

HAVE YOUR SAY

# Representation Review for 2022

Marlborough District Council is undertaking a review of its councillor representation arrangements to apply to the 2022 local elections, as required by the Local Electoral Act 2001.



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## Introduction

Elections for Council are held every three years so you can decide who will represent you. To achieve fair and effective representation, Council must review its representation arrangements at least once every six years. The last review was in 2015.

This year Council took a fresh look at how many elected members (Councillors) there are and what communities they represent. Council also took into account the recent decision to introduce a Māori ward.

A working group of Councillors was tasked with reviewing the representation arrangements in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001.

It met a number of times and discussed the multitude of options open to it. This led to a report, based on the working party discussions, being discussed by Council at an Extraordinary Council meeting on 30 August 2021. This report can be viewed at [www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/meetings](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/meetings) - go to 'Extraordinary Council Meeting – 30 August 2021'.

A copy can be requested by emailing [election@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:election@marlborough.govt.nz) or by phoning 03 520 7400.

At the meeting on 30 August, Council reviewed its representation arrangements and decided its initial proposal, outlined below.

Council's initial proposal is now open for public submissions. The closing date for submissions is at 5.00pm on 22 October 2021.

Your submission on Council's initial proposal will help shape Council's representation arrangements for the next two local elections in 2022 and 2025. Council will consider all submissions before making its final decision in mid-November 2021. This final decision will be advertised – all submitters to Council's initial decision will be notified – and if you disagree with it you may appeal it to the Local Government Commission.

Council is working on ways of bringing this discussion to the various communities within Marlborough. With the current COVID-19 alert levels this may mean face-to-face community meetings cannot be undertaken. Options such as Zoom webinar type sessions may be undertaken instead.

# What was reviewed as part of this process?

The aim of this representation review is to ensure fair and effective representation for our people and their communities that provides them an effective voice and strengthens local democracy.

The scope of such representation reviews cover:

- The number of councillors to be elected to the Council
- Whether councillors are elected by wards or by the district as a whole (or a mixture of both systems)
- If elected by wards, the number, boundaries and names of these wards and the number of councillors that will represent them
- Whether to have community boards, and if so how many, their boundaries and membership

Please note that the decision to establish a Māori Ward has already been made and is not in scope for this representation review. The Mayor is also elected by the entire District.

As part of the review, Council identified Marlborough District's communities of interest. Local Government Commission guidelines recognise a community of interest according to three criteria:

perceptual – a sense of belonging to a clearly defined area or locality

functional – the ability to meet with reasonable economy the community's requirements for comprehensive physical and human services

political – the ability of the elected body to represent the interests and reconcile the conflicts of all its members.

Council must then ensure effective representation of these communities of interest and take into account fair representation of electors - based on the 'plus or minus 10% rule' (in section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 – explained below), which for our district means one Councillor for every 3,500 to 4,278 people (based on the councillor membership remaining at 13).

## Council's Initial Proposal (Option One)

Council resolved to continue with the present membership of thirteen (13) Councillors elected by wards (including the new Marlborough Māori Ward), with the Mayor elected from the district as a whole. Following a review of options available, Council considered that the ward system provides fair representation of communities of interest within the district.

Section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act requires that, unless particular community of interest considerations justify otherwise, the population that each member represents must be within the range of plus or minus 10% of the average population-per-member ratio across the district. Section 19V(3)(a) allows Council to propose a membership of a ward that falls outside the population formula, as long as it considers that there is a community of interest that could be classified as an island or isolated community.

Council made no allowance for an additional Councillor for an isolated community pursuant to this section, as it had previously for the Marlborough Sounds Ward, noting the improvements in communication and the ability of all elected members to attend to community matters in the Sounds area.

Under the proposal the population that each member will represent falls within the range of plus or minus

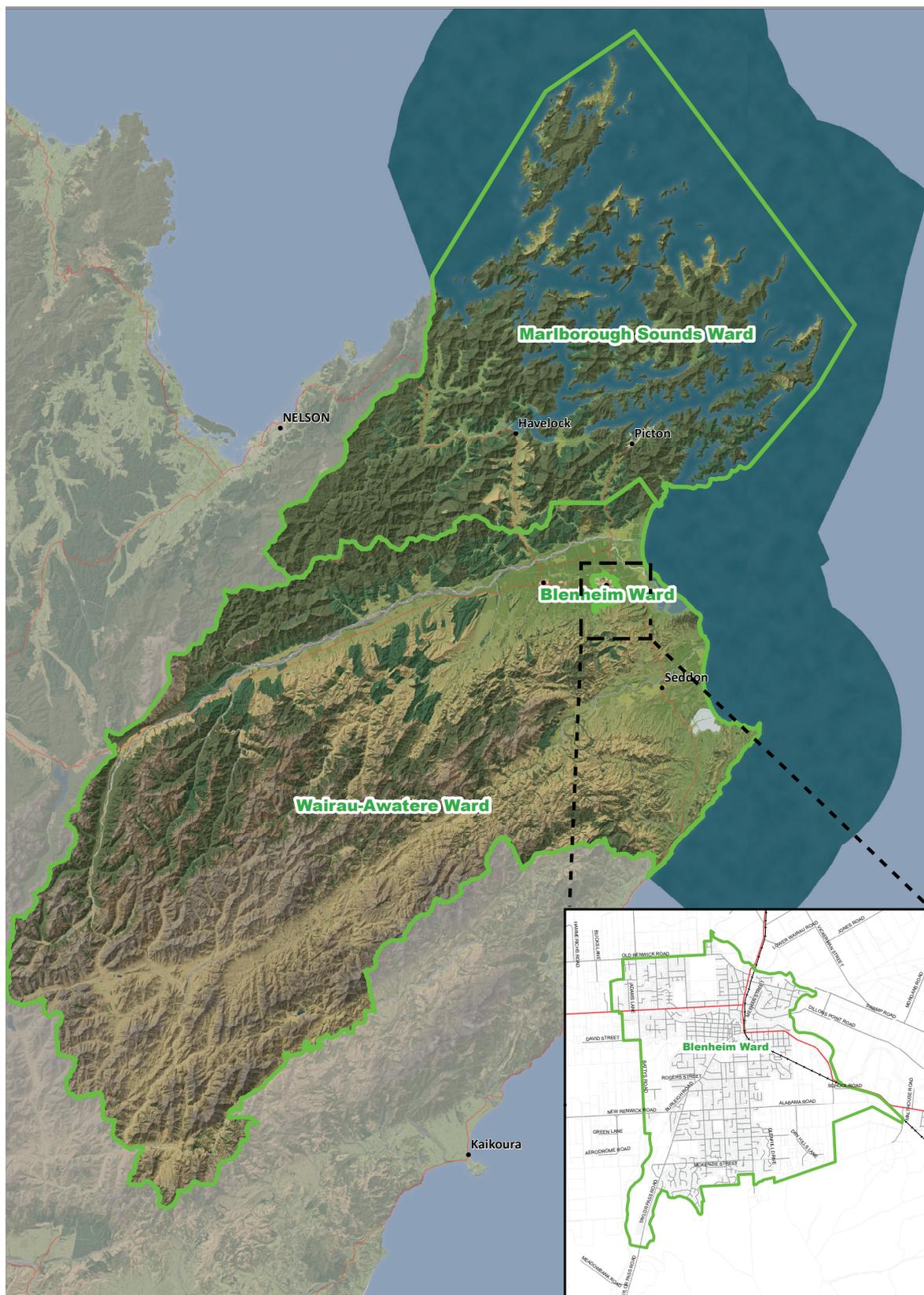
The proposal is therefore:

Ward	2020 Population Estimates	Members	Population per member
Marlborough Sounds	8,020	2	4,010
Wairau-Awatere	11,550	3	3,850
Blenheim	27,100	7	3,871
Māori Ward	3,570	1	3,570
Total	44,800	13	3,865

10% of 3,865 (i.e. 3,500 to 4,278).

Council further resolved that the Omaka Landing and the developed portion of Rose Manor subdivisions should be transferred from the Wairau-Awatere Ward to the Blenheim Ward as these subdivisions are considered to be more of a community of interest with the Blenheim Ward. The meshblocks concerned are 4013645, 4013646, 4013647, 4013650 and 4013651 (Omaka Landing); and 4013655, 4013657, 4013658, 4013659 and 4013660 (Rose Manor).

Council was also required to review the need for community boards. Council resolved that it considers there is no requirement for any community boards within Marlborough as it considered that the significant community, advisory and ratepayer organisations that already exist support the delivery of good local government in the District.



## Other options considered

A number of options were considered by the working group, of which four were proposed to Council in the report to the 30 August Extraordinary Council meeting. Option One was the one accepted by Council.

Options Two, Three and Four were:

### Option Two

All Councillors elected at large.

#### Option 2 (At large + Māori Ward (total membership of 13))

	Population	Councillors	Ratio
	46,670	12	3889
At large	3,570	1	3570
Māori Ward	<b>50,240</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3865</b>
-10%			3500
+10%			4278

### Advantages

1. Simple system.
2. Electors may feel connected with a wider number of Councillors (than under the ward system).
3. The Single Transferable Vote (STV) system works well.

### Disadvantages

4. Electors will be unfamiliar with electing councillors at large as Marlborough has had a similar ward structure since its inception.
5. Electors may consider their unique community of interest based representative to be lost.
6. The Māori Ward electors only have one election (apart from the Mayor).







# How does the Initial Proposal (Option One) change current arrangements?

The major changes in the Initial Proposal from the current situation are that the Marlborough Sounds Ward reduces its Councillor membership to two from three and the Māori Ward is established with Councillor membership of one.

The other change involves the Omaka Landing and Rose Manor subdivisions being transferred to the Blenheim Ward.

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## Making a submission

You may submit on any aspect of Council's Initial Proposal, the other options considered, as well as providing your own thoughts on what the Council could consider in coming to its final decision.

Submitters are advised that the information supplied in written submissions may contain personal information within the meaning of the Privacy Act 2020. By taking part in this public submission process, submitters have agreed to any personal information (including names and contact details) which is contained in their submission being made available to the public as part of the consultation and decision making process. All information collected will be held by Marlborough District Council. Submitters have the right to access and correct personal information. Submissions will be published on the Council's website as part of the public process.

For advice on making a submission please contact Mike Porter, Democratic Services Manager, at [election@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:election@marlborough.govt.nz) or by phoning 03 520 7400.

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## How to submit

**Email:**  
Please send your submission to  
[election@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:election@marlborough.govt.nz)

**By post:**  
Write to:  
Attention Mike Porter  
Marlborough District Council  
PO Box 443  
Blenheim 7240

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