

PUBLIC NOTICE

FINAL PROPOSAL FOR REPRESENTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2022 LOCAL ELECTIONS

On 14 October 2021 the Hastings District Council heard and considered submissions received on its initial proposal regarding the representation arrangements for the Council and its constituent community board to apply for the local elections to be held on 8 October 2022.

Summary of Submissions

The Council received 154 submissions on the proposal that were completely or partly within scope. A number of other submissions were rejected as being outside of the scope of the representation review process. A total of 28 submissions were in favour of the proposal. A total of 12 submissions opposed the proposal outright with no further explanation or requests for specific changes. Some 114 submissions sought changes to various elements of the proposal, summarised as follows:

- Size of Council - No increase to the existing number of councillors or a reduction in the overall number of councillors
- Apparent request to introduce 'At-large' representation arrangements
- Flaxmere general ward – steps to address under-representation in the Flaxmere Ward including an additional councillor, merging of the Flaxmere Ward into the Hastings-Havelock North Ward and a reduction in Council size to address under-representation mathematically
- Separate wards for Hastings and Havelock North
- Changes in numbers of councillors per ward
- Alternative ward structures for the Māori ward including a two-ward structure and a three-ward structure
- Requests for, or opposition to, boundary adjustments
- Addition of community boards for Flaxmere and Havelock North
- A proposed process for renaming some wards.

A number of submissions included calls for Council to address issues such as: local authority boundary changes; greater diversity on the Council; remuneration of councillors; term limits for councillors; a council size outside of the range allowed by law; and determining representation arrangements by referenda. These were rejected on the basis they were not matters Council could address within the legal framework of the representation review.

Council Decisions

Having considered all of the objections, the Council resolved to adopt its initial proposal as the Council's final proposal for its representation arrangements for the 2022 elections.

The Council rejected matters raised in submissions for the following reasons:

- Submissions calling for a reduction in the number of councillors were rejected as the Council considered that 15 was the optimum number to provide effective and fair representation for the communities of interest identified and electors.
- The submission appearing to seek 'At-large' representation arrangements was rejected as Council considered that 'At-large' arrangements were not the best system for providing for effective representation of the communities of interest in Hastings District. The Council noted that having determined to introduce Māori wards, it could not introduce a wholly 'At-large' model.

- Submissions seeking that Council add a Councillor to the Flaxmere Ward were rejected on the basis that such a step would create significant over-representation in Flaxmere (approximately 38%) and under-representation in Hastings-Havelock North.
- Submissions seeking that Council merge the Flaxmere Ward with the Hastings-Havelock North Ward were rejected as Council considered that removing the stand-alone Flaxmere Ward would reduce effective representation of the Flaxmere community and combine communities of interest with reduced commonalities.
- Submissions seeking to address the under-representation of Flaxmere mathematically through a smaller Council size were rejected as Council considered that a smaller council was not optimal in terms of providing effective representation for communities of interest or fair representation of electors across the ward structure.
- Submissions seeking separate Hastings and Havelock North Wards were rejected because Council considered that the single ward provided for effective representation for both Havelock North and Hastings and further because a Havelock North Ward would be under-represented under such an arrangement.
- Submissions seeking to change the number of councillors in particular wards were rejected as the Council considered the requested changes detracted from fair representation for communities of interest and electors.
- Submissions seeking alternative multi-ward structures for the Māori wards (a two-ward model and a three-ward model) were rejected as they did not align with Māori community views presented to Council via submissions and a Hui-a-iwi as to the best model for providing effective representation of the Māori electoral population, namely a single ward with three councillors.
- Submissions opposing boundary adjustments, seeking additional boundary adjustments or seeking investigations into possible boundary adjustments in the following areas were rejected for the reasons set out below:
 - Oppose shifting the 'Ngātarawa Triangle' Meshblocks (1462901, 1462902, 1470209 and 1470211) into the Heretaunga Ward – Reason: the Council considered the adjustment included in the initial proposal provided effective representation for the horticultural and viticultural land use communities on the land making up the meshblocks in question.
 - Request Tauroa Road Meshblock (4011086) shift from Kahurānaki Ward into Hastings-Havelock North Ward – Reason: the Council considered the placement of the meshblock in the Kahurānaki Ward was appropriate in keeping with the placement of adjoining meshblocks and considered that shifting the meshblock would detract from fair representation.
 - Request Ōmāhu Road Industrial and Residential meshblocks be shifted from the Heretaunga Ward to the Hastings-Havelock North Ward – Reason: the Council considers the initial proposal provides for effective representation of the Ōmāhu Road industrial and residential areas and that shifting the meshblocks as suggested would detract from fair representation.

- Request Council investigate shifting Ōmāhu Village meshblocks from Heretaunga Ward into Flaxmere Ward – Reason: the Council considers the initial proposal provides for effective representation of the Ōmāhu Village and that shifting the meshblocks as suggested would detract from effective and fair representation. (Note: The Council resolved to investigate the appropriate ward location for Ōmāhu Village as part of the next representation review.)
- The submission calling for an additional community board to represent Flaxmere was rejected as the Council did not consider that a community board was necessary to provide for effective representation of Flaxmere. (Note: The Council resolved to investigate additional opportunities for strengthening representation and voice for the Flaxmere community, such as a standing committee or subcommittee.)
- The submission calling for an additional community board to represent Havelock North was rejected as the Council did not consider that a community board was necessary to provide for effective representation of Havelock North.
- Submissions seeking a process to rename wards with input from appropriate kaumātua and Māori organisations were rejected as there was insufficient time in the representation review process. (Note: Council resolved to engage in a process of this nature ahead of the next Representation Review.)

Therefore, the Final Proposal is as follows: Council Representation

It is proposed that the Council comprise 15 members elected from six wards, and the Mayor. The six wards reflect the following identified communities of interest:

Ward Name	Communities of interest
General Wards	
Flaxmere Ward	The general electoral population from the urban community of Flaxmere Village.
Hastings-Havelock North Ward	The general electoral population from the urban communities of Hastings City and Havelock North Village.
Heretaunga Ward	The general electoral population from the villages of Clive, Haumoana, Te Awanga and Whakatū and from the Heretaunga Plains area excluding the urban areas of Hastings, Flaxmere and Havelock North.
Kahurānaki Ward	The general electoral population from the rural area of Hastings District south of the Ngaruroro River and south and east of Havelock North and the Heretaunga Plains.
Mōhaka Ward	The general electoral population from the rural area of Hastings District north of the Ngaruroro River and west of the Heretaunga Plains.
Māori Ward	
Takitimu Ward	The Māori electoral population from across the entire Hastings District.

HASTINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL

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The population that each member will represent is as follows:

Ward	Population # (2018 census)	Members	Population per member
Flaxmere Ward	6,830	1	6,830
Hastings-Havelock North Ward	43,200	7	6,171
Heretaunga Ward	10,600	2	5,300
Kahurānaki Ward	5,250	1	5,250
Mōhaka Ward	5,780	1	5,780
Total General Wards	71,600#	12	5,967 Avg
Takitimu Ward	16,400	3	5,467^
Total All Wards	88,000	15	

#difference due to Statistics NZ rounding protocols ^indicative purposes only

Note: The number of Māori ward Councillors is set by a formula stipulated in the Local Electoral Act 2001. Based on the size of the Māori electoral population and total electoral population, with Hastings District Council proposing to elect a total of 15 Councillors from wards, three of those Councillors must be elected from the Māori ward.

In terms of the general wards, in accordance with section 19V(2), Local Electoral Act 2001 the population that each member represents must be within the range of 5,967 +/-10% (5,370 to 6,564), unless particular community of interest considerations justify otherwise.

The representation of the **Flaxmere Ward** falls outside the stipulated range as it is under-represented at 14.46% deviation from the average population per councillor. Achieving compliance with the +/-10% range in relation to the Flaxmere Ward would require either merging the Flaxmere Ward into the Hastings-Havelock North Ward or shifting a significant part of the ward into either the Hastings-Havelock Ward or the Heretaunga Ward. The Council considers that the former approach would limit effective representation of the Flaxmere community of interest by uniting it with a much larger set of communities of interests with few commonalities of interest - the Flaxmere community of interest would become diffused among a much larger population. The latter approach would limit effective representation of communities of interest by dividing the Flaxmere community of interest between two wards.

The representation for the **Heretaunga Ward** falls outside the stipulated range as it is over-represented at -11.18% deviation from the average population per councillor. Achieving compliance with the +/-10% range for the Heretaunga Ward would require adding parts

of other communities of interest (likely urban and/or rural) to the Ward. The Council considers that would limit effective representation of communities of interest by uniting within the Heretaunga Ward communities of interest with few commonalities of interest. It would also limit effective representation of communities of interest by dividing the urban and/or rural communities of interest from which those part communities of interest would be drawn.

The representation for the **Kahurānaki Ward** falls outside of the stipulated range as it is over-represented at -12.02% deviation from the average population per councillor. Achieving compliance with the +/-10% range for the Kahurānaki Ward would require adding parts of other communities of interest (from the Heretaunga Ward) to the Ward. The Council considers that would limit effective representation of communities of interest by dividing the horticultural and Heretaunga Plains communities of interest from which those part communities of interest would be drawn.

Community Board Representation

The Council resolved to retain the Hastings District Rural Community Board. No other community boards are proposed to be introduced.

Community Board	Area of Community
Hastings District Rural Community Board	The general and Māori electoral populations of the Mōhaka and Kahurānaki Wards.

The Hastings District Rural Community Board will elect four members from the subdivisions identified below. There will be three Councillors appointed to the Board (rather than two as per the existing arrangements). These will be:

Community Board	Number of Members Appointed from Which Ward
Hastings District Rural Community Board	One Member appointed from the Mōhaka Ward
	One Member appointed from the Kahurānaki Ward
	One Member appointed from the Takitimu Ward

Note: Electors from both the general and Māori electoral rolls vote for the community board.

The community will be divided into four for electoral purposes. The four subdivisions will be:

Subdivision	Area of Subdivision
Tūtira Subdivision	Subdivision of the Mōhaka Ward
Kaweka Subdivision	Subdivision of the Mōhaka Ward
Maraekākaho Subdivision	Subdivision of the Kahurānaki Ward
Poukawa Subdivision	Subdivision of the Kahurānaki Ward

The population that the members of each subdivision will represent is shown below:

Subdivision	Population # (General & Māori Electoral Populations) (2018 census)	Members	Population per member
Tūtira Subdivision	3,090	1	3,090
Kaweka Subdivision	3,220	1	3,220
Maraekākaho Subdivision	2,890	1	2,890
Poukawa Subdivision	3,370	1	3,370
Total	12,570	4	3,143 Avg

The population each member of the Hastings District Rural Community Board represents falls within the range of 3,143 +/-10% (3,457 to 2,829) in accordance with section 19V(2), Local Electoral Act.

The final proposal contains a number of boundary adjustments from existing arrangements that affect some of the General Wards and Rural Community Board electoral subdivisions. The proposal can be viewed at www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/representation-review; the Flaxmere, Hastings and Havelock North Libraries and the Civic Administration Building, 207 Lyndon Road East, Hastings.

Appeals

Any person or organisation who made a submission on the Council's initial proposal may lodge an appeal against the Council's decision. An appeal must relate to the matters raised in that person or organisation's submission. There is no general right of objection.

Appeals must be made in writing and must be received by Council no later than 26 November 2021.

Appeals should be forwarded to:

Attention – Vicki Rusbatch, Senior Advisor:
Democracy and Governance

- Delivery - Council Offices, 207 Lyndon Road East, Hastings.
- Post – Hastings District Council, Private Bag 9002, Hastings 4156
- Email – representationreview@hdc.govt.nz

Or can be made via www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001, following the close of appeals, Council will forward all appeals and other relevant information to the Local Government Commission for determination.

Further information

For further information please contact Vicki Rusbatch at representationreview@hdc.govt.nz or via phone **06 871 5000**.

Nigel Bickle
Chief Executive
20 October 2021

