

Communities and Community Boards

At every review of representation, the Council must decide whether to have (Community Boards for specific "Community" areas ("Community" here refers to the area of a Community Board, rather than the wider meaning of the word). To achieve fair and effective representation, the Council must consider:

- whether new Communities should be constituted or existing ones reconstituted;
- whether the boundaries of Communities should include one or more whole Wards;
- whether there should be Electoral Subdivisions within Communities;
- representation taking into account that each separate Subdivision or Ward within a community must have at least one elected member;
- whether the boundaries of communities should be changed and the Communities re-configured;
- the relationship between representation for Wards and representation for Community Boards within or encompassing those Wards;
- the number of Community Board members needed to achieve fair representation.

Population Formula

The key to determining fair representation is the population-based formula in Section 19V of the Act. Section 19V(3) provides the only grounds for not complying with the population formula, otherwise membership of each Ward or subdivision must comply with the principle of population equality. Exceptions must be justified on an individual basis.

After determining communities of interest and their representation by Wards and subdivisions, local authorities will need to experiment with different numbers of members to achieve the best fit. This may require boundary changes.

Additional formulae set out in Schedule 1 A for Maori Wards, help determine the number of members in each Maori Ward or constituency and also to ensure there is compliance with the principle of equality (using the +/- 10% calculation).

The Local Government Commission is NOT involved in the decision whether or not to have Maori Wards but will become involved if Maori Wards are created, to deal with the number of such Wards and representation issues.

Generally, population figures are obtained from the Government Statistician and will be based on the population shown in the census as being ordinarily resident. The Maori electoral population is defined in Section 3 Electoral Act 1993 and is assessed by the Government Statistician.

THE WAITAKERE 2000 REVIEW

What Happened

Even though the fair representation requirements were not as strict in 2000 as they are now an attempt was made to reduce population disparities by proposing adjustments to Ward boundaries and Ward representation. There was some public opposition and the Council withdrew the proposals after the final consultation process.

The Henderson and New Lynn Community Boards agreed to a reduction in the number of Elected Members, from 6 to 5 and consequently that of appointed Members, from 3 to 2. Similar proposals put to Massey and Waitakere Community Boards were rejected and withdrawn.

The options that were considered were:

1 Ward System

The Council initially consulted on Four Options:

Option One - Status Quo

Option Two - 4 Wards Model 1

Keep the four Wards - Massey, Waitakere, Henderson and New Lynn with boundary adjustments to improve the ratio of Elected Members to population. There would be 14 Councillors and representation would be:

Massey Ward	4 Members
Waitakere Ward	2 Members
Henderson Ward	4 Members
New Lynn Ward	4 Members

Option Three - 4 Wards Model 2

Keep the four Wards with different boundary adjustments (again to improve the ratio of Elected Members and retaining 14 Councillors). Representation would be:

Massey Ward	4 Members
Waitakere Ward	3 Members
Henderson Ward	3 Members
New Lynn Ward	4 Members

Option Four - 5 Wards

Create five Wards with equal representation across the City.

Massey Ward	3 Members
Henderson Ward	3 Members
New Lynn Ward	3 Members
Waitakere Ward	2 Members
Waipareira Ward	2 Members

2 Community Boards

The Council favoured continuing to align Community Boards and Council Wards and put two proposals out for consultation:

Option One - 4 Community Boards

Massey	6 Elected Members
Waitakere	6 Elected Members
Henderson	6 Elected Members
New Lynn	6 Elected Members

Option Two - 5 Community Boards

Massey	4 Elected Members
Henderson	4 Elected Members
New Lynn	4 Elected Members
Waitakere	4 Elected Members
Waipareira	4 Elected Members

The Process

An Elected Members' working party of the Community Board Chairs and four Councillors met monthly from April 2000. From March to May it prepared options for consultation. From July to October it consulted and prepared a proposal upon which it sought and heard submissions. In October/November it adopted its final proposal.

The Proposal

1. For the election of October 2001 the Council proposed Ward boundary changes and re-allocation of membership as follows:

2001		1998	
Massey Ward	4	Massey Ward	4
Waitakere Ward	2	Waitakere Ward	3
Henderson Ward	4	Henderson Ward	3
New Lynn Ward	4	New Lynn Ward	4

4. The proposed boundary alterations were:
 - Henderson and Massey Wards: Inclusion of the area between Rathgar Road and Lincoln Road in the Henderson Ward.
 - Henderson and New Lynn Wards: Inclusion of the area west of Hepburn Road in the New Lynn Ward.
 - Henderson and Waitakere Wards: Inclusion of the Henderson Heights area in the Henderson Ward.
 - New Lynn and Waitakere Wards: Inclusion of the Glen Eden Heights area in the New Lynn Ward.

The Outcome

5. After considering objections and submissions (with several objections being petitions from Waitakere Ward residents), the Council reverted to the status quo on boundaries and of having 14 Councillors in four Wards, as shown in the table:

Ward	No. of Members	1996 Population	Projected 2001 Population	Ratio of Representation 2001 Population
Massey	Four	48, 290	55,118	1:13,797
Henderson	Three	38, 979	42,118	1: 7,039
New Lynn	Four	48, 183	51,219	1:12,805
Waitakere	Three	24, 760	27,927	1: 9,309

After conducting public hearings of 9 counter-objections, as they were then known, plus a request to appear before the Commission, the Commission, on 21 March 2001, accepted this decision.

THE WAY FORWARD 2005 - 2006

Maori Wards from the perspective of Te Taumata Runanga

Te Taumata Runanga has been requested to assist the Council in ascertaining the views of the city's Maori community on Maori Wards. This process (and subsequent advice) will be separate from and additional to, general consultation upon which the Council will base its final decisions.

At its 26 March 2003 meeting, the Council considered the matter of separate representation for Maori electors in the city and resolved that:

"That Council initiate the process of consultation on the advisability of introducing a separate Maori Ward or Wards, and other measures designed to improve Maori representation, such process to include referring the matter to Te Taumata Runanga for its consideration and recommendations."

550/2003

This provided the opportunity to begin consultation on a Maori Ward or Wards with key stakeholders and its community. This would also allow for the issue to be integrated into the Council's planning, meeting and reporting processes.

A key strategic priority in the Council's Long Term Council Community Plan, is that *"People in the City are proud to uphold the Treaty of Waitangi."* This recognises the Council's ongoing commitment to its Treaty-based partnership relationships with Ngati Whatua and Te Kawerau A Maki, as well as the Maori community at large in the City.

One objective is the Council's desire to achieve its 2020 goal that: *"Strong Maori leaders are working side by side with the Council and achieving positive outcomes for Maori".*

The Council has a range of initiatives (including Te Taumata Runanga, Long Term Strategy and Action Plan, the Treaty of Waitangi and governance issues) in place to ensure it meets its responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2002 to establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Maori to contribute to their decision making processes.

At its meeting of 14 February 2005, Te Taumata Runanga provided guidance to the Council on the appropriate consultation process with Maori on the various issues.

Te Taumata Runanga acknowledged that there would also be coverage of the issue within the wider community through the general communication processes and community focus groups within the four Wards.

This recommendation was approved by the Finance and Operational Performance Committee on 7 March 2005, (resolution 358/2005) on condition that this process be part of the broader Review. The resolution recognises that Council must be satisfied that Maori Wards would be in the interests of the City as a whole - which would be unlikely if the concept was not supported by the City's Maori population.

Suggested Avenues for Preliminary Consultation

As representation reviews now include the 10% population rule and the options of mixed representation, the Council has resolved to make use of focus groups and public meetings to help the Council with this decision as well as consultation with Te Taumata Runanga and Community Boards.

Fair and Effective Representation

The fundamental issue for the review will be to achieve a Fair Representation (with a population disparity not greater than 10% per elected member) and Effective Representation through appropriate identification of Communities of Interest.

The Population Rule

The Council's current representation arrangements do not meet this requirement and some change will be necessary, by adjusting Ward boundaries, the number of members per Ward or by changing from the present arrangements.

Changes to the existing system will be influenced to some extent, in respect of Waitakere Ward by the fact that an area will not be considered "isolated" merely because it is rural (the Local Government Commission declined Manukau City Council's proposal for rural Clevedon to be a separate Ward on the grounds of isolation).

Waitakere Community Board need not be affected by this situation as Community Boards are not required to be Ward based.

Communities of Interest

Approaching representation afresh requires identifying current Communities of Interest. The Electoral Officer has commissioned planning consultants to research and identify the Communities of Interest within the City. The resultant report will enable the Council to recognise starting points upon which to develop a new Ward structure.

Number of Elected Members

The membership of a Council - including the Mayor - can be from 6 to 30 (both figures inclusive). However, the Local Government Commission has shown a predisposition towards the minimum figure as exemplified by its decision to reduce the number of members (other than the Mayor) of the Christchurch City Council, from 18 to 12.

Community Boards must have between 4 to 12 Members, and at least four Elected Members. The number of appointed Members must be less than half of the total.

The key issue to be addressed is what is the optimum number of Members of Council and of Community Boards?

The Local Government Commission 2003 decisions favoured retaining Community Boards and of creating additional Boards, although it did amalgamate some Boards and reduce the number of Members on some boards.

Effect on Remuneration

Remuneration is distributed to Elected Members from a total remuneration pool that is fixed irrespective of the number of Elected Members. Where the number of Members reduces, there will be an increase in Members' salaries. This happened after the 2003 review of Christchurch, Wellington and Tauranga City Councils.

The Logic of Mixed Representation

If the Council wishes to adopt a mix of Councillors elected at large and by Ward it must identify a community of interest encompassing the entire Council area, in addition to smaller geographical communities of interest for Ward areas.

Mixed representation may give voters more choice by enabling them to vote for the Mayor and possibly a majority of Councillors. This may translate into wider interest in the election and encourage greater turnout.

Other Options

An alternative to rationalised re-construction of the Ward system would be to endeavour to adjust the existing Ward boundaries and Members per Ward on a piecemeal basis. This was attempted unsuccessfully in 2000. However, the new statutory requirements may be sufficient incentive to push through the necessary changes.

**Waitakere City Council – Waitakere Eco City
Project Twin Streams – Healthy People in a Healthy Environment: Creating a Sustainable Future**

Sustainable Dynamic Just

Principles

Open honest communication; responsiveness; accountability; partnership; innovation; excellence; integrity

LTCCP Community Outcomes (to be reviewed 2006)

A commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi; Sustainable Development; First Call for Children; A Safe City; Lifelong Learning; Urban & Rural Villages; Integrated Transport & Communication; Strong Innovative Economy; Strong Communities; Active Democracy; Green Network; Three Waters; Sustainable Energy & Clean Air; Zero Waste

Project Twin Streams Philosophy

Sustainability requires action across all four aspects of wellbeing – social, economic, environmental and cultural. For Project Twin Streams this will require actions to ensure strong, healthy, engaged local communities who understand the challenges facing their catchment and take responsibility for them. It recognises that creative ways of learning, respect for heritage and valuing and celebrating different world views are essential ingredients in all community processes. It also understands that strong, local economies require new skills and new approaches which in turn will lead to new opportunities and jobs. All of this requires a healthy natural base, the recreation of biodiversity and the wise management of our natural resources and urban design that achieves a lighter footprint on the earth. This sustainable community development approach has been developed to meet the Infrastructure Auckland contract.

Environmental

- Integrated land use planning & management of the three waters to minimise flooding & reduce pollution & siltation in streams and the harbour
- Integrated catchment management planning & application of the treatment train approach
- Recreate & restore ecological corridors, extending the Green Network
- Create lower impact footprints in the future through low impact urban design and form
- Encourage new sustainable technologies in households, business & the public sector
- Contribute to mitigation of climate change including upholding the Kyoto protocol
- Monitor & evaluate the effectiveness of PTS in improving the environmental & ecological health of the catchment

Economic

- Create opportunities for collaborative ventures with government, business, iwi, urban Maori and academic institutions
- Be a catalyst for iwi, Maori & community economic & enterprise development
- Develop opportunities for research and new water, waste & energy efficient technologies
- Monitor & evaluate the effectiveness of PTS in increasing job & economic development opportunities

Social

- Encourage communities to understand & take responsibility for the social, environmental, cultural & economic development of their localities
- Facilitate the development of locality & community PTS governance structures
- Foster sustainable community leadership
- Develop & promote an integrated holistic approach which connects with people's minds, bodies & spirits
- Create life long learning about how to live, work & play sustainably
- Provide pedestrian & cycle linkages that promote healthy lifestyles
- Promote opportunities that advance affordable & sustainable housing
- Evaluate effectiveness of the community development approach in improving the health & wellbeing of the catchment

Cultural

- Foster expression of iwi and diverse cultural world views through creative methods such as storytelling, art, music literature
- Ensure inclusiveness of & learning from different cultural & world views
- Recognise, respect & profile the heritage of local areas
- Promote creative ways for learning & as a key agent of change
- Monitor & evaluate the effectiveness of using arts & culture to increase the understanding and uptake of local communities and iwi

Underlying Assumptions

- Some goals will be achieved in the short and medium term (3-5 years) and others will be longer term (10-50 years)
- Success requires willingness from across Council to actively support the project
- The community will embrace the community development approach
- In adopting this community development programme additional resources (or reprioritisation of existing resources) will be required for PTS through the 2006 LTCCP



