

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

4 APRIL 2012

AGENDA ITEM C3

REPRESENTATION REVIEW

Purpose of Report

To report to Council on representation review.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Adopt the following recommendations:*
 - *that the ward system of Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough be retained;*
 - *that the current arrangement of 9 Councillors (3 from each ward) and the Mayor, be retained;*
 - *that the current arrangement of the Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough Community Boards continue;*
 - *that the Community Boards of Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough have 4 elected members and 2 appointees being 2 Councillors elected from the particular ward and that the ward boundaries stay as they are as the Council considers that the existing ward boundaries are well-established and deeply embedded in the minds of the various ward residents because of the strong communities of interest;*
 - *that there be no separate electoral representation for Maori.*

1. Introduction

The Council is required to review its representation arrangements at least once every six years. This process is called the Representation Review.

Council last carried out a review in 2006 in time for the 2007 local government elections and it is now time to conduct another review in time for the 2013 elections.

In preparing for this review, the Council must keep in mind the relevant provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) and the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and must also have regard to the guidelines which are

issued by the Local Government Commission (LGC) to assist local authorities in undertaking their reviews.

2. Community Boards and Maori Representation

Recommendations will be sought from the three Community Boards and the Maori Standing Committee and these will have to be considered. Provided the recommendations are approved by Council at the April Council Meeting the advertisement could be placed in the local press the following week or as soon as possible thereafter.

3. Fair and Effective Representation

Council must prepare an initial proposal for public review. The initial proposal should reflect the following two key principles:

- Effective Representation - that identified communities of interest are adequately represented by a council structure elected by Wards, at large or a mixture of both.
- Fair Representation – that any ward structure (if adopted) ensures that electors receive fair representation from an appropriate number of elected members per ward and that the ratio of electors per ward member is consistent across the whole district ($\pm 10\%$).

Table 1: Estimated Resident Population at 1 January 2012

Ward	Estimated Resident Population as at 30/06/11	Members	Population Per Member
Featherston	3,110	3	1,037
Greytown	3,070	3	1,023
Martinborough	3,250	3	1,083
Totals	9,430	9	

In accordance with section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 the population that each member represents must be within the range of 1048 $\pm 10\%$ (943 to 1,153) unless particular community of interest considerations justify otherwise. The proposed ward representation structure meets that population test.

4. Submissions

The format of the required advertisement is Appendix 4 in the Local Government Commission Guidelines.

5. Financial Implication

None arising from this report.

6. Legal Implications

None arising from this report.

Contact Officer: Dr Jack Dowds, Chief Executive Officer