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Date of submission: Friday, July 24, 2015

Submission: Amalgamation will be bad for the City and neighbouring areas. It's a blatant political play, attempting to shift the makeup of the council to wrest control from independents. No benefits have been identified, and it comes at significant cost. A merger would distract the council from its real business. And it risks diluting the identity of individual local councils, reducing their ability to serve their unique local communities.