



**Minutes of the  
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
held in the Committee Room and via Zoom, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim  
on MONDAY 30 AUGUST 2021 commencing at 9.00 am**

### **Present in the Committee Room**

The Mayor J C Leggett (in the Chair).

### **Present via Zoom**

Cllrs J L Andrews, J A Arbuckle, J D N Croad, B G Dawson, B A Fauls, M J Fitzpatrick, G A Hope, F D Maher, D D Oddie, M A Peters, T P Sowman and N P Taylor.

### **In Attendance in the Committee Room**

Mr D G Heiford (Manager Economic, Community & Support Services), Ms N J Chauval (Support Services Administrator) and Mr M J Porter (Democratic Services Manager).

### **In Attendance via Zoom**

Mr M S Wheeler (Chief Executive), Mr M F Fletcher (Chief Financial Officer), Mr D G Walters (Communications Manager), Mr R Foitzik (General Counsel) and Ms S J Boswell (Communication Advisor).

### **Karakia**

The meeting opened with a karakia.

The Mayor welcomed all to the meeting, whether present in the Committee Room or via Audio Visual link (Zoom) as per Standing Orders and the *COVID-19 Response (Urgent Management Measures) Legislation Act 2020*. The Mayor also advised the meeting was being recorded and that a link to the recording would be loaded to Council's website as soon as practicable following the meeting in accordance with the *COVID-19 Response (Urgent Management Measures) Legislation Act 2020*.

### **Apology**

**The Mayor/Cllr Peters:**

**That the apology for absence from Cllr C J Brooks be received and sustained.**

### **Carried**

## **Cncl-0821-62 Declaration of Interests** -

Members were reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

## **Cncl-0821-63 Method of Election and Review of Representation**

**D050-004-022-11**

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to resolve Council's initial proposal for representation arrangements for the 2022 and 2025 elections (and that the initial proposal be distributed for public consultation).

Staff reported that Council was required to adopt an initial proposal for public consultation on its representation arrangements for the 2022 and 2025 elections. The Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) requires local authorities to carry out a review of their representation arrangements at least once every six years. Council's last review was prior to the 2016 triennial election. The review is set by a statutory timeline and process. The Council must give notice of its initial proposal no later than 8 September 2021.

Staff further reported that Council was required to adopt a set of representation options as an initial proposal, consult with the public and consider submissions, and adopt a final proposal for public notification. Included

within the scope of the Representation Review was 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; and whether to have Community Boards, and if so how many, their boundaries and membership.

Staff also reported that Council engaged an independent consultant from electionz.com to assist Council to follow best practice for defining communities of interest, effective representation for identified communities of interest, and fairness of representation for electors. Council also appointed Cirs Taylor, Hope and Croad, and the Mayor, to undertake the community consultation for the representation review, to be assisted by the independent consultant from electionz.com and Council staff. This group have met and discussed the representation review in detail.

Members noted that all elements of the Council's representation proposal (excepting the Maori Ward), including whether to have community board(s) or not, are subject to rights of appeal and/or objection to the Local Government Commission (the Commission). The working group has fully considered the options available. The working group also considered that the process carried out was robust and that it results in a decision that can be supported by reasons that provide a defensible outcome.

Members agreed to the proposal that the Omaka Landing and Rose Manor subdivisions which are currently in the Wairau-Awatere Ward should be transferred to the Blenheim Ward as their communities of interest lie with the urban ward.

The working group proposed that Option One be the preferred option and Council after discussing all options in the report agreed. This option is a 'modified status quo' option with little change to the existing arrangements. Under this option, all wards comply with the plus or minus 10% population formula required under the legislation.

Members noted that the main change proposed under Option One sees a reduction in the number of Marlborough Sounds' members from three to two. Members agreed that the current three-councillor representation of the Marlborough Sounds Ward population is far greater than the formula allows under sections 19 V(2) and (3) the Local Electoral Act.

Members noted that in the past Council has argued to the Local Government Commission that the Marlborough Sounds needed another councillor due to its remote and isolated communities. Council agreed that with the improvements in communications technology in recent years that argument was now harder to sustain. Also, all members can represent Sounds' residents and ratepayers.

Members noted that staff will be preparing a communications strategy involving public meetings (whether face-to-face or by webinar type, depending on the current COVID-19 Alert Level). A consultation document will also be available.

#### **The Mayor/Cir Taylor:**

- 1. That Council adopts the following initial representation proposal (Option 1):**
  - (a) That Marlborough District Council consist of a Mayor and 13 councillors; and**
  - (b) That a Ward structure of voting is the most appropriate for Marlborough;**
  - (c) That the make-up of that ward structure be:**
    - **Blenheim Ward (7 members);**
    - **Wairau-Awatere Ward (3 members);**
    - **Marlborough Sounds Ward (2 members); and**
    - **Marlborough Māori Ward (1 member) [noting that the Māori Ward decision cannot be appealed to the Local Government Commission];**
  - (d) That no Community Boards be established.**
- 2. That meshblocks 4013645, 4013646, 4013647, 4013650 and 4013651 (Omaka Landing); and 4013655, 4013657, 4013658, 4013659 and 4013660 (Rose Manor) be transferred from the Wairau-Awatere Ward to the Blenheim Ward.**
- 3. That Council agrees that public notification of the initial proposal and opportunity to submit on the proposal will be undertaken in line with the statutory requirements of section 19M of the Local Electoral Act 2001.**

**Carried**

The meeting closed at 9.36 am.

Confirmed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021

J C LEGGETT  
**MAYOR**

Record No. 21187466