



**Report**                    **05.657**  
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**Committee**            **Policy, Finance and Strategy**  
**Author**                **Amy Norrish Policy Analyst**

## Process for Representation Review

### 1. Purpose

To agree a process for reviewing the Council's representation arrangements for the 2007 triennial general elections.

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. Background

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) local authorities must review their representation arrangements at least once every six years, with the first review taking place in either 2003 or 2006. In 2003 this Council decided to review its representation arrangements in 2006. This means the Council must pass a resolution on its proposed arrangements by 31 August 2006. There is a lot of work to do before and after this deadline and the Council now needs to agree on a process for conducting its review.

Much of the process for reviewing representation arrangements is prescribed by the LEA. The requirements which include public notices, a submission process, and an appeal and objection process, are detailed in the timeline provided in **Attachment 1**.

### 4. Comment

While much of the process for reviewing representation arrangements is prescribed by the LEA, there are other aspects of the process the Council needs to consider. In particular, the Council needs to decide whether or not it will establish a subcommittee to conduct the review.

## 4.1 New subcommittee

It is suggested that the Council establish a new subcommittee to aid the Council with reviewing its representation arrangements. A Representation Review Subcommittee that is comprised of four members would be an efficient and effective way of conducting the review. Reviewing representation arrangements can be a long and iterative process. It takes time to work through all the options available to the Council and there is a submission process and a possible appeal/objection process that must be conducted.

The draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Representation Review Subcommittee are provided in **Attachment 2**. The key powers and responsibilities of the Subcommittee include:

- Making decisions on any **process** matters relating to the review of representation arrangements.
- Hearing and considering any written and oral **submissions** the Council receives on its proposed representation arrangements.
- Making **recommendations** to the Council, through the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee, on:
  - what the proposed representation arrangements for the Wellington Regional Council should be.
  - what if any amendments should be made to the Council's proposed representation arrangements as a result of submissions.
  - whether or not the Council should accept the determination made by the Local Government Commission or appeal it on a point of law, should any objections or appeals be received.

## 4.2 Consultation

The LEA requires us to undertake a public submission process on the Council's proposed representation arrangements, whereby a public notice is placed in the region's main newspapers. The Council can also chose to carry out further consultation if it wishes, either before making a decision on its proposed arrangements and/or at the time of the submission process but before making its final decision on arrangements. It is suggested that this decision be made by the Representation Review Subcommittee, should the Council agree to establish it.

## 5. Communication

There are no matters in this report requiring further communication.

## 6. Recommendations

*That the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee recommends that Council:*

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Establishes** the Representation Review Subcommittee to aid the Council with reviewing its representation arrangements for the 2007 elections.
4. **Appoints** four councillors to be members of the Representation Review Subcommittee and **nominates** one of those members to be the chair of the Subcommittee.
5. **Adopts** the attached Terms of Reference for the Representation Review Subcommittee and **delegates** to the Subcommittee the powers, functions and duties detailed in the Terms of Reference.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

**Amy Norrish**  
Policy Analyst

**Wayne Hastie**  
Council Secretary

**Attachment 1:** Timeline for Representation Review

**Attachment 2:** Draft Terms of Reference for the Representation Review Subcommittee