

## What we need to consider

Councillors can be elected from: Wards, from across the District as a whole, or from a mixture of both.



Whether elected from Wards, or from across the District as a whole, all Councillors take an oath to act in the best interests of the Matamata-Piako District.

Adopting a Ward-based system for electing Councillors can be seen to ensure fair representation across the District: giving comfort that elected Councillors would represent parts of the District.

The “at large” option for electing Councillors can be seen to give a wider choice of candidates for electors to vote for rather than restricting them to voting only for candidates from one area of the District. It can also be seen to remove any perceptions of parochialism from Council deliberations.

A mixed system where some Councillors are elected from Wards, and some from across the District can be seen to provide a balance between representation of District-wide interests and local concerns.

When selecting the number of Councillors that will make up the Matamata-Piako District Council the minimum number of members for a Council is between 5 and 29 members (excluding the mayor).

However if choosing a ward-based system, the number of Councillors needs to comply with the population: member ratio requirements.

Matamata-Piako District Council currently has a similar number of Councillors to its neighbouring Councils.

- Matamata-Piako District Council = 11 Councillors
- Waikato District Council = 13 Councillors
- Hauraki District Council = 12 Councillors
- Waipa District Council = 12 Councillors
- South Waikato District Council = 10 Councillors.

Due to the different populations of these Districts means that the average number of people per Councillor for these Councils differs considerably:

- Matamata-Piako District Council: 3,157 people
- Hauraki District Council: 1,653
- Waikato District Council: 5,665
- Waipa District Council: 4,416
- South Waikato District Council: 2,425

A smaller elected body can be seen to enable more efficient decision making, however on the other hand a larger elected body can be seen to provide better diversity of representation

### Questions to consider

- Do you agree that the current Ward boundaries appropriately group communities of interest together?  
If not, what changes would you propose be made?
- Do you agree that we have the right number of elected members to represent the interests of our District?  
If not, what do you see as the right number of elected members?
- Do you agree that our Councillors should continue to be elected solely from Wards?  
If not, which of the following alternative methods of election would you prefer?
  - Election “at large” across the District;
  - A mix of some Councillors elected from Wards and some elected “at large” across the District

### What we need to consider

- Whether Councillors are elected – from wards, at large (elected by the whole district) or a mix of both
- Whether the number of Councillors should remain the same or change
- Whether the District should continue to have second tier representation (such as community boards) and if so what the structure and membership should be (e.g. how many members elected and appointed).

Council needs to ensure there is fair and effective representation of our community.

What is the fair representation +/-10% rule?

The goal is to ensure there is one elected member for an equal part of the population (within a range of +/- 10%) unless there is a particular community of interest which may justify otherwise.

