

REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2021

Effective Representation for
Kaipara District Council



Version 2 - August 2021



Summary

“The representation arrangements of a local authority are where effective democracy begins.”

Kaipara District Council’s last formal representation review was conducted in 2018. The significant change was the addition of the Kaiwaka-Mangawhai Ward. The 2018 review was unable to utilise recent Census data, and since then the population of two wards is now beyond allowed limits.

In the years since the last review, Kaipara has performed strongly with our population and economy growing above the national average. This growth needs to be reflected in the review to ensure equal and fair representation for all those in the district. Council also voted in 2020 to adopt a Māori ward for Council, so this review allows that to be enacted for the next elections in 2022. The Initial Proposal stage provides the detail and reasoning behind the proposed changes and gives all residents and ratepayers the opportunity to have a say before a final decision is made.

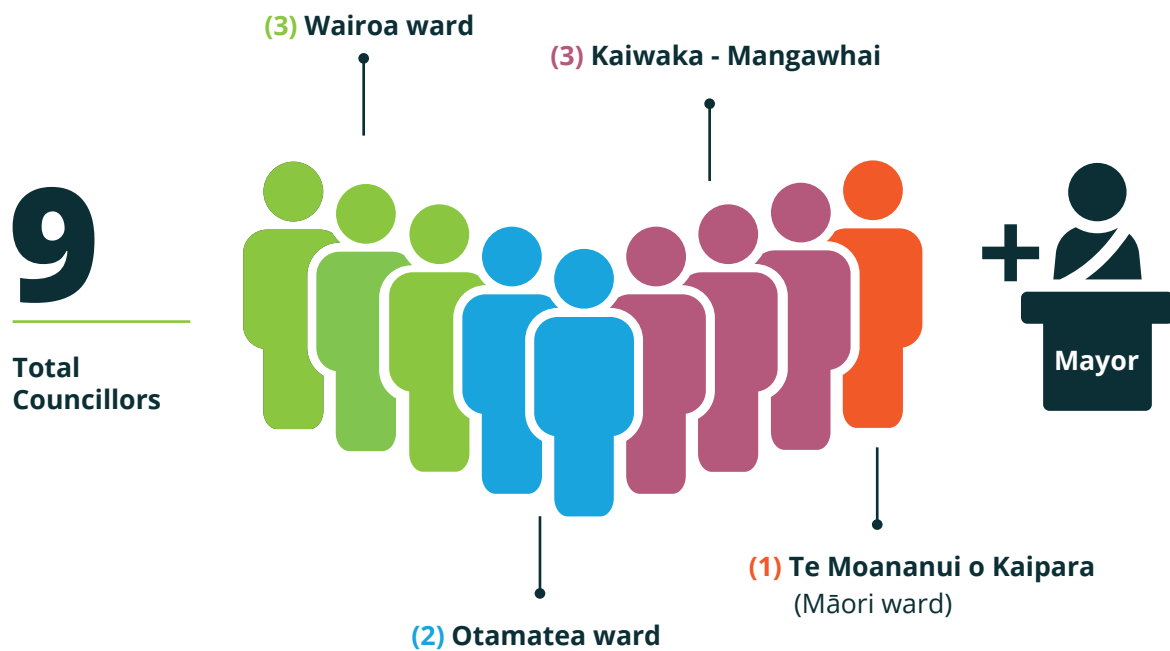
Any changes will apply to the next Kaipara District Council elections in 2022 and 2025.

This review looks at Council’s membership to ensure we’re providing the right representation for our people and their communities. The people elected in your ward are your voice and advocate at the Council table

Each elected member should represent a similar number of people. If Council decides to divide the district into wards, in legislation each ward councillor must represent the same number of people, plus or minus 10%.

Through the proposed changes, Council is seeking a forward-looking democratic structure that will support our continued drive for prosperity and equity, while maintaining and protecting our unique and treasured environment. Strong democratic representation at a meaningful ‘community of interest’ level will empower communities to serve their own needs and aspirations while also contributing to decision making. Please take the time to read this proposal – the Council is very interested to hear your thoughts on the proposed changes.

The proposed changes included in the Initial Proposal are:



- Increase total councillors to 9 (up from 8), plus Mayor (elected-at-large)
- A combined Wairoa ward (merging current Dargaville and West Coast/Central) with 3 Councillors,
- Otamatea to stay the same ward boundary with 2 Councillors (from 3),
- Kaiwaka - Mangawhai to stay the same ward boundary, with 3 Councillors (from 2)
- 1 Councillor being elected from Te Moananui o Kaipara ward (Māori ward).

Council staff are available to talk to interested community groups and stakeholders – call us on 0800 727 059 if you would like to arrange a meeting.

Following the publication of the Initial Proposal (Friday 27 August 2021), there is a one month submission period where you can have your say on the proposed changes. A submission form is included on page 15.

Submissions must be with Council by 4.30pm Monday 27 September 2021.

What is a representation review?

The representation review, which is required by law¹ at least once every six years, looks at:



Two decisions have already been made

Is Māori representation being considered as part of this process?

Yes, at its October 2020 Council meeting, Council voted to establish a Māori ward in Kaipara.

- The Māori ward will be at large, meaning one person represents the entire Kaipara District.
- Those on the Māori electoral roll will vote for candidates who stand in Te Moananui o Kaipara ward in the 2022 and 2025 elections.
- Māori Ward candidates would not need to be on the Māori electoral roll.

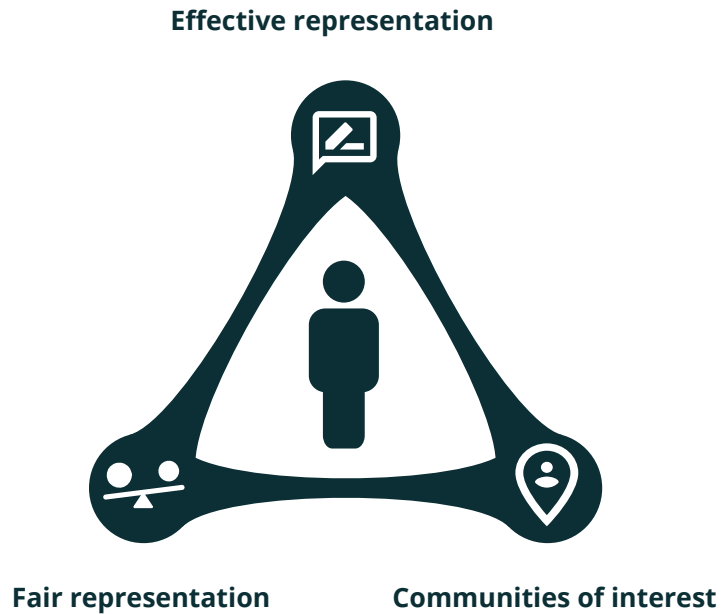
- A Māori Ward Councillor, like every other Councillor and the Mayor, would have just one vote around the Council table

Does this review include the electoral system?

The choice of electoral system (First-Past-the-Post (FPP) or Single Transferable Voting (STV) used for Council's elections was another step taken prior to commencing the representation review. In August 2020 Council decided to retain the STV electoral system for the 2021 triennial election.

What things have to be considered?

Council has to consider the following three factors when deciding on an Initial Proposal for public consultation



The Council considered a range of factors when developing this proposal including:

- a sense of “community identity” and affiliations between towns and settlements;
- similarities in demographic, socio-economic and/or ethnic characteristics;
- land use and local history of the area;
- similarities in activities carried out in the area; and
- shared facilities such as schools, marae, shops and recreational facilities.

¹ Local Electoral Act (LEA) 2001



1. Communities of interest

Council must ensure that the election of councillors provides effective representation of the various communities that make up the Kaipara District. Giving proper consideration to defining communities of interest is therefore a key part of the representation review process.

However, the term “community of interest” is not defined in legislation (the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA)). In reality, “communities of interest” can mean different things to different people and it can (and probably has) changed over time.



2. Effective representation

Once communities of interest have been identified, the Council is required to consider the extent that these communities of interest are geographically distinct and warrant specific representation. How these communities can be grouped together into wards to achieve effective representation for the people who live there is then considered. The wards make up the District and the ward councillors and mayor, collectively are the elected members of the Kaipara District Council.



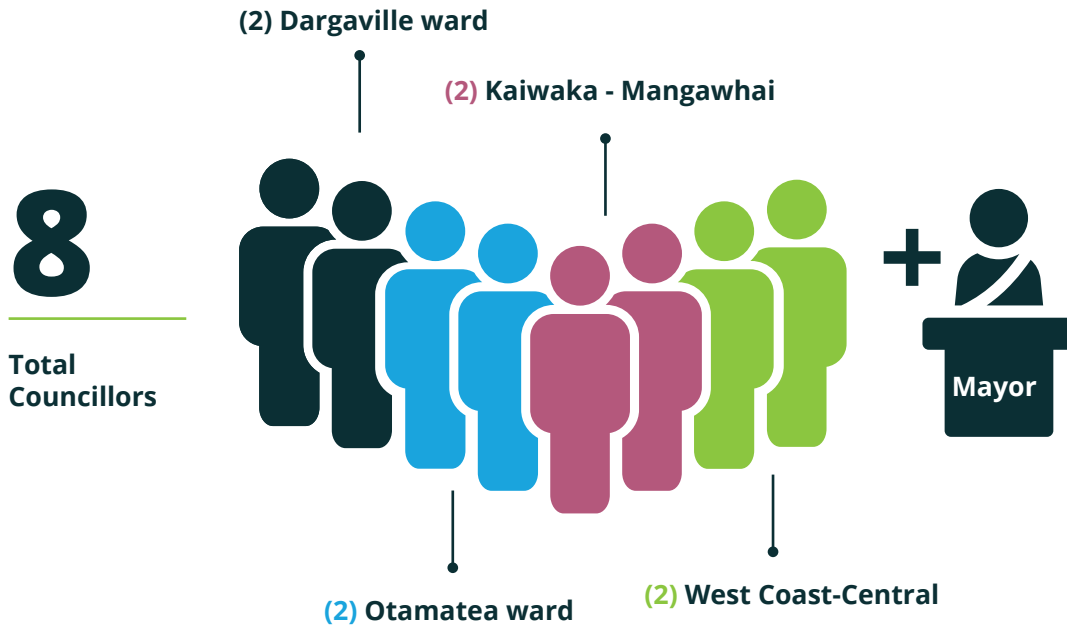
3. Fair representation

After the Council has identified proposed wards, the LEA requires that each councillor must represent approximately the same number of people, plus or minus 10%. The current status quo number of councillors and wards does not meet the plus or minus 10% rule and is discussed further overleaf.



What is the status quo?

The Kaipara District has one mayor elected 'at large'. Eight councillors are elected from four wards, with no community boards.



Ward	Population	Councillors	Average	Fits Rule	% Variation
Dargaville	4,960	2	2,480	No	-21.18%
Kaiwaka-Mangawhai	8,680	2	4,340	No	37.94%
Otamatea	5,760	2	2,880	Yes	8.46%
West Coast-Central	5,770	2	2,885	Yes	-8.30%
Total		8	3,146	Min 2,831	Max 3,460

(based on a population estimate of 25,180¹)

¹ This number must be used as the latest population estimate available for the representation review.

The map below shows the current wards.



What is being proposed?

We are now consulting with our communities on an Initial Proposal that meets the legislative requirements.

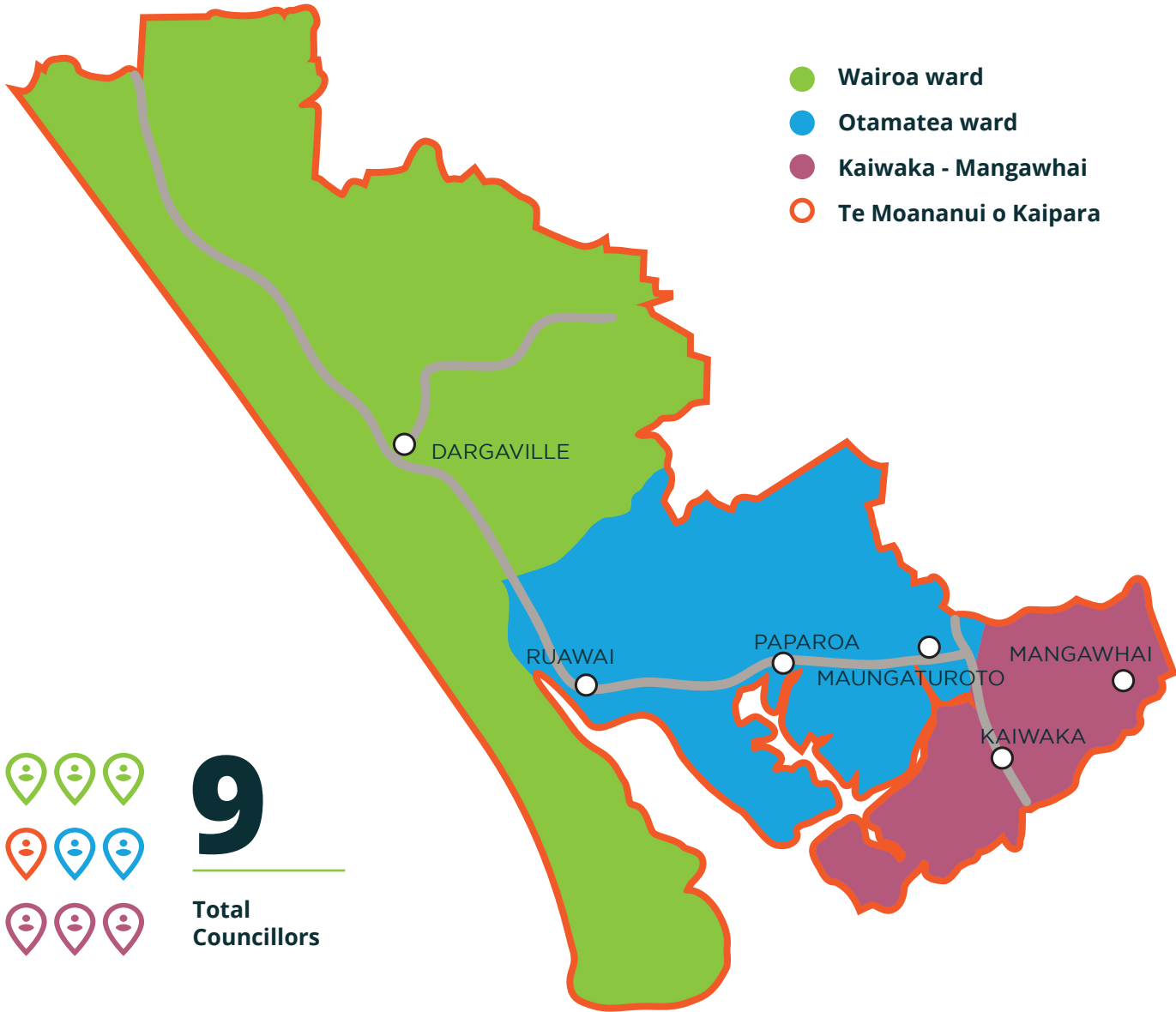


The proposed four wards are:

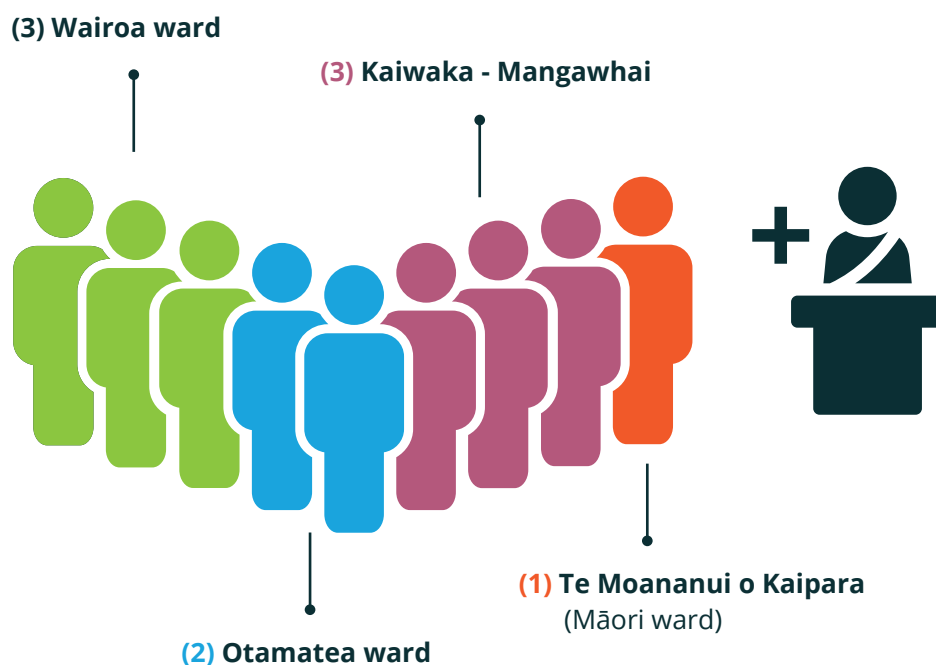
Ward	Communities of interest
Wairoa	Area comprised of Dargaville township, plus the area surrounding Dargaville, through to Waipoua Forest, including Kaihu, Aranga, Donnelly's Crossing, Mamaranui, Omamari, Bayly's Beach, Hoanga, Tangowahine, Tangiteroria, Te Kopuru, Pouto, Turiwiri and Aropohue.
Otamatea	The area comprising the SH 12 townships from Tokatoka back to the Brynderwyns, including Ruawai, Matakoho, Paparua, Maungaturoto, Taipuha, Ararua, Pahi, Whakapirau and Tinopai.
Kaiwaka- Mangawhai	The area comprising the southeast section of Kaipara, including Kaiwaka, Mangawhai township and Mangawhai Heads and surrounding area, Oruawharo and the Oneriri Peninsula and Hakaru.
Te Moananui o Kaipara	Entire district.

No Community boards are proposed to be established.

The map below shows the proposed wards.



The population that each councillor will represent is as follows:



Ward	Population	Councillors	Average	Fits Rule	% Variation
Wairoa	8,580	3	2,860	Yes	6.40
Otamatea	4,960	2	2,480	Yes	-7.73
Kaiwaka-Mangawhai	7,960	3	2,653	Yes	-1.30
Total	21,500	8	2687.5		
Te Moananui o Kaipara	3,680	1	3,680		
Total		9			

(based on a population estimate of 25,180¹)

At election time who can vote for Māori Ward candidates?

- Electors on the Māori electoral roll can only vote for candidates from a Māori Ward.
- Electors on the General electoral roll can only vote for candidates from a General Ward.

What's the financial impact?

- Although we're adding an extra Councillor, the remuneration pool is staying the same. There is no increase to salaries.

¹This number must be used as the latest population estimate available for the representation review.

What happens next?

2021



27 August - 27 September Submission period

Public notice will be made on 27 August, followed by a one-month public submission period. This includes two drop in sessions, details of which are across the page.



October Hearings (as required)

The Council will consider all submissions and hearings will be held for those who wish to present their submission in person to the Council.



27 October Final Proposal confirmed

Following consideration of submissions, changes to the Initial Proposal can be made. A Final Proposal with or without any amendments, will be considered and adopted by the Council on 27 October 2021.



29 October - 29 November Objection / Appeal period

Public notice of the Final Proposal will be made on 29 October 2021. There will be a one-month objection/appeal period, where any member of the public can make a formal objection (if the Final Proposal is an amended Initial Proposal), or an earlier submitter may appeal the Final Proposal (if the Final Proposal was the Initial Proposal).

2022



10 April Determination by Local Government Commission

If the matter is referred to the Local Government Commission (LGC), they are required to make a determination on Kaipara District Council's representation by April 2022. The LGC may hold a hearing if they deem it necessary. The determination is final other than an appeal to the High Court on a point of law. Any appeal must be lodged within one month of the Local Government Commission's determination.



8 October Council's elections

The 2022 (and 2025) Kaipara District Council elections will be based on the representation arrangements arrived at during the above representation review process.

How do I have my say?

You can make a submission online where you can also find the details of the Initial Proposal. Or simply fill out the form below.

Online: www.kaipara.govt.nz/RepReview

Email: haveyoursay@kaipara.govt.nz

Mail: Chief Executive Officer,
Kaipara District Council
Private Bag 1001
Dargaville 0310



**We encourage online feedback
as it helps keep costs down**



**Submissions close at 4.30pm
Monday 27 September 2021.**

Important Notes

The questions in the feedback form are designed to be read in conjunction with the Representation Review 2021 – Initial Proposal document.

To assist in determining our final representation arrangements and the make-up of the wards, you can make a submission on:



the number of wards;



where the boundaries should be;



the names of those wards



the number of councillors overall
and for each ward (remembering the
population and ratios required by
law);



whether or not community boards
should be established.

Giving your feedback



Please ensure you provide appropriate contact details. Emails are our preferred form of communication.



Submissions, as part of the public consultation process **are a public record***, and will be included in publicly available Agenda, and will remain on Council's Minute Records. *Contact details will be redacted.

Full Name:

Organisation:

(if giving feedback on behalf of)

Email:

Phone:

My current ward is: *(tick one which applies)*

Dargaville Otamatea Kaiwaka/Mangawhai West Coast/Central

I: SUPPORT OPPOSE *(tick one which applies)*

the Council's proposed Representation Review arrangements for the 2022 elections *(Initial Proposal)*.

My reasoning for my above statement is...

Do you wish to speak to your submission?

Yes No

Preferred location: Mangawhai Dargaville

The hearings are scheduled for 6-7 October 2021.

