

Council Briefing Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 12 May, 2021
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
(Chairperson)
Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Vince Cocurullo
Cr Nicholas Connop
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Tricia Cutforth
Cr Shelley Deeming
Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Greg Martin
Cr Anna Murphy
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid
Deborah Harding (Te Kārearea)
Delaraine Armstrong (Te Kārearea)
Len Bristowe (Te Kārearea)
Mira Norris (Te Kārearea)

Scribe N. Pestana (Team Leader Democracy)

The briefing commenced at 2.15pm.

2. Reports

2.1 Representation Review 2021 - Considering various scenarios

Dale Ofoske, Electoral Officer and Emily Thompson ran through the presentation, the content of which included:

- Summary of community feedback from informal survey;
- Summary of possible options considered but discarded as unfeasible models;
- Detailed options for discussion;

- Representation review timetable;
- Next steps.

Options for discussion

Five options were presented to councillors and Te Kārearea members for discussion at today's briefing. A summary of the five options is provided below:

	General Councillors	Māori Councillors	General Wards	Māori Wards	Ward outline (and councillor numbers)	Outcome
Option 1 10 councillors	8	2	3	1-2	North General (2) South General (2) Urban General (2) Māori (2)	Compliant with +/- 10% rule
Option 2 12 councillors	10	2	5	1-2	Whangarei Urban General (5) Bream Bay General (1) Hikurangi-Coastal General (1) Mangakahia-Maungatapere General (2) Whangarei Heads General (1) Māori (2)	Compliant with +/- 10% rule.
Option 3 12 councillors	10	2	4	1-2	Whangarei Urban General (5) North Coastal General (2) South Coastal General (1) Whangarei Rural General (2) Māori (2)	Compliant with +/- 10% rule
Option 4 13 councillors	11	2	6	1-2	Bream Bay General (2) Denby General (3) Hikurangi-Coastal General (2) Mangakahia-Maungatapere General (1) Okara General (4) Whangarei Heads General (1) Māori (2)	Three of six wards non-compliant. Would need further work/adjustment
Option 5 12 councillors	10	2	1	1	Whangarei General (10) (district-wide) Māori (2) district-wide	District-wide wards do not need to comply with +/- 10% rule

These five options were mapped and details were provided in the presentation.

Councillors and Te Kārearea members split into three groups to consider the five options. The group feedback provided was as follows:

- **Group 1: Option 2**
 - Maungatapere Ward divided into 2 wards, Rural North and Rural South
 - Hikurangi village moved into proposed Rural North Ward
 - Onerahi moved into Whangarei Heads Ward
- **Group 2: Options 2 and 4.**
 - Option 4 with 11 general ward councillors and 2 Māori ward councillors; and
 - Option 2 Maungatapere Ward divided into 2 wards, 10 general ward councillors and 2 Māori ward councillors.
- **Group 3: Option 2 and 3.**
 - Maungatapere Ward divided into 2 wards, Rural North and Rural South.
 - Opportunity for Matching community boards.
 - 5 city + 5 other councillors + 2 Maori ward councillors.

Councillors and Te Kārearea members present at the briefing were then asked for individual feedback on their preferred options. Individual feedback indicated preference for the following options:

1. Option 2

- 10 General councillors / 2 Māori ward councillors
- 6 general wards (Maungatapere Ward divided into 2 wards, Rural North and Rural South)
- 1 / 2 Māori wards.

2. Option 4

- 11 General councillors / 2 Māori ward councillors
- 6 general wards (Maungatapere Ward divided into 2 wards, Rural North and Rural South)
- 1 / 2 Māori wards.

Councillors and Te Kārearea members present at the briefing were evenly divided on the introduction of community boards.

Next steps:

- Te Kārearea hui on 19 May to obtain feedback from hapū on a preferred option for Māori wards.
- Staff will map options 2 and 4 ahead of the Council briefing on 1 June where staff will seek feedback on a preferred option for staff to formalize a recommendation for Council meeting on 24 June.
- Council meeting on 24 June for Council to resolve an initial proposal for consultation.

3. Closure of briefing

The briefing closed at 3.42pm.