

# Council

## Open Agenda



Notice is hereby given that an ordinary meeting of Matamata-Piako District Council will be held on:

**Date:** Wednesday 15 August 2018  
**Time:** 9:00AM  
**Venue:** Council Chambers  
35 Kenrick Street  
TE AROHA

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### Membership

#### Mayor

Jan Barnes, JP

#### Councillors

Donna Arnold  
Teena Cornes  
Paul Cronin  
Neil Goodger  
Brian Hunter  
Peter Jager

James Sainsbury  
Ash Tanner  
Kevin Tappin  
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**1 Meeting Opening**

**2 Apologies**

At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.

**3 Leave of absence**

At the close of the agenda no requests for leave of absence had been received.

**4 Urgent Additional Business**

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at that meeting if-

- (a) The local authority by resolution so decides; and
- (b) The presiding member explains at the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public,-
  - (i) The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
  - (ii) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting,-

- (a) That item may be discussed at that meeting if-
  - (i) That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
  - (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
- (b) no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”

**5 Declaration of interest**

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of the items on this Agenda.

**6 Confirmation of minutes**

Minutes, as circulated, of the Ordinary Meeting of Matamata-Piako District Council, held on 8 August 2018

- 7      Matters Arising**
- 8      Announcements**
- 9      Notices of Motion**

# Representation Review Hearing

Trim No.: 2032707

## Executive Summary

Matamata-Piako District Council (Council) is undertaking a representation arrangements review under the Local Electoral Act 2001 (the Act).

Council determined its Initial Proposal on 13 June 2018 and publicly notified its proposal on 20 June 2018. Submissions closed at 5pm on 20 July 2018.

The proposal was to maintain the status quo for representation arrangements. A copy of the Council resolution and public notice is attached to this report.

The submissions received, and Facebook comments are circulated separately to this report. Included within the submissions document is an overview of the submissions received with a breakdown of the location of submissions, the method they were received (hardcopy, website etc.) and the age category of respondents.

195 submissions (including one late submission) were received with 160 submissions or 82% of these in support of the Council's Initial Proposal. A large portion of the submissions received in support provided no additional comments with their submission so it is difficult to understand the basis for the support shown, other than as an indication that the existing representation arrangements reflect community views and the district's community of interest.

Of the 34 submissions or 17% that were not in support of Council's initial proposal and provided written comments 11 specifically sought that Community Boards be re-established, an additional two submissions also requested Community Boards be re-established amongst other various requests, bringing the total to 13 submissions. (Note there were also three submissions which supported to Initial Proposal but also requested Community Board/s be re-established). Other comments made in submissions that did not support the proposal included seeking changes to the number of Councillors representing each Ward, establishment of a Maori Ward or moving to an 'at large' structure (i.e. no wards) and other various reasons detailed in the submissions document.

Council now needs to consider the submissions received to its Initial Proposal and hear those submitters who have asked to present to Council. A hearing schedule has been included within the Submissions and Facebook comments document. Some submitters requested to be heard in their submissions but have since withdrawn or have not been contactable at the time of writing. Any changes to the hearing schedule will be tabled at the meeting.

Following consideration of the submissions Council needs to resolve a Final Proposal, this will then be publicly notified from 29 August to 30 September. During this:

- an appeal may be made by a submitter on the Initial Proposal about matters related to their original submission (s19O)
- an objection may be lodged by any person or organisation if the Council's Final Proposal differs from its Initial Proposal (s19P). The objection must identify the matters to which the objection relates.

If an appeal or objection is made or if the Final Proposal does not comply with the '+/-10% rule' (s19V) Council must refer their Final Proposal to the Local Government Commission (LGC). The LGC then consider the appeals, objections, and/or other information, determine the representation arrangements for the local authority (section 19R) before 11 April 2019. In making its determination, the LGC is able to make any enquiries that it considers appropriate, and may choose to hold meetings with the parties. Staff will report back to Council, in due course, with an update on any appeals and/or objections received and to discuss the next steps in the process.

## **Recommendation**

**That:**

- 1. The information be received.**
- 2. Council resolve to accept the late submission as detailed in the attachment as well as any tabled on the day.**
- 3. Council has heard all submitters who wished to be heard.**
- 4. All submissions have been considered, with decisions made and recorded in relation to each submission where necessary.**
- 5. Pursuant to section 19N(1)(a) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and as a result of its consideration of submissions on its Initial Proposal as determined on 13 June 2018, Council either:**
  - a) Confirms its Initial Proposal with no amendments as its Final Proposal. Acknowledges that confirming its Initial Proposal, as its Final Proposal, with no amendments results in non-compliance with the fair representation (+/- 10% rule), which means it must be treated as an appeal under section 19V(5) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and referred to the Local Government Commission following the appeal/objection period. The Local Government Commission will then determine the outcome for Matamata-Piako District Council for the 2019 and 2022 elections.**
  - OR**
  - b) Amend its Initial Proposal, detailing the specific aspects that have been amended and the reasons for this. The details must include**
    - the basis for election (at large or by wards or a mix)**
    - the boundaries and names of wards (if applicable)**
    - the number of Councillors to be elected in total and/or from each ward**
    - The number and boundaries of any communities of interest.**
    - The establishment of a Community Board/s and the structure and boundaries (if applicable).**
- 6. Council staff inform each submitter of the decisions made.**
- 7. The period for appeals and/or objections be notified in the period 29 August to 30 September 2018.**



## Content

### Background

#### Overview

Local authorities are required to carry out a representation review at least every six years. Council last conducted a representation review in 2012 (for the 2013 and 2016 triennial elections) and is required to carry out a representation review in 2018.

The requirements relating to representation reviews are specified in sections 19A to 19Y of the Act.

#### Timeframes

The key dates for the representation review are as follows:

- Council determined its initial proposal – 13 June
- Public notice of initial proposal – 20 June
- Submission period - 20 June – 20 July
- Hearing/deliberations - 15 August
- Council to determine its final proposal – 15 August
- Public notice of final proposal – 29 August
- Appeal/objection period – 29 August – 30 September
- If no appeals or objections are received and the arrangements comply with the +/- 10% rule, then Council's proposal becomes final - October
- If appeals or objections are received and/or Council's proposal does not comply with the +/- 10% rule the LGC makes a determination - before 11 April 2019

It is noted that Council previously considered Maori representation and resolved not to establish a Maori Ward for the 2019 elections at its meeting on 8 November 2017.

#### Representation structure

Council must make a Final Proposal to determine how its representation structure is to be arranged for the next triennial local authority elections in 2019 and 2022. Council is required to determine by resolution a Final Proposal after consideration of:

- whether Councillors (other than the mayor) are to be elected by electors of the district as a whole ('at large') or by electors of two or more wards, or in some cases by a combination of the electors of the district as a whole ('at large') and by electors of wards
- the proposed number of Councillors to be elected ('at large', by ward, or a combination of both)
- the proposed name and boundaries for each ward (if applicable).

In addition, communities of interest and Community Boards are required to be considered as part of the review process. If applicable, Council must determine the number of elected and appointed members of a Community Board.

### Representation options

Current representation arrangements are the mayor (elected at large), 11 Councillors (elected from three wards) and no Community Boards.

Under the Act, after identifying communities of interest, Council is required to consider effective representation of these communities of interest and fair representation of electors. Under the fair representation of electors, Council is to ensure the ward populations do not vary by more than +/- 10% in terms of the population per Councillor. There is however some legislative leeway with this requirement if compliance divides a community of interest between wards or unites two or more communities of interest with few commonalities of interest.

Currently one of the three wards (Te Aroha Ward) does not comply with the +/- 10% rule.

Council previously held number of workshops to discuss and consider the relevant issues when undertaking a review and initially considered a range of possible options for representation, some of which did not comply with the +/-10% rule. From the various options discussed, Council identified three reasonably practicable options to be explored further, these being:

- Option1: Decreasing to 8 ward Councillors, 3 in Matamata, 3 in Morrinsville, 2 in Te Aroha (no change in ward boundaries)
- Option 2: Increasing to 13 ward Councillors, 5 in Matamata, 5 in Morrinsville, 3 in Te Aroha (no change in ward boundaries)
- Option 3: 8 ward Councillors, 3 in Matamata, 3 in Morrinsville, 2 in Te Aroha plus some (number to be determined) Councillors elected 'at large' (no changes in ward boundaries)

### Council's Initial Proposal

At its meeting of 13 June 2018, Council considered views of the community identified through preliminary consultation as well as the options that were identified in respect of each aspect of Council's representation arrangements to be determined. A copy of the resolution and public notice is attached.

### Consultation

Having determined its Initial Proposal on 13 June 2018, Council publicly notified its proposal and invited submissions in accordance with section 19M(1) of the Act.

The submissions received, and Facebook comments are circulated separately to this report. Included within the submissions document is an overview of the submissions received with a breakdown of the location of submissions, the method they were received (hardcopy, website etc.) and the age category of respondents.

195 submissions (including one late submission) were received with 160 submissions or 82% of these in support of the Council's initial proposal. A large portion of the submissions received in support provided no additional comments with their submission so it is difficult to understand the basis for the support shown, other than as an indication that the existing representation arrangements reflect community views and the district's community of interest.

Of the 34 submissions or 17% that were not in support of Council's initial proposal and provided written comments 11 specifically sought that Community Boards be re-established an additional two submissions also requested community boards be re-established amongst other various requests, bringing the total to 13 submissions. Other comments made in submissions that did not support the proposal included seeking changes to the number of Councillors representing each Ward, establishment of a Maori Ward or moving to an 'at large' structure (i.e. no wards) and other various reasons detailed in the submissions document.

Council must now consider all submissions and make decisions, and the reasons for this, and state the reasons for any amendments to the Initial Proposal.

#### Response to submissions

Under 19N of the Act, Council must, within 6 weeks after the end of the period allowed for the making of submissions (i.e. 20 July 2018):

- Consider all submissions received and may, by resolution, make amendments to the resolution made on the Initial Proposal
- Give public notice of its Final Proposal. The public notice must:
  - incorporate any amendments resolved to the Initial Proposal; and
  - state both the reasons for the amendments and the reasons for any rejection of submissions; and
  - specify the communities of interest considered by the territorial authority
  - specify the ratio of population to proposed members for each proposed ward, or subdivision, and the reasons for those proposals
  - specify the right of appeal including the place and closing date for the receipt of appeals; and
  - if the Council has amended its Initial Proposal specify the right of objection, including the place and closing date for the receipt of objections.

It is proposed that the Final Proposal be publicly notified on 29 August providing the opportunity for appeals and objections (if applicable) to be lodged in the period 29 August to 30 September 2018.

The legislation requires that public notice of the Final Proposal is issued by 31 August being within 6 weeks from the close of submissions (on 20 July).

#### **Issues**

##### Final Proposal – Matters for Determination

Council must now determine its Final Proposal. Subject to any determination of the LGC, Council's Final Proposal will establish the form of Council's electoral representation arrangements for the next six years.

In determining its Final Proposal Council is required to provide for effective representation of the district's communities of interest as well as fair representation of electors. Further to this, Council's Final Proposal will determine:

- The basis of election by wards, at large or a mix of both;
- The structure and boundaries of any wards;
- The number of elected members (including the number of elected members per ward);
- The establishment of Community Boards; and
- The establishment of any Maori ward.

Section 19V of the Act requires that for each ward the proportion of ward Councillors to the ward population remains within 10% of the proportion of all Councillors to the population for the district as a whole.

### Key principles

In undertaking a representation arrangements review, the following key principles must be considered:

- communities of interest
- effective representation
- fair representation (+/- 10% rule)

These are discussed each, in turn, below.

### **Communities of interest**

Defining communities of interest is an essential part of the review process and needs to be done before Council determines how to provide effective representation.

The LGC refers to 'community of interest' as a three-dimensional concept with perceptual and functional aspects:

- perceptual – a sense of belonging to a clearly defined area or locality
- functional – the ability to meet with reasonable economy the community's requirements for comprehensive physical and human services
- political – the ability of the elected body to represent the interests and reconcile the conflicts of all its members.

### **Communities of interest in Matamata-Piako District**

A preliminary survey was undertaken in 2011 to gather views on the district's communities of interest. The previous representation review in 2012 identified the following communities of interest in the Matamata-Piako District:

- Maori
- Maori of each distinct iwi
- Te Aroha urban
- Matamata urban
- Morrinsville urban
- District rural
- Te Aroha rural
- Matamata rural
- Morrinsville rural
- Small rural townships such as, for example, Waihou, Waharoa, Tatuani, and Waitoa.

It was noted that some of these communities of interest may overlap and that people may belong to more than one community.

Council should now give consideration to whether the above communities of interest have changed since the last representation review or whether any information provided in the submissions means the communities of interest have changed since Council set its Initial Proposal on 13 June 2018.

### **Effective representation**

Under section 19T of the ACT Council must ensure effective representation of communities of interest. Issues to consider in achieving effective representation require identifying communities of interest that are geographically distinct:

- once communities of interest have been defined by geographical boundaries, need to consider how these communities will be most effectively represented
- does each community of interest require separate representation?

- can communities of interest be grouped together to achieve effective representation?
- is effective representation best achieved by an at large system, a ward system or a mixed system?
- if at large - how many members would provide effective representation for the district as a whole?
- if wards - how many members for each ward would provide effective representation?
- should there be communities and Community Boards?
- ward and Community Board boundaries to coincide with mesh block boundaries.

Effective representation must be achieved by having between 5 and 29 members (excluding the mayor). Factors to consider include the size, nature, and diversity of the district.

Effective representation of communities of interest is achieved by ensuring that, where possible and warranted, any distinct geographical communities of interest are given specific representation by wards. Factors that may be considered in determining what constitutes effective representation are:

- Not splitting recognised communities of interest between electoral subdivisions.
- Not grouping together two or more communities of interest that share few commonalities of interest.
- Accessibility, size and configuration of an area, including:
  - Reasonable access to elected members.
  - Elected representatives being representative of the views of their electoral area.
  - Ability of elected members to interact in person with electors of their electoral area.
  - The role that Community Boards have in contributing to the representation of communities.

### **Fair representation**

The requirement that the average number of resident population to elected members not exceed +/-10 per cent is required to be taken into account. This applies towards wards and subdivisions of Community Boards (if applicable). The process to follow when undertaking a representation arrangements review is:

- Identify the district's communities of interest.
- Determine the effectiveness of members by looking at the overall number of members, whether they represent the district at large or from wards or by a mixture, in order to ensure that members are effective (are able to listen to and represent constituents effectively).
- Investigate whether there should be Community Boards, and if so, the number, boundaries, number of members, whether they be subdivided etc.
- Determine that members fairly represent their constituents by ensuring the average population ratio is no more than a +/- 10% variance.

The objective of the +/- 10% rule is population equity where Councillor, regardless of which ward or Community Board they represent, is elected by a roughly equivalent portion of the district's population. This ensures that all votes are of approximately equal value and electors are fairly represented.

The latest population estimates (as at 30 June 2017) for each current ward are:

Ward	Population	Councillors	Average People Per Councillor	Deviation from Average Population per Councillor	% Deviation from Average Population per Councillor
Matamata	13,800	4	3,450	293	9.28%
Morrinsville	12,700	4	3,175	18	0.57%
Te Aroha	8,230	3	2,743	-414	-13.11%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34,730</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3,157</b>		

Currently the Te Aroha Ward does not comply with the +/- 10% rule, with the Te Aroha Ward being over represented in comparison to the other two wards.

### Issues

#### Councillor numbers

Pursuant to section 19A of the Act Council must have between 5 and 29 members (excluding the mayor). Whether the basis for elections is by ward or at large affects the possible number of Councillors and the number of Councillors per ward.

In order to consider what the number of elected members is to be, it is therefore first necessary to consider the options for structure, size and number of wards that are open to Council.

There is no particular guidance on the number of Councillors that could reasonably be elected at large. It's a judgement call but based ultimately on what gives fair and effective representation. Factors might include:

- What ward arrangement results in compliance with the +/-10% rule?
- If wards have to be changed, what arrangement provides effective representation of communities of interest?

The number of Councillors should reflect the district population. In its 2013 determination the LGC made the following comments:

*The Council was proposing retention of 11 elected members and we believe this appears to be within an appropriate range for the Council.*

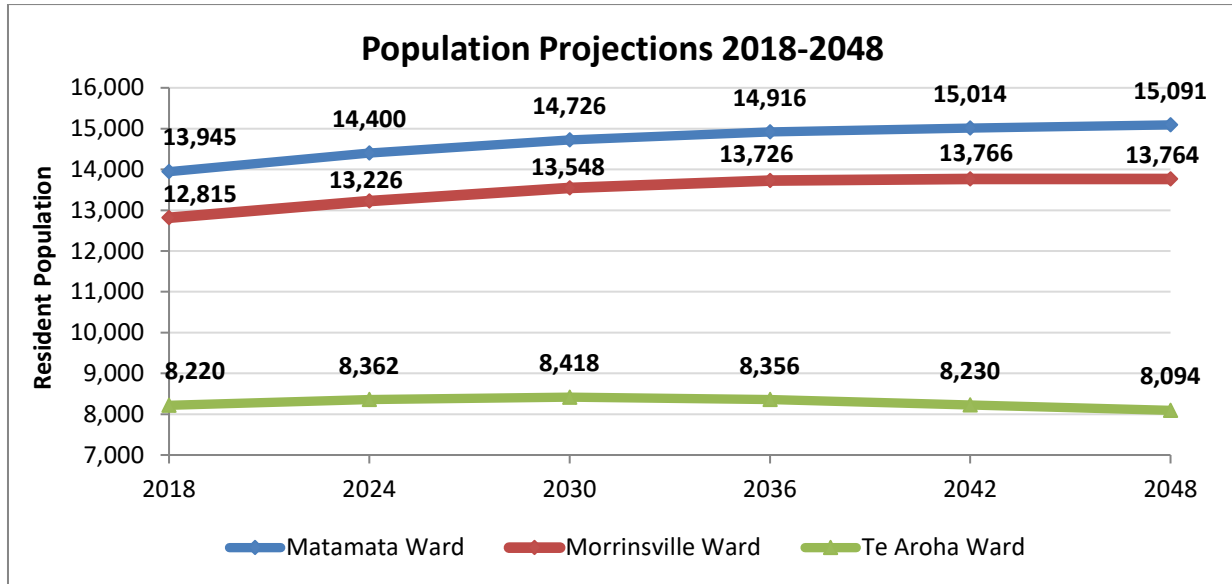
*In relation to effective representation, we note that Matamata-Piako has a relatively high level of Councillor representation for districts in the 20 – 50,000 population range.*

Council may wish to reflect on the projected population growth for the district and the distribution of this growth across the wards. If Council decides to increase the number of Councillors keeping within an appropriate range for the size of our population will be important.

Statistics NZ does not provide population projections for ward areas. In 2017 Council Commissioned a review of the district's resident population, dwelling and rating unit projections out to 2048 from Rationale Consultants. These projections provide low (declining population), medium (steady growth in population) and high (strong population growth) growth scenarios. Council considers the medium growth scenario is most appropriate for our long term planning.



The district is projected to grow over the next 30 years (2018-2048) by around 2,000 people (an average of 66 per year or 0.2%). The graph below shows the projected population growth of each ward using the medium growth series:



Under these projections the projected population of Matamata-Piako District is 34,980 (as at 30 June 2018). The urban areas provide for approximately 43% of the district's Population. Nearly 80% of the population growth and 70% of the dwelling growth is forecast to occur in the three urban towns (Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha). Of the three urban towns, Matamata and Morrinsville are projected to experience the highest population growth, at around 0.5% or 41 people per year out to 2048. This is significantly higher than the projected increase in Te Aroha (0.2% or 8 people per year).

The ongoing shifts in the district population since the last representation review in 2012 increased the deviation from the +/- 10% rule. The deviation has now increased to -13.11% (using the 2017 population estimates) which signals a continuing trend towards greater non-compliance over time.

#### Comparative representation

Council staff have researched the representation arrangements of other Territorial Authorities within the Waikato region and within the 20,000-50,000 population range. The population, number of Councillors (excluding Mayor), the Population per Councillor, and the number of Community Board members, if there are community boards in place are detailed in the attachment.

The following points in respect of these figures should be noted:

- As a very rough trend, the higher the population of a district, the higher the ratio of district population to Councillor;
- However, a number of prescribed limits do affect this trend. The number of Councillors (excluding Mayor) must be between 5 and 29. This means that when a district has a small population the ratio diminishes rapidly due to the inability to drop Councillor numbers below 5. Additionally, even when it might be preferable in terms of the ratio to decrease or increase Councillor numbers, this might not be possible due to the application of the +/- 10% rule. The trend will also be affected at higher levels of population; however none of the districts in the table are affected by this as their populations are not high enough, nor are they close to the maximum 29 Councillors.

- This trend aside, these figures should be treated with care. The ratio of Councillors per head of population varies widely across the region, though it should be noted that in accordance with the above trend the variation in the ratio roughly correlates to the range of district population sizes across the region. This means that without a broadly consistent ratio across the region we do not have a benchmark to compare the Matamata-Piako District's representation to. However, what can be said is that relatively speaking, in terms of the ratio as it relates to the population size, Matamata-Piako's representation is roughly in the middle of the range of district populations in the region, and the Councillor per population ratio is roughly in the middle of the range of district ratios in the region. So, while we cannot say that Matamata-Piako's Councillor per population ratio is relatively consistent with other districts, we can say that the relationship between this ratio and Matamata-Piako's population is broadly consistent.
- The information relating to Community Boards may be of limited relevance to the Matamata-Piako district's representation given that the nature and structure of Community Boards is specific to the communities of interest in each particular district. It is difficult to draw any conclusions from current practice across the region due to there not seeming to be much correlation between population size or population per member ratio and the number of Community Board members.
- The number of Community Board Members is not tied back to a range in the total population per member ratio like it is with Councillors by the +/- 10% rule (unless there are subdivisions). Additionally, the number of Community Board members permitted per board under the Act is between 4 and 12. This means that, where it is identified that Community Boards are necessary for the effective representation of a community of interest such as Kawhia in the Otorohanga district, the Board must have a minimum of 4 members even when the population of the community is very small (400 in this case).
- Another reason why it is of limited value to compare Community Board representation across districts is that Council's representation arrangements are required to ensure the fair and effective representation of communities of interest. As most districts will have different communities of interest with different geographic and demographic characteristics, there is no benchmark to compare Community Boards against.
- Councillors and Community Board members are different classes of elected member. They perform different roles and are elected in separate elections.
- Under the +/- 10% rule there are strict limitations on the number of Councillors that may be elected, whereas such limitations are not imposed on the number of Community Board members and indeed this number is not linked to population at all.
- Community Board representation is arranged by Community subdivision rather than across the district as a whole. A number of districts have a significant portion of their population outside of a community subdivision, or when some community subdivisions are represented by a proportionally higher number of members. In other words, areas of these districts are not represented by Community Board members at all or are represented at different ratios.

#### Ward boundaries

It is noted that s19T of the Act requires that ward boundaries coincide with the boundaries of meshblocks and that, so far as is practicable, ward boundaries should coincide with Community Board boundaries. This supports communities of interest, local electors' identification with their area and may encourage participation, such as voting or standing as a candidate.

In their 2013 determination for Council the LGC said: *We also agree with the Council's assessment that the district is compact relative to many other districts in the country facilitating ward-wide representation by Councillors.*



Moving Ward boundaries is one way that compliance with the +/- 10% rule could be achieved – if the Te Aroha Ward was expanded into the existing Morrinsville, Matamata Ward or both to encompass a greater land area (and thus population). This would help balance the Ward populations and create more equality of representation in terms of the Act. Council has indicated it does not wish to alter ward boundaries in this way for the following reasons:

- In last year's community survey, 84% of respondents told us that the ward they live in reflects their community of interest and 80% of respondents told us they think the current representation system fairly reflects their community.
- There are very few submissions on the Initial Proposal suggesting changes to the ward boundaries or ward structure (only 4 submissions out of a total of 195 commented on the ward arrangements/boundaries). In addition, as previously discussed, 82% of submissions were in support of the Council's initial proposal which did not propose any boundary alterations. This indicates a level of support for the existing boundary locations and ward arrangements.
- Such a change would bring into the Te Aroha Ward people who have a greater community of interest with Matamata/Morrinsville than with Te Aroha Ward. These communities of interest which may include aspects such as shopping, schooling, sports and employment and newspaper circulation (the Matamata Chronicle is delivered mostly in the Matamata Ward with the Piako Post delivered across the Morrinsville and Te Aroha Wards) as well as perceived affiliation with the local area.
- The ward boundaries have remained in place for many years and they are familiar to the community.

### **Basis of election by wards or at large**

In respect of the basis for election, Council has the following broad options:

- 1) Retain the Status quo – election by wards
- 2) Change to elections at large
- 3) A mixture of wards and elections at large

### **Election by wards**

Wards provide for Councillors to be potentially more accessible to their constituents and able to concentrate on issues of local importance, and have a greater affiliation with the local issues. Wards can help give communities of interest within the district more direct representation.

### **Change to elections at large**

Councillors govern for the district as a whole and Councillors elected at large may avoid parochial ward attitudes, responsibilities of wards Councillors (or perception of such) in favour of representing the whole community. Potentially it may afford opportunities for small communities to be directly represented on Council, if they are able to muster sufficient support for a candidate. It would also provide an ability for Council to manage changes in the district's population, as the +/- 10% rule does not apply to Councillors elected at large.

### **Election via a mixed system (some Councillors elected by ward & at large)**

It is possible that some Councillors could be elected at large to represent the common communities of interest at the district level (for example, the rural community of interest).

Council may find a balance of district wide and ward Councillors could provide multiple ways of representation for communities. Having both district wide Councillors and ward Councillors could cater to the dual nature of the Matamata-Piako District (i.e. rural and urban).

Council has indicated it wishes to retain the current election by ward structure for the reasons detailed under option 3 on the following pages.

### Options for electing Councillors

Some of the options available to Council are as follows:

#### **Status quo (Matamata – 4, Morrinsville – 4, Te Aroha – 3)**

The district as a whole has 3,157 people per Councillor. The ward populations per ward Councillor are: 3,450 (Matamata), 3,175 (Morrinsville), and 2,743 (Te Aroha).

This option does not comply with the +/- 10% rule with the Te Aroha Ward being over represented. Council will require an exemption from the LGC if this option becomes its Final Proposal. Information on the exemption criteria is explained further in this report.

Ward	Population (30 June 2017)	Councillors	Average People Per Councillor	Deviation from Average Population per Councillor	% Deviation from Average Population per Councillor
Matamata	13,800	4	3,450	293	9.27%
Morrinsville	12,700	4	3,175	18	0.56%
Te Aroha	8,230	3	2,743	-414	-13.11%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34,730</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3,157</b>		

The reasons why Council decided this as its Initial Proposal are set out in the attached resolution and public notice.

#### **Option 1 - Decrease members to 8, same wards and structure (Matamata 3, Morrinsville 3, Te Aroha 2)**

The district as a whole has 4,341 people per Councillor. The ward populations per ward Councillor are 4,600 (Matamata), 4,233 (Morrinsville) and 4,115 (Te Aroha). Reducing the Councillor numbers in this way results in a 37.5% increase in the count of population represented by each Councillor. Each ward is within 10% of the ratio for the district as a whole.

Ward	Population (30 June 2017)	Councillors	Average People Per Councillor	Deviation from Average Population per Councillor	% Deviation from Average Population per Councillor
Matamata	13,800	3	4,600	259	5.97%
Morrinsville	12,700	3	4,233	-108	-2.49%
Te Aroha	8,230	2	4,115	-226	-5.21%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34,730</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4,341</b>		

Council previously discounted this option because:

- It considered there would be insufficient number of Councillors available to manage the affairs of Council.

- The Elected Members' workloads could become excessive.
- A reduced number of Elected Members may limit the likelihood of diversity of opinion and less understanding of the issues confronting the local community.
- Diversity in Councillor skill sets, experience and backgrounds may not be maintained.
- It could be difficult to retain adequate lines of communication between the community and Council.
- 8 Councillors is considered too small as a representative body. Matamata-Piako has no Community Boards – there could be a risk of under representing the community with 8 Councillors.
- The meeting quorum would be 4 excluding the Mayor – which could be viewed as a relatively small number and if a Councillor is absent for any reason the ward representation could be compromised. Under the Local Government Act 2002 (clause 23, schedule 7) a quorum at a Council meeting consists of half of the members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even; or a majority of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is odd.

### Option 2 - Increase members to 13, same wards and structure (Matamata 5, Morrinsville 5, Te Aroha 3)

The district as a whole has 2,672 people per Councillor. The ward populations per ward Councillor are 2,760 (Matamata), 2,540 (Morrinsville) and 2,743 (Te Aroha). Increasing the Councillor numbers by 2 to 13 results in a 15.36% decrease in the count of population represented by each Councillor.

Each ward is within 10% of the ratio for the district as a whole.

Ward	Population (30 June 2017)	Councillors	Average People Per Councillor	Deviation from Average Population per Councillor	% Deviation from Average Population per Councillor
Matamata	13,800	5	2,760	88	3.29%
Morrinsville	12,700	5	2,540	-132	-4.94%
Te Aroha	8,230	3	2,743	71	2.66%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34,730</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2,672</b>		

Council previously discounted this option because:

- An increase to 13 members could be perceived to take Council out of the range of appropriate representation (i.e. may well create over representation). It is noted that over representation is not 'effective representation' as required by the Act.
- The numbers of Councillors in districts with similar populations mostly have less than 13 members. The closest population to Matamata-Piako District for a 13 member Council is Marlborough District which has a population of 46,280. Matamata-Piako District has a population of 34,730 so it could be questioned whether Matamata-Piako warrants 13 Councillors having regard to population size.
- Due to a lack of candidates at the 2016 election (with two of the three wards and Mayorality having candidates elected unopposed) there may be difficulty filling Councillors positions, without incurring the expense of a by-election. By increasing the number of Councillors,

Council is more exposed to the costs of a by-election if Councillor roles are not filled at the triennial elections.

**Option 3 - Elect some Councillors by ward and some at large (Matamata – 3, Morrinsville – 3, Te Aroha – 2; some at large (number to be determined))**

The ward populations per ward Councillors are: 4,600 (Matamata), 4,233 (Morrinsville), and 4,115 (Te Aroha) and is within 10% of the ratio for the district as a whole. There is no particular guidance on the number of councillors that could reasonably be elected at large

Ward	Population (30 June 2017)	Councillors	Average People Per Councillor	Deviation from Average Population per Councillor	% Deviation from Average Population per Councillor
Matamata	13,800	3	4,600	259	5.97%
Morrinsville	12,700	3	4,233	-108	-2.49%
Te Aroha	8,230	2	4,115	-226	-5.21%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34,730</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4,341</b>		
<b>Councillors elected at lae</b>	34,730	TBC			

Council previously discounted this option because:

- There is no distinct shared common community of interest at the district level warranting members elected at large.
- This approach could possibly be confusing to people and possibly decrease voter turnout.
- Ward Councillors are required to act in the districts best interests anyway, and if some at large seats are established people may question what the value is.
- Contesting 'at large' elections could require more costly campaigning across the entire district.
- It is questionable as to whether sufficient candidates would stand in the 'at large' seats, as they would likely need to have a profile/be known across the whole district in order to be elected, rather than be known more locally within a ward. This combined with the costs of running a district-wide campaign may deter potential candidates.

**Community Boards**

Under section 19J of the Act Council is required to consider both the establishment and the nature and structure of Community Boards as a part of its representation review. The issue to be addressed by Council is whether Community Boards are appropriate to provide fair and effective representation for communities in its district.

Factors that should be considered in determining the matters under s19J of the Act are:

- There were 16 submissions in total which sought the re-establishment of a Community Board/s to provide further representation of the district's community, these 16 consisted of:
  - 11 Submitters opposed the initial proposal and provided a specific comment that community boards should be re-established.
  - 2 submissions which gave 'various' reasons for not supporting the proposal included seeking the re-establishment of a Community Board/s amongst other issues.
  - In addition 3 submissions supported the initial proposal but with the introduction of community boards.

- The views of the community sought by Council through the pre-consultation questionnaire:
  - 64% of respondents said Council should not re-establish community boards, with 29% saying they should. Of those that provided a reason, 45% felt the current system works well/Councillors are accessible.
  - The specific comments relating to communities of interest, effectiveness of representation Community Boards.
- Council's annual resident survey undertaken by an external research company indicates resident satisfaction with the performance of the Mayor and Councillors is increasing. In 2015 63% of residents surveyed were satisfied/very satisfied with the performance of the Mayor and Councillors, this percentage increased to 70% in 2018 (2015: 63%, 2016: 65%, 2017: 68%, 2018: 70%).
- Whether the Community Boards are necessary for the effective representation of communities of interest.
- Accessibility, size and configuration of an area, as well as the number of elected members (both Councillors and Community Board members), including:
  - Reasonable access to elected members.
  - Elected representatives being representative of the views of their electoral area; and
  - Ability of elected members to interact in person with electors of their electoral area.Regarding the subdividing of communities for electoral purposes:
  - Not splitting recognised communities of interest between electoral subdivisions.
  - Not grouping together two or more communities of interest that share few commonalities of interest.
  - Whether the community subdivisions are fairly represented by their votes being of approximately equal weight (+/- 10% rule).
  - The election of members of the Community Board will provide effective representation of communities of interest within the community and fair representation of electors; and
  - Ensuring the boundaries of any Community Board and subdivision of a Community align to statistical mesh blocks

Council must also consider the criteria applying to local government reorganisation proposals as set out in Schedule 3 of the LGA when considering Community Boards:

- Will the proposal promote the good local government of the parent district and the community area concerned?
- Will the district and the community have the resources necessary to enable them to carry out their respective responsibilities, duties and powers?
- Will the district and the community have areas that are appropriate for the efficient and effective performance of their role?
- Will the district and the community contain a sufficiently distinct community of interest or sufficiently distinct communities of interest?

The minimum number of elected community board members is 4 and there can be appointed community board members in addition to those elected.

Three Community Boards (Morrinsville, Te Aroha and Matamata) were constituted in Matamata-Piako District in 1989 and between 2007-and 2013 they had 4 elected members each. All three Boards were disestablished in 2013 through the previous representation review process. The reasons given for disestablishing for the Boards are included in the general comments in the Submissions and Facebook Comments document circulated separately. Council may consider the reasons set out for disestablishing for the Boards at the last review are still valid and therefore Boards are not warranted.

The LGC in 2013 upheld Council's decision to disestablish the three Community Boards and a copy of this determination has been previously provided to Council.

Council has a broad discretion as to the extent of the power which may be exercised by Community Boards. Community Boards can do very little without specific delegations from the Council.

The Community Boards previously distributed \$5,000 in community grants each (\$15,000 in total). Following the disestablishment of the Community Boards, Council adopted the Community Grants Policy on 11 June 2014 to guide the administration of the \$15,000 contestable grant. At its meeting of 26 July 2017, Council adopted the revised policy and approved an increase to the total budget per year to \$30,000, with \$10,000 available for each ward of Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha.

The \$30,000 contestable fund is shared evenly among the wards and is distributed in two funding rounds held in approximately August and February each financial year. The Policy gives delegated authority to the ward Councillors to determine the outcome of applications received that are relevant to their ward. The results of each application are to be reported back to Council.

It is considered that without some significant delegations from Council a Community Board/s would not be effective. If Council wishes to establish a Community Board/s it should give consideration to what delegations the Board would have.

It is not known what the costs of re-establishing and operating the Community Boards would be, as this may also depend on the delegations they have, however Council would incur higher election costs that are currently unfunded for electing Board members along with Councillors.

In last year's community survey 64% of respondents said Council should not re-establish community boards, with 29% saying they should be. Of those that provided a reason, 45% felt the current system works well/Councillors are accessible.

In June 2018 Council resolved that the Mayor and Councillors can provide fair and effective representation under the current structure and an extra layer of elected representation is unnecessary. Council continues to work with and support a network of community organisations and the Mayor and Councillors engage with these groups regularly such as Grey Power, Business Associations, Federated Farmers.

It is noted that 10% of electors of the district's community are able to petition for the establishment of a Community Board at any time under Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

### **Options – Community Boards**

In light of the views of the community and the above considerations, Council has the following options in respect of Community Boards:

- 1) Status quo – no Community Boards
- 2) Re-establish Community Boards (and consider the membership and structure)

### **LGC Expectations/ process**

The proposal that Council is asked to decide upon now is the 'Final Proposal' for community consultation. The Final Proposal may differ from the Initial Proposal.



Once the Final Proposal has been notified to the public, an appeal and objection period will be open:

- an appeal may be made by a submitter on the initial proposal about matters related to their submission (s19O)
- an objection may be lodged by any person or organisation if a Council's Final Proposal differs from its Initial Proposal (s19P). The objection must identify the matters to which the objection relates. The person making the objection does not need to have submitted on the Initial Proposal. They can make an objection because they may have been comfortable with the Initial Proposal (so didn't submit to Council) but are dissatisfied with the Council's Final Proposal.
- Council must refer its Final Proposal to the LGC if the proposal does not comply with the '+/-10% rule' (s19V). This referral is treated as an appeal.

LGC does not limit itself to the subject of an appeal or objection, but can look at all aspects of the representation review. Council must be prepared for the LGC to make a determination that it may not agree with and will have to accept for the next two election cycles.

The LGC must rectify any element of Council's proposal that does not comply with the Act, whether or not that element of the proposal was the subject of an appeal or objection. This means if the LGC does not consider that Council has established grounds for a departure from the '+/- 10% fair representation rule' in section 19V(2), then the LGC is required to ensure that this requirement is met. Once the LGC has made its determination Council will be advised, along with news media and various statutory organisations and a public notice will be issued.

### Non-compliance

Any decision not to comply with the +/-10% rule must be referred to the LGC for determination (even if there are no appeals or objections to the Final Proposal).

The key considerations in relation to non-compliance with '+/-10% rule' are:

- Requirement to take principles into account including "fair and effective representation for individuals and communities" (s. 4)
- Strength of communities of interest concerned.

There are three situations where non-compliance with the '+/- 10 per cent rule' may be acceptable:

1. If non-compliance is required for effective representation of communities of interest within island and/or isolated communities.
2. If compliance would mean a community of interest was split between wards or subdivisions limiting effective representation
3. If compliance would combine communities of interest with few commonalities of interest limiting effective representation.

Council has set out the basis for non-compliance with its initial proposal with reference to numbers 2 and 3 above in the resolution and this was explained in the public notice.

If Council having conducted preliminary and formal consultation with its community and comes to the view that a non-complying structure (+/- 10% rule) is the most relevant for our community this may potentially be considered by the LGC however this is not directly provided for under the Act and decisions must be based on the legislation.

Therefore if a non-complying option (such as the status quo) is selected there is a risk that the LGC will come up with a representation arrangement that the Council does not agree with.

## Analysis

### Analysis of preferred option

There is no preferred option however as noted there are risks associated with any proposal that does not comply with the +/- 10% rule.

### Legal and statutory requirements

The legal requirements of the Act covered elsewhere in this report.

#### Statutory requirements for decision-making

Section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002 ("LGA") provides that Council must make decisions in accordance with sections 77-82 of the LGA.

Section 77(1) of the LGA provides that Council must, when making decisions, seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision, and assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages.

Section 77(2) of the LGA provides that s77(1) is subject to s79. Section 79 of the LGA provides that Council must exercise its discretion in making judgments about how to achieve compliance with ss77-78 in a manner that is in proportion to the significance of the matters affected by the decision, and about:

- (i) The extent to which different options are to be identified and assessed; and
- (ii) The degree to which benefits and costs are to be quantified; and
- (iii) The extent and detail of the information to be considered; and
- (iv) The extent and nature of any written record to be kept of the manner in which it has complied with those sections.

Section 79(2) of the LGA provides that in making such a judgement Council must have regard to the significance of all relevant matters as well as:

- (a) The principles set out in section 14 of the LGA;
- (b) The extent of Council's resources; and
- (c) Whether the circumstances of the decision allow Council to consider a range of options, views or preferences.

Section 78 of the LGA provides that Council must, in the course of its decision-making process, give consideration to the views and preferences of persons likely to be affected by, or to have an interest in, the matter.

Pursuant to section 19W of the Act, in reviewing Community Boards Council must also have regard to the criteria that apply to reorganisation proposals as set out in Subpart 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 3 of the LGA.

### Impact on policy and bylaws

There is no policy or bylaw impact. This issue concerns the democratic representation of the community.

### Consistency with the Long Term Plan / Annual Plan

This is not an issue related to the Long Term Plan or Annual Plan but the representation review is noted within the Community Leadership activity plan as a project.



### Impact on Significance and Engagement Policy

This issue is significant under the Significance and Engagement Policy and has been publically consulted on accordingly. The representation review impacts on all people in the district by deciding who represents them on Council, who they can vote for in the next two election cycles, and the basis on which Councillors are elected.

### Communication, consultation and decision making processes

A public notice was published in the "Matamata Chronicle" newspaper and the "Piako Post" newspaper on Wednesday 20 June 2018. Submissions closed at 5pm on 20 July 2018. 195 submissions were received.

Various communication and consultation activities were undertaken including:

- Attending town market days/hosting a Councillor cafe drop-in session
- Attending stakeholder meetings
- E-newsletters to various groups/individuals
- Website and social media publicity (facebook, neighbourly)
- Video about representation review on social media
- Newspaper advertisements
- Councillor newspaper stories
- Display signs at offices/libraries
- The public notice and submission form which was made available to the public at Council offices and libraries (via the electronic kiosks).
- Discussed with Te Mana whenua Forum Mo Matamata-Piako (6 June 2018) and Waharoa Aerodrome Committee (19 July 2018)

A \$200 MTA gift card prize draw was also offered.

### Timeframes

The key dates are provided above.

### Contribution to Community Outcomes

Council has developed a new vision for the Long Term Plan 2018-28 as: *Matamata-Piako – The Place of choice – Lifestyle. Opportunities. Home.* A new set of Community Outcomes have been developed to support this vision. The outcomes relevant to this decision are:

#### Healthy Communities

We encourage community engagement and provide sound and visionary decision making.

#### Economic Opportunities

We provide Actdership and advocacy is provided to enable our communities to grow.

#### Vibrant Cultural Values

We value and encourage strong relationships with iwi and other cultures, recognising waahi tapu and taonga/significant and treasured sites and whakapapa/ ancestral heritage.

Tangata Whenua with Manawhenua status (those with authority over the land under Maaori lore) have meaningful involvement in decision making.

### Financial Impact

#### i. Cost

##### Councillor remuneration – impact of any changes in the number of Councillors

The remuneration system is set by the Remuneration Authority. It does not form part of the representation review process however a summary of the remuneration impact is outlined below for Council's information.

The Remuneration Authority is currently reviewing the way elected members are paid.

The Remuneration Authority has determined the cost of governance should be closely related to the council size rather than the number of Councillors, given the significant differences in the number of councillors representing similar population sizes across New Zealand. From the 2019 elections the Authority has decided to implement a “governance pool” allocated to each council and aligned with the ranking of the council on the size index. This will not be a national pool. The governance pool will provide the total amount that can be paid in remuneration to councillors in each council (aside from the Mayor whose remuneration will be determined by the Authority). At this stage the Authority has made no decision as to the application of the pool to Community Board members.

The pool will not have any relationship to the number of Councillors on a council or the number of councillors nation-wide. Thus, if Council wishes to change the number of Councillors through this representation review process the size of the governance pool will not change; it will just have to be shared amongst more or fewer Councillors.

Internal costs of changing Councillors numbers

Increasing the number of Councillors will result in a minor increased cost to Council for example travel, training, printing, catering, and governance support. The reverse would also apply.

**ii. Funding Source**

The representation review project is covered within existing budgets. If a change in the number of Councillors results in an increased cost this will be a currently unfunded expense.

**Attachments**

- A. Current Ward Map
- B. MPDC Survey Plan (SO 58040)
- C. Council resolution, 13 June 2018
- D. Public Notice of Initial Proposal - issued 20 June 2018
- E. Comparative representation - Waikato & 20,00-50,000 population range Councils

**Signatories**

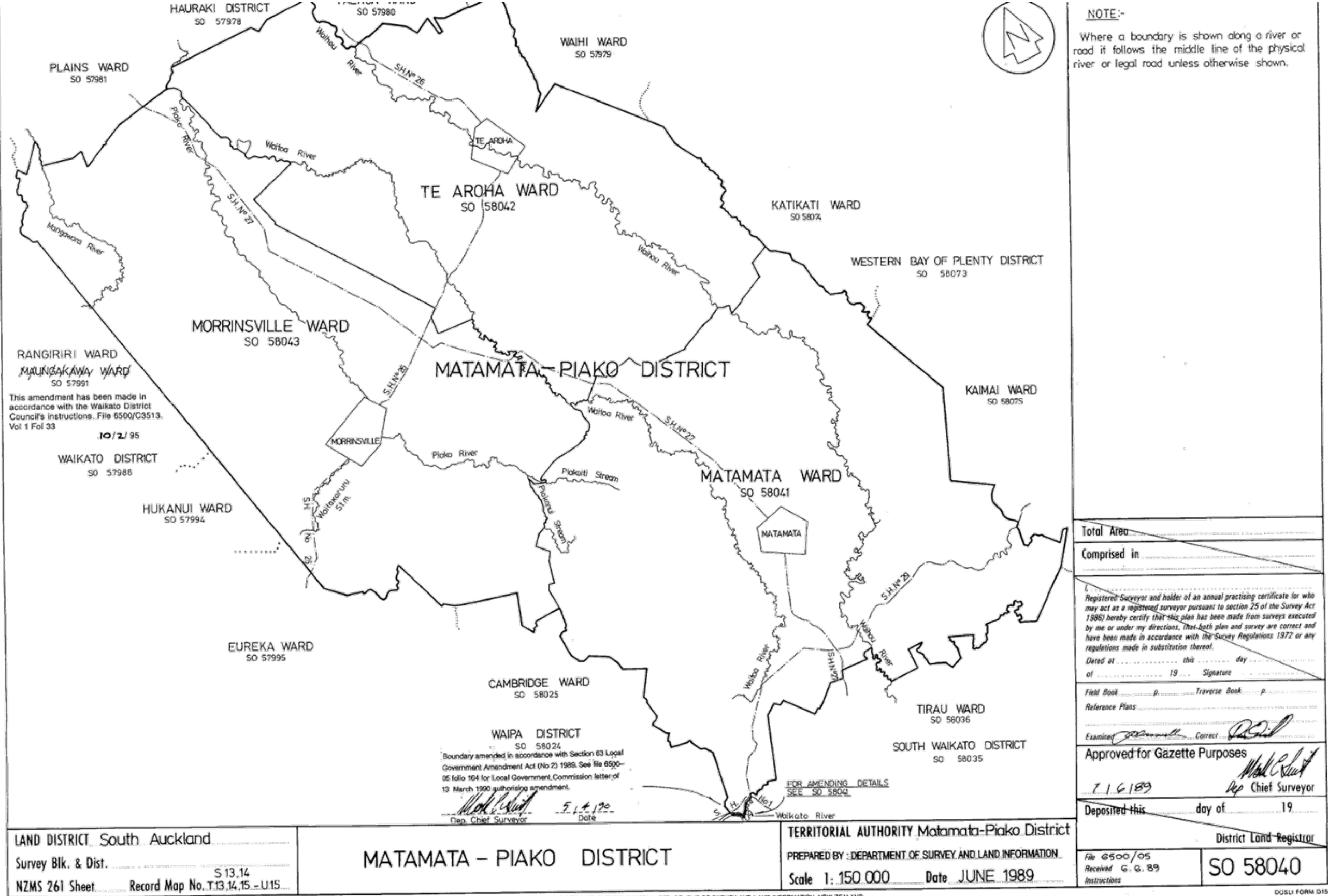
Author(s)	Niall Baker <b>Acting Senior Policy Planner</b>	
Approved by	Sandra Harris <b>Acting Strategic Policy Manager</b>	
	Don McLeod <b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	













## Council resolution - 13 June 2018 meeting

### 10.1 Representation Review - Initial Proposal

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

That:

1. The information be received.
2. Pursuant to section 19H of the Local Electoral Act 2001, Council agrees to adopt as its initial proposal for the review of representation arrangements for the 2019 and 2022 triennial elections, the following:
  - a) Matamata-Piako District Council comprising the area delineated by SO 58040 deposited with Land Information New Zealand to comprise 11 Councillors elected under the ward system, plus the mayor elected by the electors of the District as a whole.
  - b) Matamata-Piako District Council be divided into three wards, these being:
    - (i) Matamata Ward being the existing ward comprising the area delineated by SO Plan 58041 deposited with Land Information New Zealand
    - (ii) Morrinsville Ward being the existing ward comprising the area delineated by SO Plan 58043 deposited with Land Information New Zealand
    - (iii) Te Aroha Ward being the existing ward comprising the area delineated by SO Plan 58042 deposited with Land Information New Zealand
  - c) Councillors are to be elected as follows:
    - (i) Four (4) councillors elected by the electors of Matamata Ward
    - (ii) Four (4) councillors elected by the electors of Morrinsville Ward
    - (iii) Three (3) councillors elected by the electors of Te Aroha Ward
  - d) The different communities of interest identified as part of the 2012 representation review were, in summary, our three main towns, small rural townships, rural, and Maori. Council confirms these remain the same as the current three wards reflect the district's communities of interest.
3. Pursuant to section 19J of the Local Electoral Act 2001 Council determines in light of the principle of fair and effective representation under section 4(1)(a):
  - a) No Community Boards be established
4. Reasons for maintaining the status quo:
  - a) Council determines that we should maintain the wards as described above and distribute membership in a way that does not comply with the +/-10% rule because compliance would require the Te Aroha Ward to be expanded into the Morrinsville and/or Matamata Wards to increase the Te Aroha Ward population. This would limit effective representation of communities of interest by dividing a community of interest within the

**Morrinsville and/or Matamata Wards.**

- b) Council determines that we should maintain the wards as described above and distribute membership in a way that does not comply with the +/-10% rule because compliance would limit effective representation of communities of interest by uniting within a ward two or more communities of interest with few commonalities of interest. A section of the Morrinsville and/or Matamata Wards would be united within the Te Aroha Ward with few commonalities of interest with the Te Aroha Ward.
  - c) To comply with the +/-10% rule this would go against 84% of respondents to preliminary informal consultation undertaken who believe the ward they live in best reflects their community of interest and 80% of respondents to preliminary informal consultation undertaken who think the current representation system fairly reflects their community.
  - d) Council determines that maintaining the status quo (11 Councillors) provides for effective representation to the Matamata-Piako District residents, the alternative options and combinations that would be needed to comply with the +/- 10% rule we believe would not create fair and effective representation as our community have told us they believe what we have is currently working well.
  - e) The Te Aroha Ward falls outside of the allowable range of Councillors per person by 297 people which is considered to be a small non-compliance with the +/-10% rule. Council believes this is a small deviation.
  - f) The current approach to representation has been in place for many years and is familiar to the community.
  - g) Council does not have Community Boards, which many other Councils have. Retaining the status quo would mean we do not need another layer of elected representation from Community Boards. The Mayor and the Councillors can provide fair and effective representation under the current structure.
5. The Communications Plan attached to the report be approved.
6. Council acknowledges that maintaining the status quo results in non-compliance with the fair representation (+/- 10% rule), and if the initial proposal is confirmed by Council as its final proposal, the proposal must be treated as an appeal under section 19V(5) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and referred to the Local Government Commission following the appeal/objection period. The Local Government Commission will then determine the outcome for Matamata-Piako District Council for the 2019 and 2022 elections.
7. The initial proposal be notified for formal public consultation, including inviting submissions in the period 20 June to 20 July 2018.

Moved by: Cr P Cronin  
Seconded by: Cr K R Tappin

**CARRIED**







# WHO REPRESENTS YOU?



We are required by law to review our 'representation arrangements' at least every six years to ensure our community is fairly and effectively represented. This includes reviewing things like the number of Councillors and wards we have, whether each Councillor represents roughly the same number of people in the district, and whether we should have community boards.

## What do we currently have?

We currently have one Mayor (who is elected by the whole district) and 11 Councillors - four representing the Matamata Ward, four representing the Morrinsville Ward and three representing the Te Aroha Ward. We do not have any community boards.

Mayor	Matamata Ward	Morrinsville Ward	Te Aroha Ward
			
	Population: 13,800 Councillors: 4 People per Councillor: 3,450 Within allowable range of people per Councillor	Population: 12,700 Councillors: 4 People per Councillor: 3,175 Within allowable range of people per Councillor	Population: 8,230 Councillors: 3 People per Councillor: 2,743 Outside of the allowable range by 99 people per Councillor

## What are we proposing?

We're proposing to stick with the same ward boundaries, number of Councillors, and to continue with no community boards for the next two Council elections. One of the legal requirements is ensuring each Councillor represents roughly the same number of people in the district (known as the +/- 18% rule). If we stick with the same number of Councillors, that means each Councillor should represent between 2,842 - 3,433 people in our district. Matamata and Morrinsville Wards are within this range, however, the Te Aroha Ward is just outside this range (by 99 people per Councillor).

## Why are we proposing to retain the status quo?

Despite being slightly outside the required range, we believe that our current Council structure effectively represents our community. Councils can choose not to comply with the +/- 18% rule if they believe it would divide a community of interest or unite communities of interest with few commonalities. We think this applies in our case, because for the Te Aroha Ward to comply and stick with the same number of Councillors we would need to change the ward boundaries (i.e. shift some people who are currently in the Matamata and/or Morrinsville Wards into the Te Aroha Ward).

Based on the feedback the community gave us last year, we believe this would divide some people from their community of interest and will mean they have few commonalities of interest (e.g. they may work/shop/identify with Matamata or Morrinsville, but be required to vote for Te Aroha Councillors).

## In addition to these criteria, we have also considered:

- In last year's community survey, 84% of respondents told us that the ward they live in reflects their community of interest and 80% of respondents told us they think the current representation system fairly reflects their community.
- We only just fall outside the allowable range for the number of people per Councillor in the Te Aroha Ward (by 99 people per Councillor or 297 people overall for the Te Aroha Ward).
- Our current representation arrangements have been in place for many years and are familiar to the community.
- We no longer have community boards (which a number of other councils have, in addition to Councillors).
- We could comply with the +/- 18% rule by changing the ward boundaries, or increasing or decreasing the number of Councillors. However, our community have told us they believe the current representation works well, so we don't believe these changes are required.

## Communities of interest

We used last year's community survey to identify if all the 'communities of interest' (the places people associate with) in the district are fairly represented. We have identified our three main towns, Morrinsville, Matamata and Te Aroha, small rural townships, rural, and Māori as our communities of interest. We believe that these are all effectively represented by what we are proposing.

## Where can I get more information?

This is a summary of what Council is proposing. For further information including the full proposal, options considered and information about the legal requirements please visit [mpdc.govt.nz](http://mpdc.govt.nz) or any Council office or library.

## How can I make a submission?

We want to hear your thoughts on this proposal. To make a submission:

- fill in the submission form at [mpdc.govt.nz](http://mpdc.govt.nz)
- drop your submission in to the Te Aroha, Morrinsville or Matamata Council offices
- speak to your current local Councillors at one of our market days or café sessions:
  - Te Aroha - 4 July, 10-11am, Councillor café session at Ironique Café on Whitaker Street.
  - Morrinsville Market on Canada Street - 7 July
  - Matamata Market at Matamata Primary School - 14 July

## What happens next?

Council will consider community feedback on this initial proposal, hold a public meeting (hearing) and then decide on a final proposal. People will then have the ability to raise an objection/appeal on our final proposal to the Local Government Commission. If Council confirm the status quo as the final proposal or if there are objections/appeals, we'll need to send this to the Local Government Commission. They will make the final decision, which will apply for the 2019 and 2022 Council elections.

**MAKE A SUBMISSION BY 5PM, 20 JULY  
AND GO IN THE DRAW TO WIN A \$200  
MTA GIFT CARD.**

(See terms and conditions at [mpdc.govt.nz](http://mpdc.govt.nz)).







## Comparative Representation Arrangements

As at 8 August 2018

## Comparative representation within the Waikato Region

Ordered by current population per Councillor

District /City	30 June 2017 Population	Current Councillors (excluding Mayor)	Current Population per Councillor	Current Community Board Members	Initial proposal	Final Proposal
Otorohanga	10,130	7	1,447	2 Community Boards (9 members in total)	7 Councillors from 5 wards - 2 Community Boards 8 members - Submissions close 3 August 2018.	Initial proposal (no submissions received)
Waitomo	9,730	6	1,622	No Community Boards	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018)	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018)
Hauraki	19,840	13	1,653	No Community Boards	Decreasing to 9 Councillors and retaining no community boards.	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018)
South Waikato	10,240	10	2,425	1 Community Board (4 Members)	Proposing that the total number of councillors remains at 10. Two wards - north (4 councillors) and south (6 Councillors). No community boards.	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018)
Matamata-Piako	34,730	11	3,157	No Community Boards	Proposing to retain the status quo.	To be determined on 15 August and publicly notified on 29 August 2018.

District /City	30 June 2017 Population	Current Councillors (excluding Mayor)	Current Population per Councillor	Current Community Board Members	Initial proposal	Final Proposal
<b>Thames-Coromandel</b>	29,060	8	3,633	5 Community Boards (20 members in total)	Not applicable - representation review was completed in 2016, with a Local Government Commission determination	Not applicable.
<b>Taupo</b>	36,810	10	3,681	1 Community Board (6 members)	Proposing 11 councillors representing five wards. 1 Community Board (6 members)	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018)
<b>Waipa</b>	52,990	12	4,416	2 Community Boards (5 members each)	Council meeting held 07/08/2018 – Minutes not yet available.	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018)
<b>Waikato</b>	73,640	14	5,665	5 Community Boards (6 members each)	13 Councillors elected from 10 wards and 5 Community Boards (30 members in total). It is also proposed that ward boundaries will be altered.	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018) – Submissions closed 01 August 2018
<b>Hamilton City</b>	165,400	12	13,783	No Community Boards	To be resolved 16 August	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018)

## Comparative representation with District Councils that have a population between 20,000 and 50,000

Ordered by current population per Councillor

District /City	30 June 2017 Population	Current Councillors (excluding Mayor)	Current Population per Councillor	Current Community Board Members	Initial proposal	Final Proposal
<b>Queenstown Lakes District Council</b>	37,130	10	1,857	1 Community Board (4 members plus 3 Councillors)	10 councillors elected from three wards. The boundaries of one ward are to be altered. 1 Community Board (4 members)	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018) – Hearing scheduled 13 August 2018
<b>Central Otago District</b>	20,300	10	2,030	4 Community Boards (5 members)	11 Councillors. Alteration of 4 ward boundaries. 1 Community Board (4 members)	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018) – Submissions closed 07 August 2018
<b>Waitaki District</b>	22,190	10	2,219	2 Community Boards (8 members plus 2 councillors)	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018)	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018)



District /City	30 June 2017 Population	Current Councillors (excluding Mayor)	Current Population per Councillor	Current Community Board Members	Initial proposal	Final Proposal
<b>South Taranaki District</b>	28,000	12	2,333	4 Community Boards (16 members plus 4 appointed councillors)	12 Councillors. The boundaries of all wards have been redrawn. 4 Community Boards (each with 4 members)	12 Councillors and 4 Community Boards. Three of the four ward boundaries have be altered.
<b>Masterton District</b>	25,200	10	2,520	No Community Boards	10 Councillors elected at large. No community boards.	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018) – Submissions close 13 August 2018
<b>Southland District</b>	31,080	12	2,590	8 Community Boards (total of 48 members) 19 sub committees with 114 members)	12 councillors and 8 Community Boards. The boundaries of the community boards have been altered.	Initial proposal adopted as final proposal
<b>Kaipara District</b>	22,530	8	2,816	No Community Boards	8 Councillors elected from four wards with no Community Boards. Introduction of one new ward and the boundaries of two wards propose to be altered.	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018) – Submissions close 31 August 2018

District /City	30 June 2017 Population	Current Councillors (excluding Mayor)	Current Population per Councillor	Current Community Board Members	Initial proposal	Final Proposal
<b>Ashburton District</b>	34,140	12	2,845	1 Community Board (5 members)	9 councillors and minor changes to ward boundaries. One Community Board (5 members)	Initial proposal adopted as final proposal
<b>Manawatu District</b>	30,240	10	3,024	No Community Boards	Consultation opens 2 August	Will be available 18 October 2018
<b>Horowhenua District Council</b>		10	3,246	1 Community Board (5 members)	10 councillors elected from four wards. Ward boundaries would remain as they are and there will be no community boards.	Initial proposal adopted as final proposal
<b>Whakatane District Council</b>	35,540	10	3,554	4 Community Boards (26 members plus 5 Councillors)	Not applicable - representation review was completed in 2016, with a Local Government Commission determination	Not applicable.



District /City	30 June 2017 Population	Current Councillors (excluding Mayor)	Current Population per Councillor	Current Community Board Members	Initial proposal	Final Proposal
<b>Marlborough District</b>	46,280	13	3,560	No Community Boards	Not applicable - representation review was completed in 2016, with a Local Government Commission determination	Not applicable.
<b>Taupo District Council</b>	36,810	10	3,681	1 Community Board (6 members)	11 councillors representing five wards and one Community Board (6 members).	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018)
<b>Whanganui District</b>	44,500	12	3,708	1 Community Board (7 members)	12 councillors to be elected at large. 1 Community Board 7 members.	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018) – Submissions closed 03 August 2018
<b>Gisborne District</b>	48,540	13	3,734	No Community Boards	14 Councillors elected from 5 wards. There will be no Community Boards. There will be no Maori wards. Retain the First-Past-the-Post electoral system.	9 Councillors, plus the Mayor, elected from electors of the district as a whole. 3 Community Boards (four members each)

District /City	30 June 2017 Population	Current Councillors (excluding Mayor)	Current Population per Councillor	Current Community Board Members	Initial proposal	Final Proposal
Upper Hutt City District Council	43,200	10	4,320	No Community Boards	10 Councillors to be elected at large. No community boards to be established. - <b>Status Quo</b>	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018)
Western Bay of Plenty	48,950	11	4,450	5 Community Boards (20 members plus 10 councillors)	Adjust boundaries. Replace community boards with three appointed community committees. Retain 11 Councillors.	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018) – Submissions close 24 August 2018
Timaru District	47,090	9	5,232	3 Community Boards (16 members 5 councillors)	Council meeting was held 07 August 2018 minutes are not yet available.	Not available at the time of writing (08 August 2018)