



HCC Representation Review

Progress Report: Independent Review Panel

Paul Swain
Panel Chair,
December 2023



Agenda

- Background to Panel's appointment
- What we've done (September-1 December)
- What we plan to do (December-March, April-May)
- Timeline
- Questions

Background

- Councils are required to review their representation arrangements at least every 6 years
- 2018: Last Hutt City Council review was internal
- 2019: LGC determination after 2 appeals
- 2023: HCC appoints Independent Rep Review Panel

Panel members: Paul Swain, Sir John Clarke, Matt Richardson, Meenakshi Sankar, Ana So'otaga

- June 2024: Recommendations to HCC for consideration



Our Task:

Review HCC representation arrangements and recommend an initial proposal for the 2025 elections

- Communities of interest, and how well represented?
- Number of Councillors?
- Wards, at large, or hybrid (current)?
- Boundaries of any wards, names, number of Councillors?
- Māori ward/s, number of Councillors, boundaries, names?
- Community boards: should there be any; if so, how many, names, boundaries, number of members?

What we've done (September-1 December)

- Developed the engagement plan
- Agreed on the engagement principles
- Identified key evaluation questions
- Developed engagement tools, data collection instruments
- Co-designed survey questions specific to our task
- Agreed to spread our net wide; Council/Panel networks
- Adopted a “Best Endeavours” approach
- Commenced community engagement



Our Engagement Plan

- Identify city's communities of interest and the extent these are city-wide or local (ongoing)
- Broad interest groupings:
 - Residents, commercial/business, community/service orgs, community boards
- Some particular priorities:
 - Māori, current Northern/Wainuiomata wards, Pasifika, young people (16–34), ethnic communities, equity groups



Engagement tools:

- Public survey
- Personal contact via email/phone
- Meetings: face to face/online
- Community wānanga: focus on equity groups

Broad interest groupings (October-1 December)

■ Residents: Survey

- online, self-selecting
- citizens panel (Public Voice)
- post card drops (emphasis on target ward areas), email promotion (through networks) social media
- closed 1 Dec

■ Business groups: Meetings

- Chamber of Commerce, Jackson St Programme, Seaview Business Association,

■ Community boards: Meetings with Petone, Wainuiomata, Eastbourne

■ Residents Assn's: Emails to Eastern Bays, Western Hills

Particular priorities:

Engaging with Māori:

- Postponed till after the ward/s decision 21 November
- Mana whenua and mātāwaka
- Meetings with Council officers re engagement approach
- Focus on number of Māori Councillors, boundaries, ward name/s
- *Note: National/NZF/Act Coalition agreements “.....requiring a referendum on any Māori wards established without referendum at the next Local Body elections”*

Particular priorities (cont'd)

- **Community wānanga:** focus on equity groups, including those within Northern and Wainuiomata areas, Pasifika, disability and rainbow communities
- **Young people:** over 100 emails to clubs, youth groups, organisations, schools; meeting to plan hui with students (2024)
- **Ethnic communities:** meetings with Hutt Multicultural Council, Refugee and Migrant Forum, initiated contact with Filipino, Luo/East African communities

What we plan to do

- Review the engagement plan (15 Dec)
- Engagement with Māori: meetings include quarterly mana whenua hui and kāhui mana whenua, various local marae
- Young people: hui with college student leaders early 2024
- Ethnic communities: Meet with Sikh community (10 Dec) follow up with additional community meetings as requested
- Wānanga: contact with leaders from the Pasifika, disability and rainbow communities

Timeline:

- November-March 2024: Analysis of communities of interest
- February-March 2024: Further community engagement
- March-May 2024: Consider representation arrangement options and agree on recommended initial representation proposal
- June 2024: Present proposal to Council
- By 31 July 2024:
 - Council considers Panel's proposal
 - agrees its initial representation proposal for the 2025 elections
 - prepares for formal consultation with community



Questions?