



# Briefing: Representation Review update

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**6 December 2023 – 4.40pm**

## Attendees

**Elected Members:** Cr Brown (part meeting), Cr Dyer, Cr Edwards, Deputy Mayor Lewis, Cr Mitchell, Cr Morgan, Cr Parkin, Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger, Cr Tupou, D Crisp (Wainuiomata Community Board), S Freeman (Petone Community Board) (via audio-visual link).

**Staff:** J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer (via audio-visual link); A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities (via audio-visual link); J Griffiths, Director Strategy and Engagement; C Parish, Head of Mayor's Office; B Hodgins, Strategic Advisor (part meeting, via audio-visual link); R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy and Judy Randall, Democracy Advisor.

**Representation Review Panel:** P Swain, Sir J Clarke, M Richardson, M Sankar, A So'otaga.

## Apologies

Mayor Barry, Cr Briggs (absent on Council business) and T Harker (Wainuiomata Community Board)

## Absent

Cr Barratt

## Presenters

R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy and P Swain, Chair of the Independent Review Panel.

## Key Objectives of the Briefing

The purpose of the briefing is to provide an update on Council's representation review, its engagement plan and a timeline for the process.

## Presentation by R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy and P Swain, Chair Independent Review Panel

**Slide 1 - (Header)**

**Slide 2 – Agenda**

**Slide 3 – Background:** Background to the Representation Review requirements and the process. The Independent Review Panel (the Panel) is aiming to provide recommendations for Council's consideration before June 2024.

**Slide 4 – Our task:** Requirements and considerations the Panel needs to take into account.

**Slide 5 – What we've done:** An overview of the Panel's work so far. The Panel will build in evaluation questions so the work can be measured.

**Slide 6 – Our engagement plan:** The Panel is engaging with a range of identified communities of interest. It is using Statistics NZ data to ensure key and diverse communities are included – this work is ongoing.

**Slide 7 – Engagement tools:** The Panel is using a variety of engagement methods to reach a diverse range of people. Some engagement is self-selecting, but other engagement is weighted towards groups less likely to engage.

**Slide 8 – Broad interest groupings:** The Panel is engaging with a variety of broad interest groupings.

**Slide 9 – Particular priorities:** The Panel will focus on various equity groups including ethnic, Pasifika, LGBTQ, disability and youth groups. Engagement with Mana Whenua and mātāwaka will focus on the number of Māori ward councillors, ward boundaries and the ward names.

**Slide 10 – Particular priorities (continued).**

**Slide 11 – What we plan to do:** A timeline for the engagement plan from January to March 2024.

**Slide 12 – Timeline:** An overview of the representation Review process from November 2023 until Council makes a decision in July 2024 and prepares for consultation with its community.

## Questions and discussion points

- The government’s coalition agreement requires a referendum on Māori wards at the next election. However, Māori wards will proceed for at least one term because candidates will have been elected in the 2025 elections.
- Council is required to formally re-consult on representation once a recommendation from the Panel has been received. Council could make a decision to consult on representation that is different to the Panel’s recommendations.
- ‘Public Voice’ will present a report on the survey it conducted, with a full breakdown of data, including participant numbers.

- Any council that appointed Māori wards without a referendum will be required to undertake a referendum in 2025. Referendums will be funded by local councils as part of the local elections.
- The Panel's report will not consider the cost of its recommendations. It is Council's responsibility to decide what happens once it has the report.
- The Panel's recommendations will be designed to work with either a STV or FPP system.
- The Panel will consider whether there should continue to be three community boards, whether more are needed across all wards, or whether they are needed at all. This will be linked to the question of whether there will be wards and where the ward boundaries are to be placed.
- If the Panel recommends community boards continue, it will give a recommendation on the number of community boards and members. It will not provide a recommendation on the powers of community boards.
- The ward boundaries are part of the Panel's remit. The Local Government Commission determination in 2018 included wards, so the Panel will ensure it covers what was mentioned in that determination.
- If the Panel recommends changes to the city's wards, this will have an impact on community boards.

## **Next steps**

The representation Review report will be considered by Council before June 2024 and will include justifications for its recommendations.

# Briefing materials

**Attachment 1 – Presentation:** HCC Representation Review – Progress report,  
Independent Review Panel

**The briefing closed at 4.56 pm**