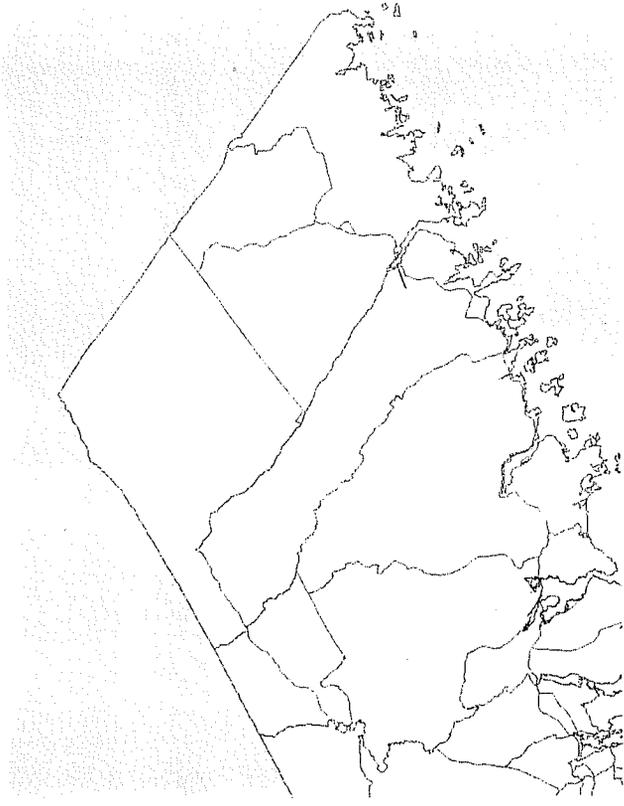
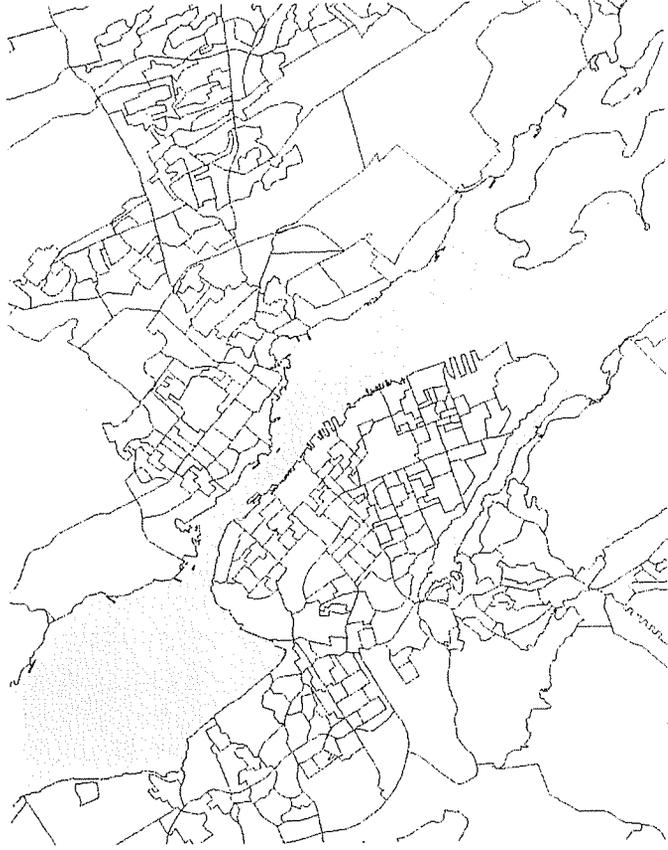
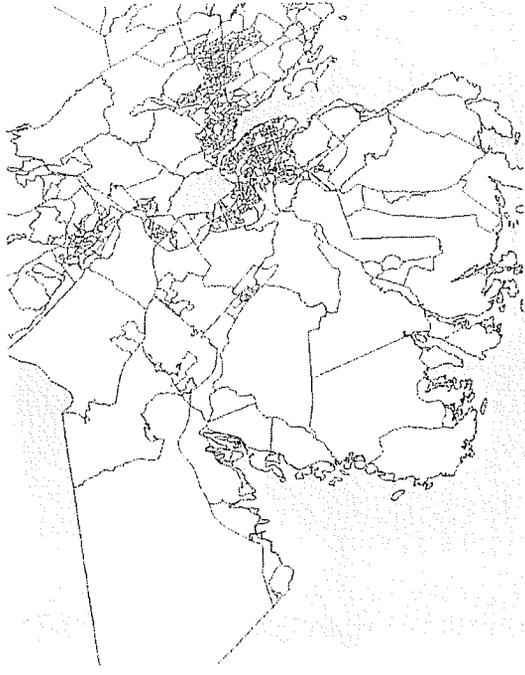
- Present the “straw” models including comments on the impacts based on the evaluation criteria
- Committee to provide further direction to staff on which governance models to pursue in more detail and take forward for consultation

Methodology for developing the Scenarios

- BPIM Data Group -Ken Lenihan & Alva Robinson
- Use Stats Canada Dissemination Areas as our building blocks
 - No allocation of population on either side of a boundary
- Take the total population for HRM for 06 and divide by the number of districts to get target averages
- Combine Dissemination Areas to get the population numbers for the number of districts

Dissemination Area as building blocks

- 575 DAs in HRM
- Population ranges from 0 – 2863 with a mean value of ~650
- Created by Statistics Canada
 - with the general rules bounded by streets and natural corridors
 - typically a couple of city blocks
 - rural and coastal areas more challenging



Constituent Target Averages by Scenario

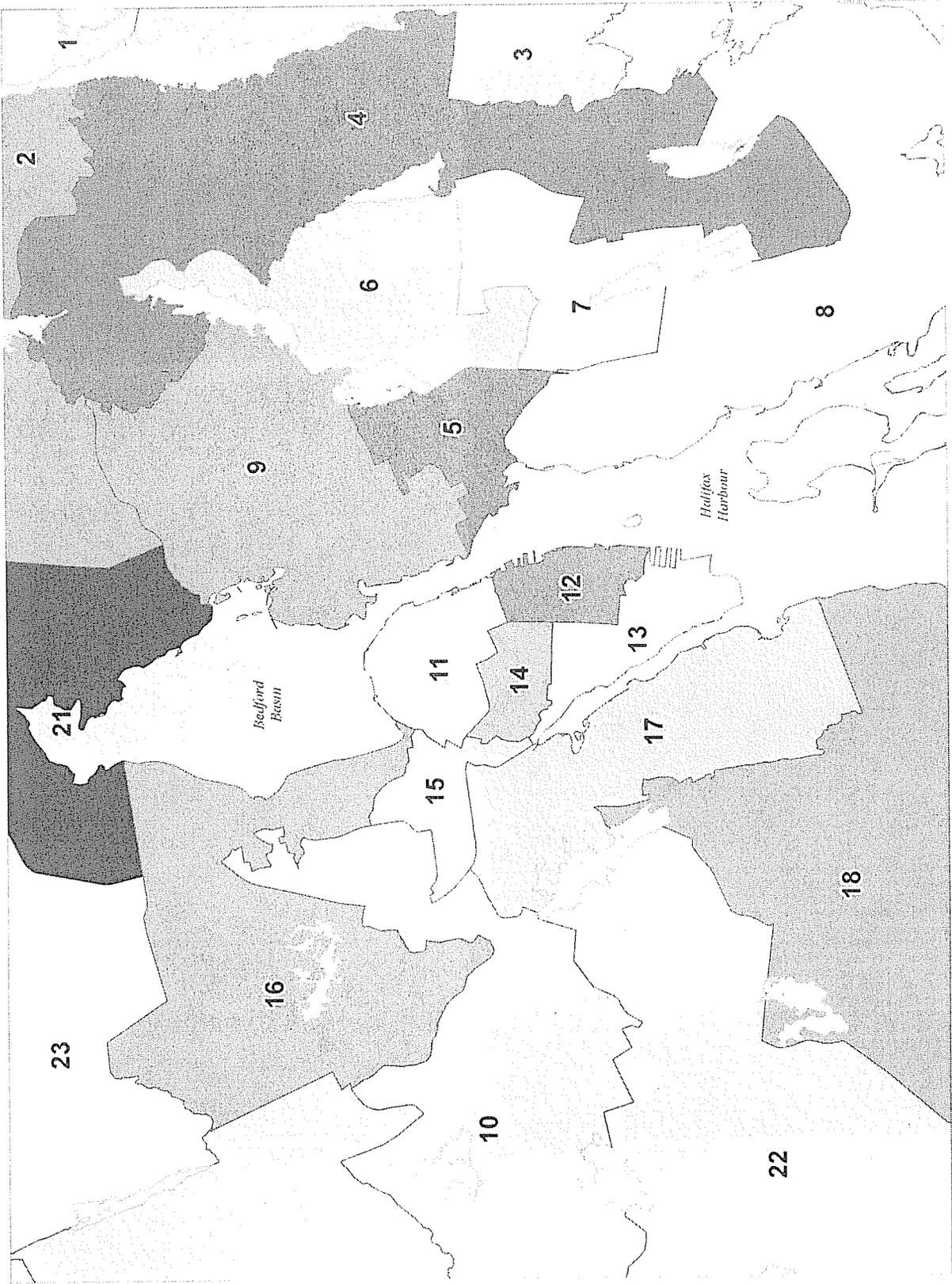
	2006 Total Population (from Stats Canada)	2006 voting population (from Stats Canada)
HRM Total	372,858	285,340
Modified Status Quo Average / 23 districts	16,211	12,406
Board of Governors Average / 8 districts	46,607	35,668
Modified Board of Governors Average/13 Districts	28,681	21,949
Community Council Driven Average/15 districts	24,857	19,023

Scenario 1

Modified Current Governance Model (23 District)

- Methodology
 - Overlay the existing boundaries
 - Assign the DAs to one of the 23 districts
 - Adjust for population disparity if required
 - Blend the DAs into 23 Districts
- Current governance approach has validity
- Changes in population/growth/movement between 2004 and 2009 will result in some boundary changes even with status quo
- Adjustments to Community Council configuration are an option within the current model – we have not overlaid a community council structure yet.

Modified Status Quo -(insert)



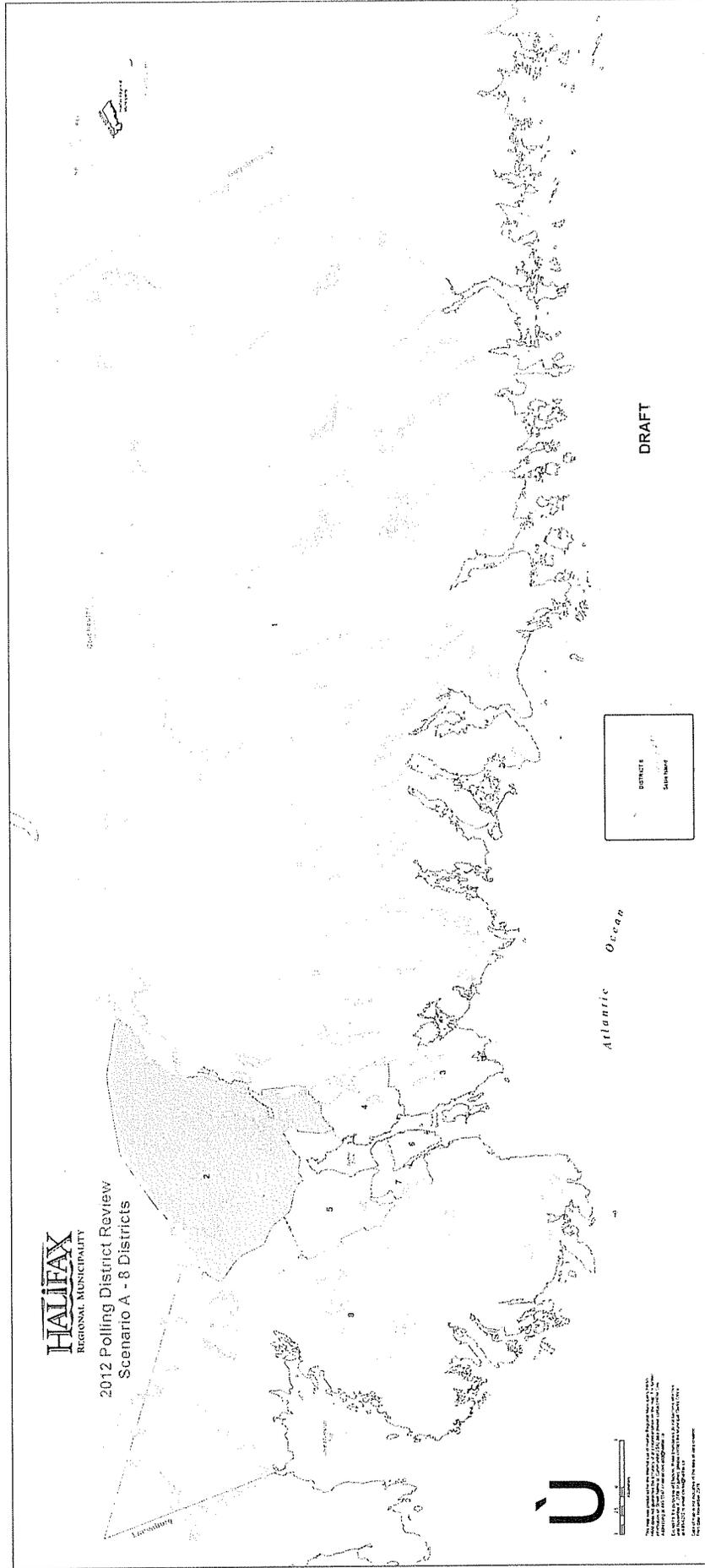
Impact evaluation- Scenario 1

Impact on # of constituents & voters per district	No change except for population and household growth or decline Average 16,211 residents and 12,406 voters per district (see more detailed table provided)
Impact on role of Councillor & support requirements	None Council directed changes achieved through Charter amendments ex) more planning issues to Community Councils already proposed
Impact on Community Council and decision making	Supports a community council decision making process at the local level. Community Council configuration could be adjusted if desired
Impact on public consultation	Continues as is – Regional Council, Community Councils, Boards & Commissions
Legislative impact	None to limited
Implemented based on geography & population	yes
Community of interests taken into account	yes

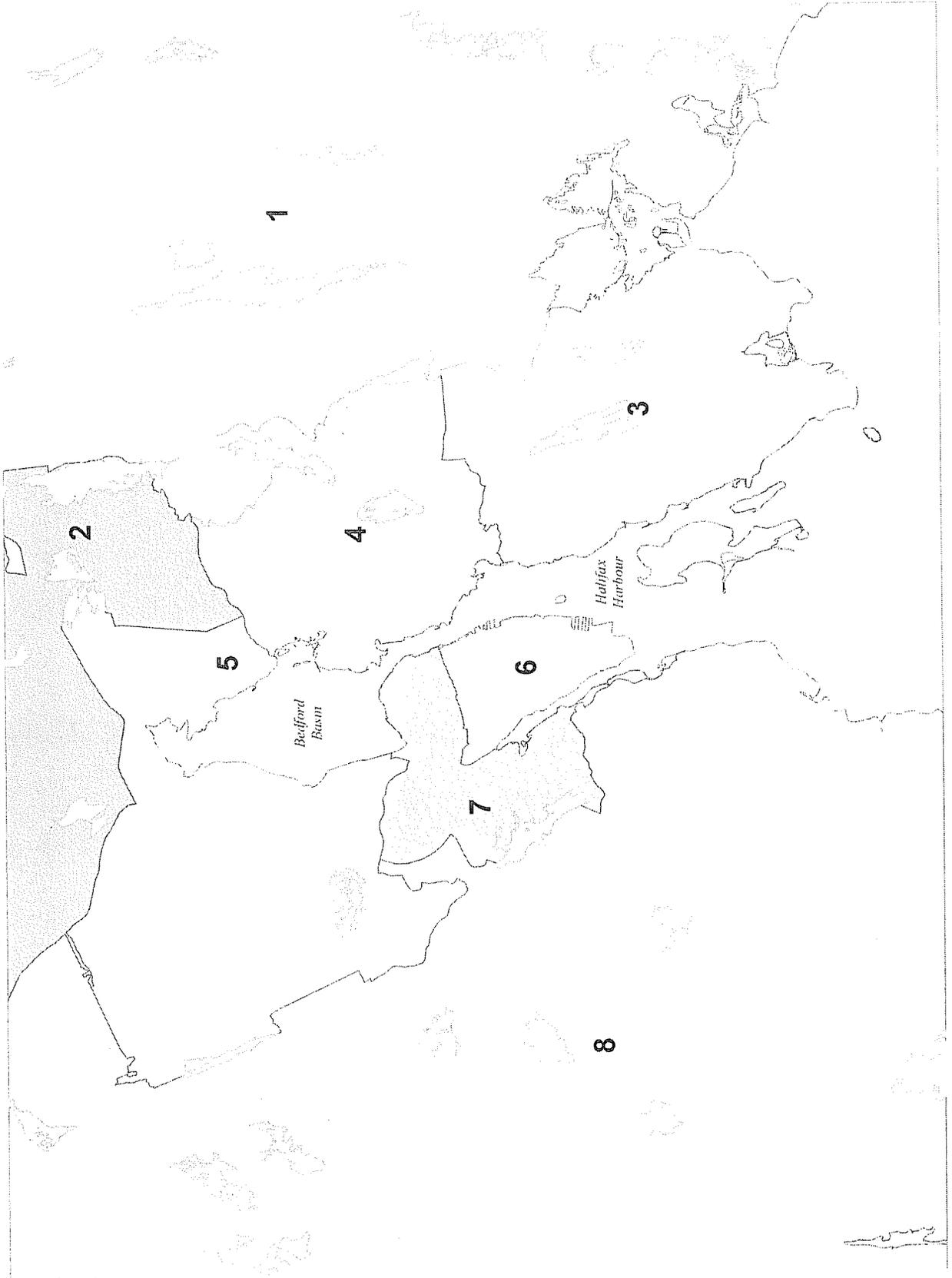
Scenario 2 – Board of Governors Model (8 districts)

- Methodology
 - Using the 23 districts from the previous exercise
 - Combine districts to get the most equitable population numbers into 8 Districts
- Followed the approach taken with Halifax Regional School Board (although starts with new divisions rather than current districts)
- Represents the largest change in governance & role of Councillor
- Number could change but governance model proposes high level decision, policy and direction by Regional Council – and delegation of decision making in other areas (tbd)
- Proposes no community council structure

Scenario 2 - Board of Governors 8 Districts



Scenario 2 - insert



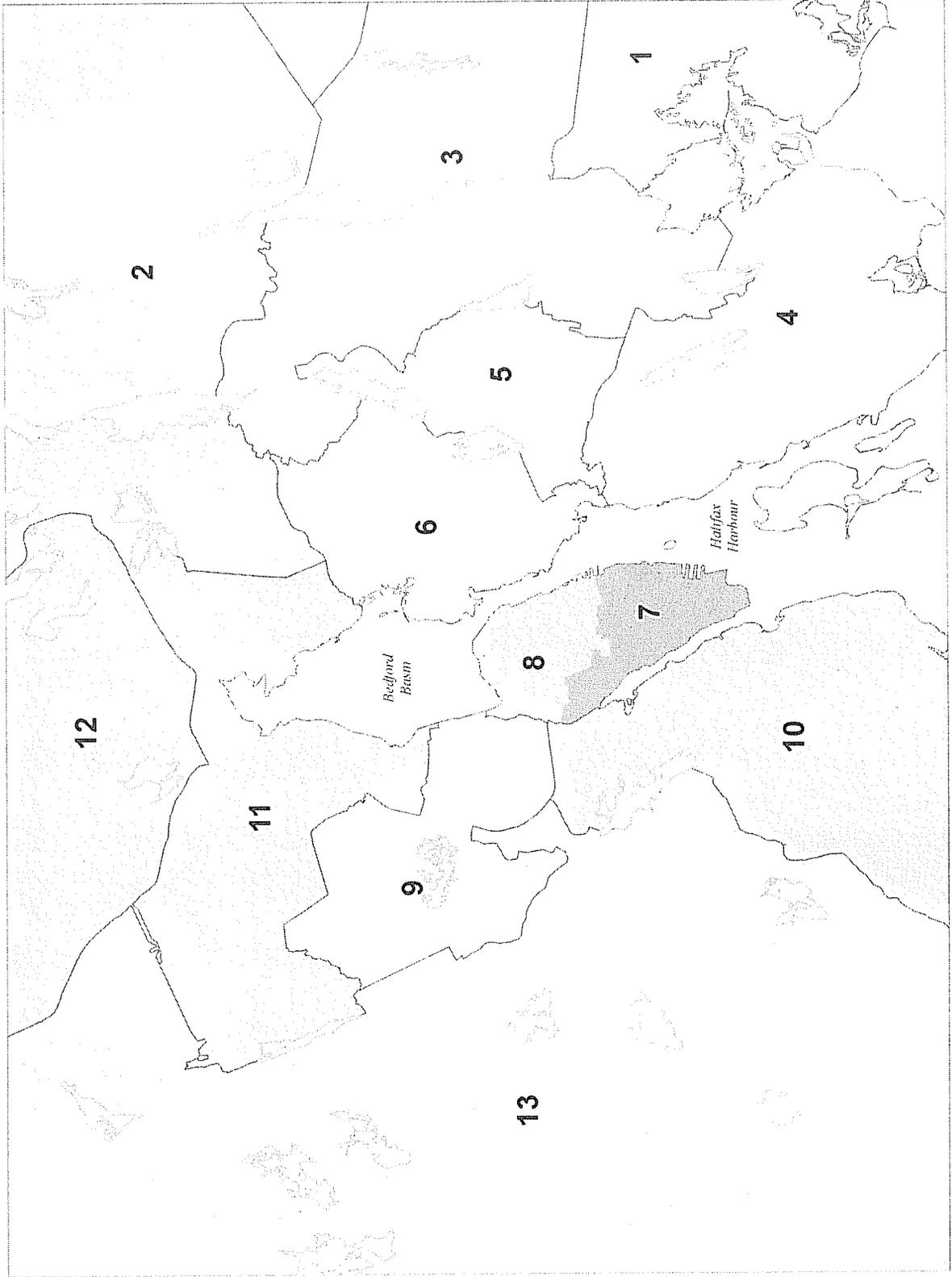
Impact evaluation- Scenario 2

Impact on # of constituents & voters per district	Largest change Average 46,607 residents/district and 35,668 voters per district (see more detailed table provided)
Impact on role of Councillor & support requirements	High impact on role of councillor- more policy decision/direction Constituency work would likely require substantially more support (one example might be a constituency office) for each District
Impact on Community Council and decision making	Does not propose a Community Council model Would require delegated decision making (i.e. for planning using a planning board at local level) with regional council maintaining broad policy powers.
Impact on Public Consultation	Less statutory opportunity for citizen input directly to Council
Legislative impact	Primarily related to Council's ability to delegate powers to other bodies
Implemented based on geography & population	Yes
Community of interests taken into account	Yes but a major change in larger district areas

Scenario 3 – Modified Board of Governors (13 Districts)

- Methodology
 - Using the 23 districts from the first exercise
 - Combine districts to get the most equitable population numbers over 13 Districts to also create 2 Community Councils
- Represents a large change in governance & role of Councillor
- Regional Council would deal with high level decision, policy and direction by Regional Council – and delegation of decision making in some areas – but could retain more Regional Decision making
- Proposes two community councils (East & West)

Scenario 3 - Inset



Scenario 3 -Community Council Structure (East/West)

13 Districts → 2 Community Councils



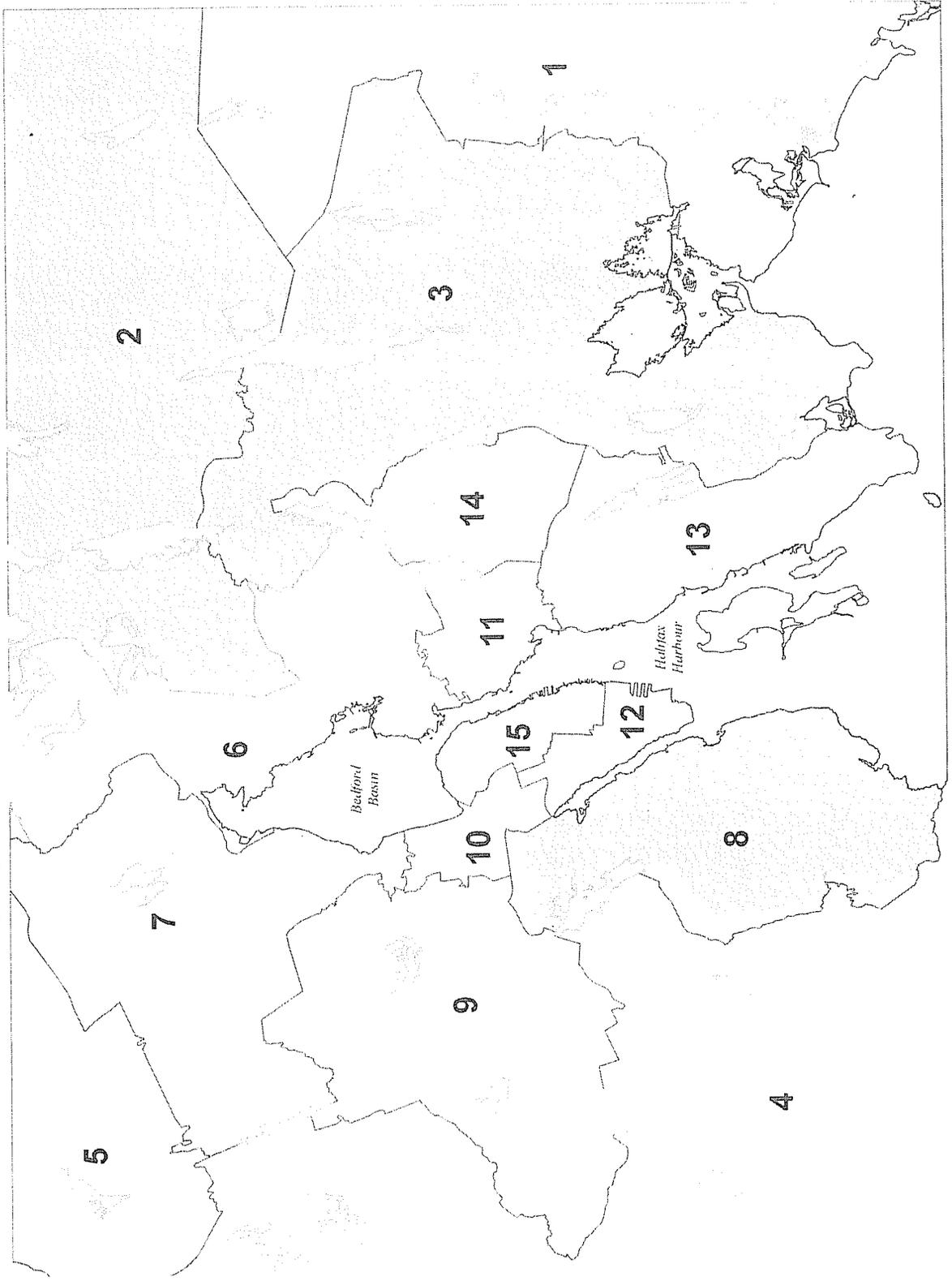
Impact evaluation- Scenario 3

Impact on # of constituents & voters per district	A significant change Average 28,681 residents/district and 21,949 voters per district (see more detailed table provided)
Impact on role of Councillor & support requirements	High impact on role of councillor- more policy decision/direction As in scenario 2 although districts are smaller constituency work would likely require more support for each District.
Impact on Community Council and decision making	Proposed 2 large community council's for delegated decision making Could also include other delegated decision making to boards. Community councils would be making decisions over a large area.
Impact on public consultation	Concept of local input and decision making diminished
Legislative impact	Primarily related to Council's ability to delegate powers to other bodies
Implemented based on geography & population	Yes
Community of interests taken into account	Yes but a major change in larger district areas and large community council areas.

Scenario 4 -Community Council Model (1 regional & 3 community councils - 15 district)

- Methodology
 - Start with assumption of 3 community councils of 5 districts each
 - Take total population and divide by 15
 - Start with DA's in the outer reaches of HRM and work towards the centre
 - Combine DA's to get the most equitable population numbers
 - Organize districts into 3 community councils accordingly
- Anticipates larger decision making at the Community Council level.
- Regional Council would focus on high level policy, regional issues and direction to staff and Community Councils

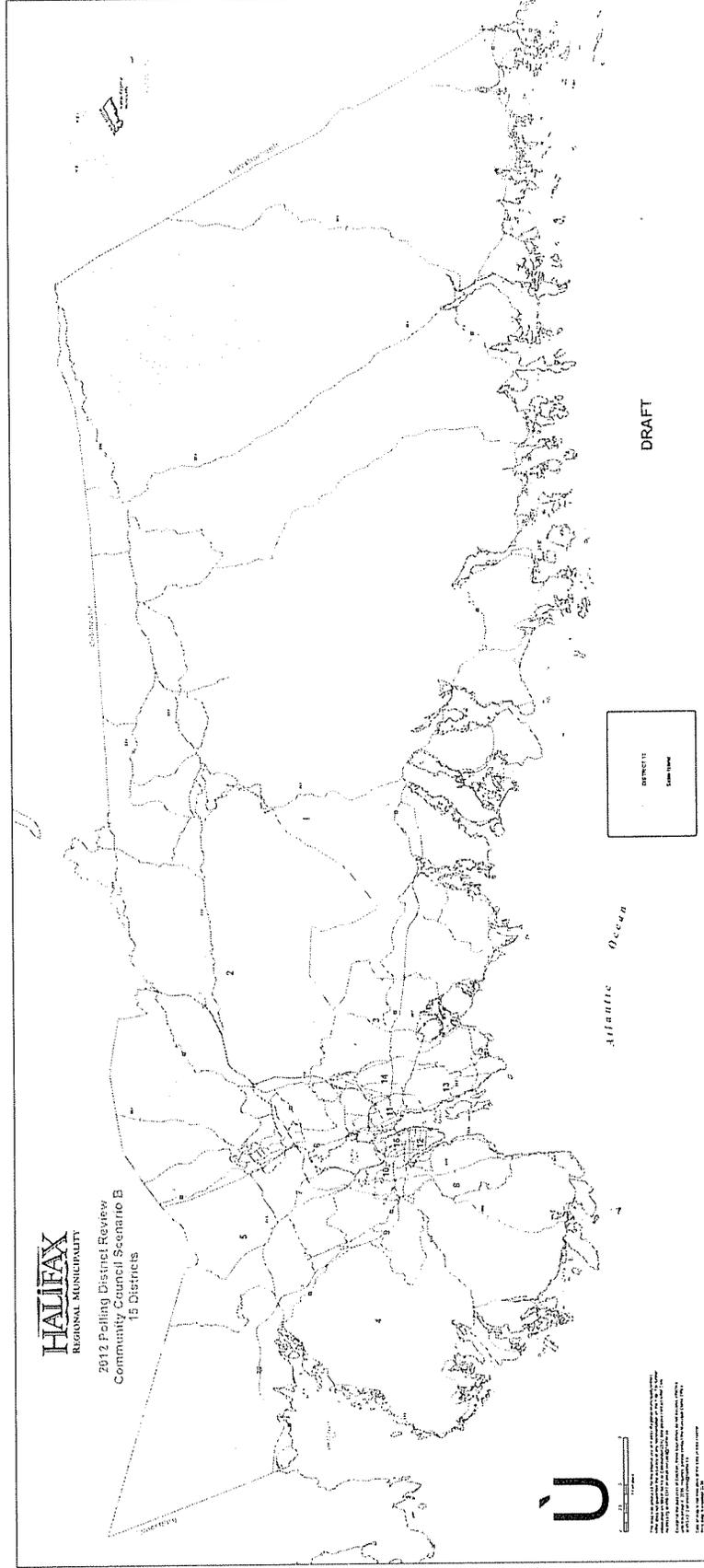
Scenario 4 - Inset



Scenario 4 b) Community Council Scenario

Rural, Suburban and Urban

15 Districts → 3 Community Councils



Impact evaluation- Scenario 4

Impact on # of constituents & voters per district	Significant increase per district Average 24,857 residents/district and 19,023 voters per district (see more detailed table provided)
Impact on role of Councillor & support requirements	Significant impact on role of councillor- more policy decision/direction at the Regional level. More authority at the Community Council level. Constituency work may require a constituency office for each District or additional resources for councillor and support for Community Councils
Impact on Community Council and decision making	Community Councils larger than present but may be able to define reasonable communities of interest i.e.. Urban, rural, suburban or East, Central, West
Impact on public consultation	As per current – Regional, Community Council. Larger areas may require more travel or alternative ways to ensure broad community engagement
Legislative impact	Moderate – requires powers to delegate authority from Regional Council
Implemented based on geography & population	Yes – but depending on decision re: Community Council approach may high light divisions in the Region
Community of interests taken into account	Yes but a major change in larger district areas and large community council areas.

Next Steps

- Questions – Discussion
- Any of these models worth pursuing into further detailed work? Other alternatives?
- December meeting
 - Flesh out the preferred models and implications
 - Propose a “draft” consultation plan