



**SOUTH WAIRARAPA
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Kia Reretahi Tātau

AGENDA

Extraordinary Strategy Working Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 2 October 2024

**I hereby give notice that an Extraordinary Strategy Working Committee Meeting
will be held on:**

Date: Wednesday, 2 October 2024

Time: 10:00 am

**Location: Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Texas Street
Martinborough**

**Janice Smith
Chief Executive Officer**

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- 1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – OPENING**
- 2 APOLOGIES**
- 3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**
- 4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND TRIBUTES**
- 5 URGENT BUSINESS**

6 DECISION REPORTS FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STAFF

6.1 REPRESENTATION REVIEW DELIBERATIONS

Author: Nicki Ansell, Lead Advisor, Policy & Projects

Authoriser: Paul Gardner, Group Manager, Corporate Services

File Number: NA

PURPOSE

To inform councillors of the analysis from the Representation Review consultation and ask the Strategy Working Committee to recommend to Council the Final Option for representation at the local body elections in 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consultation on the Initial Proposal for the Representation Review took place between 5 August - 8 September 2024 as outlined in [Part 1A Local Electoral Act 2001](#). A total of 129 submissions have been received and 12 submitters spoke to their submissions on Thursday 19 September.

Full details of all the submissions can be found in the Hearings Agenda Pack. [Representation Review Hearings - Session 2 - SWDC](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

That *the Strategy Working Committee*

1. Receive the Representation Review Deliberations Paper
2. Recommend Option __ to Council, as the Final Proposal for representation, to be made via resolution at the Council meeting 30 October 2024

BACKGROUND

Under the Local Electoral Act, South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) must consider its representation arrangements every six years. A representation review is a process to ensure that our communities are represented at Council fairly and effectively. The review must consider things like how many elected members there are, community boards, ward names and their boundaries. On 31 July 2024, [Strategy Working Committee](#) adopted the Initial Proposal for what representation could look like at the 2025 local government elections.

Included in the Initial Proposal were two changes to the status quo:

- 1) **A reduction in the number of councillors elected through General Wards** (two councillors elected in the Greytown, Featherston & Martinborough ward rather than three)
- 2) **The Introduction of at large representation** (two councillors elected at large by everyone across the district).

Consultation ran 5 August – 8 September 2024 and SWDC asked the community to provide their feedback on the Initial Proposal.

At the Representation Review Hearings, 10 people spoke to their submissions along with the Greytown and Martinborough Community Boards. The common themes included the need for rural representation (a mix of views related to this), support for both retaining and disestablishing community boards, support for at large representation and support to retain three councillors in the general wards.

The [Local Electoral Act](#) identifies three key factors that must be carefully considered by local authorities when determining their representation proposals, namely:

- communities of interest
- effective representation of communities of interest
- fair representation of electors

The term “Communities of Interest” is not defined in legislation but may include factors such a community’s sense of belonging and identity, similarities in the demographic, socio-economic and/or ethnic characteristics of a community, distinct local history, the rohe or takiwā of mana whenua, and dependence on shared facilities in an area.

Councillors now need to consider all submissions and establish if there is anything in the submissions that makes them consider that the initial proposal for representation should be amended. If the Council wishes to amend the Initial Proposal, it can only make changes to representation (in the Final Proposal) based on recommendations from the submissions received.

The Final Proposal is planned to be presented to Council for adoption on 30 October 2024.

DISCUSSION

Consultation Questions:

Out of the 129 submissions received; 65 submissions were online, 20 were physical submission and 44 were via email or letter.

The population data from StatsNZ has the population of South Wairarapa at 11,880. 129 submissions relate to 1.1% feedback from the district. Which although higher than the last representation review consultation, is still very low representation and could indicate that there is no substantial opposition to the initial proposal. By comparison the voter turnout for South Wairarapa at the last local elections was 54.28% of registered voters (excluding special votes).

Details of the Representation Review consultation can be found on the [SWDC website](#) and asked our community the following questions:

- **Are you submitting on behalf of an organisation?**

The Greytown & Martinborough Community Boards provided submissions to the consultation, along with Federated Farmers. All other submissions were from individuals.

- **Which Ward do you live in?**

Martinborough ward	58 submissions	45% of all submissions
Featherston ward	41 submissions	31.8% of all submissions
Greytown ward	19 submissions	14.7% of all submissions
Outside the district	2 submissions	1.6% of all submissions

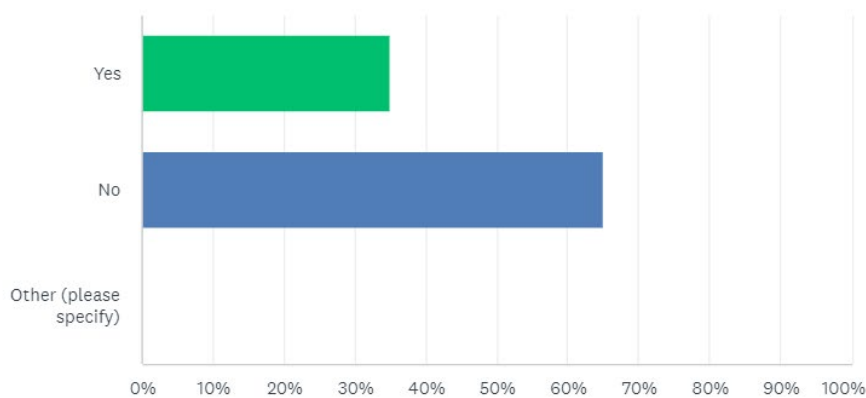
Noting that submissions from Martinborough are slightly overrepresented and Greytown is slightly under represented.

- **Are you enrolled in the General Elector Role or the Māori Electoral role.**

79 of the submissions are on the general role and two are on the Māori electoral role.

Question one: Do you support the Initial Proposal in full?

Answered: 80 Skipped: 4



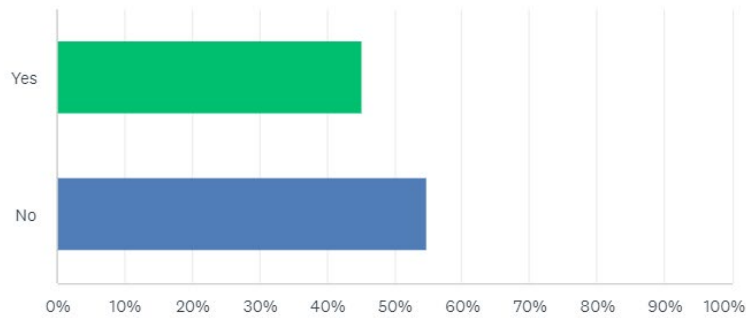
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	35.00%	28
▼ No	65.00%	52
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 0.00%	0
TOTAL		80

80 people answered this question: 28 people answered yes and 52 people answered no.

- From Martinborough ward: 7 people answered yes, and 38 answered no.
- From Featherston ward: 2 people answered yes, and 22 answered no.
- From Greytown ward: 5 people answered yes, and 4 answered no.

If you answered no, do you support the current arrangement?

Answered: 53 Skipped: 31



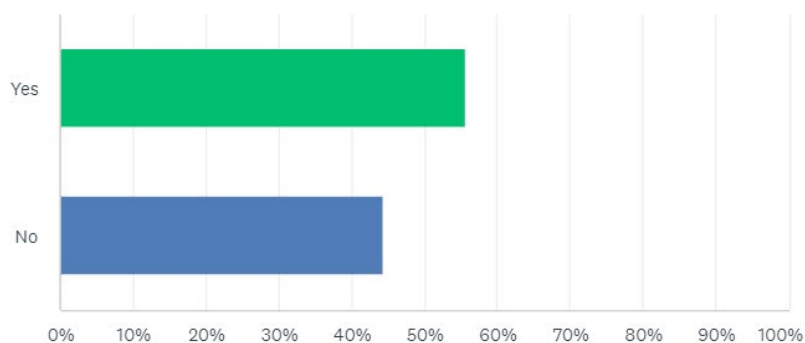
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	45.28%	24
▼ No	54.72%	29
TOTAL		53

53 people answered this question: 24 people answered yes and 29 people answered no.

- From Martinborough ward: 17 people answered yes, and 13 answered no
- From Featherston ward: 5 people answered yes, and 12 answered no
- From Greytown ward: 2 people answered yes, and 2 answered no

Question two: Do you support the proposal to reduce the number of councillors elected through General Wards (Greytown, Featherston & Martinborough).

Answered: 79 Skipped: 5



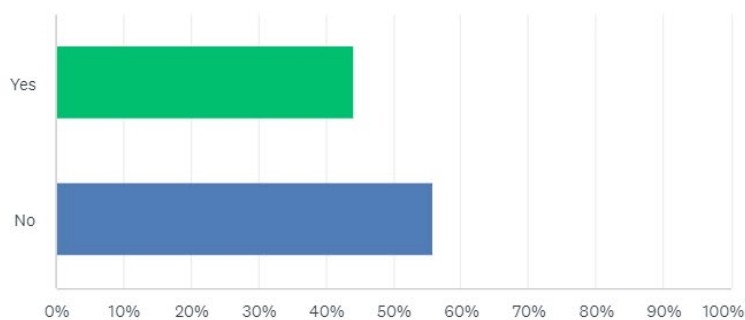
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	55.70%	44
▼ No	44.30%	35
TOTAL		79

79 people answered this question: 44 people answered yes and 35 people said no.

- From Martinborough ward: 22 people answered yes, and 24 answered no
- From Featherston ward: 15 people answered yes, and 7 answered no
- From Greytown ward: 6 people answered yes, and 3 answered no

Question three: Do you support the proposal to introduce two councillors elected at large (across the whole district?)

Answered: 77 Skipped: 7



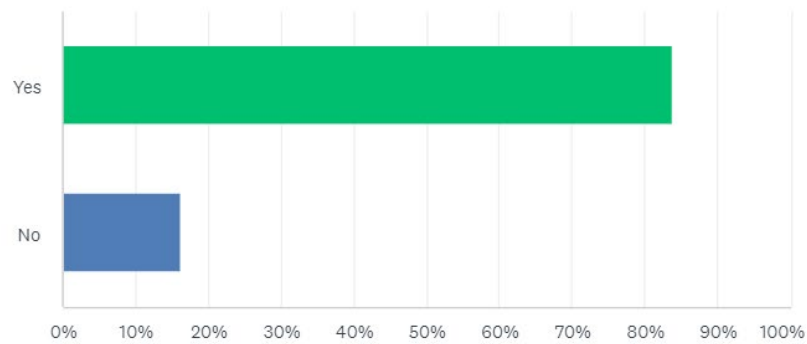
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	44.16% 34
No	55.84% 43
TOTAL	77

77 people answered this question: 34 people answered yes and 43 people answered no.

- From Martinborough ward: 15 people answered yes, and 30 answered no
- From Featherston ward: 11 people answered yes, and 10 answered no
- From Greytown ward: 6 people answered yes, and 3 answered no

Question four: Do you support the proposal to retain existing community boards?

Answered: 80 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	83.75% 67
No	16.25% 13
TOTAL	80

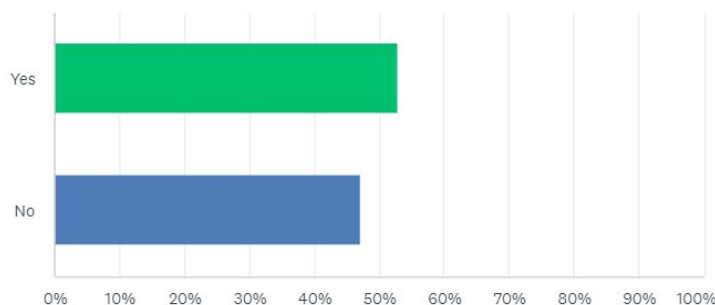
80 people answered this question: 67 people answered yes and 13 people said no.

- From Martinborough ward: 46 people answered yes, and 1 answered no.
- From Featherston ward: 14 people answered yes, and 8 answered no.
- From Greytown ward: 7 people answered yes, and 2 answered no.

Question five: Are there any other forms of representation you would like to see?

72 people answered this question. 38 people answered yes and 34 people said no. Further details on the commentary from this question below.

Answered: 72 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	52.78% 38
No	47.22% 34
TOTAL	72

Question six: Do you have any further feedback on the initial proposal.

39 people answered this questions, further details below.

Commentary from the submissions:

The below is commentary pulled from all submissions around representation. The commentary is themed to help provide targeted feedback to councillors during their deliberations. It includes all written suggestions and questions received in the submissions.

Rural

Rural Themes	Commentary from submissions around Rural Representation
1. The need for rural representation.	<i>Rural is different to urban.</i>
	<i>Representation arrangements for rural communities</i>
	<i>Rural people pay unfair rates. Examples given of the last rates review seeing farm and vineyards having substantial increases. Different rates needed</i>
	<i>Rural representatives would round off all communities being present on the community/ council</i>
	<i>Farmers, rural lifestyle owners. There's a lot of land in SWDC that's owned and operated, yet overall they have very little to say in how SWDC is run, and even less with the central government who over the years have tried to destroy the rural communities.</i>
	<i>More emphasis on our rural ratepayers who make up 3 times more than our Māori ratepayers</i>
2. At large representation providing Rural representation.	<i>It has provided no proper philosophical or social benefits for the change, which seems to come from some disguised attempt to provide more heft to the rural community. Heft that nobody is prepared to stand up and defend.</i>
	<i>While I realise that rural people can stand for wards. I feel a rural ward pay substantially more in rates, perhaps one of the "at large" councillors could be dedicated "rural" - similar to the Māori role.</i>
3. Establishment of a rural ward	<i>The South Wairarapa is comprised of urban and rural communities, while the rural community is currently well represented, this may not always be the case. I would suggest that the "Councillors at Large" be elected from the rural community.</i>
	<i>The establishment of a rural ward there by requiring a rural councillor.</i>
	<i>Three rural councillors. Instead of two councillors at large. One rural representative from each ward.</i>
	<i>A rural ward</i>
	<i>A rural ward would be a start. Landowners, particularly farmers have been paying far too much in rates for far too long. It is dishonest.</i>
4. Number of rural councillors	<i>Concerned if there are two ward councillors and two at large then the rural voice will not be represented. Greater Wellington last week justified their Māori Ward on the basis that Māori had been historically under represented The same logic needs to be apply to rural representation as rural households are paying four times the general rates of urban households. We fully acknowledge the task of redefining boundaries but this is necessary to ensure democracy. We support Jim Hedley and Dan Riddifords submissions for three rural ward representatives on Council.</i>
	<i>Two at large rural wards instead of at large.</i>
	<i>Four rural councillors</i>
	<i>1/3 of the population live rurally. 1/3 of the councillors should be rural</i>
	<i>I would like to alter this proposal. As the rural community is bearing the brunt of an extraordinary tax rate considering they get less for their rates than their urban</i>

Rural Themes	Commentary from submissions around Rural Representation
	<p>ratepayers, I would like to propose that in place of two councillors at large, 3 rural councillors be elected one from each ward</p> <p>We support the introduction of a rural ward councillor per ward</p> <p>A designated rural councillor.</p> <p>There should be provision for at least one (1) rural representative</p>
5. Advisory Board	<p>Rural coastal fringe. Rural, Coastal Advisory Group modelled on MSC. Where ratepayers are nominated.</p> <p>The SWDC was formed from the 3 towns councils and the County Council representing rural. However, the rural voice is often lost. Rural communities are feeling the effects of number of central government policies. Therefore, i support the idea of a rural advisory board to feed information into the council.</p> <p>Maybe have a rural advisory group or committee so that rural people can have a say on rural matters.</p> <p>Council should investigate and establish a rural advisory group so the rural community has a voice available to councillors.</p> <p>We support a Rural and Coastal advisory group being set up with members being appointed by the Councillors to engage with two or three councillors to discuss issues in the rural and coastal areas who would meet formally with an agenda 4-8 times per annum.</p> <p>A rural advisory board /coastal representative is essential.</p>

Formed letter received

Out of the 44 email or letter submissions received, 35 were a form letter (eg the same letter signed by different people). This is 27% of the total submissions.

The main themes of that letter are that rural is different to urban, and that a third of the population in the South Wairarapa live rurally therefore, a third of the Councillors should be rural. The letters are in support for rural wards.

For more details, please see submissions 083 – 128 in the Hearings Agenda Pack. [Representation Review Hearings - Session 2 - SWDC](#)

Status Quo

Status Quo Themes	Commentary from Submissions around Status Quo
1. Not broken, no reason for change.	<p>Martinborough needs the Community Boards Please do not fix something that is not broken</p> <p>I think the status quo is fine.</p> <p>I see no benefit to having a 2-tier system of electing council members. Rather I see the following disadvantages: an inevitable power shift if the council members are elected differently which may cause factions in the council, the 2 at large (district wide) councillors will not be as directly accountable as those elected through wards. Reducing the council members elected from 9 to 8 would increase councillor workload.</p> <p>I'm happy with the status quo for councillors</p> <p>Three councillors from each area for the reasons given above seems to work just as well as any new system(the reasons for which seem less than convincing in terms of providing improved performance).</p>

	<i>I think the status quo as it was at the last election is acceptable and no changes are necessary.</i>
	<i>Stop wasting energy, time, and money on this. The current system is fine</i>
	<i>Don't change something that's not broken. Keep up the good work.</i>
	<i>I think the status quo as it was at the last election is acceptable and no changes are necessary</i>
	<i>Current arrangement plus a rural advisory board. I think a reduction in the number of councillors elected in the wards (to enable the election of 2 at large councillors) will not benefit the towns they represent. Reduce opportunities for a more diverse representation in each ward. The initial proposal to change representation could also invariably lead to social inequality.</i>
2.Status Quo + Māori Ward	<i>I support 3 ward members per ward, one Mayor plus one Māori ward member. Local govt is facing many challenges now and this will increase as increasing demands are made under decreasing resources - ie money. Decreasing ward representation places greater demands on elected representatives. I believe two ward members is insufficient. Martinborough is a huge geographical ward with three areas - Ngawi, Tora and Martinborough Town.</i>
	<i>I consider the previous arrangement to have been satisfactory and do not believe that any changes are required, with the exception of the Māori ward which needs to be voted on rather than being slipped in.</i>
	<i>Keep it simple, elect councillors in your own ward only, Featherston, Greytown, Martinborough or Māori. Then elect mayor across the district. Add Māori ward to the current arrangement.</i>
	<i>I definitely support a Māori ward and I want that retained. So if we are to achieve and retain a Māori ward we have no option but to accept 2 reps in each ward plus 2 at large and 1 Māori ward plus 1 mayor. The council is between a rock and a hard place! I would prefer to retain the status quo with the Māori ward being an additional member - chance would be a fine things!</i>
	<i>The introduction of a Māori ward should not see the dilution of one towns representation. A Māori ward should be added to the existing system.</i>
	<i>Keep the existing structure and add an extra seat at the table for the Māori ward. Don't over complicate the process to keep the number of councillors the same but extend the representation.</i>

At Large Representation

At Large Themes	Commentary from Submissions around At Large Representation
1. Support for at large to allow all to vote	<i>After attending a drop in and understanding that there are rules preventing us voting in the other Wards I agree that this is a good (legal) compromise</i>
	<i>I believe you need the right person to stand in council and remove the wards. There may be 4 or 5 good candidates in Greytown but you can only vote on 3. Open up the wards for the best 9 available to represent SWDC</i>
	<i>It would be great to be able to vote in all Wards. We are really becoming one area and this adds division.</i>
	<i>I am assuming people on the Māori role can vote for the mayor, Māori ward and 2 councillors at large? Not much incentive currently to be on the Māori role.</i>
2. More "At Large" Representation	<i>move to more at large councillors is a step in right direction in uniting the district - plus introduction of rural ward</i>
	<i>would prefer more at large and one rural</i>

At Large Themes	Commentary from Submissions around At Large Representation
	<p><i>However I think it should be 3 councillors at large to represent rural and other interests . I strongly object to the establishment of a Māori Ward when it is imposed on us by the unilateral and I democratic action of our Council</i></p> <p><i>11 counsellors elected across the entire district, elected by total vote across the district. Thus, being responsible to the entire district. This prevents the current situation in which the ward counsellors are partial to their specific voters. In addition, a Māori counsellor, elected by those within the district who have chosen to be on the Māori roll for the general election.</i></p> <p><i>There should be 3 councillors elected at large. SWDC must follow the Government direction to either conduct a referendum on the establishment of a Māori Ward, or abolish it forthwith since it was an undemocratic last minute creation that attempts to avoid scrutiny.</i></p>
3. More information required	<p><i>I have seen no detailed comment, explanation or justification for the "at large" councillors, and no explanation or reasoning as to why the current system is inefficient or otherwise faulty</i></p> <p><i>What is the point of them?</i></p> <p><i>The "at large" proposition has not been explained or in any way supported in the representation review notes provided so far</i></p> <p><i>What is the point here? Info and reasoning would be helpful.</i></p>
4 Support for at large for district wide representation.	<p><i>It should be pointed out that although local ward representation may appear to be reduced, we would also be represented by the 'at large' councillors, who have district wide responsibilities and will likely be able to balance local ward interests against the interests of the district as whole.</i></p> <p><i>Think its good to start thinking of the district as one rather than three distinct areas. It will position us stronger for future amalgamation conversations</i></p> <p><i>This is an excellent idea, and should give comfort to our more rural and remote residents who feel under represented by the current system.</i></p> <p><i>General feedback - moving to more at large councillors would be progressive towards becoming a more cohesive district rather than separate towns - amalgamation is very much a point of discussion amongst the Martinborough Community, people who were very against it last time it was raised are now suggesting it is perhaps time to revisit this as an option - Thank you</i></p>
5. Not supportive of at large representation	<p><i>Elected members need to represent a constituency.</i></p> <p><i>I don't support this proposal as elected at large have no affinity or connection to any part of the community and so could disrupt sound decision making by focusing on very narrow narratives</i></p> <p><i>This could lead to an imbalance towards any of the 3 towns.</i></p> <p><i>No sure how this would benefit the overall council decisions (as they do seem a little odd), if these two are within a single ward, then a wards seat could be as low as two seats to a maximum of four, which can prove a bias in voting, or even 5 if they are all from the same ward as the mayor!</i></p> <p><i>I am not convinced that this arrangement will enhance the effectiveness of the council.</i></p> <p><i>I believe the proposed arrangement will introduce an extra layer of complication that has no clear benefits and will likely confuse people.</i></p> <p><i>This seems excessive on top of the two from each general ward proposed.</i></p> <p><i>Who are the at large councillors responsible to? Change for the sake of change, unlikely to result in better real world governance outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>I cannot see the utility of councillors at large.</i></p> <p><i>It's hard enough to get information about mayoral candidates across the 3 centres and rural areas. It becomes much harder if you include 2 councillors at</i></p>

At Large Themes	Commentary from Submissions around At Large Representation
	<p><i>large as any type of public recognition is little and it makes more sense for people to run in their respective ward rather than at large. You end up with 3 elections, mayoral, at large and within ward. What happens if 3 people run in a ward and only 1 person runs at large. Can you cross fill the vacancy or do you run a by election. Can you run in a ward, at large and for mayor. If you are elected at large how will you be helped and remunerated as you a larger area to represent and greater number of constituents who see you as their home representative. Regardless of how it is portrayed 8 non Māori ward representatives will mean one town is less represented or one town could have 4 representatives which could bias decisions against the under representation town, either deliberately or unconscious bias.</i></p>

Number of Cr per Ward – Under the [Local Electoral Act 2001](#), Part 1A member of a territorial authority consists of not fewer than 6 members and no more than 30 members.

Number of Cr Themes	Commentary from Submission around the number of Councillors
1. Support for 1 Cr per General Ward	<p><i>Just have 3 councillors...one for each ward; and stop wasting rate payers money!</i></p>
2. Support for 2 Cr per General Wards.	<p><i>I don't think you need more than 2 - you just need 2 good ones rather than more.</i></p> <p><i>Should reduce even further</i></p> <p><i>Further reduce it to one councillor per ward. If they are competent, they would fully be able to do the job of the current 9!</i></p> <p><i>I would reduce further to 3. 1 representative for each ward.</i></p> <p><i>There are to many councillors</i></p>
3. Support for 3 Cr per General Ward	<p><i>I think we should keep three Councillors from each ward and one Māori ward councillor</i></p> <p><i>I feel that 2 representatives from each ward is not enough to reflect the differing views from their local ward.</i></p> <p><i>Less councillors will cause less representation and reduce the range of skills and experiences presented by the current number of councillors</i></p> <p><i>Lost representation for each town. Change for the sake of change, unlikely to result in better real world governance outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>The south Wairarapa is a huge geographical area with different needs and populations across that area. Because of this I think three counsellors provide more effective representation than two. I also disagree with the refusal to revisit Māori representation which should have gone to public consultation with arguments for both sides presented and then to a vote. If the council was confident they have made the correct decisions and are truly representing the views of their constituents then this should not be a problem. What are you afraid of?</i></p> <p><i>My preference would be for three ward members, one treaty partner, and five members elected at large (with Council choosing one of the at-large members to represent the district as Mayor). I see ward members giving their local community a 'voice at council,' whereas councillors elected by the district would have portfolio responsibilities and leadership roles. This is appropriate because they have been elected by District. If candidates are clear about their strengths/interests, they can decide whether to stand in a ward or at large.</i></p> <p><i>I believe more councillors would give greater representation throughout the district, not less.</i></p>

Number of Cr Themes	Commentary from Submission around the number of Councillors
4. Support for reduction if something else was in place.	<i>Would only support the reduction of councillors in the general ward if there is one rural councillor per ward, keeping representation at 10 councillors including the Māori ward.</i>
	<i>3 councillors for the three general wards and 3 councillors in the Māori ward. No at large Councillors.</i>
	<i>Three councillors for each of the general wards and three from the Māori Ward seems equitable.</i>
5. Further information required	<i>I don't know enough about it, what are the proposed benefits?</i>
	<i>I don't think your description is correct, the proposal states 7 ward councilors from the three wards, basically 2 per ward plus an additional (where from no idea!). So I'm confused as to where you get the three from each ward, totaling 9 over the three wards</i>

Community Boards

Community Board Themes	Commentary from Submissions around Community Boards
1. Keep but change to the way Community Board operate. Note the role of the Community Boards falls outside the scope of the Representation Review. Delegation is set by Council under the Local Government Act 2002 .	<i>Provided that community boards are retained, given more authority/power. It would mean more work/mahi for the two ward councillors. We need more information on the role/kaupapa of the at large councillors - we need to be reassured ward councillors do not morph into "parish pumps" narrow focused/parochial persons/representatives.</i>
	<i>I also feel that Community Boards should have a more defined role but that the SWDC must strongly affect the needs of a whole SWDC, wo we are in a stronger position should the question of amalgamation arise</i>
	<i>I would hope that current community boards do the 'enhanced' job. Maybe this should be better resourced. Good line to take further. Rural advisory group – don't we have one? If not, then definitely a good idea. And building relationships with business associations.</i>
	<i>Provided there is a balance. All councillors must remain well informed/capable of making informed decision on rohe/district wide priority issues. Community Boards need more substantial mahi/work decision making in view of reduction of ward councillors.</i>
	<i>But only if their purpose was clearly defined. We do not want the Council to be divided by petty parochialism. Neither do we want one ward shown preference over other as has been obvious in the past.</i>
	<i>Yes, but empower community boards more.</i>
	<i>To save costs, the honorarium should be removed, and formal meetings should be reduced to those required for governance and community funding rounds. Continue to encourage the Community Board's participation in workshops and engagement activities. Provide administrative resources to enable Ward members and Community Boards to make submissions on issues affecting their communities.</i>
	<i>With greater powers to feedback to council and council staff. AND with a clear position description setting out the expectations of the members.</i>
	<i>give more "teeth" to community boards. The other option is a residential advisory committee is a worthwhile one providing it didn't/doesn't diminish the mana/mahi/work of a community board.</i>
	<i>I agree that the workload requires 8-10 elected Councillors. I'd like to see ward councillors' roles include advocacy on community issues, e.g., assisting the Community Board with written submissions on annual and long-term plans,</i>

Community Board Themes	Commentary from Submissions around Community Boards
	<p><i>spatial plans, district plans, large community-driven projects, major decision papers, etc. Administrative resources currently allocated to community boards could be used to support the ward's elected members. I would like to see a ward councillor propose or second recommendations on decision papers affecting just their ward. I want to know that ward councillors are fully across the issues affecting their communities</i></p> <p><i>Again more info about what the boards currently are and how they function</i></p>
<p>2. Reduction to the number of elected members on Community Boards</p> <p>Note under the Local Electoral Act 2001 s19F Membership of Community Boards must consist of at least 4 elected members.</p>	<p><i>Three elected members per community board (not four)</i></p> <p><i>Four is too many considering there wasn't enough people standing.</i></p> <p><i>I think the Community Board does a great job, particularly in Martinborough. I feel however that there are too many members for the size of the population meaning that people get on without needing to be elected. It would make more sense for each Community Board to be made up of 3 members and one Councillor.</i></p> <p><i>I fully support the implementation of a Māori Ward and commend SWDC on it's consultation with relevant iwi/partners to establish one. Let's hope we can keep it well in to the future. What I do not agree with is when voting under the current system, those on the general electoral role get 4 votes (ie. 3 in their ward + 1 for Mayor) and those on the Māori electoral role only get 2 votes (1 in the Māori ward and 1 for Mayor). How is that fair that General Role voters get twice as many votes? Why should we be restricted to who we can vote for according to which electoral role you are on? Everyone should have the same amount of votes and freedom to vote for whoever they choose regardless of which electoral role they are on. If you are on the General Role and like a candidate in the Māori Ward, then you should be able to vote for them and vice versa - if you are on the Māori Role and would like to vote for a candidate in your general ward then you should be able to vote them as well.</i></p>
<p>3. Support for Community Boards</p>	<p><i>Community boards are more accessible</i></p> <p><i>The Pain Estate bequest requires an 'oversight' role by the Martinborough Community Board.</i></p> <p><i>They are the committee that look after 'the people of Martinborough' they are "representation" that we can go to re "the pain farm management" This asset for the benefit of the people of Martinborough.</i></p> <p><i>Keeping current boards will compensate for any "loss" of ward representation. Boards could become more significant.</i></p> <p><i>With three distinct and discrete communities, is essential that the concerns and aspirations of each community are heard and explored and not just lost in "general business". I have had experience only with the Martinborough community board, but have found that board to be highly accessible and responsive</i></p> <p><i>I would previously have said no but the Martinborough Community Board did an excellent job in retrieving the pain farm money, with the aid of the CEO.</i></p> <p><i>It is essential to keep the community boards for the following reason: when there is an ineffective council who do not consult and listen to the community, they are able to act on our behalf. It is a way community members can engage in their councils and a stepping stone to be involved at ward level and/or stand for mayor.</i></p> <p><i>I believe we hear a great deal from our Community Board in Martinborough. They respond to local issues but are also pro-active. The Pain Farm issue is a good example of diligent community representation. I support and endorse all of the boards activities as outlined in the August STAR.</i></p>

Community Board Themes	Commentary from Submissions around Community Boards
	<p><i>They all seem to be working well</i></p> <p><i>Community boards are essential for the flow of information between council and the rate payer.</i></p> <p><i>They are doing a good job</i></p> <p><i>I strongly support the retention of community boards. The Greytown community board in this triennium has been strongly supportive of conservation (Arbor Day) and heritage (Memorial Gates). Projects I have been involved with.</i></p> <p><i>Community Boards are essential to ensure accurate information is gathered in each local board area.</i></p> <p><i>Community Boards are essential in hearing the community voice and representing/supporting their views to Council.</i></p> <p><i>Fully support and they play a key role in first point of contact for local issues.</i></p> <p><i>This is how the community gets heard!</i></p> <p><i>The community boards are an integral component of democracy at the local level</i></p> <p><i>The community boards general have a closer relationship with residents (ratepayers). They provide a platform for residents to provide feedback on issue to council.</i></p> <p><i>They do an amazing job, which can be seen by the number of results achieved through their hard work in represents at council level. Also, highly visible in our community, closely working with many groups and individuals.</i></p>
	<p><i>Community Boards have the ability to work in a less formal manner - they are often more accessible to their community on a daily basis. They can support the work of both their councillors and the council, a good working relationship and communication channels is conducive to a beneficial outcome for the communities they serve</i></p> <p><i>Latest Martinborough Community Board members have communicated well and kept the residents of Martinborough fully informed and are readily available</i></p> <p><i>The Martinborough Community Board is an excellent example of a small group consistently supporting and acting on behalf of its community, and a group undertaking actions which not only support but also challenge - correctly - key council actions. In other words the MCB is doing the job required of it, and for which it was elected.</i></p> <p><i>They are the voice for the community when the councillors are to arrogant, or ignorant, to listen.</i></p> <p><i>Who else can represent the public, as the council do not seem to listen to the actual people paying the rates. Someone needs to make the council accountable for their actions and process. A good example if the recent Paine farm fiasco by the SWDC in poor management etc., I wonder how long this would have gone on for without intervention from the community board and local people?</i></p> <p><i>I believe this is the right place to have particular interests represented be that the rural perspective, Māori perspective etc.</i></p> <p><i>It is good to have to enable anyone to speak to when they are concerned about something in the community The public need someone to address any issues to and are far less likely to address the council directly.</i></p> <p><i>I'm happy with the status quo for community boards</i></p> <p><i>Because it is already a functioning system, don't mess with it.</i></p>

Community Board Themes	Commentary from Submissions around Community Boards
	<p><i>It's a no brainer. Community boards are effectively mandated by the local government act and are under utilised by Swdc. On one hand councillors complain they have so much to do for little pay and then you say remove an effective body for each ward and load up the councillors with more work. This proposal is nonsensical.</i></p> <p><i>The Council shows , by their continual behaviour, that they choose to ignore public opinion .. Without Community Boards to question and moderate Council behaviour I dread to think what would happen</i></p> <p><i>The community needs to be able feed into the council.</i></p> <p><i>It is essential we retain community boards and Māori ward representation. Our population will increase and we will need good, strong representation for local government to be relevant. Less is not always best or more cost effective.</i></p>
<p>4. Change to representation</p>	<p><i>Remove the general wards and instead have community boards.</i></p> <p><i>I support them for now but in four years in the area, I'm yet to see what my board in Greytown actually does. I may vote no next time if their work is still invisible.</i></p> <p><i>I support their retention for now, but with caveats. It all depends on the energy and ethos of the members. The current Martinborough community board is highly visible and doing a great job, with several practical initiatives undertaken. This has not always been the case previously. I don't know how Greytown and Featherston residents feel about theirs. In Greytown it appears difficult to find people willing to serve on the community board. I suggest that if insufficient candidates are forthcoming to fill all CB positions in any of the 3 communities, then the CB be put into recess for the next triennium. Can we, and should we, afford community boards? We already have good council representation. I suggest community boards are an expensive luxury that we will not want to keep long term.</i></p> <p><i>I'm always loathe to establish yet another committee or advisory group that may achieve little. An Enhanced Community Board that builds on an existing structure could get to work quickly and be a stronger voice for the community.</i></p>
<p>5. Not in support of Community Boards</p>	<p><i>I've never voted for community boards because I think they are useless and they don't do a good job. Just need to look around the town - its disgusting, we need to do away with them. We voted Cr in to run this town. We voted Cr in to do these jobs.</i></p> <p><i>they are a waste of money</i></p> <p><i>I am afraid I question this entity as a big picture. I see this as an entity that is for the benefit of the district as a contact point for all things council to take pressure off and to advocate for council but also to get feedback to stream back on concerns. While also reading engagement so instead of mass pushback at certain times the community goes on a journey, not this is specific to my former district. What I see is too much tension within, battle between the two entities which is of no benefit for the people. I know there is good intention but I vote against in the hope ultimately we get a better system for the public, and people in positions that are there to represent all.</i></p> <p><i>I think it's time to remove these. It's a small TA and the Councillors should be able to represent the local issues well enough.</i></p> <p><i>I served two terms on the Greytown Community Board a while back, latterly as Chair. The utility of the GCB was questionable then and more so now. There is very limited engagement from community members and community groups. Most GCB activity is handing out small amounts of discretionary funds and receiving interminable officer reports. I appreciate that the Community Boards</i></p>

Community Board Themes	Commentary from Submissions around Community Boards
	<p>were set up as a sop after the last local government reorganisation but their time is past, and the resources of time and money required to run them could be better used. The two local Councillors currently on each of the Community Boards could more profitably spend their time actually talking to community groups or holding occasional workshops for community engagement.</p> <p>I don't see the value add. The towns are already represented through the ward councillors. District is too small to support that many members. We are small towns and our ward councillors are accessible enough as it is. It feels like they these boards are just in place because its what's always been done but its time to look at what best serves us for future. Times are tough economically and the boards surely have a cost to sustain. Could easily replace them with resident associations, community forums or other arrangements</p>
	<p>More costs with council already overloaded with meetings and staff reports. If Marty councillors had done their job Pain farm would have been sorted a long time ago. The increase in the internal charging from SWDC is based on a percentage to run the council business with internal costs rising so does the percentage against all work flows</p>

Other Forms of representation which fall outside the scope of the Representation Review.

Other Themes	Commentary from Submissions on other forms of representation
<p>1. Council</p>	<p>None would be better. The whole lots of them are of no use to us</p> <p>My suggestion is to cut out the middle-man (councillors) and instead have the 'paepae' of contracted experts who then liaise with community boards and hapū</p> <p>I wonder of effective the council and mayor are to be honest, the wastewater processing issues, poor roading, extremely high-rate increases, which doesn't align to the services the population is receiving from SWDC</p> <p>The initial proposal seems a solution in search of a problem. The council has already done enough to undermine my belief in local government by its underhanded treatment of the ELECTED mayor.</p> <p>I wonder of effective the council and mayor are to be honest, the wastewater processing issues, poor roading, extremely high-rate increases, which doesn't align to the services the population is receiving from SWDC</p> <p>It would be good to allocate specific areas of responsibility to each councillor, such as rural communities and urban areas.</p> <p>The current Mayor should have had the decency to relinquish his role when a vote of no confidence was agreed by councillors and a by-election held. Laughing stock of the Wairarapa.</p> <p>Mayor elected by Councillors</p>
	<p>We need local councils to be allowed to generate revenue (other than relying solely on rates) to pay for skyrocketing sub-standard contracts (roading etc).</p>
<p>2. Panel of experts:</p> <p>Notes Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, this option is not possible.</p>	<p>Most councillors have other full-time jobs, so cannot invest whole-heartedly into these, almost insurmountable challenges. And with the current Nationwide infrastructure and punitive rates rises occurring, we need innovative people who have the expertise and resources to find solutions - fast. We need a panel of experts to make informed decisions based on their expertise, but who can also be held accountable.</p>

Other Themes	Commentary from Submissions on other forms of representation
	<p><i>Again, I believe this should be a structure of contracted experts who specialise in district wide management of social and environmental equity, Iwi representatives, youth, infrastructure, law, business etc. Do away with councillors but empower the community boards to be the local conduit feeders to the 'Paepae' of contracted experts and build on those relationships</i></p>
<p>3. Representation</p>	<p><i>Councillors which involve people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders will bring a more diverse aspect to the meetings, hence less councillors will reduce this variation</i></p> <p><i>We need people who live in the district to represent us: not outsiders.</i></p> <p><i>The Council should stick to the bare services. Elected Councillors should be the watchdogs to report back to rate payers. Therefore, Councillors should be elected by rate payers to represent particular interests. For instance, land owners paying disproportionate and extortionate rates need specific representation to redress this historical anomaly.</i></p> <p><i>Citizens Assemblies have been used in parts of Europe - in particular - to hugely beneficial effect. In Ireland and France and in parts of England these ad hoc groups of citizens have provided solutions to major issues which the politicians have either refused to address or botched the job. So, in Wairarapa, a Citizen's Assembly, carefully and correctly established according to the well-established rules - and properly and fully resourced ala the above examples - could take on the long-unresolved amalgamation task confronting the region's district councils for the past half century. But, abandoned each time almost at the first hurdle.</i></p> <p><i>Volunteer groups. Improved engagement with community.</i></p> <p><i>No..we have far too much representation and not enough accountability</i></p> <p><i>No I think younger councillors would be highly beneficial for age diversity and more women and diverse ethnicity.</i></p> <p><i>The council is doing an excellent job of engaging the community. Unless you can define a 'community of interest,' I am wary of creating situations where non-elected people have a 'voice at the table.' I am strongly against special interest or lobby groups participating in Council workshops.</i></p> <p><i>No..we have far too much representation and not enough accountability</i></p> <p><i>The proposal does nothing to ensure an actual democracy, one person, one vote across the District. It simply enhances the potential for partiality and block voting. Responsibility to the WHOLE district SHOULD mean decisions taken with the benefit of the district in mind, not merely t=a particular fiefdom.</i></p>
<p>5. Need for change</p> <p>Note: These suggestions fall outside of the scope of the Representation Review, however, can be feedback towards the LTP.</p>	<p><i>Change needs to be made for more efficient representation and to reduce admin costs.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to see effective, informed, transparent and responsible councillors across the board</i></p> <p><i>I think council has already lost its social licence, needs a good reset by clearing out everyone and going back to people for votes</i></p> <p><i>We need a bigger overview of our partner Wellington Water as they will not hit this years budget as they do not have the resources yet rate payers have been rated against this.</i></p> <p><i>Listening to the Community and thinking more how the impacts of decisions have on everyone. The rates need to be re addressed as the impacts on the community are massive! Also, what is happening with the waste and water problem that seems to be having a huge impact on future development of</i></p>

Other Themes	Commentary from Submissions on other forms of representation
	<p><i>Martinborough. The waste that is earmarked to be spread over Pain Farm needs to be rectified to, NOT ACCEPTABLE!!!</i></p> <p><i>While all these things are deemed necessary, the councils clear focus must be on our water issues, what is to be done and how it is to be paid for. I trust the council is having critical dialogues with the relevant members of parliament.</i></p> <p><i>Make what we have work better for the good of us all.</i></p> <p><i>Be good to have a better process for dealing with issues at SWDC. eg calling about issues around the town and need feedback and completion</i></p> <p><i>SWDC should avoid scope creep. Perhaps re-designate the Chief Executive as Town Clerk to bring the organisation back to reality!</i></p> <p><i>Just be a council - focus on basics, not trying to change the whole system.</i></p> <p><i>I feel there needs to be a big shake up to change the way things are done around here.</i></p> <p><i>Keen to see Council do one thing and do it well. Get good workers.</i></p> <p><i>We need local councils to be allowed to generate revenue (other than relying solely on rates) to pay for skyrocketing sub-standard contracts (roading etc).</i></p>
<p>8.Engagement suggestions</p> <p>Note: These suggestions fall outside of the scope of the Representation Review, however can be feedback towards the LTP</p>	<p><i>There should be feedback on the ward of Hinekura, Tora, The South Coast, Pirinoa, RuakokoPatuna, Dry River etc.</i></p> <p><i>Council to provide more opportunities for face to face public engagements eg public meetings. Ensure that public communications are responded to.</i></p> <p><i>You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink but I still don't think we are braking things down enough to enable people to feel engaged.</i></p> <p><i>Council pop ups/ drop in offices. Outside of meetings or consultation. Two people (safety) hybrid in other locations (not just the 3 towns either) on different days.</i></p> <p><i>public forums/community focus groups - round table open discussions earlier in the consultation processes - checking proposals in the documents are well worded/easily understood - we often work with wording that becomes familiar to elected members and staff but this is not the case for the end user. Community Boards could be utilised to support this</i></p> <p><i>Council Meetings could be held at different venues not just in Martinborough</i></p> <p><i>I am sure there is a reason why council engagement and school communities are not linked but it seems like a missed opportunity.</i></p> <p><i>Whatever the final decision is one thing the council should do is improve its communication process with ratepayers</i></p> <p><i>It is wrong for council staff to make decisions without letting ratepayers of what they are intending change especially if something is going to cost the ratepayer</i></p>
<p>9.Commissioner</p> <p>Note: The appointment of a commissioner to a Council is a different process to the Representation Review.</p>	<p><i>The current situation with our council and mayor is not what residents voted for and as such the council should have called in a commissioner to manage affairs until a sound resolution was reached</i></p> <p><i>I'd like the opportunity to vote for the option to have our local council entirely replaced by commissioners appointed by the minister for local government on each ballot</i></p> <p><i>The rating base needs to be bigger to pay for governance services. We do not have the infrastructure to increase it. Should we look at amalgamation or appointing a Commissioner?</i></p>
<p>10. Amalgamation</p>	<p><i>Yes...amalgamate and stop the duplication of efforts in three small wards!</i></p>

Other Themes	Commentary from Submissions on other forms of representation
11. More information needed	<i>Please send information regarding what was mentioned, it would make these submissions more useful and successful if there was the necessary information provided at the start or within the survey.</i>
	<i>The information provided to us via written media and Council reports has been thoroughly muddled.</i>
12. In Support	<i>It's an improvement</i>
	<i>it's a good constructive proposal. Congratulations to the council.</i>

OPTIONS

Option 1: Recommend Initial Proposal to Council (Preferred Option)

That the Strategy Working Committee recommend to Council that the Initial Proposal is confirmed without amendment as the Final Proposal for representation at the 2025 and 2028 local elections. And that the Strategy Working Committee recommend the establishment of a Rural/Coastal Advisory Group to represent our coastal and rural communities.

Noting that the outcome of the Māori Ward poll will be binding for the 2028 local election.

This option is recommended as the feedback received does not warrant significant change (including changing boundary lines to establish a rural ward). While there were 65% of people who said no to the Initial Proposal (35% said yes), there were many varying views why and many suggestions for alternative representation.

The initial proposal includes the following communities of interest, and no new communities of interest were strongly identified during the consultation.

Representation	Communities of Interest
Greytown General Ward	Comprising of two elected members who can advocate for the unique character and needs of Greytown
Featherston General Ward	Comprising of two elected members who can advocate for the unique character and needs of Featherston
Martinborough General Ward	Comprising of two elected members who can advocate for the unique character and needs of Martinborough
Māori Ward	Comprising of one elected member who can advocate for our Māori community, our Māori history and mana whenua
Rural Advisory Group	Comprising of appointed representatives from the rural community who can advocate at Council.

StatsNZ population data shows that the population per member ratios for the three general wards remain fully compliant with the +/- 10% requirement for the population per member ratio:

Ward	Population	Members	Pop per member	Difference from quota	% diff from quota
Greytown General Ward	3,880	2	1,940	110	6.01
Featherston General Ward	3,320	2	1,660	-170	-9.29
Martinborough General Ward	3,780	2	1,890	60	3.28
Total General Wards	10,980	6	1,830		

Ward	Population	Members	Pop per member	Difference from quota	% diff from quota
South Wairarapa Māori Ward	900	1	900		
At Large	11,880	2			
Total	11,880	9			

The above calculation is set out in Schedule 19(V) of the Local Electoral Act 2001

Option 2: Change Initial Proposal

To recommend that Council consider a change from the Initial Proposal to the Final Proposal, and for that change to be considered as the Final Proposal for representation at the Council meeting 30 October 2024. These changes would come into effect for the 2025 local elections.

- Note that there can be no change to the Māori Ward as it falls outside the scope of the Representation Review.
- Note that work would need to be undertaken to ensure the population per member ratios for the below options remains fully compliant with the +/-10% requirements for population.

Based on the feedback received from the 129 submissions, these are the range of options for consideration under the representation review.

Option 2: A-D	Representation	How it could look
Option A And/Or	Establish Rural Ward	<i>Expensive work would need to be undertaken to change boundary lines and check compliance under the Act.</i>
Option B Or	Reduce the number of Councillors per Ward AND Increase the number of Councillors At Large	4x Ward Councillors (General & Māori) 5x At Large Councillors + the Mayor
Option C	Reinstate to the current 2022 representation arrangement (Status Quo)	10x Ward Councillors (General & Māori) + the Mayor
Option D	Disestablish Community Boards	

Note options A – C are representation for Council and option D is for Community Boards. Except for option C (status Quo), there is an element of pick and mix for the representation options that elected members will need to consider.

CONSIDERATIONS

The Representation Review process is governed by the [Local Electoral Act 2001](#) with the Local Government Commission acting as the authority charged with making the final decision on arrangements. Statutory requirements are extensive and are provided for in the Act, with the review process set out in section 19M(3) of the Act. Each local authority needs to consider all submissions received and must be able to demonstrate that it has done this by providing reasons for the acceptance or rejection of submissions, or else the initial proposal needs to be retained. It is important to carefully consider the following issues and to record detailed reason for all decisions relating to:

- Identification of communities of interest

- Basis of elections
- Retention of community boards
- Provision of fair and effective representation (+/-10% rule) and specific grounds for not complying.

The Local Electoral Act 2001 (19N) prescribes the dates by which the various steps in the review process must occur, including that the local authority must give public notice of its “final” proposal eight weeks after the closing date of submissions (which was 8 September 24).

Further statutory requirements are provided for under the [Local Government Act 2002](#), in particular s.14 which requires councils to make itself aware of, and have regard to, the views of all its communities take account of the diversity of the community’s interests.

Financial Impact

There will be a financial impact if the final proposal includes Rural Wards. There would be significant work to establish a Rural Ward, which would need to be outsourced due limited resources with LTP work.

Climate Change

There are no positive or negative effects on climate change from this decision.

CONCLUSION

Strategy Working Committee needs to consider all submissions received and either recommend the Initial Proposal be retained without amendment or suggest changes to the Initial Proposal, based on submissions. In doing so, Councillors must provide reasons for the acceptance or rejection of submissions.

COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

Compliance requirement	Staff assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy	This is a matter of medium significance.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the	This report complies with the Local Government Act 2002 and the Electoral Act 2001.

Compliance requirement	Staff assessment
Long Term Plan) that relate to this decision.	
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water.	The following implications for Māori include: We did receive submissions on Māori Wards but these were excluded as they are out of scope for this consultation process. Submissions, appeals and objections cannot be made on Councils decision to establish Māori wards. These are decisions of council made prior to the hearings and deliberations of the representation review.
Chief Financial Officer review	The Chief Financial Officer has not reviewed this report.
State the possible implications for health and safety	There are no direct implications on individual's health and safety, however it is noted this is an important topic for some people.

APPENDICES

Nil

7 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING