

# Representation Review 2021

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Whangarei District Council  
Facilitated Options Briefing 1  
12 May 2021  
Dale Ofsoske, Electoral Officer

# Representation Review 2021

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## Objectives

1. To present the feedback received from the community during the informal consultation
2. To present options following the feedback for discussion by elected members and Te Kārearea members
3. To understand elected members and Te Kārearea members preference for options presented so that a formal option can be developed.

*‘Representation arrangements are to be determined so as to provide fair and effective representation for individuals and communities’ (LGC)*

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## Brief Background

- FPP electoral system retained for 2022
- Māori wards to be established for 2022 and 2025
- Representation review now required 2021

## How it works

- Prescribed formal process in LEA
- Complex process, need to get it right
  - legal compliance
  - documentation
  - community consultation
- Formal process 1 March 2021 - 20 December 2021

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What is a representation review?

- a review of Council membership and basis of election
- includes
  - total number of councillors
  - how councillors are elected (wards, district-wide, mix)
  - if wards, number, boundaries, names, number councillors elected to each
  - consider establishment of community boards (number, names, boundaries, subdivided, number elected/appointed to each)

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## How Māori wards are determined

- formula under Local Electoral Act 2001 determines number Māori and general councillors
- MEP: 18,800 (Pop Est June 2020)
- GEP: 79,600 (Pop Est June 2020)
  - 11 councillors = 2 Māori, 9 general
  - 12 councillors = 2 Māori, 10 general
  - 13 councillors = 2 Māori, 11 general
  - 14 councillors = 3 Māori, 11 general
- basically
  - between 8-13 councillors provides 2 Māori councillors
  - 14 councillors provides 3 Māori councillors

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## Current arrangements

- mayor: elected district-wide
- 13 councillors elected from 6 wards
  - Bream Bay Ward: 2 councillors
  - Denby Ward: 3 councillors
  - Hikurangi-Coastal Ward: 2 councillors
  - Mangakahia-Maungatapere Ward: 1 councillor
  - Okara Ward: 4 councillors
  - Whangarei Heads Ward: 1 councillor
- no community boards

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## Community feedback

- 212 responses
- Detail found in agenda, but in summary
  - What community do you identify with?
    - 38% identified with whole of district
    - 32% identified with geographical connection
  - Do you think the current wards reflect your community?
    - 57% felt current wards do not reflect their community
    - 43% felt current wards do reflect their community
  - Should we have wards?
    - 60% want wards
    - 40% do not want wards

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- If we have wards, how many should there be?
  - 40% want current number (6)
  - 34% do not want wards
  - 14% want fewer wards
  - 12% want more wards
- Are you happy with the current ward names?
  - 57% happy with current names
  - 43% unhappy with current names
- How many councillors should there be?
  - 51% happy with current number (13)
  - 33% want fewer councillors
  - 16% want more councillors

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- Should councillors be elected by ward or district-wide?
  - 39% want ward councillors
  - 35% want district-wide councillors
  - 26% want a mix
- Should we have community boards?
  - 51% think community boards could provide better representation for communities
  - 49% prefer to be represented by council

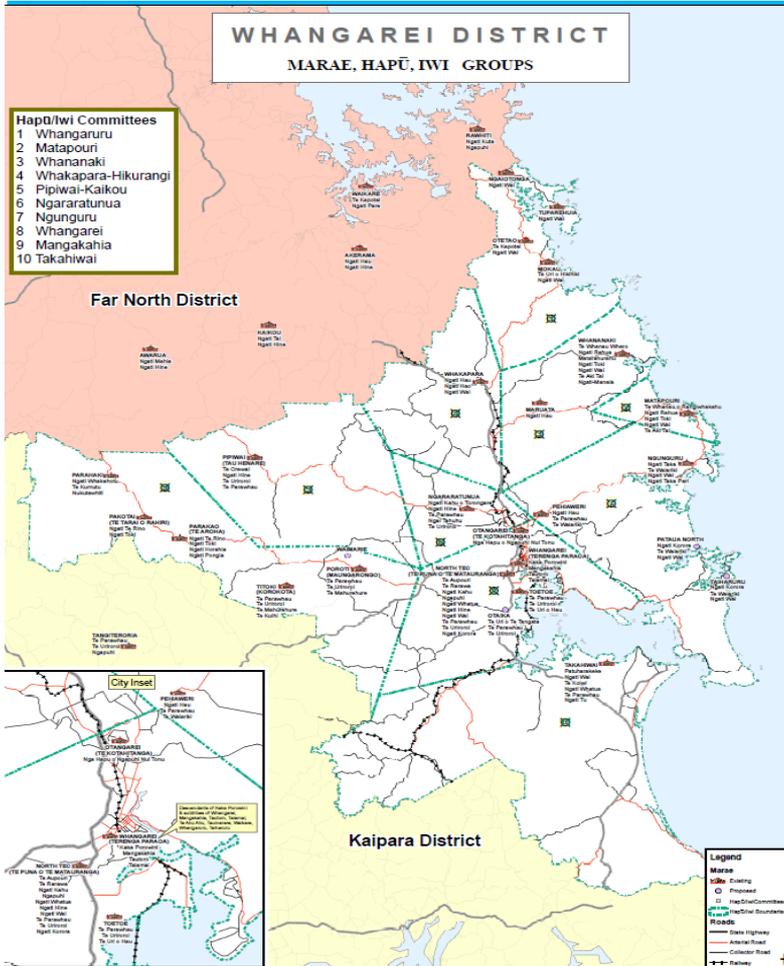
# Representation Review 2020-21 – Options Rejected

General Councillors	Maori Councillors	General Wards	Maori Wards	Ward outline (and councillor numbers)	Outcome
6	2	3	1	North Rural (2) South Rural (2) Urban (2) Maori (2)	Not enough population distribution to support this model. Not workable.
11	2	3	1	North(3) South(3) Urban(5) Maori (2)	Population numbers too high in Urban and too low in South region to support this model. Not workable.
9	2	3	1	North(3) South(3) Urban(3) Maori (2)	Population numbers too high in Urban and too low in other regions to support this model. Not workable.
6	2	3	1	East (2) West(2) South(2) Maori (2)	No urban community of interest. This model would split the city. Not workable.
10	2	3	1	North(2) South(3) Urban(5) Maori (2)	Population too large in Northern area and too small in southern area to support this model. Not workable.

# Representation Review 2021 – Options to Discuss

	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 (2) 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

# Representation Review 2021 – Māori Wards

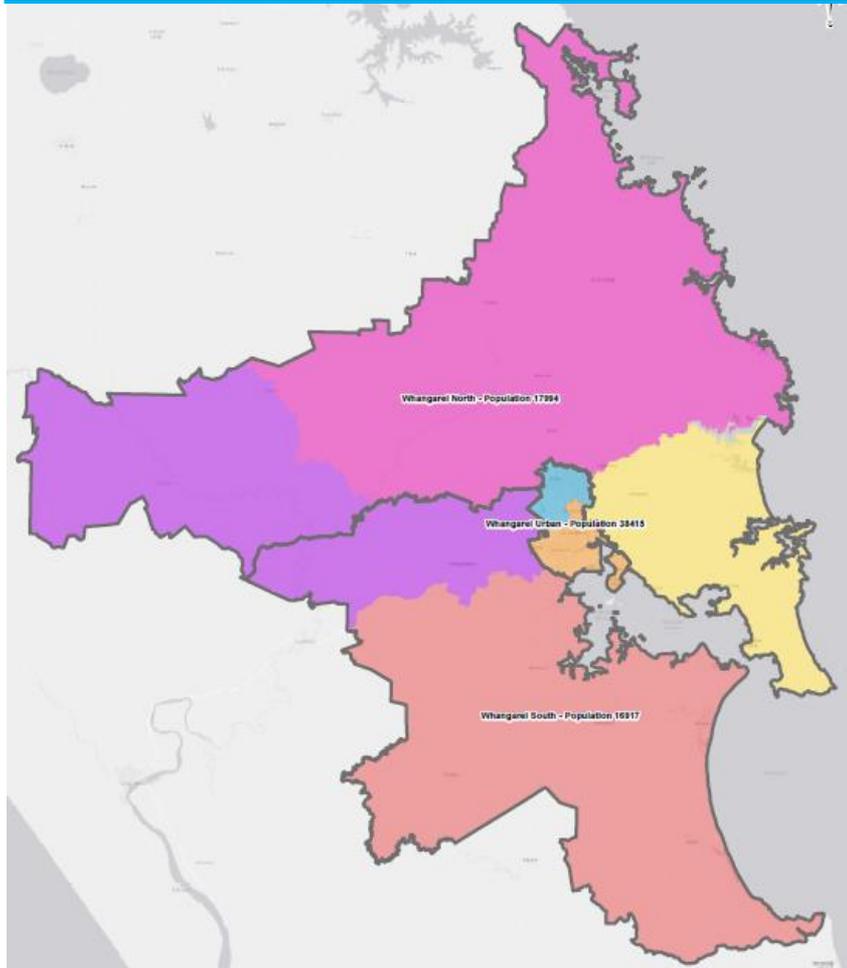


If status quo retained (13 councillors) then 2 Māori councillors elected from one or two Māori wards

Options for Māori ward/s

- One district-wide ward or
- Two wards split either:
  - geographically - east/west
  - geographically - North/South
  - by Iwi/ Hapu

# Representation Review 2021 - Option 1



## Reduce councillor numbers and reduce ward numbers

- mayor: elected district-wide
- 10 councillors
  - 8 general councillors elected from 3 general wards
    - North General (2)
    - South General (2)
    - Urban General (4)
  - 2 Māori councillors elected from 1 or 2 Māori wards
- with/without community boards

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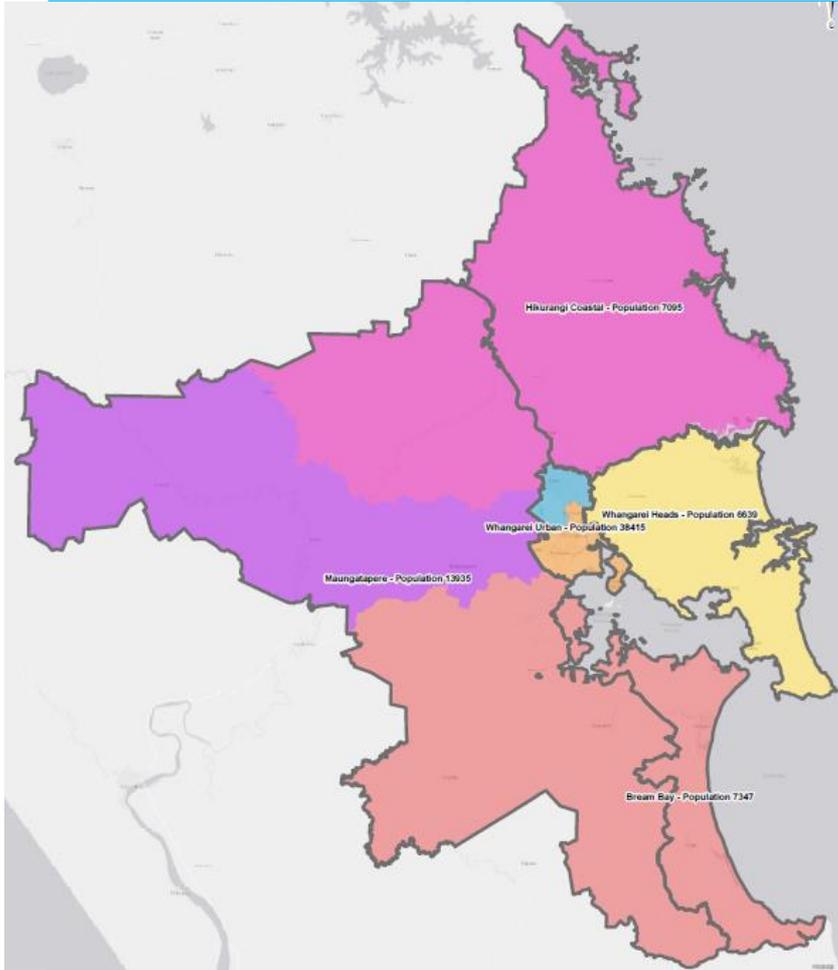
- Option 1:
  - 8 general councillors, 2 Māori councillors
  - 3 general wards, 1-2 Māori wards
  - $79,600/8$  general members = 9,950 +/- 10% = 8,955 – 10,945

*Numbers shown on the map are 2018 figures – these have been estimated in the table below to 2020 figures:*

Option 1	General Ward	Population	Councillors	Average	Fits Rule	% Variation
	North	18,870	2	9,435	Yes	-5.17
	South	19580	2	9,790	Yes	-1.6
	Urban	41,150	4	10,288	Yes	3.4
	TOTAL	79,600	8	9,950		

- Compliant with +/- 10% rule

# Representation Review 2021 – Option 2



Reduce councillor numbers, tweak wards to fit with population

- mayor: elected district-wide
- 12 councillors
  - 10 general councillors elected from 5 general wards:
    - Whangarei Urban General (5) (currently Okara and Denby)
    - Bream Bay General (1)
    - Hikurangi-Coastal General (1)
    - Mangakahia-Maungatāpere General (2)
    - Whangarei Heads General (1)
  - 2 Māori councillors elected from 1 or 2 Māori wards
- with/without community boards

# Representation Review 2021

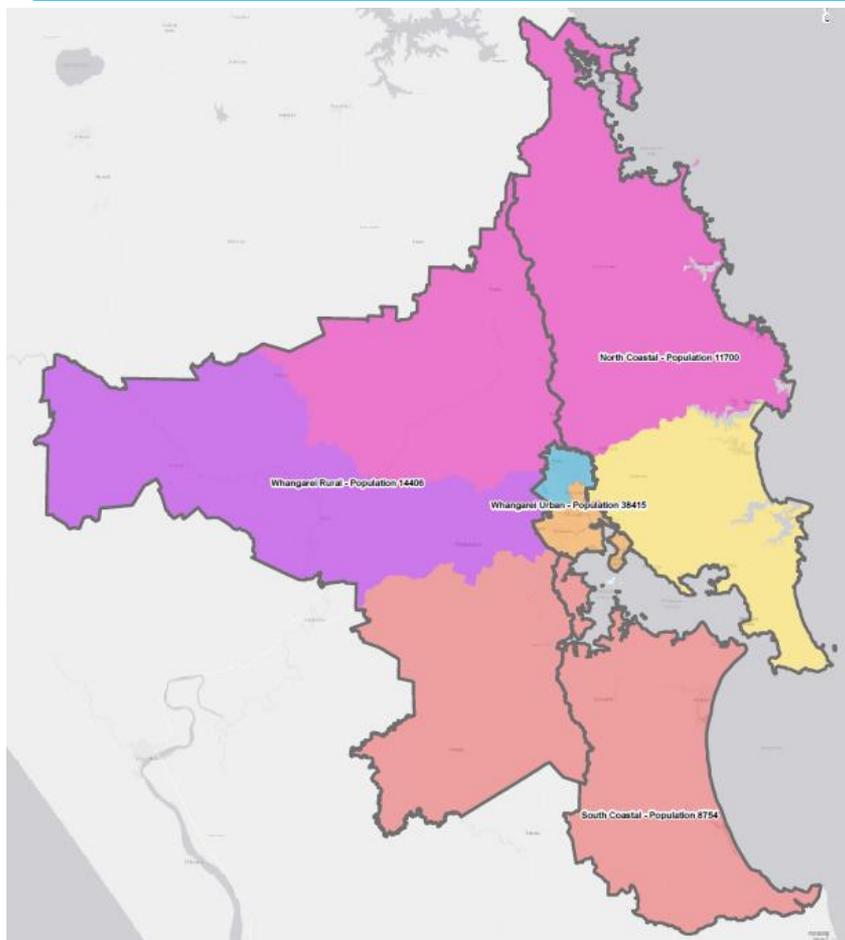
- Option 2:
  - 10 general councillors, 2 Māori councillors
  - 5 general wards, 1-2 Māori wards
  - ward boundaries moved to fit expected numbers
  - $79,600/10$  general members =  $7,960 \pm 10\% = 7,164 - 8,756$

Numbers shown on the map are 2018 figures – these have been estimated in the table below to 2020 figures:

Option 2	General Ward	Population (estimate)	Councillors	Average	Fits Rule	%Variation
	Whangarei Urban	41150	5	8230	Yes	3.3
	Bream Bay	8270	1	8270	Yes	3.8
	Hikurangi –Coastal	7780	1	7780	Yes	-2.3
	<u>Mangakahia- Maungatapere</u>	15100	2	7550	Yes	-5.2
	Whangarei Heads	7300	1	7300	Yes	-8.3

- Compliant with  $\pm 10\%$  rule

# Representation Review 2021 – Option 3



## Reduce councillor numbers and reduce ward numbers

- mayor: elected district-wide
- 12 councillors
  - 10 general councillors elected from 4 general wards
    - Whangarei Urban General (5)
    - North Coastal General (2)
    - South Coastal General (2)
    - Whangarei Rural General (2)
  - 2 Māori councillors elected from 1 or 2 Māori wards
- with/without community boards

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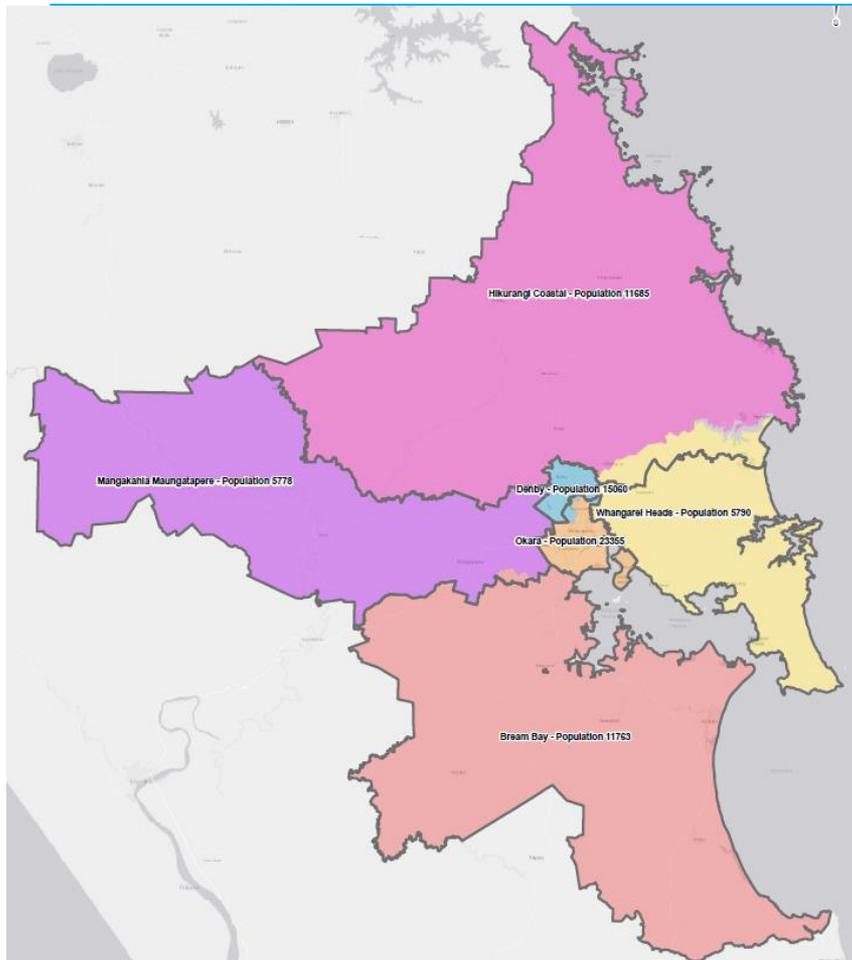
- Option 3:
  - 10 general councillors, 2 Māori councillors
  - 4 general wards, 1-2 Māori wards
  - 79,600/10 general members = 7,960 +/- 10% = 7,164 – 8,756

*Numbers shown on the map are 2018 figures – these have been estimated in the table below to 2020 figures:*

Option 3	General Ward	Population (estimate)	<u>Councillors</u>	Average	Fits Rule	%Variation
	Whangarei Urban	41150	5	8230	Yes	3.3
	North Coastal	14800	2	7400	No	-7.1
	South Coastal	8755	1	8755	Yes	9.9
	Whangarei Rural	14895	2	7447	Yes	-6.5

- Compliant with +/- 10% rule

# Representation Review 2020 - Option 4



## Status quo (to fit)

- mayor: elected district-wide
- 13 councillors
  - 11 general councillors elected from 6 general wards
    - Bream Bay General (2)
    - Denby General (3)
    - Hikurangi-Coastal General (2)
    - Mangakahia-Maungatapere General (1)
    - Okara General (4)
    - Whangarei Heads General (1)
  - 2 Māori councillors elected from 1 or 2 Māori wards
- with/without community boards

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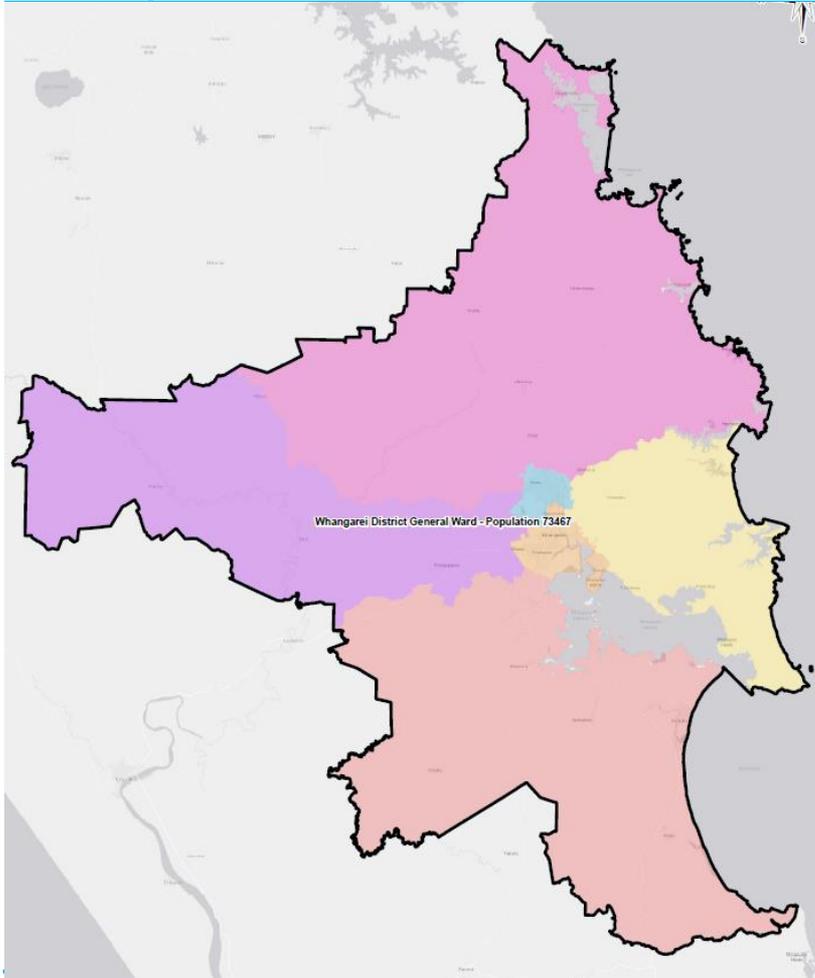
- Option 4:
  - 11 general councillors, 2 Māori councillors
  - 6 general wards, 1-2 Māori wards
  - 79,600/11 general members = 7,236 +/- 10% = 6,512 – 7,959

*Numbers shown on the map are 2018 figures – these have been estimated in the table below to 2020 figures:*

Option 4	General Ward	Population	Councillors	Average	Fits Rule	% Variation
	Bream Bay	13,200	2	6,600	Yes	-7.95
	Denby	17,850	2	8,925	No	23.34
	Hikurangi-Coastal	11,700	2	5,850	No	-19.15
	Mangakahia-Maungatapere	6,380	1	6,380	No	-11.83
	Okara	23,300	3	7,767	Yes	7.33
	Whangarei Heads	7,170	1	7,170	Yes	0.01
	TOTAL	79,600	11	7,236		

- Not compliant with +/- 10% rule, need to review 3 ward boundaries (to fit +/- 10%), some suggestions included in maps but will need more

# Representation Review 2021 - Option 5



Reduce councillor numbers to 12, one general ward and one Māori ward

- mayor: elected district-wide
- 12 councillors
  - 10 general councillors elected from 1 district-wide general ward
  - 2 Māori councillors elected from 1 district-wide Māori ward
- with/without community boards

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- Option 5:
  - 10 general councillors, 2 Māori councillors
  - 1 general ward (district-wide)
  - 1 Māori ward (district-wide)
  - +/- 10% rule not applicable

# Representation Review 2021 – Summary

	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 (2) 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

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## Timetable

- Council Facilitated Options Briefing 1 (12 May)
- Te Kārearea Facilitated Options Briefing 1 (19 May)
- Council Facilitated Options Briefing 2 (1 June)
- Council Meeting – initial proposal resolution (24 June)
- initial proposal public notice (30 June)
- public submission period (30 June-30 July)
- hearings (16-17 August)

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- Council Facilitated Options Briefing 3 – final proposal deliberations (31 August)
- Council Meeting – final proposal resolution (7 September)
- final proposal public notice (10 September)
- public appeal/objection period (10 September – 11 October)
- basis of election public notice (20 October) *or*
- forward material to LGC (November)
- LGC determination (by 10 April 2022)

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- Next steps
  - Take feedback from this session
  - Present options for Māori wards to Te Kārearea for guidance on number of wards and specifications
  - Develop a preferred option to finalise at the 1 June briefing:
    - total number of councillors
    - number and names of wards
    - confirmation of boundary changes and population numbers

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