



Report 06.143
Date 20 April 2006
File E/01/04/01

Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee
Author Margaret Shields, Chair, Representation Review Subcommittee

Representation Review Update

1. Purpose

To update the Council on the work undertaken by the Representation Review Subcommittee to date.

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

Council established the Representation Review Subcommittee to undertake key tasks in relation to the review of Greater Wellington's representation arrangements. The Subcommittee's key functions include:

- Deciding whether or not there should be any consultation or communication on the review in addition to the formal submission process required by legislation
- Recommending to Council the proposed representation arrangements for formal consultation with the public
- Hearing submissions on the Council's initial proposal
- Recommending to Council the final representation arrangements.

4. Comment

To date, the Representation Review Subcommittee has held two workshops. In these workshops members have looked at the legal requirements of the review and the Local Government Commission's guidelines, and explored all the possible representation options available to the Council (**Attachment 1**). The Subcommittee has now started to assess each of the key options with the aim of

deciding on an option to recommend to the Council for approval on 1 June 2006.

It is important to note that there have been considerable legislative changes since Greater Wellington last reviewed its representation arrangements and these may result in changes to Greater Wellington's current representation arrangements.

The Local Electoral Act 2001 says that the Council must ensure that its representation arrangements are "fair" and "effective". Fair representation is based on the number of people per councillor. The ratio of population per member for each proposed constituency must fall within +/- 10% of the average population per member for the Council as a whole. The Council can depart from the population formula only where it is necessary to do so to meet the requirement for the effective representation of communities of interest. (Further information on effective representation and communities of interest is provided in **Attachment 2**.)

Any proposal that falls outside the population formula (or where there are objections or appeals) will be decided upon by the Local Government Commission.

5. Communication

The Subcommittee decided it would like to ensure an open and transparent process where interested persons have the option to engage early on in the process i.e. before the initial proposal is decided. To this end, the Subcommittee has arranged:

- a media release
- information on Greater Wellington's website about the review
- a letter to key stakeholders (local territorial authorities, community boards and residents associations) inviting them to comment
- a meeting with certain stakeholder on specific options on 2 May 2006.

The website information includes maps of all the options the Subcommittee has explored. Both the media release and the website invite interested persons to comment on our options.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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Chair, Representation Review
Subcommittee

Attachment 1: Maps of Representation Options

Attachment 2: Information on Effective Representation and Communities of Interest