

2. ELECTORAL REVIEW

Officer responsible Council Secretary	Author Max Robertson, DDI 941-8533
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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to assist the Strategy and Finance Committee to consider and determine the submissions which have been received regarding the Council's proposals for the 2004 and 2007 Christchurch City elections. At its meeting on 27 August 2003 the Council granted the Strategy and Finance Committee delegated power to hear the submissions on the Council's proposals and to make decisions on those submissions.

The submitters have been invited to make their submissions at the times shown in the timetable accompanying the Schedule of Submissions (separately enclosed). A legal opinion is attached.

ELECTORAL REVIEW OPTIONS

The Boundary Review Working Party produced, as requested at the 28 July 2003 seminar, three options (with three versions of the 8 ward option) in relation to the review of Council. These options were:

- (a) Option A - the current system, retaining the existing system of 12 wards with two Councillors each;
- (b) Option B - having 6 wards based on a combination of the current paired wards;
- (c) Option C - a system of 8 wards with three versions of this option.

None of the options follow all of the Canterbury Regional Council boundaries.

(a) Option A - Current system of 12 wards and 6 community boards

The ratio of members to population under this option is:

Ward	Population (2001)	Members	Population per Member
Pegasus Ward	23,856	2	11,928
Burwood Ward	29,109	2	14,555
Papanui Ward	28,623	2	14,312
Heathcote Ward	26,952	2	13,476
Shirley Ward	24,726	2	12,363
Fendalton Ward	26,145	2	13,073
Waimairi Ward	25,056	2	12,528
Riccarton Ward	27,918	2	13,959
Spreydon Ward	24,837	2	12,419
Wigram Ward	27,012	2	13,506
Ferrymead Ward	27,771	2	13,886
Hagley Ward	24,246	2	12,123

The ratio of community board members to population is:

Ward	Population (2001)	Community Board Members	Population per Community Board Member
Pegasus Ward	23,856	3	7,952
Burwood Ward	29,109	3	9,703
Papanui Ward	28,623	3	9,541
Heathcote Ward	26,952	3	8,984
Shirley Ward	24,726	3	8,242
Fendalton Ward	26,145	3	8,715
Waimairi Ward	25,056	3	8,352
Riccarton Ward	27,918	3	9,306
Spreydon Ward	24,837	3	8,279
Wigram Ward	27,012	3	9,004
Ferrymead Ward	27,771	3	9,257
Hagley Ward	24,246	3	8,082

(b) Option B - 6 wards with 3 councillors per ward and 6 community boards

The ratio of members to population under this option is:

Ward	Population (2001)	Members	Population per Member
Burwood-Pegasus	52,803	3	17,601
Shirley-Papanui	52,236	3	17,412
Fendalton-Waimairi	52,476	3	17,492
Riccarton-Wigram	54,930	3	18,310
Spreydon-Heathcote	51,942	3	17,314
Hagley-Ferrymead	51,864	3	17,288

This 6 ward option settled upon by the working party is based on the present six community boundaries and minor changes affecting Ouruhia, Merivale, Shakespeare Road and Avoca Valley.

The ratio of community board members to population under the 6 ward option with 4 or 5 community board members is:

Ward	Population (2001)	Community Board Members	Population per Community Board Member	Community Board Members	Population per Community Board Member
Burwood-Pegasus	52,803	4	13,201	5	10,561
Shirley-Papanui	52,236	4	13,059	5	10,447
Fendalton-Waimairi	52,476	4	13,119	5	10,495
Riccarton-Wigram	54,930	4	13,733	5	10,986
Spreydon-Heathcote	51,942	4	12,986	5	10,388
Hagley-Ferrymead	51,864	4	12,966	5	10,373

(c) Option C - 8 wards (version 8.2) with 2 councillors per ward

The ratio of members to population under this option 8.2 is:

Ward	Population (2001)	Members	Population per Member
Pegasus	38,076	2	19,038
Shirley	38,178	2	19,089
Papanui	40,575	2	20,288
Waimairi	42,390	2	21,195
Wigram	42,450	2	21,225
Hillmorton	39,516	2	19,758
Port Hills	36,297	2	18,149
Linwood	38,769	2	19,385

The ratio of community board members to population with the 8 ward option is:

Ward	Population (2001)	Community Board Members	Population per Community Board Member
Pegasus	38,076	4	9,519
Shirley	38,178	4	9,545
Papanui	40,575	4	10,144
Waimairi	42,390	4	10,598
Wigram	42,450	4	10,613
Hillmorton	39,516	4	9,879
Port Hills	36,297	4	9,074
Linwood	38,769	4	9,662

The advantages and disadvantages of each of the three options are attached to this report (Appendix 1).

With all options the population that each Councillor and community board member represents is within the range of plus/minus 10 per cent in accordance with Section 19V of the Local Electoral Act.

OBJECTIONS/APEAL PROCESS

Following the hearing/consideration of the submissions received, the Committee may then make such amendments to the Council's proposal as it thinks fit. Public notice must then be given of the Committee's decision on those submissions, including any resulting amendments made to the Council's original proposal.

The public notice given of any amended proposal must incorporate any amendments agreed to by the Committee, the reasons for those amendments, the reasons for the rejection of any submissions, and advise of:

- The right of appeal for those persons who made submissions.
- If the Council's original proposal has been amended by the Committee as a result of the submissions, the right for any other person to object to those amendments.

If the Council receives any appeals or objections then the Council must, not later than 15 January 2004, forward to the Local Government Commission the original August resolution, the public notices that it has given, the submissions that it has received, any amended decision and every appeal and objection it has received, and information it holds regarding communities of interest and populations of the district and wards.

The Local Government Commission will then consider the Council's resolution, submissions, appeals, objections and information regarding communities of interest forwarded to it by the Council. The Commission may hold, but is not obliged to hold, meetings with the Council. The Commission must, by 11 April 2004, complete its decision on the Council's resolution and the appeals and the objections. The Commission's decision will then form the basis of the 2004 elections.

Staff

Recommendation: That, following consideration of the submissions, the Committee determine pursuant to the power delegated to it by the Council whether the submissions are to be disallowed, allowed in part or allowed in full.

Chair's

Recommendation: For discussion, following consideration of the submissions.