

Appendix 1 – Representation Options for 2025 and 2028 (to be tabled)

During the Council’s Representation Review workshop on 26 June 2024, discussions were held around representation options ahead of the SWC meeting 3 July. This workshop was attended by a Representation Review expert from electionz.com to help answer questions from elected members.

1. Wards

The general discussion from the workshop included support for the current wards of Featherston, Martinborough and Greytown, acknowledging their unique character and needs. Although mention was made of larger geographical areas (such as Martinborough) it is important to note that the Representation Review relates to population data rather than geographical areas and our three wards are currently evenly split with an average electoral population of 3,600 per ward. All options below include wards for Featherston, Martinborough and Greytown.

2. Number of Councillors

Support for the current number of councillors was endorsed at the representation review workshop, rather than reducing the total number of councillors for 2025. This relates to workload and complexity of issues ahead for South Wairarapa.

All options below are for either 9 or 10 councillors in total. With Option A having the same number of councillors for the 2025 local election.

3. At Large

Discussion at the workshop included At Large representation, which is when a councillor represents across the district rather than by wards. Initial feedback indicated community support for this option to help with governance across all of South Wairarapa. Discussion by councillors indicated more support for At Large than not.

Option A includes At Large representation. Council officers have recommended Option A, and At Large representation for the 2025 and 2028 triennium, due to the initial community support and the general support from councillors.

4. Community Boards

The community feedback to date has supported Community Boards. However, the council is split due to their effectiveness and may support Community Boards for the next triennium should their role be enhanced. General discussion included a lack of individuals standing for these roles, with Featherston being the only Community Board that had more than three people standing at the last local election, the cost of running Community Boards, and if that representation can be seen elsewhere. Community Boards are a topic for discussion, and therefore it would be good to

include any considered changes in the initial option to allow further feedback to councillors through the consultation process.

A change to Community Boards is in both Option A and Option C.

5. Rural Wards

A lot of discussion was around the introduction of one or more rural wards. The council feels the rural voice is an important voice and consideration and discussion was given to a rural ward for 2025 and 2028. A rural advisory group was raised as an option and received greater support from councillors than an introduction of a rural ward at this time.

Therefore, a Rural Advisory Group has been included in Option A.

Options and Considerations to be tabled

Option A: Change (Recommended Option)

This is our recommended option as it includes At Large Representation, Rural Advisor Group and the same number of councillors. It is also our preferred option as it retains the current ward structure, while adding change that is clear, easy to understand and reflects forward-looking governance.

Ward	Number of Councillors	Electoral Population Data	Representation per Councillor
Greytown Ward	2 Councillors	3,880	1,940
Featherston Ward	2 Councillors	3,320	1,660
Martinborough Ward	2 Councillors	3,780	1,890
Māori Ward	1 Councillor	900	900
At Large	2 Councillors		
Total	9 Councillors	11,880	

Consult on no Community Boards	Rural Advisory Group established
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Option B: Stay the same (Status Quo)

Ward	Number of Councillors	Electoral Population Data	Representation per Councillor
Greytown Ward	3 Councillors	3,880	1,293
Featherston Ward	3 Councillors	3,320	1,107
Martinborough Ward	3 Councillors	3,780	1,260
Māori Ward	1 Councillor	900	900
Total	10 Councillors	11,880	

Martinborough Community Board	3 elected members
Greytown Community Board	3 elected members
Featherston Community Board	3 elected members

Option C: Rural Ward (or something similar)

Ward	Number of Councillors	Electoral Population Data	Representation per Councillor
Greytown Ward (change to boundary lines)	2 Councillors	?	?
Featherston Ward (change to boundary lines)	2 Councillors	?	?
Martinborough Ward (change to boundary lines)	2 Councillors	?	?
Greytown rural ward	1 Councillor	?	?
Martinborough rural ward	1 Councillor	?	?
Featherston rural ward	1 Councillor	?	?
Māori Ward	1 Councillor	900	900
Total	10 Councillors	11,880	

Consult on no Community Boards	
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On 3 July we are seeking direction from the Strategy Working Committee for their preferred option for consultation with the community in August. On 31 July, the Strategy Working Committee will need to adopt their initial proposal for representation, SOP and consultation document. With consultation opening 5 August 2024.

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