

3. CONSIDERATION AND DETERMINATION OF SUBMISSIONS ON ELECTORAL REVIEW

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

The purpose of this report is to summarise the issues raised in the submissions on the electoral review, to assist the Committee to consider and determine those submissions. At its meeting on Wednesday 5 November the Committee heard oral submissions from 35 submitters. There were a total of 126 submissions, of which 35 are either wholly or conditionally in support of the Council's proposal. The remaining submitters sought amendments to various elements of the Council's proposal, as follows:

- Twenty submitters sought the retention of the present 12 ward and six community structure, with 24 Councillors and 36 elected Community Board members.
- Forty-one submitters sought the creation of six wards and six communities, based on the boundaries of the six existing communities.
- Eight submitters considered that there should be fewer than 18 Councillors, and fewer than 34 elected Community Board members.
- Three submitters considered that Councillors should be elected either wholly or partly at large across the city, rather than within wards.
- One submitter considered that the boundaries of the Spreydon-Heathcote Community within the six ward option considered by the Council should be enlarged to include the area between Shakespeare Road and the Lyttelton railway line and also the Westmorland community, with consequent adjustments to the internal ward boundaries for community board elections
- One submitter considered that any decision on the number of Councillors and Community Board members and the boundaries of wards and communities should be deferred until a decision had been reached regarding the proposed merger between Banks Peninsula District and Christchurch City.
- One submitter considered that the Mayor should be elected by Councillors, rather than by electors.
- One submitter considered that there should be four rather than eight communities and Community Boards.
- One submitter considered that the eight Community Boards should each comprise four directly elected members plus one Councillor chosen by the Board.
- One submitter sought the subdivision of the eight communities for the purpose of electing Community Board members.
- Two submitters sought the creation of nine rather than eight wards.
- One submitter sought changes to the boundaries of the Waimairi and Wigram Wards.
- Five submitters sought the transfer of the Brookhaven and/or Ferrymead commercial and industrial area from the Linwood Ward to the Port Hills Ward.
- One submitter sought an extension of the boundary between the Linwood and Port Hills Wards along Brougham Street to the intersection with Ensors Road, instead of following Wilsons Road.
- One submitter sought the inclusion of the area bounded by Waltham Road, Shakespeare Road, Wilsons Road and Brougham Street within the Linwood Ward, rather than the Hillmorton Ward.
- Four submitters sought the inclusion of Kennedys Bush Road and the Halswell Quarry Park within the same ward as Halswell, rather than being included in the Port Hills Ward.

- Two submitters considered that the whole of the area covered by the Richmond Neighbourhood Cottage Group should be included in the Linwood Ward, rather than being split between the Shirley and Linwood Wards.
- One submitter considered that the boundaries of the Hillmorton Ward should be amended to allow Halswell and Waltham to be located in separate wards, rather than being in the same ward.
- Two submitters considered that some attempt should be made to redraw ward and community boundaries to coincide with the boundaries of Canterbury Regional Council constituencies and/or Parliamentary electorate boundaries.
- One submitter considered that the northern boundary of the Wigram Ward should be changed to Riccarton Road/Yaldhurst Road.
- Many submitters suggested changes in the names of the wards, ie:
 - Eleven submitters suggested that the name of the Linwood Ward be changed to the Hagley Ward.
 - Eight submitters suggested that the name of the Waimairi Ward be changed to the Fendalton Ward.
 - Three submitters suggested that the name of the Wigram Ward be changed to the Riccarton Ward.
 - Three submitters suggested that the name of the Papanui Ward be changed to the Styx Ward.
 - Two submitters suggested that the name of the Linwood Ward be changed to the Avon Ward.
 - Two submitters suggested that the name of the Pegasus Ward be changed to the New Brighton Ward.
 - One submitter suggested that the name of the Linwood Ward be changed to the Worcester Ward.
 - One submitter suggested that the name of the Hillmorton Ward be changed to the Spreydon Ward.
 - One submitter suggested that the name of the Hillmorton Ward be changed to the Barrington Ward.
 - One submitter suggested that the name of the Linwood Ward/Community be changed to the Otautahi Ward/Community.
- One submitter suggested that an attempt be made to ensure the election of one Councillor to represent the interests of rural residents and ratepayers.

EFFECT OF PROPOSED BROOKHAVEN/FERRYMEAD AND RICHMOND BOUNDARY CHANGES

1. Brookhaven to Port Hills Ward

855 people would be moved by the change of the Brookhaven area to the Port Hills. This would impact on the wards as follows:

Linwood	$38,769 - 855 = 37,914$
Port Hills	$36,297 + 855 = 37,152$

Note: The boundaries would run along Linwood Avenue, Dyers Road, Alport Place and back along the Heathcote River to fit meshblock boundaries.

2. Richmond

To include the remainder of the Richmond Neighbourhood Cottage area in the Linwood Ward would require 2,463 people to move wards. This would impact on the wards as follows:

Shirley	$38,178 - 2463 = 35,715$
Linwood	$38,769 + 2,463 = 41,232$

(if the Brookhaven change also occurred Linwood would be $41,232 - 855 = 40,377$)

All these populations would comply with the 10 per cent threshold which is between 35,574 to 43,480, although the Shirley ward would be very near to the lower threshold.

DECISION ON SUBMISSIONS

To allow the required public notice to be given by the deadline of 18 November, the Committee will need to reach decisions on the submissions at today's meeting. It will be recalled that at its meeting on 27 August 2003 the Council granted the Strategy and Finance Committee delegated power to hear the submissions and to make decisions on those decisions.

OBJECTION/APPEAL PROCESS

If the Committee confirms the Council's original proposal without alteration then the right of appeal to the Local Government Commission is limited to the present submitters.

On the other hand, if the final proposal approved by the Committee incorporates some amendments to the Council's original proposal, then **any person** who objects to that final proposal may lodge an objection to the Council's decision. Any such objections would then be forwarded to the Local Government Commission for consideration and final determination.

Staff

Recommendation: That, following consideration of the submissions, the Committee decide 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.