

Representation Review

By Governance Team SWDC June 2024



**SOUTH WAIRARAPA
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Kia Reretahi Tātau

What we want from today:

- Community feedback so far
- Ideally 2-3 considered options for us to table on 3 July Strategy Working Committee meeting.
- An understanding of what those options mean

Stephen Hill, Representation Review Advisor from Electionz.com will be joining us at approx. 12:30-1pm and again 1:45-2.15pm (if possible) for this workshop.



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Recap on work done so far on the Representation Review

High-level information papers to Council 2023

- 28 June 2023
- 27 September 2023

Decisions in 2023

- 2 August 2023 council decided to continue with status quo - First Past the Post for the 2025 and 2028 election.
- 22 November 2023 Council decided to establishing a Māori ward for 2025 (and 2028) local elections.



Recap on work done so far on the Representation Review

Elected Members Workshops during 2024:

- 28 Feb 2024
- 1 May 2024

Engagement during 2024:

- Part of Enhanced Annual Plan drop-in sessions
- Online Survey pushed out through Facebook
- Papers to all Community Boards over the last month



Key Themes and Findings

1. Continue with current wards for Featherston, Martinborough and Greytown
2. Less councillors
3. At large
4. Rural wards
5. Community Boards

Note:

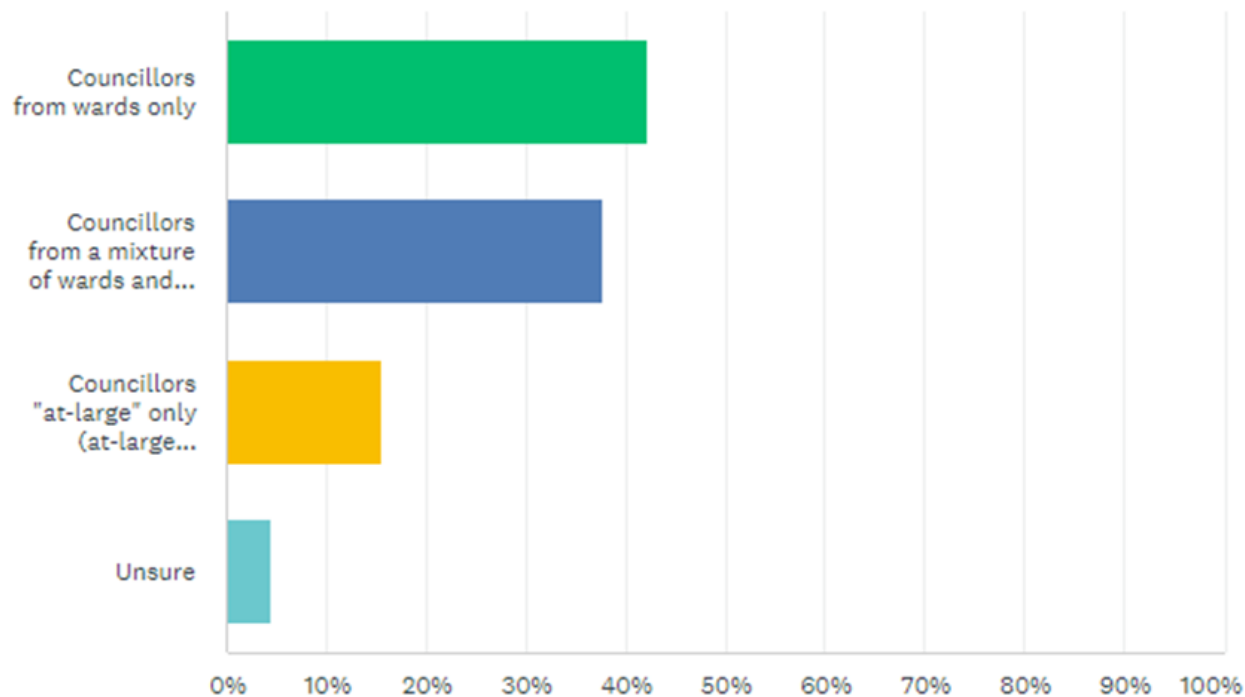
At the Strategy Working Committee 3 July we will be looking for clear direction on your preferred option for representation at the 2025 and 2028 local elections.

At the Strategy Working Committee 31 July we will be looking for adoption of the proposal for consultation (which is the legislative deadline for making this decision).



1. Continue with Current Wards

There is general support for the current ward structure of Martinborough, Greytown and Featherston.



Continue with Current Wards

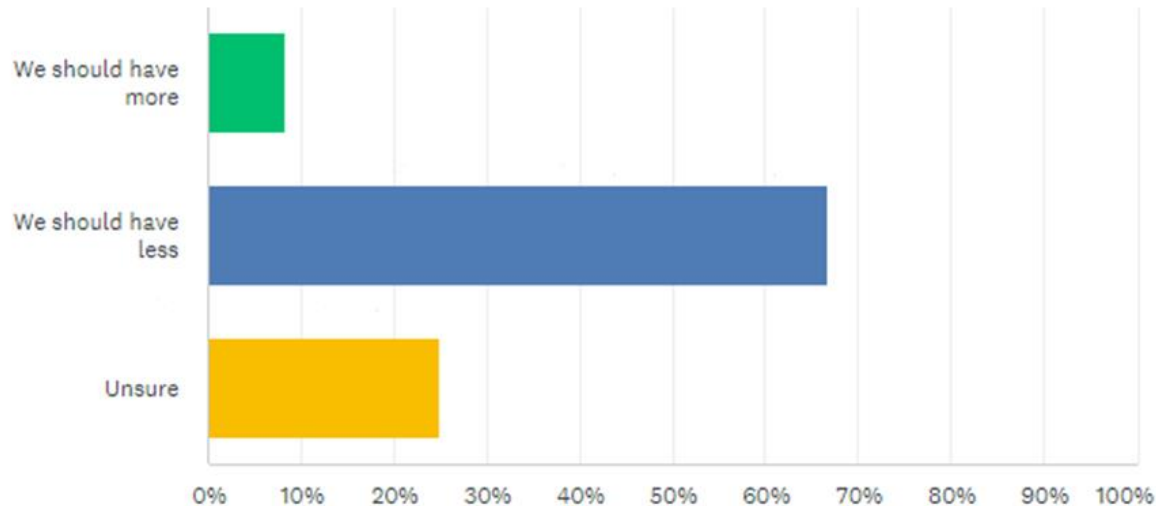
47 people responded online to the question: **Do you think the current wards and boundaries reflect where your property is?**

Yes	35	74.47%
No	7	14.89%
Somewhat	4	8.51%
Unsure	1	2.13%



2. Less Councillors

For the online survey 36 people answered the question: **Do you think we should have more, fewer or the same number of elected members?**



Noting good governance includes:

- A minimum of seven councillors
- Even numbers can result in a split vote
- Larger numbers help with quorum for those away



Less councillors

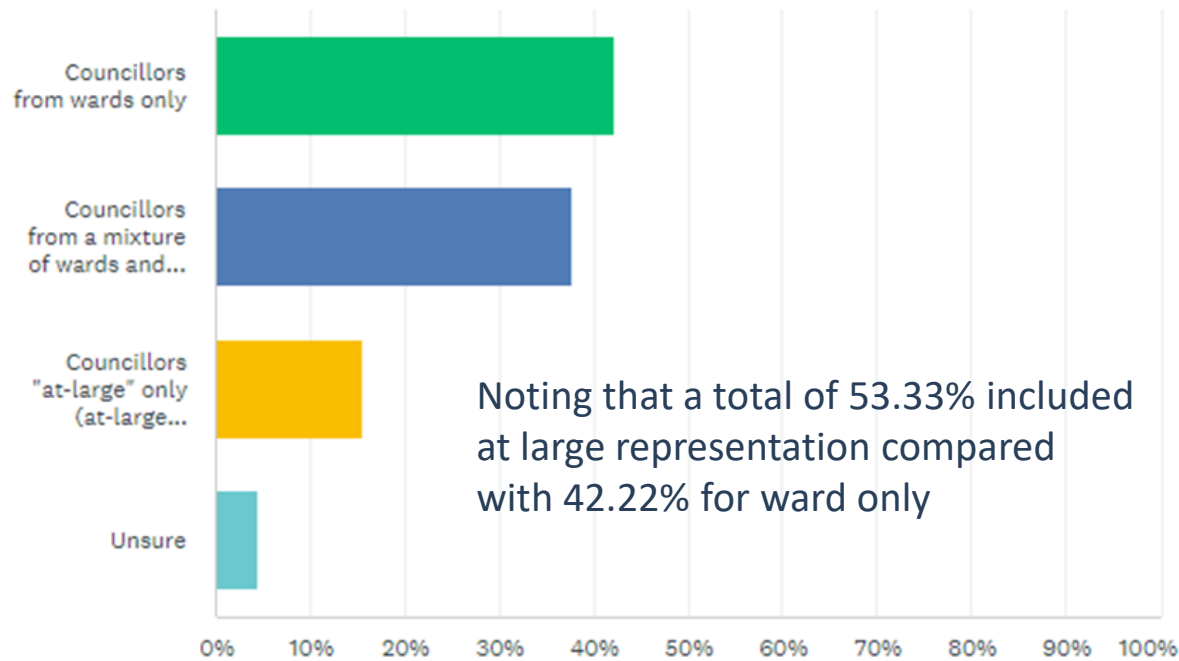
This table showing a comparison of similar size councils (10 – 20,000) and number of councillors.

District (Popn. 20-30,000)	Population	No. of Councillors	Basis of election
Otorohanga	11,000	9	Wards
Ruapehu	13,040	9	Wards
Rangitikei	16,300	11	Wards (3 Gen/2 M)
Stratford	10,300	11	Wards (Urb/Rur/Māori)
South Wairarapa	11,870	9	Wards (+MW in 2025)
Grey	14,260	8	Wards
Hurunui	13,800	10	Wards
Gore	13,050	11	Mix – Wards/At-large
Carterton	10,250	8	At-large
Central Hawkes Bay	16,030	8	Wards



3. At Large Representation (new)

There has been some interest expressed during the Enhanced AP drop-in sessions and through the online survey for “At Large” representation. Which is election of councillors across the district rather than from a ward.



Note that with a Māori ward, a fully at large system is not available



Possible Options to consider for Councillor Representation

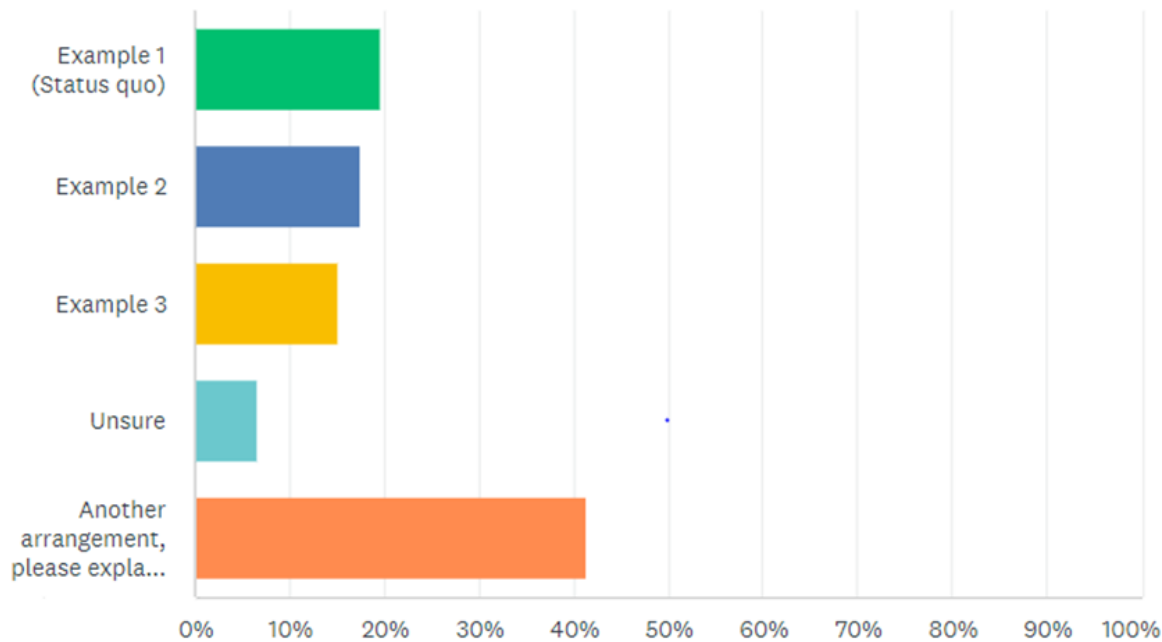
Option 1	Greytown Ward	3,880	3	1,293	73	6.01
3 Gen Wards / 1 Māori Ward	Featherston Ward	3,320	3	1,107	-113	-9.29
Total 10 councillors	Martinborough Ward	3,780	3	1,260	40	3.28
	Total General wards	10,980	9	1,220		
	Māori Ward	900	1	900		
	Total population	11,880	10			
Option 2	Greytown Ward	3,880	2	1,940	110	6.01
3 Gen Wards / 1 Māori Ward	Featherston Ward	3,320	2	1,660	-170	-9.29
Total 7 councillors	Martinborough Ward	3,780	2	1,890	60	3.28
	Subtotal General wards	10,980	6	1,830		
	Māori Ward	900	1	900		
	Total population	11,880	7			
Option 3	Greytown Ward	3,880	2	1,940	110	6.01
3 Gen Wards / 1 Māori Ward	Featherston Ward	3,320	2	1,660	-170	-9.29
2 elected at-large	Martinborough Ward	3,780	2	1,890	60	3.28
Total 9 councillors	Subtotal General wards	10,980	6	1,830		
	Māori Ward	900	1	900		
	At large	11,880	2			
	Total population	11,880	9			

Note: Must retain minimum of 7 ward Cr to retain 1 Māori ward/member



At Large Representation

Example 3 included at large representation. In addition, a number of the suggestions under “Another arrangement” included greater at large representation than option 3.



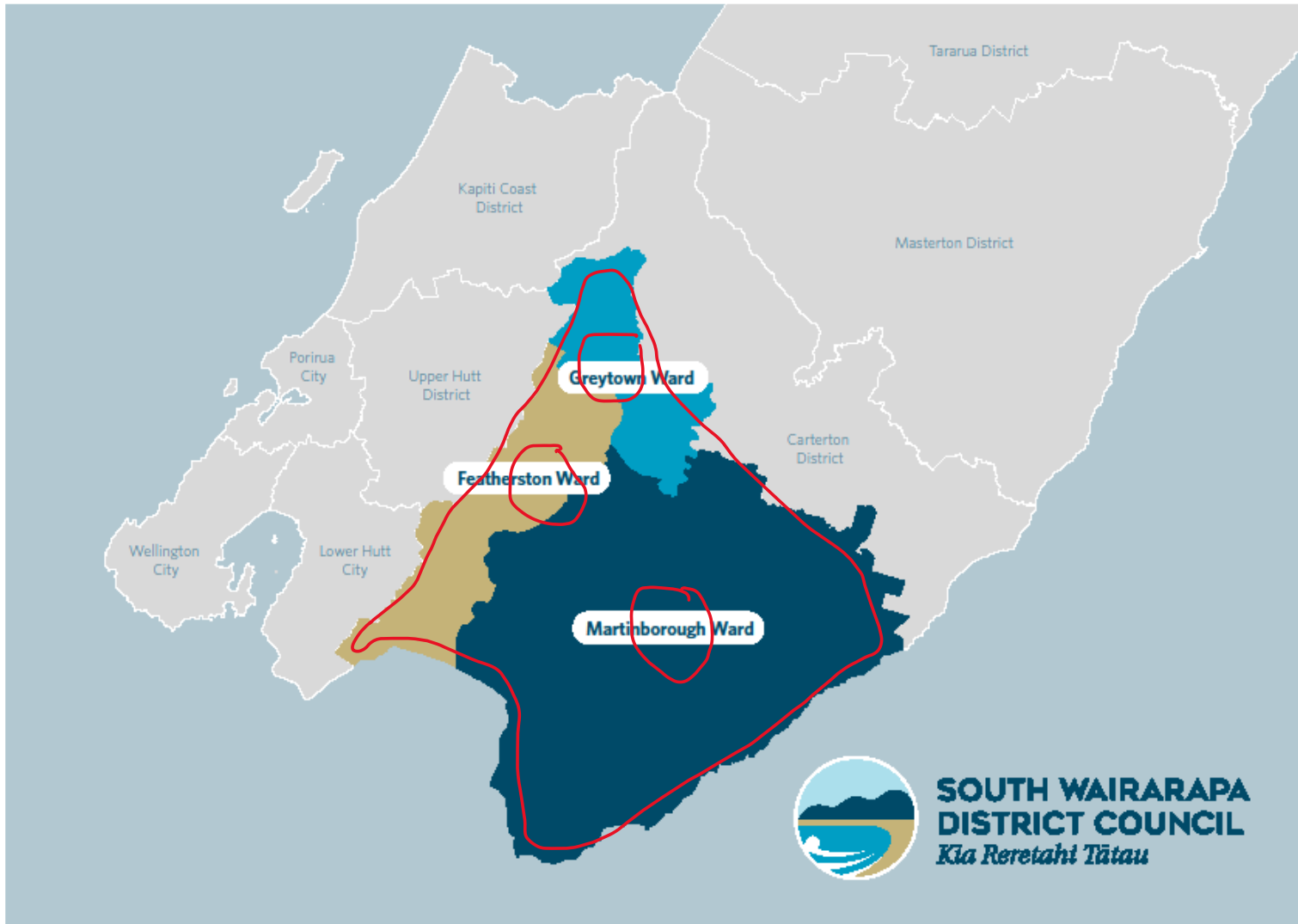
4. Rural Ward (new)

47 people responded online to the question: **Do you think the current wards and boundaries reflect where your property is?**

Yes	35	74.47%
No	7	14.89%
Somewhat	4	8.51%
Unsure	1	2.13%

To establish a rural ward, the boundary lines for Martinborough, Greytown and Featherston will change to fit around each town, with the Rural Ward encompassing the rest of the district. SWDC would then have four general wards.





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Boundaries of Wards and Ward Names

Wards/General Wards	Estimated residential population at 30 June 23		
	Māori Electoral Population	General Electoral Population	Total
Greytown Ward	180	3,880	4,060
Featherston Ward	350	3,320	3,670
Martinborough Ward	370	3,780	4,150
Total	900	10,980	11,880

Stats: population estimates Statistics. These estimates are provisional and subject to revision. They are consistent with the subnational population estimates released in October 2023.



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Rural Ward (new)

Consideration for a rural ward needs to included:

- Who is asking for this ward?
- Anyone can stand for a rural ward, having a rural ward doesn't necessary mean that a Farmer or rural person would be the councillor.
- Is there current representation for the rural community at the Council table?
 - Note Federated Farmers submitted to the Enhanced Annual Plan consultation 2024 & spoke to their submission for the rating review in 2023.
 - Note at the workshop last week two councillors voiced concern for the rural community over rating.
 - Note that Enhanced AP consultation included an evening drop-in session with councillors and Federated Farmers.
- The work required to establish a rural ward is massive, requiring GIS assistance for mesh blocks and working with Stats for population data.
- After undertaking this work, there will be no guarantee that this ward will fall within the +/- 10% for representation.



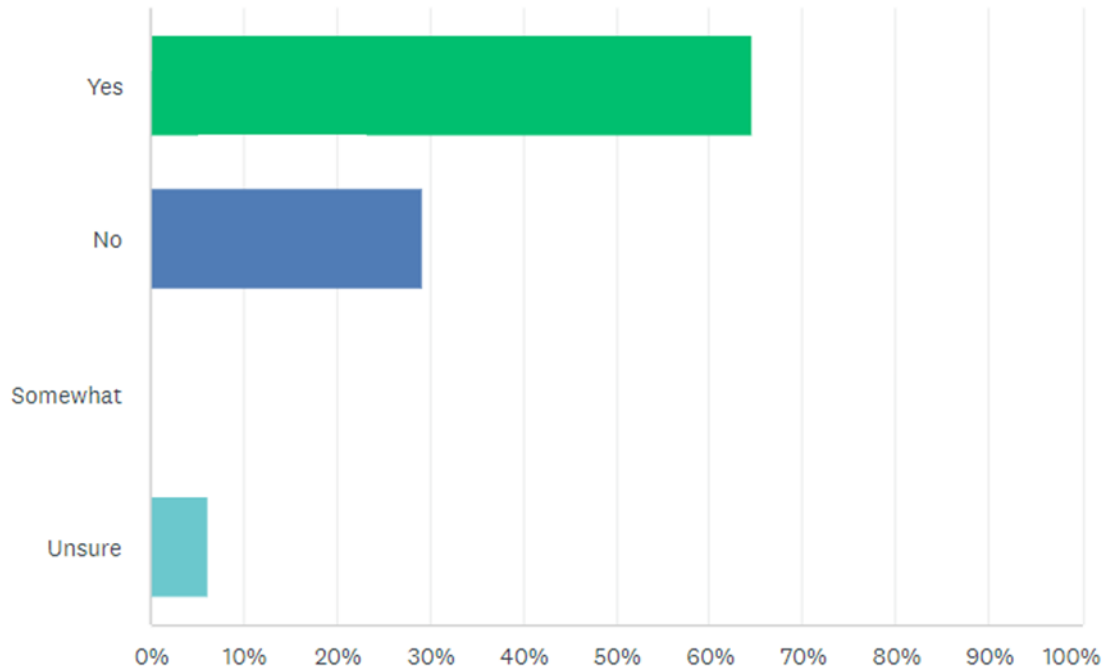
Summary for Representation Options

Representation Decisions required	Current	Change?	+/- 10%
Māori Ward	None	1 Māori Ward for 2025	900
<i>Number of Councillors</i>	<i>9 elected via three wards.</i>	<i>Reduce or stay the same or increase?</i>	
Greytown, Martinborough, Featherston Ward	3 Councillors per ward	Reduce or stay the same?	
At Large	None	Add 1 or 2 at Large (as part of a mixed basis of election)?	
Rural Ward	None	Add	

- Noting that SWDC may have no fewer than 6 members nor more than 30 members
- Noting that SWDC must retain a minimum of 7 ward councillors to retain 1 Māori member.



3. Community Boards



48 people answered the online question: **Should we have Community Boards.** 31 said yes, 14 said no. At least five responses from current community board members.



Community Boards

Consideration for a Community Boards needs to include:

- If Community Boards are removed the Council will need to explain the rationale for this decision.
- If Community Boards are removed the Council will need to indicate how it will provide for effective representation for these communities, eg:
 - Are they already well represented through the ward structure?
 - What are we replacing them with?
 - Participatory Democracy?
- If Community Boards are removed, and support for keeping community boards is expressed during the consultation process then deliberations will need to look at return them to the representation arrangement.



Recommendation based on the following options:

- Current ward boundaries
- New - At Large
- New - Rural
- Community Boards

Option one Status Quo	Option two change	Option three change?
3 Cr Greytown Ward	2 Cr Greytown Ward	
3 Cr Featherston Ward	2 Cr Featherston Ward	
3 Cr Martinborough Ward	2 Cr Martinborough Ward	
1 Cr Māori Ward	1 Cr Māori Ward	
	2 Cr At Large	
= 10 councillors for 2025 and 2028 Triennium	= 9 councillors for 2025 and 2028 Triennium	

Options will be tabled at the Strategy Working Committee 3 July 2024.



What is next?

- Paper coming to **3 July SWC** meeting asking for direction on your preferred option for representation.
- Council officers spend July working through the details of that option and preparing for consultation using SCP.
- **31 July SWC** adopts initial proposal and consultation document.
- Public notification *around 2 August*
- Consultation for the Representation Review runs **5 August – 8 September 2024**
- Hearings are currently scheduled for **18 & 19 September 2024**
- Deliberations are scheduled for **SWC 2 October 2024**.

