
Council

OPEN MINUTES

Excerpt from the Minutes of a meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers, 126-148 Oxford St, Levin, on Wednesday 18 April 2018 at 4.00 pm.

8 Corporate Services

8. Representation Review

1

Purpose

To recommend the formal adoption of the Council's initial proposal for representation arrangements for the 2019 and 2022 elections and that the proposal be distributed for public consultation.

MOVED by Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Judd:

THAT Report 18/188 Representation Review be received.

THAT this decision is recognised as significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act 2002.

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Mitchell, seconded Cr Judd:

THAT the Horowhenua District Council adopts as its Initial Proposal for the Representation Review for the local election to be held in 2019 and subsequent elections until altered by a subsequent decisions the following:

- (a) *THAT the Council comprises ten (10) Councillors elected from four (4) wards, and the Mayor elected at large;*
- (b) *THAT the Horowhenua District Council retains the existing ward names of Kere Kere, Miranui, Levin and Waiopahu;*
- (c) *THAT the proposed boundaries of the four (4) wards remain as they are at present and as shown on the attached map;*
- (d) *THAT the population each ward will represent will be as follows:*

Wards	General Electoral Population	Number of councillors per constituency	Population per councillor	Deviation from district average population per councillor	% deviation from district average population per councillor
Kere Kere	5,780	2	2,890	-356	-10.96
Miranui	3,080	1	3,080	-166	-5.11
Levin	16,950	5	3,390	144	4.44
Waiopahu	6,650	2	3,325	79	2.43
Total	32,460	10	3,246		

These population figures are estimates supplied by Statistics New Zealand as at 30 June 2017. Mesh blocks as at 1 January 2017.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Cr Wanden, seconded Cr Campbell:

THAT the Horowhenua District Council acknowledges that the Kere Kere Ward percentage deviation of -10.96% is outside that permitted by section 19 V (2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and that the Council will seek an exemption from the LGC on the basis that:

- *altering the boundaries of the Kere Kere Ward to make it compliant would limit effective representation of communities of interest by dividing a community of interest between wards; and*
- *the relatively minor non-compliance in the Kere Kere Ward will self-correct in the near future if growth occurs as predicted in the Council's draft Growth Strategy (see tables e and f).*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Cr Wanden, seconded Cr Judd:

THAT the Horowhenua District Council does not retain the Foxton Community Board

A division was called for:

The division was declared **CARRIED** by 8 votes to 2.

The reasons behind the motion to not retain the Community Board were captured in the following resolution, details of which had been included in the report.

MOVED by Cr Judd, seconded Cr Tukapua:

THAT the Horowhenua District Council's reasons for not retaining the Foxton Community Board include:

- (i) *The Council considers that whilst there was support for the continuation of the Foxton Community Board in 2012, and that some of that support continues, there has been considerable change since that time and many in the community considered that the community board should not be retained.*
- (ii) *Other communities within Horowhenua have democratically established community committees that are as effective in communicating with the Council as the Community Board.*
- (iii) *The demographics of the community have changed with Horowhenua now growing and becoming more diverse. The majority view is that many of the reasons for the Community Board when it was established in 1989, including political reasons, no longer exist. Changes have continued to evolve since the last review in 2012.*
- (iv) *Currently the costs of the Community Board are funded from a targeted rate across the District.*
- (v) *The indirect costs, which include staff and administration support, are approximately \$150k to \$160k per year. Direct costs are approximately \$55k per year (\$330k over the next 6 years).*
- (vi) *There is some misunderstanding about the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account (aka Foxton Beach Endowment Fund) – to remove any doubt in the community, the Council has always retained the decision making on matters*

relating to this Fund and will continue to do so.

- (vii) The current arrangements are that the Community Board has five (5) elected Board members for the Foxton community which has a population of 4,640. This population is included within the Kere Kere Ward and is also represented by two elected councillors. The Council considers that this community is significantly over represented compared to the rest of the District at 1:3,246 and the national average of about 1:6,700.*
- (viii) The voting turnout at the 2013 and 2016 elections show that there was a slight decline in turnout in voting for the Foxton Community Board (as there was for the whole District) yet the voter turnout in the Kere Kere Ward increased slightly. The Local Government Commission in determinations throughout the country has previously noted, in cases where the turnout in the community board elections was higher than district wide, that this emphasises support for the community board. In Horowhenua, recent election results do not support that notation.*

CARRIED

MOVED by Cr Brannigan, seconded Cr Campbell:

THAT a proposal is prepared and public notice be given of the proposals as adopted.

THAT the Horowhenua District Council will hear submissions on the proposal.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Note: *this is an excerpt from the unconfirmed Council Meeting Minutes, full Minutes can be found on Council's website.*