

Representation Review Discussion Paper

April 2018

CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT COUNCIL



We want to know what you think about Governance arrangements in our district.



Why are we doing this?

Council is required to review its representation arrangements in preparation for the local government elections to be held in 2019. A number of decisions have already had to be made, including the decision not to establish a Maori ward. Council now needs to make decisions on the following matters:

- How many councillors there should be on Council
- Whether councillors should be elected by ward, the whole district, or a combination of both, and if by ward; the number, boundaries and names of the wards

As part of the review process, you are invited to have your say on these matters.

Current Representation Arrangements

Council's present representation structure consists of a mayor and eight (8) Councillors.

The Mayor is elected by the whole district and the Councillors are elected from two wards: Aramoana/Ruahine (4 Councillors) and Ruataniwha (4 Councillors).

The current representation structure meets the legal requirements for the number of residents per councillor in each ward to be within $\pm 10\%$ of the number of residents per councillor in the district as a whole.

Number of Councillors

This review has to determine the number of Councillors required for effective representation of our communities. Legislation requires that Council is made up of between 5 and 29 Councillors plus the Mayor. Currently, Council is made up of eight Councillors (plus the Mayor).

A change in the number of Councillors could mean that if wards were retained, the existing ward structure may have to change to ensure compliance with the $\pm 10\%$ rule. Regardless of the number of Councillors, the total amount paid to elected members in salaries will remain unchanged. The total level of remuneration for our elected members is set by the Remuneration Authority and would simply be split amongst more or less Councillors if Council's size changes. A higher remuneration for each Councillor may attract candidates to stand who would otherwise be unable to due to having inflexible employment.

How many Councillors do you think Council should be made up of?



Method of Electing Councillors

At present, the Mayor is elected at-large (by the whole district) and Councillors are elected by ward. The district can choose whether to keep a ward system for electing Councillors, or to elect Councillors at-large. There is also the option of having a mix of the two systems.

In an election using wards, voters can only vote for the candidates standing in the ward in which they live. The number of Councillors in each ward depends on the number of people who live there. The principal reason for keeping a ward system is that it provides a Council with representatives from all 'communities of interest' within the district. This means that all areas of the district can have their concerns and opinions expressed around the Council table.

Under an at-large voting system Councillors are elected by the whole district, and voters are able to vote for the people they think are the best candidates, regardless of where they live. It can also be seen to remove any perceptions of parochialism from Council deliberations. At-large voting also removes the difficulties of defining ward boundaries to meet the $\pm 10\%$ rule at the same time as reflecting communities of interest.

A mixed system, where some Councillors are elected from wards and some at-large can be seen to provide a balance between representation of district wide interests and local concerns.

Do you think we should retain wards for electing our Councillors?

Ward Boundaries

If wards are retained, the number and boundaries of wards will need to be confirmed. The current wards meet the legal requirements for the number of residents per councillor in each ward to be within $\pm 10\%$ of the number of residents per councillor in the district as a whole.

If wards are retained, what changes to ward boundaries, if any, do you think should be made?

What do you think?

Please tell us what you think by **Friday 7 May 2018**.

A feedback form covering the issues in this discussion paper is included. You can also submit online at www.chbdc.govt.nz, write to the Representation Review, Central Hawke's Bay District Council, P O Box 127, Waipawa 4240 or you can drop off your feedback at any Council service centre or library.

Your views will then be taken into account in the development of a formal statement of proposal for representation in the Central Hawke's Bay District. Formal consultation on this proposal will take place with the community between 10 July 2018 and 9 August 2018.

Representation Review Feedback Form

Have Your Say

This form has been provided to help you have your say about the representation arrangements in the Central Hawke’s Bay District.

Your answers and comments will be presented to a Representation Review Committee to help them produce a formal Statement of Proposal to recommend to Council.

Please note that your feedback will be available to the public as part of Council’s decision making process.

Submitters Name:

Postal Address:

Phone:

Email:

1. How many Councillors do you think Council should be made up of? (please circle)

Less than 8

8 (Status Quo)

More than 8

Do you have any comments?

2. How do you think Councillors should be elected? (please circle)

By ward (Status Quo)

At-large (by the whole district)

A mix of ward and at-large

Do you have any comments?

3. If wards are retained, what changes (if any) to the current ward boundaries do you think are necessary?

Additional feedback/comments:

Thank you for completing this feedback form. Please use additional pages if required

To have your response included please return by 7 May 2018