

2021 Representation Review – July 2021 Update

Meeting: Council Briefing
Date of meeting: 07 July 2021
Reporting officer: Michael Day, Strategy, Policy and Governance Manager

Purpose | Ngā whāinga

To confirm all direction (to date) from Elected Members regarding preferred representation arrangement preferences so that an initial proposal can be developed and brought to the August Council Meeting for approval to consult.

Context | Horopaki

The Local Electoral Act requires all local authorities to undertake a representation arrangement review at least once every six years. Council's last review was undertaken in 2018/2019 (for the 2019 local government elections) with eight councillors being elected from four wards, plus the Mayor.

The next review would normally occur in 2024/2025, however, Council signalled to the Local Government Commission at the previous representation review that it would undertake another review in 2021/22, due to the significant growth being experienced in the District. Council has also resolved to introduce a Māori ward which triggers a review. The review will enable the use of the latest population statistics (2018 Census with population estimates at 30 June 2020) when determining options.

There is a prescribed timetable and process that Councils are required to follow when undertaking a representation arrangement review (refer to **Attachment A** for the KDC timeline). The key point to note is that the Initial proposal will be adopted at the 25 August Council meeting and the formal submission period is planned to run from 27 August 2021 to 27 September 2021.

Discussion | Ngā kōrerorero

At the 26 May 2021 Council briefing, Council's Electoral Officer took Elected Members through a presentation, which presented various representation review options for Kaipara district for the next local authority elections (October 2022). That presentation built on discussions at the four previous representation review briefings, as well as feedback received during April 2021 on the informal representation review consultation and the representation review presentation (and material) that Mangawhai Matters provided to the 28 April 2021 Council Meeting.

When carrying out representation reviews, the Local Government Commission recommends using the most recent population data to reflect the current population most accurately. In this case, this is the 'Estimated Resident Population at 30 June 2020' from Statistics New Zealand.

The Kaipara District Estimated Resident Population can be further split into the 'Māori' electoral population and the 'General' electoral population. The Māori electoral population is 3,680 persons and the General electoral population is 21,500 persons.

Considerations

When undertaking a representation review, Council must look at the following:

- The total number of councillors to be elected
- The number of councillors to be elected per ward
- Whether community boards are to be established
- The number, boundaries and names of the wards where councillors will be elected from.

Direction to date

At the 26 May 2021 briefing, Elected Member direction for the initial proposal was as follows:

- Retain the current ward system
- Community boards – retain the status quo (no community boards)
- Total number of councillors to be 9, as follows:
 - 1 councillor elected from the Māori district-wide ward (the decision to have a Māori ward has already been made)
 - Name this ward following consultation with Māori
 - 3 general wards (West, Central and East wards) electing 8 general councillors
 - Central ward to retain the name of Otamatea
 - East ward to retain the name of Kaiwaka-Mangawhai
 - West ward. Wairoa has been suggested as a name (consultation occurring with Māori)

This presents the following possible preferred option, which complies with the legislative requirements:

General wards	Pop Est 20	Members	Ratio	Min	Max	Variance	Comply
West*	8580	3	2860			6.40	Yes
Central**	4960	2	2480			-7.73	Yes
East***	7960	3	2653			-1.30	Yes
	21500	8	2688	2419	2956		
Māori ward	3680	1	3680				
	25180	9					

* current West Coast-Central & Dargaville wards

** current Otamatea ward

*** current Kaiwaka-Mangawhai ward

Refer to **Attachment B** for a map of the proposed Ward Boundaries (General Wards and Māori Ward). At the time of writing this report, staff are still engaging with mana whenua with regards to suggested names for the Māori ward and the West (general) ward. The intention is to provide an update at the briefing.

Staff are now seeking confirmation (through this briefing) that this direction is correct so that an initial proposal can be prepared. Council's Electoral Officer will be at the briefing to answer questions.

Next steps | E whaiake nei

Following the briefing, staff will prepare the initial proposal for adoption at the August 2021 Council Meeting.

Attachments | Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	Proposed Kaipara District Council Representation Review 2021 Timeline
B	Draft Kaipara District Council Representation Review Ward Boundaries