

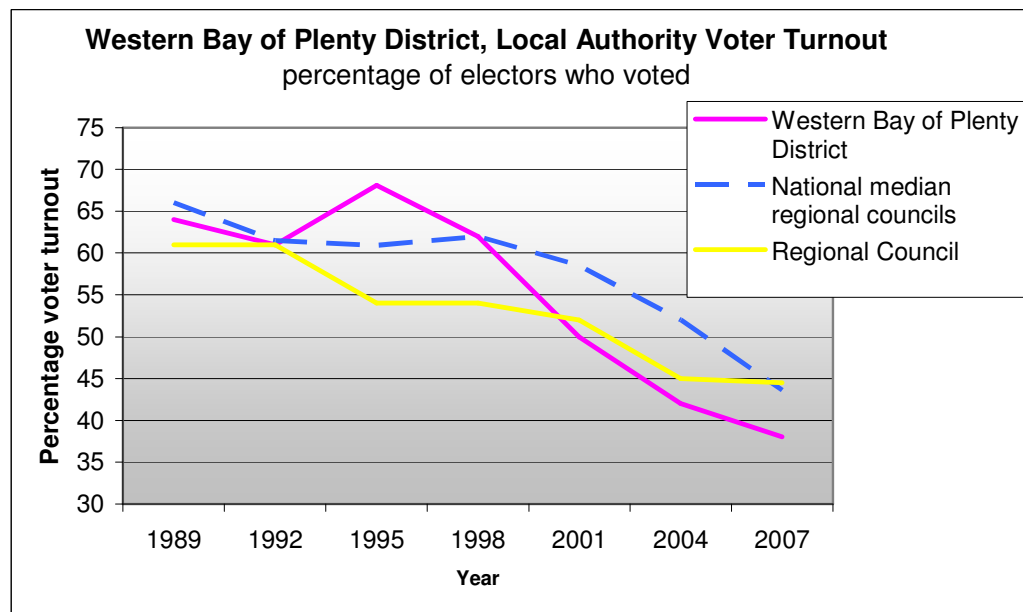
## Leaders are effective, informed and inclusive

*How we will measure this: Voter turnout*

### Why are we monitoring this?

Monitoring voter turnout shows whether people are taking the opportunity to exercise their right and responsibility to vote in local government elections, normally held 3-yearly. High voter turnout ensures that those elected are likely to reflect the intent of the community at large. It also shows that people in the community are engaged with the decision-making process.

### Key Results



Source: Environment Bay of Plenty.

### What is this about?

The last local government elections were held on 13 October 2007. Voter turnout in this election, as with the previous 3 elections, has declined. The same trend is noticeable with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and national regional council trends.

The low turnout of 38 percent in Western Bay of Plenty District in 2007 may be attributable to the fact that the Mayor stood unopposed. The national regional average in 2007 was 43.6 percent.

### How will we know we are successful?

We have the opportunity to participate in decision-making.