

Terms of Reference

TOR #1013-475

Executive Summary

Direction

On March 4, 2025, Council directed that a terms of reference be prepared for a project to create the Kineticor Area Structure Plan (ASP).

Schedule and Deliverables

Phase 1 – Project Initiation (Q2 2025)

- Project workplan
- Engagement Strategy
- Initiate technical studies

Phase 2 – Prepare Draft ASP (Q2 2025)

- Preliminary land use concept
- Draft ASP
- 1st draft of technical studies

Phase 3 – Stakeholder Engagement (Q2/Q3 2025)

- Implementation of the engagement strategy
- Engagement summary
- Circulation (County-led)

Phase 4 - Finalize ASP (Q3 2025)

- Final ASP
- Final bylaws
- Public hearing (County-led)

Project Focus

The ASP will outline a land use strategy and servicing plan for a data centre complex, which is anticipated to accommodate multiple data centre facilities and a supporting 900 MW Power Generation Facility.

The key project considerations are:

- Provision of appropriate transportation, water, wastewater, and stormwater management infrastructure.
- Demonstrating the economic benefits to the County and wider Calgary region.
- Demonstrating the unique locational requirements for the development's location and alignment with regional and County policies.

Project Budget

The project is to be funded wholly by the developer (Kineticor Asset Management). Administration is proposing a budget of \$50,000 be allocated by the County to complete the project, which will account for County's staff time devoted key tasks on the project. This cost will be recovered from the developer through a cost contribution agreement.

Principal Risks

- There may be unforeseen delays in completing technical studies, leading to project deadlines not being met.
- Approval of the new Municipal Development Plan may create timing complexities with respect to aligning with higher order County policies.



Direction

- 1 Alberta's *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* Section 633 provides that a council may adopt an area structure plan (ASP) for the purpose of providing a framework for subsequent subdivision and development of an area of land.
- The site is bordered to the south by Highway 566, immediately adjacent to a 240 KV electrical transmission line, and located approximately 800 m (½ mile) from the Graham Lake Water Treatment Plant.
- 3 The Kineticor Data Centre ASP will outline a plan for the land use and servicing provisions for the site.
- This Terms of Reference will guide the creation of a new ASP. Under the MGA s.633(2)(a), an ASP must describe:
 - (1) The sequence of development proposed for the area;
 - (2) The land uses proposed for the area, either generally or with respect to specific parts of the area;
 - (3) The density of population proposed for the area either generally or with respect to specific parts of the area, and
 - (4) The general location of major transportation routes and public utilities
 - (5) Any other matters that Council considers necessary.
- In undertaking the Kineticor Data Centre Complex ASP, the proponent will consider the following matters (but not necessarily limited to):
 - (1) The statutory planning framework to ensure the ASP aligns with higher-order plans;
 - (2) Alignment with Council's Strategic Plan objectives;
 - (3) Demonstration of the relationship between municipal and other provincial regulatory approval processes required to implement the project;
 - (4) Infrastructure to ensure that development is supported by appropriate transportation, utility servicing and stormwater management infrastructures;
 - (5) Natural environmental features to ensure the inherent and intrinsic value of natural features are preserved;
 - (6) Fiscal impacts on the County's services and tax assessment ratio.
 - (7) Community input to ensure the planning framework aligns with residents' sentiments and potential for off-site impacts are reasonably mitigated; and
 - (8) Intergovernmental input to ensure external agencies' interests are reflected.



The Kineticor ASP Location

- 6 The extent of the area to be covered by the Kineticor ASP is shown below in **Figure 1: Location**.
- 7 The subject site measures approximately 453 hectares (1,120 acres) in area and legally described as Section 14-26-28-W4M, NE 15-26-28-W4M, and S ½ Section 23-26-28-W4M. The site is some 3 miles east of the Balzac East ASP, and generally situated between Range Roads 282 and 281.
- 8 The site is bordered to the south by Highway 566, immediately adjacent to a 240 KV electrical transmission line to the west, and located approximately 800 m (½ mile) from the Graham Lake Water Treatment Plant to the north-east.

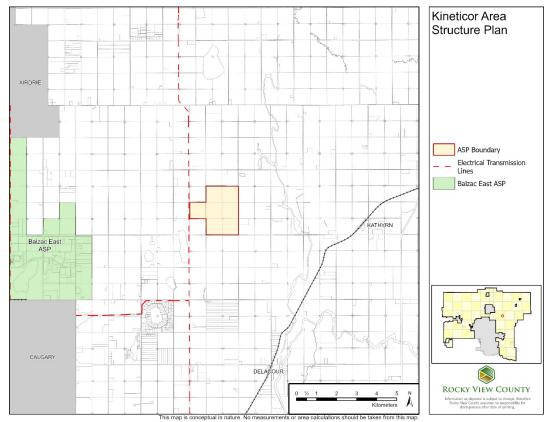


Figure 1: Location

Background

- 9 The subject lands are currently zoned Agricultural, General (A-GEN) with the exception of Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 161 2564 situated in the northeast corner of SE-23-26-28-W4 which is R-RUR (Residential, Rural).
- In January 2025, the proponent (Kineticor Asset Management) provided a proposal to develop a data centre complex on the site that is subject to this Terms of Reference. The use, being a business use under the *Municipal Development Plan*, requires the adoption of an Area Structure Plan.



- 11 The Kineticor ASP project will include data centres as the primary use and a 900 MW Power Generation Facility.
- The project proposes the potential to create local and regional benefits through catalyzing economic growth through the provision of local employment opportunities, the generation of tax revenue, and the construction of essential capital infrastructure to support the future build-out of the surrounds. It is noteworthy that the nature of the data centre complex may attract other technology companies to the County.

Municipal Development Plan

- The County is currently updating its Municipal Development Plan, with an estimated completion date of August 2025. The existing County Plan (C-7280-2013 as amended) is in force and therefore the applicable Municipal Development Plan.
- 14 Notwithstanding any forthcoming update to the MDP, Section 14.0 of the County Plan guides business development in the County. The subject lands are not currently identified on *Map 1 Managing Growth* of the County Plan, which identifies the County's residential and business growth areas. However, Section 14.0 of the County Plan allows for the consideration of new business areas subject to the area's location being justified and another criteria being met.
- 15 The adoption of the proposed ASP is not contingent on the update to the Municipal Development Plan being completed.

Project Vision

This project will establish a new ASP for the subject site to facilitate the development of the Kineticor data centre complex, with particular regard for the planning of servicing, stormwater, and transportation infrastructure.

Project Objectives

17 The ASP will aim to achieve the following objectives:

Land Use

(1) To create a development framework to facilitate orderly and efficient development of the area, specifically with regard to the proposed Kineticor Data Centre Complex.

Servicing

- (2) To identify feasible and efficient water and wastewater servicing options that will appropriately support the proposed development and land uses for the site;
- (3) To identify feasible stormwater management options that adequately support the scale and intensity of development.
- (4) To identify current and planned transportation infrastructure under both Provincial and County jurisdiction to determine future transportation needs and opportunities to support anticipated development;
- (5) To identify other required physical services to support the development.



Phasing

(6) To facilitate orderly and efficient development of the Kineticor data centre complex through phased development.

Fiscal Considerations

(7) Strive to ensure that the overall development has a positive fiscal impact on the County, balancing assessment growth with service provision.

Natural Environment

(8) To identify key environmental and natural features within the area and suggest methods to uphold their form and function. This includes the development of policies to minimize the impact of development on the natural environment.

Statutory Plan Alignment

- **18** The ASP will be drafted to align with the following statutory plans as guided by the *Municipal Government Act*:
 - (1) South Saskatchewan Regional Plan; and
 - (2) Municipal Development Plan (the County Plan).

Schedule and Deliverables

- 19 The project is anticipated to occur in five phases, described in Table 1 Project Schedule.
- The dates listed represent the latest date by which the deliverables will be completed; deliverables may be completed ahead of the timeline.

Table 1 - Project Schedule

Phase	Deliverables	Timing	Max. Timeline
	Project work plan	Q2 2025	N/A
	Initiate technical studies	Q2 2025	N/A
1. Project Initiation	Public engagement strategy	Q2 2025	N/A
	Preliminary land use concept for		N/A
	County review	Q2 2025	
	1 st Draft of technical studies		N/A
	provided to the County	Q2 2025	
	Draft ASP for County review	Q2 2025	N/A
2. Prepare Draft ASP	Redesignation application	Q2 2025	N/A
	Implementation of the		N/A
	engagement strategy	Q2 2025	
			N/A
	Engagement summary	Q2/Q3 2025	
3. Public and Stakeholder	Technical studies ready for		July 22, 2025
Engagement	circulation	Q3 2025	



	ASP ready for circulation		July 22, 2025
	Circulation to agencies	Q3 2025	July 24, 2025
	Landowner circulation	Q3 2025	July 24, 2025
	Internal circulation	Q3 2025	July 24, 2025
	Final land use concept	Q3 2025	August 19, 2025
	Final ASP	Q3 2025	August 19, 2025
	Final bylaws	Q3 2025	August 19, 2025
4. ASP Finalization	Public hearing circulation	Q3 2025	August 22, 2025
	Council report for ASP	Q3 2025	September 2, 2025
	Public hearing and three readings	Q3 2025	September 16, 2025

Roles and Responsibilities

The principal project tasks shall generally be divided between the County and Proponent as follows:

County-led	County and Proponent	Proponent-led
Intergovernmental collaboration	Communication and Engagement	Technical Studies
	Plan Drafting	Background Report

Costs

- Costs relating to the completion of this developer-led ASP project shall be borne entirely by the developer group.
- The developer will enter into an agreement with the County to cover the costs to the County for any staff time and resources contributed to the project.

Public Engagement

- A detailed public engagement strategy, to be prepared by the developer group, will identify all relevant interest groups within the County and external stakeholders affected by the planning process outcomes.
- The strategy will delineate how the process will proceed through several phases, and how various tools/techniques will be used in each phase to meaningfully engage a range of participants.
- Overall, the developer group will be responsible for implementing these strategies, with oversight provided by the County.
- 27 All outgoing communications material will require approval from the County prior to release.
- An engagement summary, detailing the findings of engagement endeavors, is to be prepared to the satisfaction of the County. The engagement summary will also demonstrate how the feedback received has been addressed within the ASP.



Communication and Engagement Principles

- The project will be underpinned by a thorough engagement process with the communities, identified stakeholder groups, and intergovernmental organizations that:
 - (1) Raises the awareness of the planning process and encourages participation;
 - (2) Shapes the content of the Plan through a blend of research and stakeholder input;
 - (3) Responds constructively to the interests of various audiences; and
 - (4) Ensures broad support for the resulting policies.
- **30** Appropriate consultation will be conducted with the Alberta Utilities Commission, the Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors, and Alberta Environment.

Principal Project Risks

Risks	Mitigation Strategies		
 There may be unforeseen delays in completing technical studies, leading to project deadlines not being met. 	 Clearly scope technical studies and ensure that all internal departments and external agencies are engaged early on in the project. 		

Variance

31 Any substantial departure from the project scope and timeline detailed within this terms of reference shall require approval from Council.



Approval Date

Replaces

Lead Role

Committee Classification

Last Review Date

Next Review Date

May 20, 2025

n/a

Chief Administrative Officer

Council

• n/a

• n/a

Reegan McCullough
Chief Administrative Officer
May 20, 2025
Approval Date