

Council Briefing Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 28 February, 2018
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance	Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Chairperson) Cr Stu Bell Cr Gavin Benney Cr Crichton Christie Cr Vince Cocurullo Cr Tricia Cutforth Cr Shelley Deeming Cr Sue Glen Cr Phil Halse Cr Cherry Hermon Cr Greg Innes Cr Greg Martin Cr Sharon Morgan Cr Anna Murphy
Also present	Dale Ofoske (Independent Election Services) Kathryn Candy (Senior Legal Adviser)
Scribe	C Brindle (Senior Democracy Adviser)

Her Worship the Mayor convened the meeting.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Reports

2.1 Representation Review

Presentation attached.

Dale Ofoske, Whangarei District Council's Electoral Officer presented an overview of the review of representation arrangements. The presentation covered the three democratic processes within the Electoral Review:

representation arrangements; Maori wards; and the electoral system. The presentation also highlighted the timeframe, mandatory requirements and best practice approaches necessary for Council to ensure a robust review is undertaken.

Prior to undertaking the representation review, the Council needed to undertake two related processes:

- review the electoral system to be used.
On 12 September 2017, Council considered a report on the electoral systems available for triennial elections, being First Past the Post voting system and Single Transferable Voting.
At this meeting Council to retain the First Past the Post voting system for the next triennial election.
- Consider whether to establish a Maori Ward for Whangarei District.
Council considered a report on 26 October 2017 on whether or not to establish a Maori Ward for the Whangarei District.
At this meeting Council resolved not to establish a Maori Ward for the 2019 triennial elections.

In this review Council has to decide:

- the number of elected members
- how these members are elected, i.e.
 - by electors of the district as a whole; or
 - by wards; or
 - a combination of both.

If Council decides to elect members by wards, it must decide;

- the number of wards; and
- the ward boundaries; and
- the names of those wards.

Council also has to decide whether to have community boards, and if so:

- how many; and
- their boundaries and membership; and
- whether to subdivide a community for electoral purposes.

Six representation options were presented, each option was considered legally compliant, and to have fair elector and community of interest representation.

Dale Ofoske and Kathryn Candy responded to questions from Elected Members relating to:

- previous electoral arrangements for the district
- timing requirements for the review
- factors to be considered in determining the number and location of wards
- the impact of population changes on representation arrangements
- factors to be considered in arriving at the number of elected members for the district
- best practice approaches to consultation
- Ward names.

The general consensus from Members was that:

- Preliminary informal consultation be undertaken in line with the review timetable provided in Table 5 (noting that the preference is that this consultation be pushed out as far as possible from the LTP process).
- Council consult on the issues rather than just options but consider including a range of options; including a variation of Option 3 (urban split into 2), as examples for public feedback.
There appeared to be general consensus from the Members for Options 2 and 3 (modified) for consultation.

The Workshop concluded at 2.54pm