

MEETING — AGENDA —

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Western Bay of Plenty
District Council

COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera



**Additional Item
C19**

Thursday, 20 September 2018

1.00pm

Open Item
Council No. C19
Additional Item

Pages

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Miriam Taris
Chief Executive Officer
Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Council

Representation Review 2018 – Final Proposal

Purpose

Council to resolve its final proposal for the Representation Review 2018 as required under the Local Electoral Act 2001 incorporating a review of membership, wards, boundaries and community boards to be effective for the 2019 and 2022 triennial elections.

Recommendation

1. ***THAT the Group Manager Technology, Customer and Community Services report dated 17 September and titled Representation Review 2018 Final Proposal be received.***
2. ***THAT the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of high significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.***
3. ***That following consideration of submissions received (written and oral), and taking into account the results of earlier informal consultation undertaken prior to resolving its initial proposal, Council, pursuant to section 19N of the Local Electoral Act 2001, resolves to:***

either:

adopt the initial proposal as its final proposal for the review of representation arrangements for the 2019 and 2022 triennial elections, being as per the first options included in each of the issues and options papers attached to this report:

or

amends the initial proposal (by.....) with the final proposal for the review of representation arrangements for the 2019 and 2022 triennial elections being:

(Options as selected from the attached issues and options papers, to include reasons for decisions).



Erica Holtsbaum
**Group Manager Technology
 Customer and Community
 Services**

1. Background

The Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) requires Council to complete a review of representation arrangements (review of membership, wards, boundaries, etc) in 2018, effective for the 2019 and 2022 triennial elections. These reviews are to determine the number of councillors to be elected, the basis of election for councillors and, if this includes wards, the boundaries and names of these wards. Reviews also include whether there are to be community boards and if so, arrangements for these boards. Representation arrangements must provide fair and effective representation for communities.

Council last reviewed its representation arrangements before the 2013 triennial elections and is now required to undertake a review before the 2019 triennial elections.

Current representation arrangements are the mayor (elected at large), 11 councillors (elected from three wards) and 20 community board members (elected to represent 5 community boards). The five community boards represent varying percentages of their ward populations. Current ward and community board representation is:

Ward	Councillors
Katikati – Waihi Beach	3
Kaimai	4
Maketu – Te Puke	4
Community Board	Members
Waihi Beach	4*
Katikati	4*
Omokoroa	4*
Te Puke	4*
Maketu	4*

*Plus two councillors each from the relevant wards appointed by Council to each board.

In undertaking a review of representation arrangements, three key principles must be considered:

- communities of interest
- effective representation
- fair representation.

Communities of Interest

A community of interest is usually defined as having a number of characteristics, which may include:

- a sense of community identity and belonging
- similarities in the demographic, socio-economic and/or ethnic characteristics of the residents of a community
- similarities in economic activities
- dependence on shared facilities in an area, including schools; recreational and cultural facilities and retail outlets
- physical and topographic features;
- the history of the area; and
- transport and communication links.

Effective representation

Territorial authorities are also required to consider:

- the total number of councillors
- the number of wards, boundaries and names
- the number of councillors to be elected from each ward
- communities and community boards.

When considering this issue, territorial authorities must also ensure:

- a recognised community of interest should not be split between electoral boundaries;
- grouping together two or more communities of interest that share few commonalities of interest should be avoided;
- accessibility, size and configuration of an area should be considered:

The number of councillors per ward, and the boundaries of wards need to provide effective representation of communities of interest within the district.

Fair representation

The requirement is that each councillor should represent about the same number of people within a +/- 10% range. There is some legislative leeway outside of this range if compliance would effectively split a community of interest or join together two quite different communities of interest. Using the latest population estimates (30 June 2017) current ward boundaries confirm that for 11 councillors, the initial proposal complies with the +/- 10% rule i.e. 48,950 population divided by 11 councillors:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Pop</i>	<i>Councillors</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Fits Rule</i>	<i>% Variation</i>
Katikati-Waihi Beach	13,500	3	4,500	Yes	+1.12%
Kaimai	17,850	4	4,462	Yes	+0.27%
Maketu-Te Puke	17,600	4	4,400	Yes	-1.12%

Informal Consultation

Informal preliminary consultation was undertaken between 12 March to 6 April 2018, to inform the Initial Proposal phase.

A variety of communications and engagement channels were used:

- A letter and freepost feedback form sent to all ratepayers in March 2018 seeking their views on representation arrangements
- Have Your Say Western Bay – main engagement portal
- Five public information sessions held in Waihi Beach, Katikati, Omokoroa, Te Puke and Maketu, and a workshop session with youth
- Council's online channels including a Representation Review website project page a prominent spotlight on Council's website, Council e-news, Connect People's Panel (online community panel) and Facebook posts
- District update/print advertising in local newspapers
- Media e.g. Katikati Advertiser, Bay of Plenty Times, Sunlive, Te Puke Times and Waihi Leader.

970 responses were received, 863 (90%) in hardcopy form from the mail-out and public information sessions and 107 (10%) online.

Feedback included:

- For most responders it is 'the people' that define their communities of interest
- Approximately 3 out of 4 responders have not interacted or don't know who their community boards or ward councillors are
- From those responders who provided comments relative to "current ward structure and councillor representation" – there were mixed views on the current structure and number of elected members
- From those responders who provided comments relative to "establishing, disestablishing, retaining or altering and the number of members" – there were mixed views on disestablishment or retention of community boards
- From those responders who provided comments relative to "how could ward councillors and community boards make themselves better known to their communities" – approximately 1 out of 5 responders made suggestions about increasing visibility through various online channels.

Initial Proposal

Following consideration of preliminary informal consultation with the community including self identification of communities of interest and feedback, Council, at its meeting on 10 July 2018, resolved to adopt as its initial proposal 11 councillors (plus the mayor) elected from three wards being the Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward (three councillors), the Kaimai Ward (four councillors), and the Maketu-Te Puke Ward (four councillors). This is status quo, but with a minor boundary adjustment between the Kaimai and Katikati-Waihi Beach Wards to recognise a change in the community of interest identified for 517 households (1,130 population based on 30 June 2017 figures from Statistics NZ).

(2013) or the latest population estimates (30 June 2017). We have used the 30 June 2017 population estimates which confirm that for 11 councillors, the initial proposal adjusting one ward boundary complies with the +/- 10% rule i.e. 48,950 population divided by 11 councillors is 4,450 (plus or minus 10% being 4,005 to 4,889):

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Pop</i>	<i>Councillors</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Fits Rule</i>	<i>% Variation</i>
Katikati-Waihi Beach	14,630	3	4,876	Yes	9.57%
Kaimai	16,720	4	4,180	Yes	-6.1%
Maketu-Te Puke	17,600	4	4,400	Yes	-1.12%

In reviewing the feedback received Councillors identified that the Western Bay District consisted of 10 defined communities of interest (please refer to the maps included in the Issues and Options paper Attachment C). These defined communities of interest reflect both the current three wards and information gathered from the community in the pre-consultative phase.

In light of this identification, and community comment indicating mixed support for the current structures, Council proposed the disestablishment of the five existing community boards and their replacement with three community committees, whose boundaries would match the wards and membership which could be nominated from the community through an expression of interest-style process. Such a structure would provide for representation of the entire District's population, some of whom did not have community board coverage, and would reflect the communities of interest as identified in the pre-consultative phase. Council would make the appointments to the committee to ensure wide community representation, and would more accurately reflect the guiding principles of fair representation to:

- Cover the entire district
- Encourage community leadership
- Support strong community relationships
- Enable community-informed decision making
- Build community capacity and networks
- Recognise that technology has changed the way we engage with communities.

Special Consultative Procedure

Public notice of the initial proposal was subsequently given inviting submissions over a one-month period (24 July 2018 to 24 August 2018). This procedure included 9 community events, use of Council's communications and engagement channels (similar to the informal consultation phase with the exception of rate payer letter) resulting in 460 submissions received. It should be noted that the 9 community events recognised the communities of interest identified through the informal process. Summaries of these submissions are contained in the issues and options papers attached to this report. A formal hearing for oral

submissions was held on 3 September 2018 in addition to the receipt of written submissions.

Final Proposal

Council is now required, after considering the submissions it has received, to resolve to either adopt or amend its initial proposal (as its final proposal) at its meeting on 20 September 2018. Public notice of the final proposal is then required on 2 October 2018. Following the public notice, there is a further one-month appeal/objection period to 2 November 2018.

It is recommended that Council, taking into consideration submissions and reflecting the public consultation process, either adopts the initial proposal as the final proposal or amends the initial proposal in light of the issues and options identified through this process.

It is noted that legislation requires Council to provide reasons for any amendment to the initial proposal and/or any rejection of submissions, with these to be publicly notified.

2. Significance and Engagement

The Local Government Act 2002 requires a formal assessment of the significance of matters and decisions in this report against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. In making this formal assessment there is no intention to assess the importance of this item to individuals, groups, or agencies within the community and it is acknowledged that all reports have a high degree of importance to those affected by Council decisions.

The Policy requires Council and its communities to identify the degree of significance attached to particular issues, proposals, assets, decisions, and activities.

In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy this decision is considered to be of high significance because it affects the representation for the whole community.

3. Engagement, Consultation and Communication

Interested/Affected Parties	Completed Consultation/Communication
Name of interested parties/groups	Councillors, and Community Board Members – extensive workshops and preliminary development of initial proposal
Tangata Whenua	Submissions through the special consultative process.
General Public	Pre-consultation letters to all ratepayers and community meetings followed by a special consultative process, including community events and a formal hearing meeting.

4. Issues and Options Assessment

Please see the three issues and options papers attached to this report, which include the summaries of the initial proposal.

Attachment A – Issues and Options – Numbers of Councillors and Wards

Attachment B – Issues and Options – Boundary Adjustment

Attachment C – Local Representation – Community Boards/Community Committees

5. Statutory Compliance

Council has undertaken its review process in compliance with the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Government Act 2002.

6. Funding/Budget Implications

Budget Funding Information	Relevant Detail
N/A	Not applicable in the current financial year.

**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 – 3 • Support – 0 • Not support – 3.

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 two 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

- 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).

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>

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.

<p>Option 2: <i>THAT the number of councillors be 12 elected from five wards plus the Mayor elected district wide.</i></p>	
<p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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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Draft Resolutions

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

Or

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

Or

3. *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.*

Or

4. *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.*

Decision

(To be completed in the decision making meeting)

Reason

(To be completed in the decision making meeting)

**Representation Review 2018
Issues and Options Paper**

Reference		
	Number	Description
Topic	REP18 3	<i>Ward Boundary Adjustments</i>
Issue	1.1	<i>Proposed Minor Ward Boundary Adjustment between Katikati/Waihi Beach and Kaimai Wards</i>

Submissions

Summary statistics of this topic:

- Total number of submitters that provided feedback on this topic – 422
- Support – 60
- Not support – 65
- No opinion – 297.

Staff Comment

Background

As part of the Representation Review process Council has considered the boundaries of wards, as far as practicable, for ward boundaries to coincide with community boundaries.

In the initial proposal, the adjustment:

- Involves the boundary between the Katikati-Waihi Beach and Kaimai wards
- Would result in approximately 517 dwellings (consisting of total population number of 1,130 based on 30 June 2017 figures from Stats NZ) moving from the Kaimai ward into the Katikati-Waihi Beach ward
- Would mean that the people in the affected area would become part of the ward in which they share common links with educational, shopping, social and other needs
- Reflected community feedback, and Councillor consideration of that information, from the pre-consultative period in identifying where our communities saw themselves and their communities of interest.

On the submission form, the question was asked '*Do you agree with the proposed minor ward boundary adjustment between the Katikati-Waihi Beach and Kaimai wards?*' Submitters were given the options of support, not support and no opinion.

Issue and Trends

Those that supported this topic:

- Seems a reasonable proposal, makes better sense, we need to change and obtain better balance. Essentially Council is doing this for the right reasons.

Those that did not support this topic:

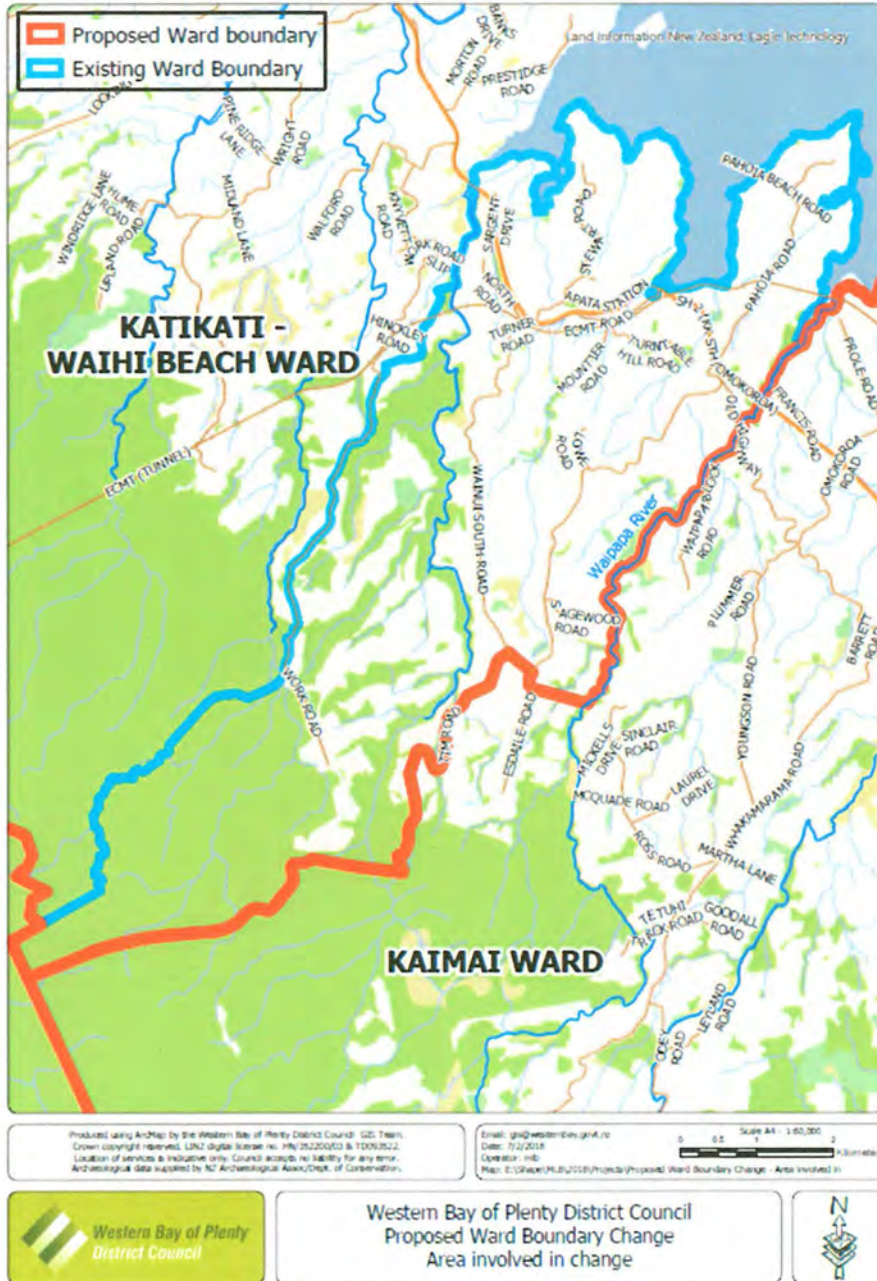
- Waihi Beach will lack further representation as this will further remove Waihi Beach's ability to elect a local representative
- Will give Katikati more people and make Waihi Beach more marginalised which means that smaller communities like Athenree, Bowentown and Pio Shores will be further disadvantaged
- Waihi Beach and Katikati are different communities, the former is a beach/holiday/retirement community while the latter is a horticulture/agriculture community.

Those that did not have an opinion on this topic:

- Those that live in the areas affected are best to give feedback.

Options	
1 Initial Proposal	<p><i>THAT Council makes a minor boundary adjustment from the eastern side of the Morton Road Peninsula between the Katikati-Waihi Beach and Kaimai wards by generally following the centre of the Waipapa River until it reaches just south of the Esdaile Road/Wainui South Road intersection. It then follows the centre of Wainui South Road for a short distance before continuing up the centre of Tim Road to its end, and before reconnecting with the remainder of the existing ward boundary.</i></p> <p><i>AND THAT</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(a) the Western Bay of Plenty District Council be divided into three wards, these being:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;"><i>(i) Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward being the existing ward comprising the area delineated on LGC Plan 022-2013-W-2 deposited with the Local Government Commission with the addition of a small north-western portion of the current Kaimai Ward (westward of the Waipapa River), the boundaries and more detailed description of which are shown on Map 1 – Initial Proposal – Proposed Boundary Change;</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;"><i>(ii) Kaimai Ward being the existing ward comprising the area delineated on LGC Plan 022-2013-W-3 deposited with the Local Government Commission with the exclusion of a small north-western portion (westward of the Waipapa River), the boundaries of which are shown on Map 1 – Initial Proposal – Proposed Boundary Change; and</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;"><i>(iii) Maketu–Te Puke Ward being the existing ward comprising the area delineated on LGC Plan 022-2013-W-4 deposited with the Local Government Commission, the boundaries of which are shown on Map 1 – Initial Proposal – Proposed Boundary Change.</i></p>
2	<p><i>THAT the Status Quo is maintained – Council retains the existing ward boundary between the Katikati-Waihi Beach and Kaimai wards.</i></p>

Map 1 Initial Proposal – Proposed Ward Boundary Change



Map 2 – Existing and Proposed New Ward Boundaries



Option 1 Initial Proposal: *THAT Council makes a minor boundary adjustment from the eastern side of the Morton Road Peninsula between the Katikati-Waihi Beach and Kaimai wards by generally following the centre of the Waipapa River until it reaches just south of the Esdaile Road/Wainui South Road intersection. It then follows the centre of Wainui South Road for a short distance before continuing up the centre of Tim Road to its end, and before reconnecting with the remainder of the existing ward boundary.*

AND THAT

1. *the Western Bay of Plenty District Council be divided into three wards, these being:*
 - (i) *Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward being the existing ward comprising the area delineated on LGC Plan 022-2013-W-2 deposited with the Local Government Commission with the addition of a small north-western portion of the current Kaimai Ward (westward of the Waipapa River), the boundaries and more detailed description of which are shown on Map 1 – Initial Proposal – Proposed Boundary Change;*
 - (ii) *Kaimai Ward being the existing ward comprising the area delineated on LGC Plan 022-2013-W-3 deposited with the Local Government Commission with the exclusion of a small north-western portion (westward of the Waipapa River), the boundaries of which are shown on Map 1 – Initial Proposal – Proposed Boundary Change; and*
 - (iii) *Maketu–Te Puke Ward being the existing ward comprising the area delineated on LGC Plan 022-2013-W-4 deposited with the Local Government Commission, the boundaries of which are shown on Map 1 – Initial Proposal – Proposed Boundary Change.*

<p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The people in the affected area would become part of the ward in which they share common links with educational, shopping, social and other needs. • The numbers of people affected would not influence the fair representation rule of ‘+/- 10% rule’. • Reflects the information gathered from the community in the pre consultation process where people identified their own communities of interest. 	<p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for growth may require a further boundary change in the future.
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Option 2: *THAT Status Quo is maintained – Council retains the existing ward boundary between the Katikati-Waihi Beach and Kaimai wards.*

<p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially the population growth is such that a further boundary change may be necessary in the near future. • Would alleviate community concerns raised from Waihi Beach. 	<p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No recognition of the identification of current level of change to communities of interest.
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Draft Resolutions

1. *THAT Council makes a minor boundary adjustment from the eastern side of the Morton Road Peninsula between the Katikati-Waihi Beach and Kaimai wards by generally following the centre of the Waipapa River until it reaches just south of the Esdaile Road/Wainui South Road intersection. It then follows the centre of Wainui South Road for a short distance before continuing up the centre of Tim Road to its end, and before reconnecting with the remainder of the existing ward boundary.*

AND THAT

- (a) *the Western Bay of Plenty District Council be divided into three wards, these being:*
- (i) *Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward being the existing ward comprising the area delineated on LGC Plan 022-2013-W-2 deposited with the Local Government Commission with the addition of a small north-western portion of the current Kaimai Ward (westward of the Waipapa River), the boundaries and more detailed description of which are shown on Map 1 – Initial Proposal – Proposed Boundary Change;*
 - (ii) *Kaimai Ward being the existing ward comprising the area delineated on LGC Plan 022-2013-W-3 deposited with the Local Government Commission with the exclusion of a small north-western portion (westward of the Waipapa River), the boundaries of which are shown on Map 1 – Initial Proposal – Proposed Boundary Change; and*
 - (iii) *Maketu–Te Puke Ward being the existing ward comprising the area delineated on LGC Plan 022-2013-W-4 deposited with the Local Government Commission, the boundaries of which are shown on Map 1 – Initial Proposal – Proposed Boundary Change.*

Or

2. *THAT Status Quo is maintained – Council retains the existing ward boundary between the Katikati-Waihi Beach and Kaimai wards.*

Decision

(To be completed in the decision making meeting)

Reason

(To be completed in the decision making meeting)

**Representation Review 2018
Issues and Options Paper**

Reference		
	Number	Description
Topic	REP18 4	<i>Local Representation</i>
Issue	1.1	<i>Initial Proposal Disestablish Community Boards/Establish Community Committees</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 – 425 • Support – 48 • Not support – Retain Community Boards – 189 • Not support – Community Committee Appointment Process - 62 • Not support – Other – 126.

Staff Comment
<p>Background</p> <p>As part of the Representation Review process Council is required to consider whether community boards are retained and if so how many, their structure, and number of community board members. During the review process councillors have considered the need for effective, fair and efficient representation, communities of interest, community board coverage and the role of ward councillor in relation to community board members.</p> <p>Council undertook informal public engagement during March-April 2018 asking people to identify their 'communities of interest' and comment on our current representation arrangements. The initial proposal was developed based on the information gathered through this process.</p> <p>On the submission form, the question was asked '<i>Do you agree with the proposed local representation changing from community boards to community committees?</i>'</p> <p>Issue and Trends</p> <p>The issue Council is aiming to resolve is multi-faceted; our district has a changing and growing population that is currently represented by a community board structure that was developed in 1989. Council believes that there is a need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be more relevant to all our local communities • To be more flexible in representation to support changing community needs • To enable diversity in representation • To have fairer representation of our communities of interests across the entire district • To enable broader membership from community leaders and their networks across the entire district. <p>Those that supported a change from community boards to community committees have the following reasons in common:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capability, experience and knowledge of current community board members is not always a match for the 'job' • It would be fairer for smaller and rural communities • It would enable targeting of knowledge with local issues when required and enable a register of specific interest groups to be called upon • It would enhance inclusive community leadership and encourage diversity

- It would require budget to be allocated and performance measurements in place.

Those that did not support the disestablishment of the five community boards and the establishment of community committees in their place have the following reasons in common:

- It would be undemocratic to 'appoint' members rather than elect members
- The details around appointment to community committees is not available and therefore not understood
- Local people should make local decisions – concern that those outside the area would be appointed to a community committee
- The cost of change will be higher than current community board cost
- Local voices will not 'be heard', will lose ability for direct input
- Community Boards should be 'fixed' – expanded to represent all the ward populations and be given more autonomy, budget and decision-making responsibilities.

There were common themes across both viewpoints:

- It is desirable to have local people representing local communities and making decisions on behalf of local communities
- The district needs broader representation at a local level – diversity, capability
- It is possible that communities of interest groups could work alongside re-vamped community board structure.

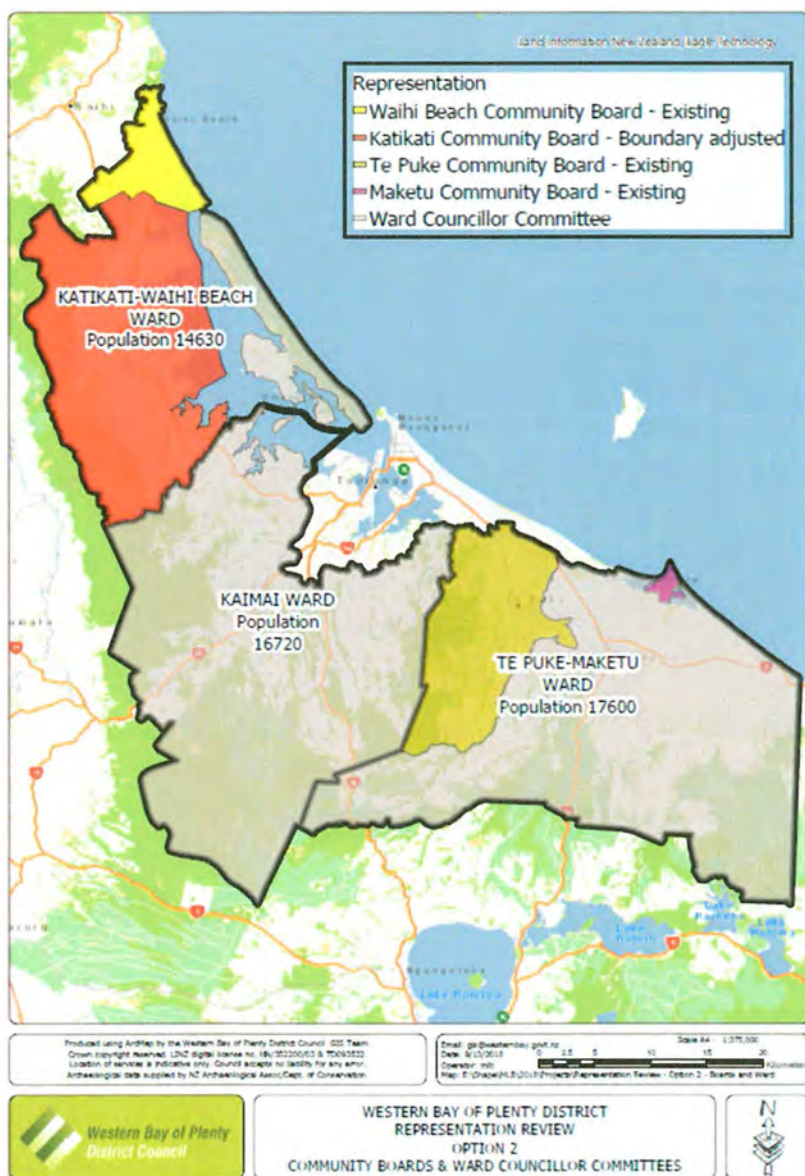
Options	
1 Initial Proposal	<p><i>THAT the five current Community Boards are disestablished and replaced with three Community Committees aligned to the three ward boundaries (as adjusted through the review) with membership from 'nominations from the community through an expression of interest process'.</i></p> <p><i>(Please refer to Map Option 1 Initial Proposal Three Committees Aligned to Three Ward Boundaries)</i></p>
2 Workshop direction	<p><i>THAT the Waihi Beach, Maketu and Te Puke Community Boards be retained in their current boundaries.</i></p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p><i>THAT the Katikati Community Board be retained in the adjusted boundary.</i></p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p><i>THAT the Omokoroa Community Board be disestablished.</i></p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p><i>THAT a Ward Councillor Committee consisting of all Ward Councillors be established for each of the following areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Whole of Kaimai Ward</i> • <i>Eastern end of the Maketu-Te Puke Ward i.e. all the areas not included in the Te Puke and Maketu Community Boards</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Matakana Island and Rangiwaia Island of the Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward i.e. all the areas not included in the Waihi Beach and Katikati Community Boards.</i> <p><i>And</i></p> <p><i>THAT the purpose of the Ward Councillor Committees will be to provide representation and liaison for all the communities of interest as identified through the review process not currently represented by Community Boards.</i></p> <p><i>(Please refer to Map Option 2 Workshop Direction Community Boards and Ward Councillor Committees)</i></p>
3	<p><i>THAT the five current Community Boards are disestablished and replaced with three ward-based Community Boards (as adjusted through the review), subdivided by communities of interest, or with members elected at large across the three wards.</i></p> <p><i>(Please refer to Map Option 3 Three Ward Community Boards with Subdivisions by Community of Interest)</i></p>
4	<p><i>THAT Community Boards are disestablished and elected representation for constituents of the Western Bay of Plenty District be provided by the 11 elected Councillors and the Mayor only.</i></p> <p><i>(Please refer to Map Option 4 District Wide Representation by 11 Councillors Plus Mayor)</i></p>
5	<p><i>THAT the Status Quo for elected representation in the Western Bay of Plenty District Council is maintained with the retention of five elected Community Boards using the current Community Board boundaries as directed by the Local Government Commission following the 2013 Representation Review, provided that the Katikati Community Board boundary is amended to reflect the ward boundary adjustment.</i></p> <p><i>(Please refer to Map Option 5 Status Quo Five Existing Community Boards)</i></p>

Map Option 1 Initial Proposal Three Committees Aligned to Three Ward Boundaries



Map Option 2 Workshop Direction Community Boards and Ward Councillor Committees



Map Option 3 Three Ward Community Boards with Subdivisions by Community of Interest



Map Option 4 District Wide Representation by 11 Councillors Plus Mayor



Map Option 5 Status Quo Five Existing Community Boards



Option 1 Initial Proposal: *THAT the five current Community Boards are disestablished and replaced with three appointed Community Committees aligned to the three ward boundaries.*

Advantages

- Allows the community to self nominate their representation
- Meets Local Government Commission requirement to review effectiveness of community boards
- Ability to represent all residents and communities of interest
- Flexible, agile and timely response to community challenges and opportunities
- No need for elections and by-elections, and the associated cost
- Less formal and more flexible meetings
- All ward councillors would be on a community committee
- Enable greater collaboration between ward councillors and community representatives
- Allow for councillors to take greater responsibility for their ward and district
- Allows for targeted recruitment of appropriate skill sets
- Would encourage diversity of representation from currently unrepresented sectors of the community e.g. youth, ethnic
- Better alignment to Council work plans and programmes and community plans
- Allows for flexible membership and diversity in representation
- Allows for the set up of sub-committees for special projects
- Greater potential to work collaboratively with and utilise skills and experience of community groups and associations
- Opportunity to establish strong alignment with Council engagement methods – more direct, informal and inclusive
- Allows Council to recognise self-identified communities of interest.

Disadvantages

- A new system so less familiar
- May raise concerns that the process is 'undemocratic' as the only members of community committees who are elected will be councillors
- Appointed community members potentially only interested in their own 'backyard'
- Potential lack of interest from community leaders in participating
- Potential loss of current community board members' knowledge and experience
- Increase in ward councillor workload.

Option 2 Workshop Direction: *THAT the Waihi Beach, Maketu and Te Puke Community Boards be retained in their current boundaries.*

And

THAT the Katikati Community Board be retained in the adjusted boundary.

And

THAT the Omokoroa Community Board be disestablished.

And

THAT a Ward Councillor Committee consisting of all Ward Councillors be established for each of the following areas:

- Whole of Kaimai Ward*
- Eastern end of the Maketu-Te Puke Ward i.e. all the areas not included in the Te Puke and Maketu Community Boards*
- Matakana Island and Rangiwaea Island of the Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward i.e. all the areas not included in the Waihi Beach and Katikati Community Boards.*

And

THAT the purpose of the Ward Councillor Committees will be to provide representation and liaison for all the communities of interest as identified through the review process not currently represented by Community Boards.

<p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retains the Waihi Beach, Maketu, Te Puke and Katikati (subject to boundary adjustment) Community Boards • Would create opportunity for representation in rural/other communities which do not currently have community boards • Only partially addresses concerns regarding equitable representation and democratic process – only elected ward councillors would represent the district 	<p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where there are community boards, meeting cycles are bound by Council requirements • There were few submitters that supported the retention of either the Katikati or Te Puke Community Boards • Would disestablish one community board without necessarily clear community direction from this area • Has the potential to create different service levels across the different Western Bay of Plenty district communities
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential lack of duplication of communication and engagement processes in the Kaimai ward only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would place a higher rate burden on the populations of Waihi Beach, Katikati, Te Puke and Maketu as compared with the rest of the district • Potential for Council to lose touch with local issues in those areas not represented by a Community Board • Continued need for elections and by-elections, and the associated cost • Replicates the current inequities in local representation currently experienced with different levels of elected representation depending on where you live • Potential for public confusion as to representation • Does not ensure that all ward councillors for the Katikati-Waihi Beach and Maketu-Te Puke Wards are appointed to the community boards • Increase in ward councillor workload: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All Kaimai Ward Councillors to represent the whole of Kaimai Ward ➤ All Maketu-Te Puke Ward Councillors to represent either the Maketu or Te Puke Community Boards and also to represent the eastern end of the Maketu-Te Puke Ward i.e. all the areas not included in the Te Puke and Maketu Community Boards ➤ All Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward Councillors to represent either the Waihi Beach or Katikati Community Boards and also to represent the Matakana Island and Rangiwaea Island of the Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward i.e. all the areas not included in the Waihi Beach and Katikati Community Boards.
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Option 3: *THAT the five current Community Boards are disestablished and replaced with three ward-based Community Boards, subdivided by communities of interest, or with members elected at large across the three wards.*

<p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets Local Government Commission requirement to review community board effectiveness • Members are elected under the Local Electoral Act 2001 with a clear legislative framework in place • Addresses concerns regarding equitable representation and democratic process – all members would be elected • Ability to represent all residents and communities of interest • Recognising feedback from the community as to the self identification of communities of interest • The increase of elected community board members would allow for appointment of all councillors of that ward to that board • Potential reduction of rates in some areas as the cost for supporting community boards would be spread across the whole ward. 	<p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting cycles are bound by Council requirements • No requirement for particular skillsets for those standing for community boards • The number of elected community board members would increase from the current four to a minimum of six for each board • Increase of resource requirements in supporting additional elected members • Potentially will not encourage diversity in representation • Potentially will not meet the +/- 10% rule • Potential lack of interest from community leaders in standing for election.
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Option 4: *THAT Community Boards are disestablished and elected representation for constituents of the Western Bay of Plenty District be provided by the 11 elected Councillors and the Mayor only.*

<p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets Local Government Commission requirement to review community board effectiveness • Members are elected under the Local Electoral Act 2001 with a clear legislative framework in place • Addresses concerns regarding equitable representation and democratic process – all members would be elected • No ongoing community board costs • No need for elections and by-elections, and the associated cost • Addresses concerns re equitable representation and democratic process – only elected ward councillors would represent the district • No duplication of communication and engagement processes. 	<p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct representation at a local level • Potential for council to lose touch with local issues • Reduced opportunity for community to participate in council decision-making process • Loss of current community board members’ knowledge and experience of local issues • Increase in ward councillor workload • Does not allow for diversity in local representation.
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Option 5: *THAT the Status Quo for elected representation in the Western Bay of Plenty District Council is maintained with the retention of five elected Community Boards using the current Community Board boundaries as directed by the Local Government Commission following the 2013 Representation Review.*

Advantages

- Members are elected under the Local Electoral Act 2001 with a clear legislative framework in place, responding to concerns about democratic process
- There is historically reasonably good local support in some parts of the district for boards
- Allows utilisation of knowledge and experience on localised issues in those areas represented by boards
- Responds to the submissions from those wishing to retain the current community board structure.

Disadvantages

- Meeting cycles are bound by Council requirements
- Does not provide full representation for the whole district – not equitable
- Rural residents and smaller communities are largely excluded
- There are often challenges to fill board positions, requiring by-elections
- Not all councillors are on a Community Board
- Community Board communication and engagement processes have at times replicated Council initiatives
- Inconsistent performance across boards
- No requirement for particular skillsets for those standing for community boards
- Historically there is evidence that the boards are not connecting with their local resident associations
- It would not enable targeting of specific skillsets e.g. knowledge with local issues when required, or a register of specific interest groups to be called upon
- It would not enhance inclusive community leadership and encourage diversity
- The cost to some communities to support community boards would remain high
- Does not recognise the changing natures of the communities within the district
- Does not account for the self-identification of communities of interest as provided through the pre-consultation process.

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Draft Resolutions

1. *THAT the five current Community Boards are disestablished and replaced with three Community Committees aligned to the three ward boundaries (as adjusted through the review) with membership from 'nominations from the community through an expression of interest process'.*

OR

2. *THAT the Waihi Beach, Maketu and Te Puke Community Boards be retained in their current boundaries.*

And

THAT the Katikati Community Board be retained in the adjusted boundary.

And

THAT the Omokoroa Community Board be disestablished.

And

THAT a Ward Councillor Committee consisting of all Ward Councillors be established for each of the following areas:

- *Whole of Kaimai Ward*
- *Eastern end of the Maketu-Te Puke Ward i.e. all the areas not included in the Te Puke and Maketu Community Boards*
- *Matakana Island and Rangiwaea Island of the Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward i.e. all the areas not included in the Waihi Beach and Katikati Community Boards.*

And

THAT the purpose of the Ward Councillor Committees will be to provide representation and liaison for all the communities of interest as identified through the review process not currently represented by Community Boards.

OR

3. *THAT the five current Community Boards are disestablished and replaced with three ward-based Community Boards (as adjusted through the review), subdivided by communities of interest, or with members elected at large across the three wards.*

OR

4. *THAT Community Boards are disestablished and elected representation for constituents of the Western Bay of Plenty District be provided by the 11 elected Councillors and the Mayor only.*

OR

5. *THAT the Status Quo for elected representation in the Western Bay of Plenty District Council is maintained with the retention of five elected Community Boards using the current Community Board boundaries as*

directed by the Local Government Commission following the 2013 Representation Review, provided that the Katikati Community Board boundary is amended to reflect the ward boundary adjustment.

Decision

(To be completed in the decision making meeting)

Reason

(To be completed in the decision making meeting)