



Open Briefing – Representation Review 2024

24 May 2023 – 4.00pm

Attendees

Elected Members: Mayor Barry (via audio-visual link), Cr Barratt, Cr Briggs (via audio-visual link), Cr Dyer, Deputy Mayor Lewis, Cr Mitchell, Cr Morgan (via audio-visual link), Cr Parkin, Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger (via audio-visual link), Cr Tupou (via audio-visual link) Lesa Binglely, Wainuiomata Community Board, and Belinda Moss, Eastbourne Community Board (via audio-visual link).

Iwi Representatives: Liz Melish (via audio-visual link), Peggy Luke Ngaheke (via audio-visual link).

Staff: A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities (via audio-visual link); J Griffiths, Director Strategy and Engagement, R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy, C Ellis, Head of Chief Executive's Office, K Stannard, Head of Democratic Services and E Campbell Tikanga Maori Policy Planner Pou Whakamahere Kaupapa Here Planning, and K Davey, Democracy Advisor.

Apologies

Cr Brown.

Presenter

Richard Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy and Gavin Beattie, Local Government Representation and Governance Specialist

Key Objectives of the Open Briefing

The key purpose of the open briefing is to introduce the Representation Review 2024 and to highlight matters that are under review and for consideration by Council.

Presentation by Richard Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy

Representations reviews are required to be undertaken every six years. The last review was in 2018.

The representation review needs to ensure the whole community is fairly and effectively represented and includes communities of interest, decisions on the size of the council, wards, ward boundaries, Māori wards, and community boards will need to be made.

It is best practice to start a review with a clean slate approach.

Māori wards. This is a decision for Council. Currently, there is the ability to have one Māori ward.

Engagement with Mana Whenua will do the following:

- Seek views on Māori wards and representation.
- Gain feedback on broader representation boundary areas and boards.

Using an independent panel would ensure an unbiased proposal that considers the views of Mana Whenua.

The role of community boards must be considered, and a survey of the community-on-community boards is proposed. With useful feedback sought on their existing and future role. This should align with the Long Term Plan and other council policies. Early engagement with the community is needed.

The last review in 2018 used an internal process. This was appealed and there was a determination made by Local Government Commission on that review.

The recommendation on what review system should be used will be considered by Council and is based on the learnings from the 2018 review, an independent panel is the preferred option.

There will be a full community communication plan, with whatever option is chosen, and this will be supported by the communications and engagement team.

Slide 1 (Header)

Slide 2 – Local Government Act 2002

Slide 3 – Overview

Slide 4 – Legal Context

Slide 5 – Māori wards question

Slide 6 – Engagement with Mana Whenua

Slide 7 – Voting system question

Slide 8 – Community boards question

Slide 9 – Past process

Slide 10 – Process options

Slide 11 – Option 1. Internal process

Slide 12 – Participatory democracy

Slide 13 – Independent panel

Slide 14 – Communications and engagement

Slide 15 – Timeline for completing the review

Questions and discussion points

The current number of wards is based on the electoral roll and could change in the future if there were to be Māori wards. The number of Māori wards would be based on the Māori electoral roll.

A representation review must be carried out every six years but can be done every three years.

If a person is on the Māori roll, they will be enrolled in the Māori ward.

The number on the Māori roll is updated regularly by the Electoral Commission.

A person on the Māori roll would be able to vote for city-wide councillors with a mixed system.

The intention is to engage with Mana Whenua on how to proceed with the review. There are three options, and the preferred option is an independent panel. Whichever option is chosen Mana Whenua will be involved.

It was noted that there is a tight time timeline for the review process to be established, consultation carried out, and recommendations, to be considered by Council.

Regarding community boards all options are on the table and the status quo will remain until 2025.

Hutt City Council (HCC) is normal in not having district-wide community boards, most councils are the same as HCC. Only 11 Councils have district-wide Community Boards.

The Boards were created from the 1989 reforms and they have been the subject of reviews since the new LG Act 2004.

A community of interest is a specific area different from community boards, they can represent, Mana Whenua, ethnic groups, an area of a city, youth voice, the elderly, and disabled people. and best practices will identify how to represent them. There are three dimensions to this and are not legally defined.

- Perception
- Services and functions
- Political representation

The report which will be considered by Council with the proposed preferred method of review will have a high level of data available. There will be more information and briefings, to help inform decision-making, as the review progresses.

It is the officer's preferred option to establish an independent panel. Its Council's decision on whether to use an independent panel or one of the other methods proposed by officers.

Community boards are going to be an important part of the review, what is their role? and what should they do in the future? If there is an independent panel it will provide guidance on this subject.

A budget for the representation review has been set aside and officers are working within that budget.

Commission recommendation guidelines asked that a panel be considered, as a review method. It is up to councils to decide what review method to use, a council could go against the panel's recommendation, but this would be unusual.

You can stand for council in a general ward and be on the Māori roll.

The intention of the Head of Strategy and Policy is to have regular council briefings, with opportunities for the proposed panel to feedback to Council, so there are no surprises. Using an independent process would give councillors the confidence to make informed unbiased decisions.

The number of councillors is set and can be between 5 and 29. The number is not prescribed it must have equal representation and be balanced.

Next steps

- A decision by Council on the process is to be made at the 30 May 2023 meeting.
- Regular updates and briefings

Briefing materials

Attachment 1 – [Presentation](#):

The briefing closed at 4.52pm