

Representation Review 2018 Issues and Options Paper

Reference		
	Number	Description
Topic	REP18 1	<i>Number of Councillors and Wards</i>
Issue	1.1	<i>Number of Councillors and Wards</i>

Submissions
<p>Summary statistics of this topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of submitters that provided feedback on this topic – 4 • Support – 0 • Not support – 4.

Staff Comment
<p>Background</p> <p>As part of the Representation Review process councillors have considered the inter-related factors of communities of interest, effective representation of those communities and fair representation of electors. Effective representation must be achieved within statutory limits of between five (5) and 29 members (excluding the mayor for territorial authorities). Councillors have also considered the relative merits of one and multi-member wards and the requirement to achieve fair representation utilising the formula to ensure that population equity per member is attained (referred to as the '+/-10% rule').</p> <p>The initial proposal reflected Council's decision to maintain the status quo, providing the opportunity for comment during the formal submission process. Few submitters commented on this, however two proposed a reduction in the number of Councillors, with two alternatives proposed.</p> <p>Issue and Trends</p> <p>The majority of submitters did not comment directly on the section of the initial proposal stating that Council intended to maintain the status quo in regard to the number of wards and Councillors.</p> <p>Of the few who commented indirectly the following proposals were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council should revert to 5 wards with 12 Councillors • The five ward structure with 12 Councillors and the Mayor was in place prior to the 2013 Representation Review • Waihi Beach should have its own "designated" Councillor. <p>The submission proposing reversion to 5 wards with 12 Councillors did not offer any rationale for making this change.</p> <p>The three submissions proposing change to Councillor numbers gave the following rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current 11 Councillors was excessive representation, particularly in light of an additional 20 elected board members • Equal numbers of Councillors in each ward (2 per ward), was a better long term policy, and justifiable in terms of the numbers of rateable properties in each of the wards

ATTACHMENT A

- A reduced number of Councillors (2 Katikati-Waihi Beach, 3 Kaimai, 2 Maketu-Te Puke), would still create a population to Councillor ratio of just over 5400 per Councillor which seemed reasonable when compared to Councillor/population ratios in Tauranga City (1:12700).
- A mix of Councillors elected by ward and at large would provide balance to ward based versus district wide interests.

Options	
1 Initial Proposal	<i>THAT the Status Quo is maintained – retain 11 councillors elected from the existing three wards, plus the Mayor elected district-wide.</i>
2	<i>THAT the number of councillors be 12 elected from five wards plus the Mayor elected district-wide.</i>
3	<i>THAT the number of councillors elected from the three existing wards is decreased to 6 in total being 2 for each of the three wards plus the Mayor elected district-wide.</i>
4	<i>THAT the number of councillors elected from the three existing wards is decreased to 7 in total being 2 for the Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward, 3 for the Kaimai Ward and two for the Maketu-Te Puke Ward plus the Mayor elected district-wide.</i>
5	<i>THAT there be three councillors elected per ward and two at large plus the Mayor giving a total of 12</i>

Option 1 Initial Proposal: *THAT Status Quo is maintained – retain 11 councillors elected from the existing three wards, plus the Mayor elected district-wide.*

Advantages

- Achieves fair representation and meets the ‘+/- 10% rule’.
- Will not require consideration of boundary adjustments which have not been publicly consulted on.
- Provides the population with reasonable access to its elected members and vice versa.
- Allows elected members to effectively represent the views of their electoral area.
- Allows elected members to attend public meetings throughout their area and provides reasonable opportunity for face-to-face meetings.

Disadvantages

- Does not satisfy the two proposals received to reduce the number of Councillors.
- Potential that the population will view ‘no change’ as a negative outcome.

Option 2: *THAT the number of councillors be 12 elected from five wards plus the Mayor elected district wide.*

- Advantages**
- Potential to provide improved access to elected members.
 - Potential to allow for sharing and specialising in responsibilities between the ward representatives.
 - Potential to increase elected members attendance at public meetings throughout their area and increased opportunity for face-to-face meetings.

- Disadvantages**
- Does not meet fair representation rule of '+/- 10% rule' for all three wards.
 - Would require major boundary alterations without public consultation.
 - Would be contrary to the Local Government Commission's determination from the 2013 Representation Review.

Option 3: *THAT the number of councillors elected from the three existing wards is decreased to 6 in total plus the Mayor elected district wide.*

<p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds to the submissions proposing a reduction in the number of elected members. • Responds to the criticism of excessive representation in the Western Bay of Plenty District Council as compared with our neighbouring Council Tauranga City. 	<p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not meet fair representation rule of '+/- 10% rule' for all three wards and may require boundary adjustments which have not been publicly consulted on. • Potential to decrease access by population to elected members. • Increased work loads for ward councillors. • Decreased opportunity for sharing and specialising in responsibilities between the ward representatives.
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Option 4: *THAT the number of councillors elected from the three existing wards is decreased to 7 in total being two for the Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward, 3 for the Kaimai Ward and two for the Te Puke-Maketu Ward plus the Mayor elected district-wide.*

<p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds to the submissions proposing a reduction in the number of elected members. • Responds to the criticism of excessive representation in the Western Bay of Plenty District Council as compared with our neighbouring Council Tauranga City. 	<p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not meet fair representation rule of '+/- 10% rule' for all three wards and may require boundary adjustments which have not been publicly consulted on. • Potential to decrease access by population to elected members. • Increased work loads for ward councillors. • Decreased opportunity for sharing and specialising in responsibilities between the ward representatives.
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Option 5: *THAT there be three councillors elected per ward and two at large plus the Mayor giving a total of 12.*

<p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responds to the 1 submission proposing a split between at large and ward based elections.	<p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decreased opportunity for sharing and specialising in specific community of interest responsibilities between the ward representatives.• May increase the workload of the ward based councillors.
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Draft Resolutions
<p>1. <i>THAT the Status Quo is maintained – retain 11 councillors elected from the existing three wards, plus the Mayor elected district-wide.</i></p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>2. <i>THAT the number of councillors be 12 elected from five wards plus the Mayor elected district-wide.</i></p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>3. <i>THAT the number of councillors elected from the three existing wards is decreased to 6 in total being 2 for each of the three wards plus the Mayor elected district-wide.</i></p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>4. <i>THAT the number of councillors elected from the three existing wards is decreased to 7 in total being 2 for the Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward, 3 for the Kaimai Ward and two for the Maketu-Te Puke Ward plus the Mayor elected district-wide.</i></p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>5. <i>THAT there be three councillors elected per ward and two at large plus the Mayor giving a total of 12.</i></p>

Decision
<p><i>(To be completed in the decision making meeting)</i></p>
Reason
<p><i>(To be completed in the decision making meeting)</i></p>