2006 REPRESENTATION REVIEW

1.   Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is:

- to provide information on the process the Council must follow and the key factors it is required to consider in deciding its representation arrangements
- to report on the results of the "pre-review" consultation that the Council undertook on the review of its representation arrangements for the 2007 local authority elections, and
- to submit a range of representation arrangement options for the Committee's consideration to enable it to select a preferred option for referral to Council for adoption as it's "initial" representation proposal.

2.   Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Receive the information.

2. Note the feedback received as a result of the pre-review consultation that the Council decided to carry out before commencing the formal statutory representation review process.

3. Agree that the preferred option for the initial representation proposal for public consultation is (choose a combination of one option from each of the following two categories):

Category 1
Wellington City Council
  (a)   five wards electing 14 Councillors (shifting Roseneath from the Lambton Ward to the Eastern Ward). (Total Council membership 14).
  (b)   five wards electing 14 Councillors (shifting Roseneath from the Lambton Ward to Eastern Ward) and 2 further Councillors elected at-large. (Total Council membership 16).
  (c)   three wards electing 15 Councillors (5 from each ward). (Total Council membership 15).

(d)   *three wards electing 15 Councillors (5 from each ward) and 2 further Councillors being elected at large. (Total Council membership 17).*

(e)   *three wards electing 12 Councillors (4 from each ward) and 4 further Councillors being elected at large. (Total Council membership 16).*

(f)   *12 members elected at large (with community boards based on the boundaries of the proposed 3 ward option plus the retention of the Makara/Ohariu Community Board). (Total Council membership 12).*

(g)   *16 members elected at large (with no community boards except the Makara/Ohariu Community Board). (Total Council membership of 16)*

Category 2
Community Boards

(h)   *Retain both the Tawa and Makara/Ohariu Community Boards electing six members each but establish no more. (Total membership of 12).*

(i)   *Abolish the Tawa Community Board but retain Makara/Ohariu Community Board (with 4 or 6 members). (Total membership 4 or 6).*

(j)   *Abolish both the Tawa and Makara/Ohariu Community Boards and establish five new community boards based on the boundaries of the proposed five ward option, electing six members each. (Total membership 30).*

(k)   *Abolish the Tawa Community Board, retain the Makara/Ohariu Community Board (with 4 or 6 members) and establish five new community boards based on the boundaries of the proposed five ward option, electing six members each. (Total membership 34 or 36).*

(l)   *Abolish both the Tawa and Makara/Ohariu Community Boards and establish three new community boards based on the boundaries of the proposed three ward option, electing six members each. (Total membership 18).*

(m)   *Abolish the Tawa Community Board, retain the Makara/Ohariu Community Board (with 4 or 6 members) and establish three new community boards based on the boundaries of the proposed three ward option, electing six members each. (Total membership 22 or 24).*

4.   *Agree that if the ward system is the preferred option, the names of those wards be as follows:*

Either
Five ward option
Northern
Onslow/Western
Lambton
Southern
Eastern

Or
Three ward option
Northern

Central
Rongotai

5.   *Agree that if the Tawa and/or Makara/Ohariu Community Boards are to be retained no changes are required to their existing boundaries and that they should not to be subdivided for electoral purposes.*

6.   *Agree that if community boards are to be established across the city that their elected memberships be set at six and that Council appoint up to a maximum of two additional members to each of those Boards, with the exception of the Makara/Ohariu Community Board which, if retained , will have no members appointed to it.*

7.   *Agree that if community boards are to be established across the city, that officers give further consideration as to whether the boards should be divided for electoral purposes and that a recommendation in this respect be referred for Council's consideration at its meeting on 28 June 2006.*

8.   *Agree that, once a decision has been made on which proposal the Committee supports, the Portfolio Leader Governance and the Chief Executive Officer be given authority to prepare the necessary resolutions in accordance with that decision, and in compliance with the relevant provisions of the Local Electoral Act, for consideration and adoption by the Council at its meeting on 28 June 2006.*

9.   *Approve the draft Consultation Plan for the notification and consultation on the Council's initial representation proposal.*

3.   Background

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA), local authorities are required to review their representation arrangements at least once every six years, the first such review being required in either 2003 or 2006. The Council carried out its last review in 2003, in time for the 2004 election, and is therefore not legally required to carry out its next review until 2009 (in time for the 2010 local authority election).

However, in confirming its representation proposal on 30 October 2003, the Council agreed that a further representation review would be completed in time for the 2007 local authority elections to enable a full review of community boards to be undertaken.

At its meeting on 6 April 2006 the Council decided to carry out some "pre-review" consultation before commencing the formal statutory representation review process. A public discussion document, including a proposed timetable, was adopted by the Council at that meeting.

Pre-review consultation closed on 31 May 2006 and this report provides a summary of the feedback received. Strategy and Policy Committee and then Council are now

required to adopt an "initial" proposal on what its representation arrangements are going to be for the 2007 local authority elections before going out for consultation.

4. Discussion

4.1 Key factors for consideration

In preparing for and carrying out a representation review the Council must bear in mind the relevant provisions of the LEA, the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and the guidelines that are issued by the Local Government Commission (LGC) to assist local authorities to identify the factors and considerations that they should take into account when making their representation review decisions. These principles are set out in **Appendix 1** of the report**.**

There are three key factors that must be carefully considered by the Council when determining its representation arrangements. They are:
- community of interest
- effective representation of communities of interest; and
- fair representation.

These are the factors that the LGC will focus on if appeals or objections are received against the Council's final proposal.

A detailed explanation of these factors is set out in **Appendix 2.**

4.2 Process

Because the LEA does not prescribe the process that must be followed when undertaking a representation review, Council may determine its own process provided the statutory requirements are met. However the LGC does recommend that the following "best practice" process be followed in order to achieve a robust outcome that complies with the statutory criteria. The Council has followed this process in at least its last three representation reviews.

Step 1.   Identify communities of interest

- Determine the communities of interest of the region, district or community.

Step 2.   Determine effective representation for identified communities of interest

- Consider whether each identified community of interest needs separate representation, or whether communities of interest can be grouped together in certain ways to achieve effective representation.

- Consider whether effective representation for identified communities of interest is best achieved by electing its members under:

- ■   an at large system;
- ■   a ward system; or
- ■   a mixed system, with election of members partially at large and partially by ward.

- If an at large system is proposed, decide what council membership would be appropriate to provide effective representation for the city as a whole.

- Consider whether there should be communities and community boards and, if so, the nature of any community and the structure of any community board.

- Where community boards are to be established, consider whether effective representation for identified communities of interest within the community is best achieved by way of an at large system, by subdivisions of the community or by elections from wards within the community.

- Under any system of electoral subdivisions (i.e. wards or community subdivisions) decide:
  - ■   how many subdivisions there should be (based on communities or groupings of communities of interest);
  - ■   what the boundaries of the subdivisions should be; and
  - ■   what the subdivisions should be named.

Step 3.   Consider fairness of representation for electors of the electoral subdivisions

- Consider a range of options for the total membership of the Council and any community boards. Under each option, determine the ratio of population per member for each proposed electoral subdivision.

- For each option, compare the subdivision ratios calculated with the average population per member for the Council/community board as a whole.

- Ensure that the subdivision ratios under the options for total membership fall within +/- 10% of the average population per member. If they don't comply, consider altering subdivision boundaries or reconfiguring subdivision arrangements (to the extent practicable to provide effective representation of communities of interest) so that the subdivision ratios fall within the required range.

It is important to note that the fairness criteria (i.e. Step 3) does not need to be considered if the Council decides to elect its Councillors and any community board members at-large.

4.3   Timetable

The LEA clearly sets out the legislative timeframes the Council is required to comply with in carrying out a representation review.

A proposed timetable has been developed based on those timeframes. The deadlines that must be met have been bolded for easy reference.

Task	Proposed Date	Legislative Deadline
Report to Strategy and Policy Committee recommending "initial" proposal	15 June 2006	N/A
Council decision on "initial" proposal	28 June 2006	31 August 2006
Public notification of initial proposal (calling for submissions)	8 July 2005	8 September 2006
Close of public submissions	28 August 2006	8 October 2006
Council to hear/consider submissions	Week commencing 4 September 2006	Before 19 November 2006
Report to Strategy and Policy Committee recommending "final" proposal	21 September 2006	Before 19 November 2006
Council decision on "final" proposal	27 September 2006	Before 19 November 2006
Public notice of the Council's "final" decision	7 October 2006	19 November 2006
Close of public appeals/objections to "final" proposal	10 November 2006	20 December 2006
All documentation to LGC (if any appeals/objections are received)	24 November 2006	15 January 2007

If no submissions are made on the Council's initial proposal, the determining resolution becomes the final proposal which will take effect at the 2007 elections.

If submissions are made on the Council's initial proposal, Council must consider each submission and amend (or not as it sees fit) the determining resolution in light of the submissions.

Council must demonstrate it has considered submissions by providing reasons for its rejection or acceptance of submissions. This information must be included in the public notice advising the final proposal. If there are no objections or appeals following public notice of the final proposal, then the final proposal stands and will take effect from the 2007 election. Any objections or appeals following the public notice advising the final proposal must be lodged with the Council within the prescribed timeframe. Council must then forward these appeals/objections to the LGC for them to make a binding determination.

It is important to note that once the initial decision has been made there is no opportunity to stop or delay the statutory process. However if at any stage prior to making its initial decision the Council decides it needs further information before making that decision there is some leeway to allow for this in the Council's current timetable.

4.4   Community Boards

Community boards are established under the LGA to perform such functions and duties and exercise such powers as are delegated to them by the Council. They are not however committees of the council. Community boards cannot set rates, raise funds, enter into contracts, deal in property, pass bylaws or appoint staff.

The role of a community board (as provided in the LGA) is to:

- represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community
- consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to the community board
- maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community
- prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community
- communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community
- undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority.

Only two community boards are operating in Wellington city at the present time; the Tawa Community Board which consists of six elected members and two appointed members and the Makara/Ohariu Community Board which has six elected members. Both of these boards were established by the LGC in 1989 as part of the major local government reorganisation undertaken at that time. Prior to 1989 these areas were administered/represented by the Tawa Borough Council and the Makara/Ohariu Community Council respectively.

Although the Council is not legally required to carry out another representation review until 2009 (in time for the 2010 local authority elections) it agreed, at its meeting on 23 October 2003, that:

> " no further community boards be established, and that none be abolished at this time: but that a full review of community boards be undertaken to be completed in sufficient time for any proposals to be implemented in a further representation review which would be completed in time for the 2007 elections"

A review of community boards cannot be undertaken in isolation to a full review of the Council's own representation arrangements. This latest review has therefore been brought about by the Council's desire to carry out a full review of community boards.

All Councils are required to carry out a review of community boards as part of their representation reviews, whether or not they are part of their current governance structure. The Council must, as part of every representation review it undertakes, consider whether community boards are necessary to provide fair and effective representation for individuals and communities in its district. It provides a process

whereby a council can propose the constitution of new boards or the disestablishment of existing boards.

In carrying out such a review two levels of decisions are required:

- whether there should be communities and community boards within the council's district; and if so
- the nature of any community and the structure of any community board.

In undertaking its community board review, the Council is required to have regard to the relevant sections of the LEA and the reorganisation criteria detailed the LGA. Applying those criteria for community board reviews means that the following matters need to be considered by Council:

- will the proposal promote the good local government of the parent district and the community area concerned?
- would the district and the community have the resources necessary to enable it to carry out their respective responsibilities, duties and powers?
- would the district and the community encompass an area that is appropriate for the efficient and effective exercise of its responsibilities, duties and powers?
- would the district and community contain a sufficiently distinct community of interest or sufficiently distinct communities of interest?
- would the district and the community be able to meet the decision-making requirements of section 76 of the LGA, to the extent that they are applicable?

An existing community board may be abolished or united with another community board, and the boundaries of a community board may be altered, by:
 (a) an Order in Council giving effect to a reorganisation scheme; or
 (b) the territorial authority or the Local Government Commission as part of a review of the territorial authority's representation arrangements.

A community board may be established in any part of a council district but must be wholly within that district. Unless an existing board is abolished a new community board cannot be constituted for any part of a district if a community board is already constituted for that part of that district. The boundaries of any community board must be of a continuous area.

The Act allows the area of a community board to be subdivided for electoral purposes. The division of a community board into electoral subdivisions may be appropriate when the community board area is made up of a number of distinct communities of interest at the local level, and the formation of subdivisions will provide effective representation of communities of interest. The members of a community board may therefore be elected at-large by the community, by a subdivision of the community, or by ward if the community contains two or more wards in the city.

It is important to note that all the elements of a proposal relating to community boards are subject to the same rights of appeal and/or objection to the LGC and Council therefore needs to ensure that any community board proposal receives the same level of care and consideration as all other elements of the review.

Details of the specific matters that need to be considered and on which decisions may have to be made are set out in **Appendix 3.**

4.5 "Pre-review" consultation

Although not a mandatory requirement, the Council at its meeting on 6 April 2006, agreed to carry out some "pre-review" public consultation before commencing the formal statutory representation review process.

This preliminary consultation has assisted the Council in past reviews to identify issues relevant to the review process and has enabled officers to formulate and consider a wider range of representation options when developing formal proposals.

Although this preliminary consultation is a useful additional component to the representation review process it is **not** a substitute for the formal statutory review.

The consultation took place over the period 26 April – 31 May 2006 in accordance with the consultation plan approved by the Council on 6 April 2006.

4.6 Results of "pre-review" consultation

A total of 190 submissions were received in the following categories:

- 15 completed the questionnaire that appeared in the Wellingtonian newspaper
- 24 completed the on-line submission form on the Council's website
- 135 completed the questionnaire from the discussion document.
- 16 made more detailed written submissions.

The response is down on the numbers we received for our three previous reviews [1997 (286), 2000 (305) and 2003 (398)] which is a little disappointing. Some possible reasons for the downturn in the numbers taking part in this particular consultation could be as follows:

- Nine formal consultations have been undertaken over the last few weeks. The possibility of consultation "overload" was raised in the report considered by the Strategy and Policy Committee at its meeting on 6 April 2006 (when it was agreed to undertake this pre-review consultation).
- The fact that the consultation took place over a four week period. In most of our past reviews we have been able to carry out our pre-consultation phase over a much longer period (i.e. 6-8 weeks).
- That the public are happy with the existing representation arrangements that were determined by the Local Government Commission in 2004,following a similar process of public consultation.

Of the 190 submissions received:

- 171 were received from individuals
- 15 from groups or organisations, and
- 4 from groups or individuals who gave no contact details.

A breakdown of where the submissions came from on a ward by ward basis is as follows:

Ward	Wellingtonian Newspaper	On-line Submission Form	Discussion Document Questionnaire	Written Submissions	Total
Northern	2	4	9	1	16
Onslow/Western	7	5	8	-	20
Lambton	1	7	6	2	16
Southern	3	3	18	1	25
Eastern	2	3	87	2	94
Organisations	-	2	3	10	15
Unknown	-		4	-	4
Total	15	24	135	16	190

4.7   Analysis of responses received

An analyses of the responses received are contained over the next several pages. The comments made by those people who completed their submission on-line or by way of the newspaper/discussion document questionnaire have been collated and are attached as **Appendix 4**.

Copies of the more detailed submissions are attached **(Appendices A – U)**. These responses have also been included in the analysis and the figures shown above. A full set of all submissions has also been sent to all Councillors.

Issue 1: Community of Interest

In undertaking its most recent representation reviews, the Council has accepted that a community of interest is a grouping of the population, on a geographical basis, which has social and economic coherence and that that community of interest is identified at the suburb level.

The defining characteristics which the Council has used in the past to identify these communities of interest include:

- a sense of community identity and belonging

- dependence on shared facilities in an area, including schools, recreational and cultural facilities and retail outlets
- physical and topographic features
- the history of the area
- transport and communication links
- existing suburb boundaries (which were fully reviewed in 2003).

In order to check whether the factors the Council has been taking into account when identifying and defining its communities of interest were still appropriate, the following question was asked:

Do you think this is an appropriate way of identifying and defining communities of interest?

Yes	162
No	15
No comment/Don't know	13
Total	**190**
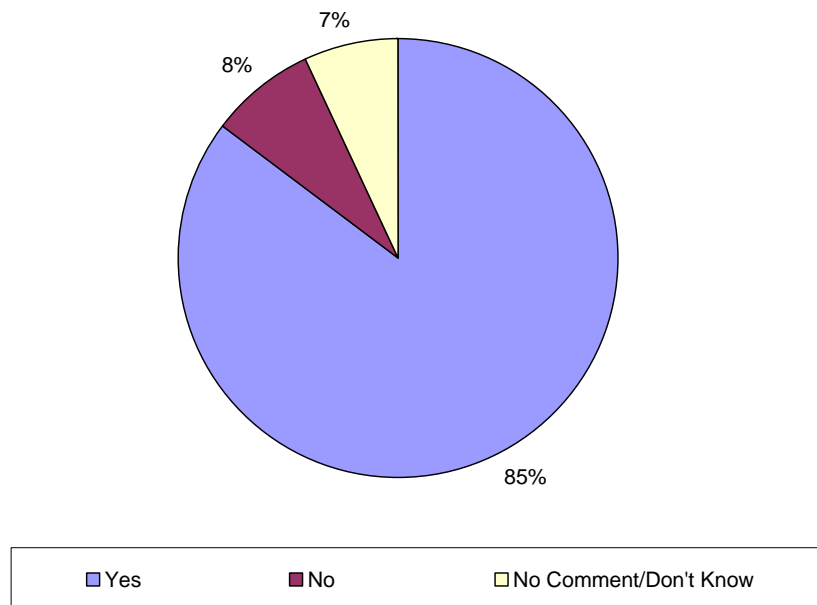
Comment

Whichever representation option it chooses, Council must ensure that the election of its members provides effective representation of the community or communities of interest within the city. Giving proper consideration to defining local community or communities of interest is therefore an essential part of the representation review process.

For the purposes of the representation review process a community of interest must be able to be defined as a single geographical area. If there are strong commonalities of interest among identified communities of interest (i.e. a shared common community of interest at district level) it is possible to identify the whole city as a single community of interest.

The Council has, in past reviews, identified communities of interest at the suburb level and then grouped those suburbs into wards.

The results of the consultation clearly indicate that, in the view of those who responded, the communities of interest which the Council has identified and applied for its previous reviews are still appropriate and are therefore acceptable for this current review.

A summary of the comments of those who are opposed to the Council's method of identifying its communities of interest are contained on page 1 of Appendix 4. Please also refer to Appendices A - U some of which also express contrary views on this issue.
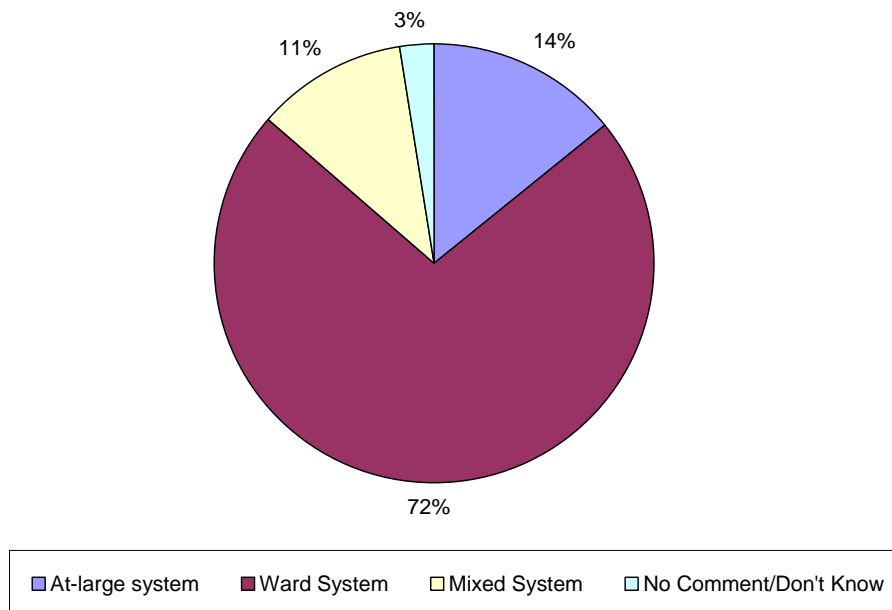
Issue 2: Effective Representation

Having identified the community or communities of interest and deciding whether they need separate representation or whether they can be grouped together to achieve effective representation, the Council must then decide whether effective representation for the identified communities of interest is best achieved by way of:
- An at-large (city-wide) system:
- A ward system; or
- A mixed system, with election of members partially at-large and partially by ward.

The following question was therefore asked:

Which of the following options, in your view, provides the most effective representation of the city's community or communities of interest and why?

At-large system	27
Ward system	137
Mixed system	21
No comment/Don't know	5
Total	**190**

3%	14%
11%	
72%	

☐ At-large system   ■ Ward System   ☐ Mixed System   ☐ No Comment/Don't Know

Comment

It is clear from the responses received that the majority of people who responded still see the ward system as providing the most effective representation of the city's communities of interest. The level of support for the ward system has increased from 67% (in 2003) to 72% in this survey. It received 67% support in the 2000 review and 73% in the 1997 review.

A summary of the reasons given by people for choosing the system they did are set out on pages 2-5 of Appendix 4. Please also refer to comments in Appendices A –U.

The option which allows some of its members to be elected by ward and some at-large was first introduced in time for the 2004 local elections and was used to elect members to the Tauranga City Council and the Kapiti and Coast District Council at those elections. The Porirua City Council has also recently resolved (as its initial proposal) to change to this system for the 2007 elections.

Although support for retaining the ward system is resounding, the ability to elect some (probably a minority) of its Councillors at large would go some way to resolving some of the reservations that long time supporters of the at large system have against the ward system.

Some of the concerns that could be satisfied if this were to happen are as follows:

- Electors would have the opportunity of voting both for the candidates standing in their ward and any of the candidates standing at-large. One of the concerns that proponents of the at large system have is that they are unable to vote for candidates standing outside of their ward.

- Electing some of its Councillors under the at large system is more likely to result in the election of a more diverse Council. It is also acknowledged that the STV voting method, under an at-large system, would further enhance the chances of electing members from ethnic groups and other non-geographic interests.

- If the number of Councillors elected under the ward system remained at 14 (in compliance with the "fairness" requirements) the addition of two or three members (elected at large) would possibly satisfy those members of the community who feel that the reduction in the number of elected members from 19 to 14 (excluding the Mayor) in 2003 was too severe.

It is important to remember that the division of a district into wards is for electoral purposes only, and all members elected under the ward system take an oath on taking up office to act in the best interests of the whole district. Therefore, in terms of the duties of elected members, there is no functional difference in the decision-making role of members elected at large and members elected by the ward system.

If a mixed system of representation is adopted, careful consideration needs to be given to ensure an appropriate balance between the number of ward members and the number of at-large members.
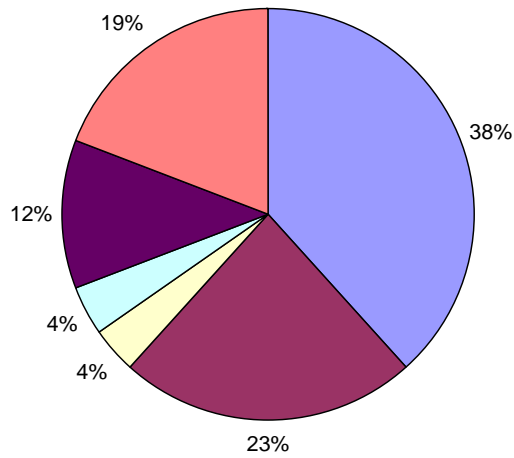
Issue 3: Representation Options

Having identified which system they favoured, the respondents were then asked to select from a range of options (for the system they had chosen) the specific option they preferred. If they didn't like any of the options identified they were invited to submit their preferred option.

The questions asked and a summary of the responses received for this part of the questionnaire, were as follows:

At-large system

Which of the options (if any) outlined on pages 9-10 of the discussion document do you think would be appropriate to provide effective representation for the city as a whole?

Option 1 – (12 members)	10
Option 2 – (13 members)	-
Option 3 – (14 members)	6
Option 4 – (15 members)	-
Option 5 – (16 members)	1
Option 6 - (17 members)	1
Option 8 – (18 members)	3
Any other	5
Total	**27**

A summary of the reasons given by people for choosing the particular option they did and details of any other options they preferred are set out on pages 6-9 of Appendix 4. Please also refer to comments contained in Appendices A –U, particularly the submission from the Newlands and Paparangi Progressive Association (Appendix H) in this respect.

Ward system

Those people who indicated a preference for the ward system were asked to respond to the following question:

If the Council decides to retain the ward system which of the options (if any) outlined on pages 10-12 of the discussion document do you prefer and why?

Option 1 – (5 wards electing 14 Councillors with shift   60
      of Roseneath from Lambton to Eastern)

Option 2 – (5 wards electing 14 Councillors with shift   28
      of Roseneath [from Lambton to Eastern]
      and Wadestown [from Lambton to Onslow/Western])

Option 3 – (5 wards electing 14 Councillors with shift   29
      of Roseneath [from Lambton to Eastern],
      Wadestown [from Lambton to Onslow/Western]
      and Southgate (from Southern to Eastern])

Option 4 – (3 wards electing 12 Councillors [4Councillors per ward])   4

Option 5 – (3 wards electing 15 Councillors [5 Councillors per ward])   4

Any other   12

Total   137
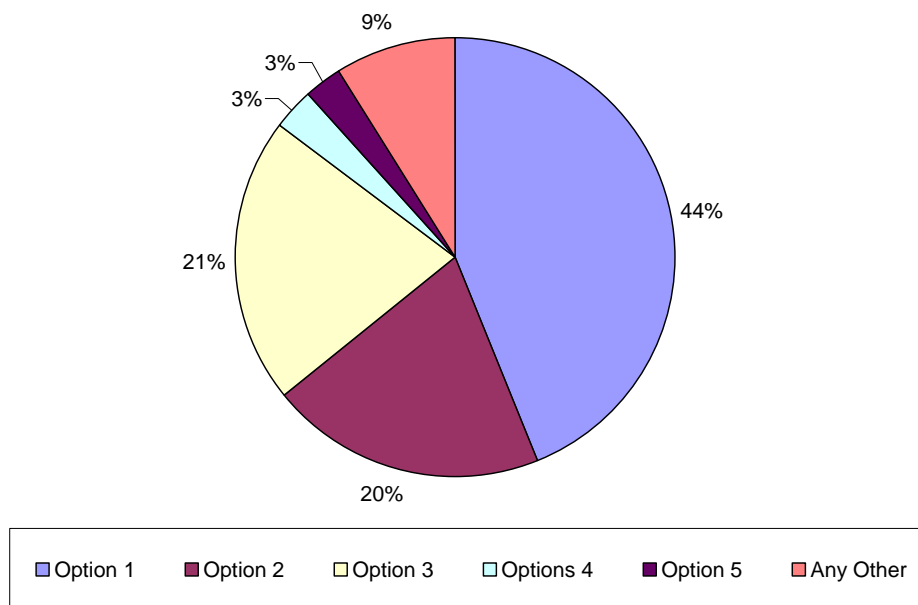
<u>Comment</u>

It is important to note that:
- the status quo (i.e. five wards electing 14 Councillors) with no boundary changes does not comply with the fairness requirements of the LEA. The fairness principle requires the member: population ratio (of each ward) to be within a +/- 10% variance across the whole city, unless there is good reason to depart from it.
- the fairness requirement only applies if the Council decides to adopt the ward system as its preferred electoral system
- the Council is required to determine its ward boundaries based on the estimated resident population figures for Wellington City, as at 30 June 2005. Based on those figures (and the current boundaries and number of elected members per ward) the Eastern Ward is over represented and the Lambton Ward is under represented. Both are outside the population variance requirement and some relatively minor boundary adjustments, which must also comply with the community of interest criteria, would need to be made in order to achieve this.

85% of the people who indicated that they would prefer to elect their Councillors under the ward system favour one or other of the three modified "status quo" options outlined in the discussion document. All three options propose the retention of the 5 ward option electing 14 Councillors with varying degrees of boundary adjustments. More than half

of those people preferred the option proposing the (single) boundary change involving the shift of Roseneath from the Lambton Ward to the Eastern ward.

A summary of the reasons given by people for choosing the particular option they did are set out on pages 10 - 13 of Appendix 4. Please also refer to comments contained in Appendices A –U, particularly the submissions from the Wellington Labour Local Body Committee (Appendix C) the Southern Branch, Wellington Residents' Coalition (Appendix M), Bernard Harris (Appendix N) and Ian Woodmore (Appendix Q) in this respect.

Mixed system

Those people who chose this option as their preferred method were asked the following question:

If you prefer the option of electing some Councillors under the ward system and some at-large, do you support the option outlined on pages 12-13 of the discussion document (i.e. 12 Councillors elected from 3 wards (4 per ward) and 4 Councillors elected at-large giving a total membership of 16 (excluding the Mayor)?

A breakdown of their responses is as follows:

Yes	10
No	3
Other preferences	8
Total	**21**
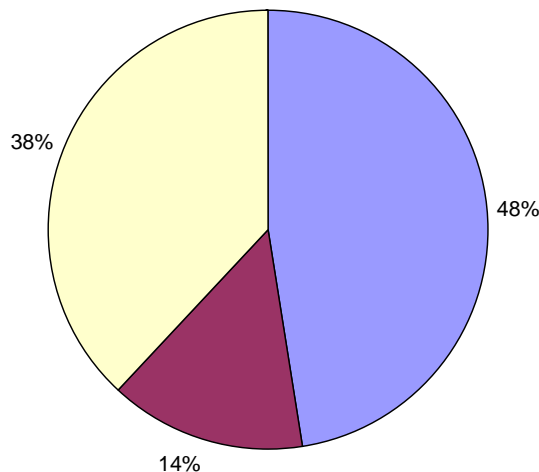
Comment

A summary of the reasons given by people for answering this question the way they did are set out on pages 14-15 of Appendix 4. Please also refer to comments contained in Appendices A –U,

Issue 4: Number of Councillors

The law currently provides for the membership of a territorial authority to be no fewer than six and no more than 30 members (including the Mayor). This range is set to enable the community to settle on a system of representation that allows for the variety and complexity of local needs and the range of functions being undertaken by a territorial authority.

The document identified that the current number of members on the Council (excluding the Mayor) was 14 and that that number was reduced from 19 prior to the 2004 local authority election as a result of a decision of the Local Government Commission.

The question asked in relation to this issue (and a summary of the responses) is as follows:

The Council is required to ensure effective representation of communities of interest. In order to achieve this do you think the number of Councillors (excluding the Mayor) should

Remain the same	126
Be increased to	29
Be reduced to	24
No comment/Don't know	11
Total	**190**
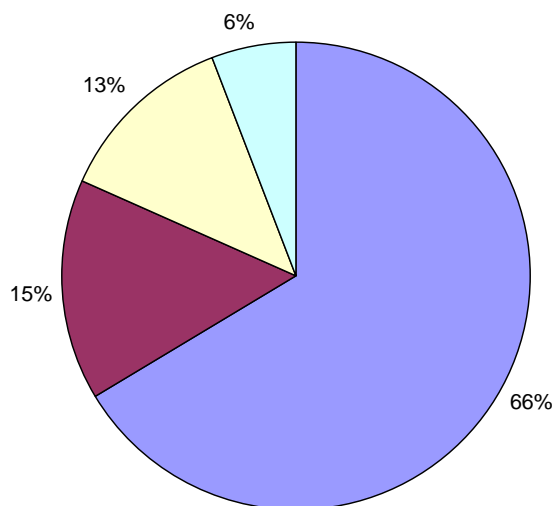
Legend: Remain the same — Be increased to — Be reduced to — No Comment/Don't Know

Comment

A breakdown of the preferences for those who would like to see either an increase or decrease to the number of elected members on the Wellington City Council was as follows:

Numbers increased to (excluding the Mayor):

Fifteen	3	Twenty	2
Sixteen	8	Twenty-three	1
Seventeen	1	No specific number	3
Eighteen	8	**Total**	**29**
Nineteen	3		

Numbers reduced to (excluding the Mayor)

Three	1	Twelve	14*
Seven	1	Thirteen	1
Eight (to 12)	1	No specific number	2
Nine	2	**Total**	**24**
Ten	2		

The preference for the majority of respondents (i.e. 66%) is to retain the level of membership (excluding the Mayor) at 14.

Most of the people who suggested a reduction in the number of Councillors supported the option proposing an amalgamation/reduction in the number of wards from five to three. The level to which the number of elected members should be reduced to ranged from three (which does not comply with the legislative requirements) to thirteen.

Most of those who supported an increase to sixteen were in favour of the mixed system option (three wards electing four Councillors each and a further four members being elected at large).

Based on the responses received there is not a lot of support for an increase in numbers. The level to which those numbers should increase ranged from fifteen to twenty-three, well below the maximum the legislation allows (i.e. thirty including the Mayor).

A summary of the reasons given by people for their stated preferences are contained on pages 16-18 of Appendix 4. Please also refer to comments in Appendices A –U,

Issue 5: Ward Names

Those who supported the retention of the ward system in Wellington city were asked to respond to the following question:

If you support the retention of wards, are you happy with the ward names currently in use, (i.e. Northern, Onslow/Western, Lambton, Southern and Eastern)?

Yes	145
No	12
Total	**157**

8%

92%

▪ Yes   ▪ No
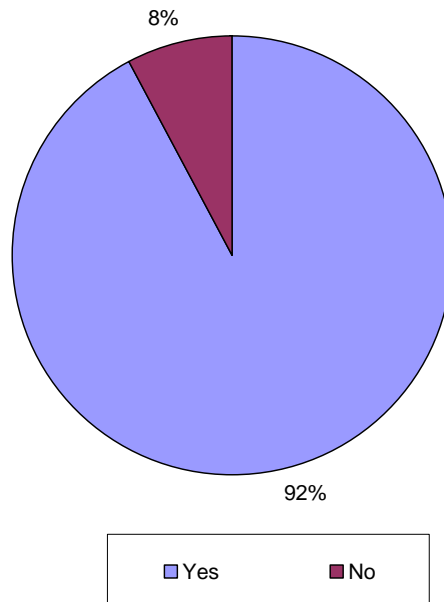
Comment

137 people supported the retention of the ward system which means that 20 of the people who responded to this question (although they do not support the ward system) are happy, it would seem, with the current ward names if that is the option chosen by the Council.

Very few alternative names were submitted for consideration, and as the figures show the vast majority of respondents were happy with the existing ward names.

The alternative names which were submitted included:

- Central instead of Lambton
- Use or acknowledge mana whenua.

The reasons given by people for their stated preferences are contained on page 19 of Appendix 4.

A similar question was asked in the event that the decision was made to retain the ward system but to amalgamate the current five wards into three.

If the current five wards were amalgamated into three wards do you have any suggested names (other than those used in the examples in the discussion document) for the new wards?

Of the 75 people who answered this question only 13 did not support the names proposed in the discussion document and many of those did not voice their support on the basis that they were opposed to the three ward option.

The alternative names that were suggested are contained on page 20 of Appendix 5.

**Issue 6: Review of Community Boards**

(a)   Establishment of community boards across the city

The Council is required to undertake a review of community boards every time it carries out a representation review. The following question was therefore asked:

Having read the relevant section in the discussion document do you think the establishment of community boards across the city would provide fairer and more effective representation for individuals and communities in Wellington city than the current arrangement provides?

A summary of the responses to this question was as follows:

Yes	31
No	138
No comment/don't know	21
Total	**190**
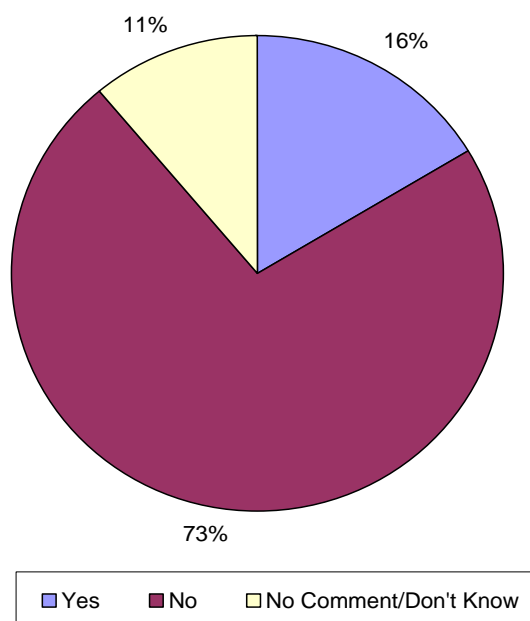
Comment

There was not a lot of support for the establishment of community boards across the city. In fact 82% of those who answered this question (excluding the "no comment" responses) were opposed to that happening. A similar question was asked during the 2003 review when 76% of the respondents indicated that they were opposed to the establishment of more community boards.

The number of people who did not respond to this question was reasonably high (i.e. 11%). The reason for this could be that a significant number of electors, particularly those who live outside the existing community board areas, still have little knowledge of how a community board works and what its role and responsibilities are.
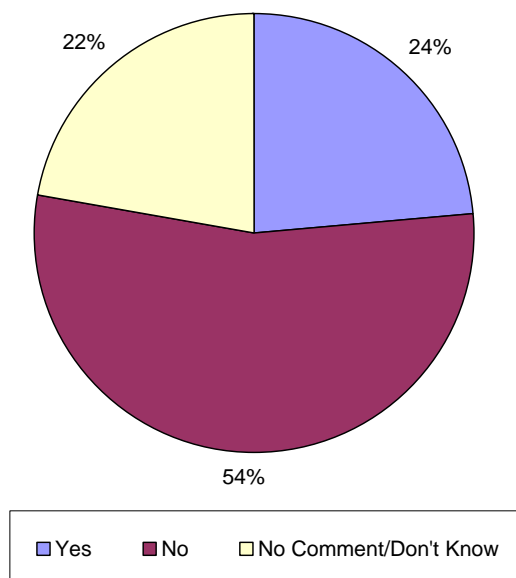
(b)   Any resulting reduction in Council membership

The following question was also asked:

If community boards were established across the city would you support a reduction in the number of Councillors elected to the Council?

The response to this question was as follows:

Yes	45
No	103
No comment/don't know	42
Total	**190**

Comment

It is interesting to note that almost 70% of the people who actually answered this question were opposed to any reduction in the number of Councillors even if more community boards were established.

A relatively high percentage of people did not answer this question (22%) and a possible reason for this could be that they did not support the establishment of bods across the city.

(c)   Views of existing community board residents

Because community boards currently operate in both Tawa and Makara//Ohariu, the residents of those areas were also asked to answer the following question:

If you reside in either Tawa or Makara/Ohariu are you happy with the current operation of the Boards and their existing boundaries and level of membership?

<u>Comment</u>

Only 5 people in total responded to this question (2 from Tawa and 3 from Makara/Ohariu). Four of the five respondents were happy with the operation of their Boards and their boundaries and level of membership. The only concern expressed (from a Makara/Ohariu resident) was that the Board should have more power and input into the decisions that effect their residents..

The Tawa and Makara/Ohariu Community Boards were also invited to submit their views on a number of specific questions about their continuing operation and issues relating to boundaries, possible subdivision of their areas for electoral purposes and level of membership, both elected and appointed.

Both Boards have made written submissions and copies of these are attached as Appendices A and B.

(d)   Possible options

People were then asked to express their preference on a range of community board options

Which, if any of the community board options outlined in the discussion document do you prefer?

The responses were as follows:

Option 1	Status quo (i.e. retain the existing boards and not establish any more	44
Option 2	Retain the Makara/Ohariu Community Board as the only community board in the city	59
Option 3	Establish five new community boards (based	13

	on a five ward Council arrangement electing 14 Councillors) and retain the Makara/Ohariu Community Board (with a reduction in members)	
Option 4	Establish three new community boards (based on a three ward Council arrangement) and retain the Makara/Ohariu Community Board (with a reduction in membership)	4
Any other		21
No comment/don't know		49
Total		**190**

Legend: ☐ Option 1 ■ Option 2 ☐ Option 3 ☐ Option 4 ■ Any other ■ No comment/Don't Know
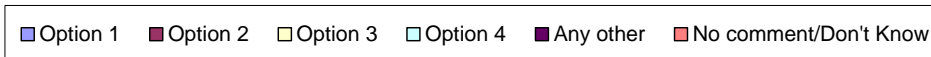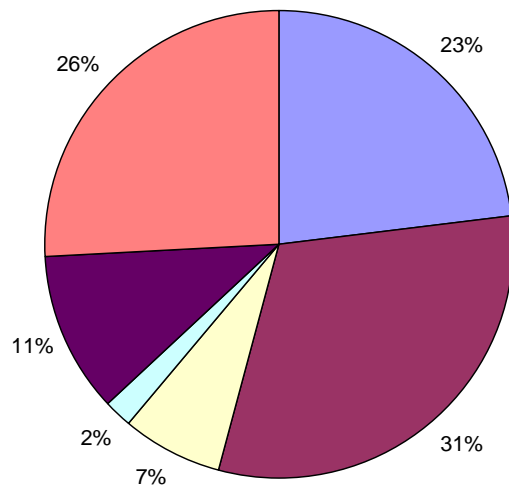
Comment

Although the analysis shows that a significant number of people are opposed to the establishment of community boards across the city (i.e. 82% of those who answered that particular question), 73% of those who answered this question supported the retention of the Makara/Ohariu Community Board and 31% the status quo. (i.e. the retention of both Tawa and Makara/Ohariu community Boards).

A high percentage of those who ticked the "any other" box indicated that they did not support community boards at all.

The number of people who did not respond to this question at all was high (26%). Again it is assumed that those people did not indicate any preference because they are opposed to the establishment of community boards.
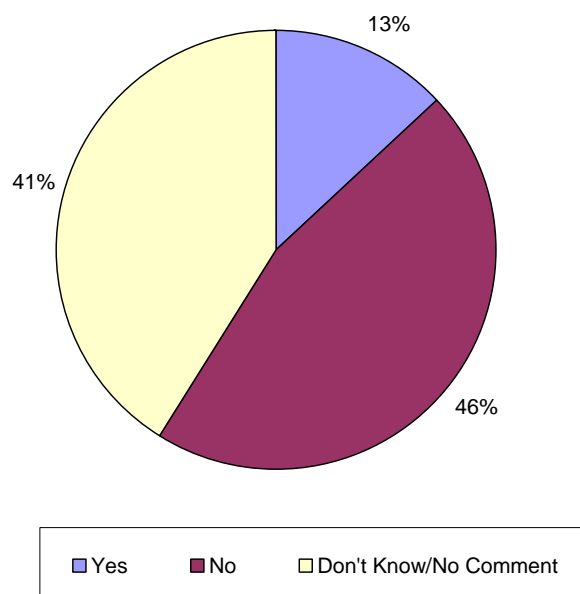
(e)   Subdivision of boards for electoral purposes

The final question asked in relation to community boards was:

If community boards were established across the city, would you support the division of those larger community board areas into smaller subdivisions as outlined in the examples in the discussion document?

Yes	25
No	87
Don't know/no comment	78
Total	**190**

Comment

The highest "don't know/no comment" response to all the questions asked (41%).

Almost 78% of those who did respond however were against the subdivision of the wards for electoral purposes.

A summary of the reasons given by people for their stated preferences in relation to the questions raised on the community boards issue are contained on pages 21 - 33 of Appendix 4.

In addition to examining the issue of Community Boards as part of the pre-review consultation, Council has recently concluded an examination of the terms of reference/delegations of its current two Community Boards, and has also carried out an assessment of the operation of Community Boards at the Auckland and Christchurch City Councils.

The review of Community Board terms of reference provided Council with an opportunity to reflect on the role and functions of Boards in the new environment created by the enactment of the Local Government Act 2002. As part of that process, Council has approved new delegations that align the functions of the two Boards with the statutory role of a Board (as set out in 4.4 above) – that is:

- community advocate role
- advisory role
- monitoring role
- input to Annual Plan, focusing on the Board's area
- communication role
- other (e.g. financial delegations).

The updating of the Board's terms of reference has resulted in:
- clarification over what has been delegated to officers
- removal of provisions that legislative or policy changes have made redundant
- strengthening of the "communication out to residents", and "advisory back to officers" roles
- highlighting of the community advocate role
- simplification of the provisions relating to financial delegations
- highlighting the ability of the Boards to have a say on, or have input to, Council strategies, policies and plans

If it is proposed to have more or different Community Boards for Wellington City, officers consider that the updated terms of reference/delegations should apply to them.

A delegation from Wellington City has recently visited both Auckland and Christchurch City Councils, to meet with elected members (including ward Councillors and Community Board members) and council officers, to discuss with them the operation of Boards within their respective cities, to help inform the decision Council is required to make as part of the Representation Review.

A number of key themes emerged out of those discussions:

- **the role of Boards in exercising a voice on behalf of their community**

    Boards do perform a role as a 'pressure valve' for their communities – a chance for residents, through their Board, to have a say on matters that are personal to them (e.g. "how this transport proposal is going to affect the way I get to work and my children get to school"). Boards are seen as contributing to the effective governance of a city by encouraging local input, thereby building legitimacy in governance of a city. Where Councillors are viewed as seeing an issue in policy terms, Board members see it in geographic terms ("what does it mean for my community?"). Boards also feel more able to have a say as they are not constrained by having to avoid the risk of compromising negotiations, or the policy development process – considerations that Councillors need to take into account when exercising that governance role. Boards are by definition focused on their communities, and getting something for them, or enhancing the quality of life within them. In many ways, what is happening was seen as an attempt to push parochialism out from the council table and on to Boards. There was also a sense that for distinct geographic communities, that role was very important, due to some unique features not necessarily shared with other parts of the city.

Wellingtonians, and the communities they are part of, seem to have no problems in exercising their voice on issues they care deeply about, even in the absence of a network of cross-city Community Boards. This is assisted by the current approach to consultation, and would be strengthened through the implementation of various components of the Governance strategy (e.g., the engagement policy, e-panels, a civic network). It is also important that that community-focused voice is tempered with the reality of seeking to apply limited resources to an enormous range of activities, in order to achieve the best outcomes for Wellington as a whole.

- **the role of Boards in keeping residents informed**

Boards saw one of their key roles as keeping their residents informed about what the Council is doing, or proposing to do. They make use of well-developed and extensive community networks, and get out and about in their communities, talking to people face to face. Boards also run public meetings (as distinct from their regular meetings) to enable officers to present to residents on particular issues; they value their role as a focus for, and facilitator of, consultation with their communities. There seemed to be a reasonably high degree of interaction with the public through them turning up to Board meetings, as well as interest from local community newspapers.

In Wellington City's case, in addition to the role played by current Boards, communication happens on a city-wide basis through mechanisms like the Our Wellington page, and the regular provision of information to Residents' Associations. A number of proposals in the Governance strategy are also designed to improve the Council's ability to keep the public informed, whether it be through e-democracy initiatives like web-alerts, publishing council material in Pacifica languages, enhancing the advisory group network, or developing a civic network.

- **the role of Boards in dealing with individual constituent matters**

While there was a view that Boards could exercise a lead role in sorting out constituent issues, the reality seemed more to relate to who (Board member?, Councillor?, officer?) a member of the public felt would give the greatest satisfaction in terms of getting a matter addressed – people would go to a person rather than a structure. It was noted that Boards are a human face to have this sort of interaction with, rather than using a more impersonal call centre, or logging a complaint on line. That said, officers did encourage the use of these systems. There was also the risk of 'double-handling" – someone with a query or problem would go to both a Board member and also their local ward councillor, hoping to escalate a solution. This in turn means officers responding to multiple queries in relation to the one issue. The value of residents going to Boards with these sorts of issues is that it allows Councillors, with their limited time, to focus on their governance role.

At Wellington City, there is a well-developed process for logging, allocating and dealing with service delivery issues (the CONFIRM system). Residents are encouraged to use this system, via the Contact Centre, as a way of raising such matters, as the tracking system that is part of CONFIRM ensures complaints and

queries are dealt with, in a systematic manner. Other constituent matters are dealt with through contacting elected members.

- **how Boards work in and carry out their role in conjunction with ward councillors**

In both Auckland and Christchurch ward councillors are appointed to Boards. This, it is asserted, allows Councillors to stay in touch with their communities and the issues of the day for residents. This is thought valuable in an environment where Councillors are expected to make governance, and policy making for the City as a whole in a complex environment, their priority. There was, however, also a sense that Councillors can miss out on the benefits to be gained from carrying out the representation/constituency management function in those settings where Boards take a lead, active role in this.

Boards are seen as places where you can hear how a proposed policy is going to affect real people, and as such is a place where Councillors, before they proceed to debate and agree policy, can get a reality check in terms of those possible impacts. There is always the risk of some confusion as to the perspective a ward councillor is to take on a matter at the council table - should they be there to argue the Board's position (in a sense be a delegate from the Board) and then move on to take a city-wide perspective?, or is it the role of a Board member (often the Chair) to take that community perspective role and seek to speak on behalf of the Board?

Overall, sorting out who is responsible for what when it comes to representation, and having an input to policy making, is very much dependent on good working relationships between Board members and their ward councillors, and having a finely, but well-balanced, appreciation of each other's roles.

In Wellington City's case, in the absence of a network of Community Boards, residents are able to "have a say" in a variety of ways, from public participation at meetings, to making oral or written submissions on draft policies and proposals, to early engagement with affected or interested parties. A number of the proposals in the Governance Strategy (e.g. development of an engagement policy) are designed to enhance this.

- **the roles Boards play in relation to having an input on major council plans (e.g. LTCCP)**

As part of the input to development of draft Annual Plans and LTCCPs, Boards exercise an advisory role in relation to prioritisation of expenditure within a Board area (e.g. CAPEX infrastructure projects). Boards can also add their own suggestions into the mix. Council makes the final prioritisation decisions, as a basis upon which to consult. It was acknowledged that Boards could and did advocate from a community, rather than city, perspective when it came to things like service level adjustments, or decisions on investment in, or disposal of, community-based assets.

Wellington City has adopted a strategic governance and planning approach. While individual Boards, and Councillors, can advocate for particular expenditure lines, or service level adjustments, the aim is to plan and budget within the overarching framework of city outcomes and strategies. This process has allowed Council to look across and prioritise between and within strategies, ensuring resource allocation proposals align with the City vision and outcomes.

- **the role Boards play in resource allocation decisions, and approving funding**

Boards in both Auckland and Christchurch have reasonably significant amounts of funding to allocate, under various schemes, ranging from small local improvement projects, to events funding, to local community development funding. This is driven off a sense that Boards are closer to and better linked to what their communities may want to invest in. This funding is over and above any central funding budgeted in asset management plans and such like, and comes on top of what a ward councillor may secure by advocacy for his or her own ward. The existence of this money can create incentives to maker savings in budget lines for items that should not necessarily be cut, on the grounds that there may be an understanding that funding to make up for that cut will be forthcoming from a Board. In some cases, much of the funding is allocated on an on-going basis (e.g., community services programmes such as after school programmes), and as such can be seen as core, rather than top up or special projects funding. For CAPEX projects, it seemed that the Council would bear the resulting depreciation and maintenance costs.

At Wellington City, there are other avenues to access this sort of funding, such as the Grants schemes. Other than that, there is an expectation that if thoughtful, strategic planning has occurred, funds will flow to where they are most needed, in line with asset management plans and other planning documents.

- **the costs (both direct and indirect) in having a network of Community Boards**

In both Auckland and Christchurch, Boards are supported by dedicated staff, some devoted to the actual running of the Boards, and some to assisting Boards in carrying out their community advocacy and constituent issue management functions, and ensuring they get the information they consider they need in order to function effectively. Given the role Boards play in advocating for their communities, there is a considerable amount of officer time that is spent in ensuring that draft policies, plans and proposals are presented and explained to board members, and also in making additional presentations to community meetings.

In Auckland Board chairs are paid around $20,000 and members around $10,000; in Christchurch the figures are around $35,000 and $22,000. Members are also provided with travel, communication and other allowances.

Currently, there is no officer resource completely dedicated to supporting Wellington City's two Boards. Instead, support is provided from within Democratic Services, but also from a range of senior and business unit managers throughout the organisation. More boards – such as a network of them throughout the City – would inevitably mean a reassessment of how officers would go about supporting such a structure, and in any case, would require additional, including some dedicated, resources.

Board Chair and members are currently remunerated as follows:

Chair, Tawa Community Board	$18,714
Member (5), Tawa	$7,157
Chair, Makara/Ohariu Community Board	$11,572
Member (5), Makara/Ohariu	$4,518

Around half the remuneration of Board Chairs and members is met out of the elected members' remuneration pool. It would be anticipated that if it was decided to establish a network of Boards throughout the City, those Board positions would need to be reviewed for remuneration purposes (and an appropriate allowances regime worked out). While it is difficult to say what Board members might be paid, it would be fair to say that the rates would be closer to those paid to members of the Tawa Community Board than the Makara/Ohariu one.

Conclusion

Overall, then, Boards are seen to have a number of key roles (usually specified in their terms of reference/delegations). The manner in which they exercise those roles, and how Boards do that in relation to other elected members (ward councillors) and the council administration determines the extent to which Boards promote the good local government of the City they are part of and their community. It should also be noted that there is a cost (both direct and indirect) in having Community Boards.

In Wellington City's case, Boards would also no doubt perform a similar role to their counterparts in Auckland and Christchurch. However the question of whether Boards are the most efficient and effective way to deliver those services (e.g. a voice for communities, a way to complain about service delivery matters, a means to fund local community services) needs to examined against the range of current measures and planned initiatives (e.g., those in the Governance Strategy) designed to deliver similar outcomes, and the roles currently played by Councillors.

4.9 Single transferable voting system

The result of the poll of electors held in November 2002 means that at least the 2007 local authority elections in Wellington will be held using the Single Transferable Vote (STV) electoral system.

STV can be used in both single and multi-member wards or subdivisions and at-large

elections. It is a proportional electoral system. While there is no guarantee that the system will produce an increased diversity of representation, those who support it believe that the STV system provides a better chance of minority or ethnic groups being represented. Supporters of the STV electoral system strongly advocate fewer (and therefore larger) wards electing more members per ward or subdivision if the system is to work effectively.

Although not a legal requirement, this is another factor that should be taken into account when deciding which system would provide the most effective representation for the city. If the ward system is the preferred option it should also be kept in mind when determining the boundaries of the wards and the number of members to be elected from each ward.

4.8   Consultation Plan

A consultation plan has been developed for the next stage of the process (i.e. the public notification of the Council's initial representation proposal and the invitation of submissions on it (from interested individuals and groups in the community) and is attached to this report as **Appendix 5**

5.   Conclusion

An initial representation proposal needs to be identified by the Committee and for that proposal to be recommended to Council at its meeting on 28 June 2006 for approval.

If the Committee is unable, for whatever reason, to make a recommendation at this meeting there is still a little leeway (within our current timetable) to enable an alternative time table to be developed which would still ensure that the Council's representation review process is undertaken within the statutory timeframe.

The Council is required to make its initial decision by 31 August 2006 and to publicly notify its proposal by no later than 8 September 2006.

Contact Officer: *Ross Bly, Special Projects and Electoral Officer*

Supporting Information

1)Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

This supports the objective 9.2 City decision making:
People are encouraged to participate in the decision making of the city.

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

Relates to C534: Committee and Council process. It is not possible at this stage to identify what, if any, this review might have.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty implications.

4) Decision-Making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation
a)General Consultation
b) Consultation with Maori

A discussion document on the review has been released. Further detailed consultation will take place over the next few months.

6) Legal Implications

There are various legal requirements and processes that must be adhered to. These are set out in the report and are also covered by the guidelines that have been released by the Local Government Commission.

7) Consistency with existing policy

The report is consistent with existing policy and complies with the requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Legislative requirements and statutory framework for local authority representation reviews

The Council is required, under Section 19H of the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA), to review and determine, at least once every six years, the representation arrangements for the election of its members.

The review requires the Council to decide:

(a)   whether its Councillors (other than the Mayor) are to be elected:

   (i) by the electors across the whole city (i.e. at large); or
   (ii) by the electors of two or more wards; or
   (iii) in some cases by the electors of the city as a whole and in other cases by the electors of two or more wards of the city (i.e. a combination of at large and the ward system).

(b)   in any case to which paragraph a(i) applies, the proposed number of members to be elected by the electors of the city as a whole.

(c)   in any case to which paragraph a(iii) applies:

   (i) the proposed number of members to be elected by the electors of the city as a whole
   (ii) the proposed number of members to be elected by the electors of the wards of the city.

(d)   in any case to which paragraphs a(ii) or a(iii) apply:

   (i) the proposed name and the proposed boundaries of each ward
   (ii) the number of members proposed to be elected by the electors of each ward.

On every occasion it carries out a representation review the Council is also required to determine whether in light of the principles set out in Section 4(1)(a) of the LEA:

- there should be communities and community boards; and if so
- the nature of any community and the structure of the community board.

In preparing for and carrying out representation reviews, the Council must bear in mind

the relevant provisions of the LEA and the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).

Local Electoral Act 2001

In terms of the purpose of the Act section 3(c)(ia) provides that the Act is to allow diversity (through local decision-making) in relation to-

the regular review of representation arrangements for local authorities.

In preparing for a representation review the Council is required to be aware of the principles of the Act, as set out at section 4. Subsection 2 of section 4 states:

Local authorities, electoral officers, and other electoral officials, must, in making decisions under this Act or any other enactment, take into account those principles specified in subsection (1) that are applicable (it any), so far as is practicable in the circumstances.

Section 4(I)(a) provides that one of the principles that the Act is designed to implement is the provision of:

fair and effective representation for individuals and communities.

Local Government Act 2002

Section 19W of the LEA provides that a local authority in undertaking a review of community boards under section 19J of the Act, or the Commission in determining a local authority's community board arrangements after consideration of appeals and objections, must have regard to the relevant criteria for reorganisation proposals as specified in the LGA. The criteria for reorganisation schemes are prescribed in Subpart 2 of Part I of Schedule 3 of the LGA. The criteria are set out in Appendix B.

It is also appropriate for a local authority to bear in mind the purposes and principles of local government as set out in the LGA in undertaking its overall review. Section 3 of the LGA provides that:

The purpose of this Act is to provide for democratic and effective local government that recognises the diversity of New Zealand communities...

Section 10(a) provides that the purpose of local government is:

(a)   *to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and*
(b)   *to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and for the future.*

Section 14 sets out the principles relating to local authorities, and includes the following provisions that a local authority must act in accordance with in performing its role.

These principles include, amongst others:

> *(1) (b)   a local authority should make itself aware of, and should have regard to, the views of all of its communities; and*
> *(1)(c)   when making a decision, a local authority should take account of—*
> > *(i)   the diversity of the community, and the community's interests, within its district or region; and*
> > *(ii)   the interests of future as well as current communities; and*
> > *(iii)   the likely impact of any decision on each aspect of well-being referred to in section10.*

Section 52 sets out the role of community boards. It should be noted that to a significant extent, the role of community boards is to be determined by the extent to which specific responsibilities are transferred by the territorial authority under section 52(b) and (f).

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APPENDIX 2

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Key factors for consideration

The Council must carefully consider the following three key factors when determining its representation proposal:
- communities of interest
- effective representation
- fair representation

1.   Community of interest

The Council must ensure that the election of its members provides effective representation of the community or communities of interest within its area. Giving proper consideration to defining local community or communities of interest is therefore an essential part of the representation review process.

The term "community of interest" is not defined by statute. It is a term that can mean different things to different people, depending on an individual's or group's perspective.

It is possible to identify a whole local authority district as a single community of interest where residents believe they share common interests across the city.

In its guidelines the LGC has indicated that a community of interest is:

"the area to which one feels a sense of belonging and to which one looks for social, service and economic support. Geographic features and the roading network can affect the sense of belonging to an area. The community of interest can often be identified by access to the goods and services needed for everyday existence. Another community of interest factor could be the rohe or takiwa area of tangatawhenua (territory of an iwi)".

A community of interest usually has a number of defining characteristics, which may include:

- a sense of community identity and belonging
- similarities in the demographic, socio-economic and/or ethnic characteristics of the residents of a community
- similarities in economic activities
- dependence on shared facilities in an area, including schools, recreational and cultural facilities and retail outlets
- physical and topographic features
- the history of the area
- transport and communication links.

Communities of interest can alter over time and careful attention must be given to identifying current communities of interest when undertaking these reviews.

A community of interest must be able to be defined as a single geographic area, i.e. a physical boundary must be able to be defined for the community of interest so that appropriate representation can be determined. Boundaries based on prominent physical characteristics of an area (e.g. rivers, principal roads, hill ridgelines etc) are therefore likely to provide strong visual reminders for the residents of the community of interest and may assist in engendering feelings of belonging and empowerment.

In previous representation reviews the Council has accepted that a community of interest means a grouping of the population, on a geographical basis, which has social and economic coherence and has identified its communities of interest at the suburb level.

The Council carried out an extensive review of its suburb boundaries in 2003 and the results of that review were used to identify appropriate ward boundaries for the 2004 local authority elections. It is proposed that those suburb boundaries be used again as the basis for the up-coming review.

2.   Effective representation

Effective representation for communities of interest is the defining factor in selecting the overall representation arrangements of the Council.

Once the community or communities of interest have been identified the Council is required to consider whether each identified community of interest needs separate representation, or whether communities of interest can be grouped together in certain ways to achieve effective representation.

The Council must consider whether effective representation for the identified communities of interest is best achieved by way of:

- an at large system;
- a ward system; or
- a mixed system, with election partially at large and partially by ward.

The legislation is neutral on whether the district of a territorial authority should be divided for electoral purposes. The Council has decided in its most recent reviews that the most effective representation can be achieved by grouping together a number of communities of interest

The LGC acknowledges that what constitutes effective representation may vary between individual councils. There are however some principles that can and should be applied across the board:

- a recognised community of interest should not be split between electoral subdivisions (if at all possible)
- grouping together two or more communities of interest that share few commonalities of interest should be avoided.

Questions in relation to accessibility, size and configuration of an area also need to be considered (e.g):
- would the population have reasonable access to its elected members and vise versa
- would elected members be able to effectively represent the views of their electoral subdivision
- would elected members be able to attend public meetings throughout their area, and provide reasonable opportunities for their constituents to have face-to-face meetings.

Elections at-large

Under the at-large system all members (including the Mayor) are elected by the electors of the whole district.

The characteristics which would make elections at-large appropriate are likely to include:

- the district having a relatively compact geographic area
- very strong commonalities of interest among identified communities of interest, i.e. a shared common community of interest across the whole city.

If the Council decides that its members are to be elected at-large it must ensure that the number of Councillors it decides to have effectively represents the communities of interest within the city.

Elections by ward

A local authority district may be divided into wards for electoral purposes. Under this system members are elected to represent a specific ward (i.e. an area of the city) and electors may vote only for those candidates who are standing for election in the ward in which the elector resides. Each ward must elect at least one member.

Wards may be appropriate in circumstances where a territorial authority district contains a number of distinct communities of interest best served by separate representation. In deciding on ward arrangements, it is accepted that a separate ward might not be necessary or practical for the effective representation of each community of interest. Where there are a large number of communities of interest it is acceptable to look for linkages between these various interests and combine them together into one or more larger wards.

Ward boundaries must coincide with current statistical meshblock boundaries as determined by the Statistics New Zealand and, so far as is practicable, ward boundaries should coincide with community boundaries.

Partial election by ward and partial election at-large

The LEA now allows a territorial authority to elect some members by wards and some members at large.

The division of a district into wards is for electoral purposes only, and all members elected under the ward system take an oath on taking up office to act in the best interests of the whole district. Therefore, in terms of the duties of elected members, there is no functional difference in the decision-making role of members elected at large and members elected by the ward system.

3. Fair representation

Fair representation does not need to be considered if the Council decides to elect its Councillors and community board members at-large. However, if the Council decides to divide its district into wards (to elect its Councillors) or subdivisions (to elect its community board members), it must ensure fair representation for electors, taking into account the population of every ward or subdivision within the district.

The factors which need to be applied in deciding the level of membership for wards and subdivisions are detailed in the Act. The level of membership for each ward or subdivision is required to comply with the basic principle of population equality unless there are good reasons to depart from it.

Section 19V(2) of the Act outlines the specific requirements in this regard:

> *"...the population of each ward or constituency or subdivision, divided by the number of members to be elected by that ward or constituency or subdivision, produces a figure no more than 10% greater or smaller than the population of the district or region or community divided by the total number of elected members (other than members elected by the electors of a territorial authority as a whole, if any, and the Mayor, if any)".*

The only ground for not complying with these provisions is to provide for effective representation for communities of interest within island communities or isolated

communities.

If the Council decides to retain the ward system the LGC has already confirmed that Councils proposing wards or subdivisions involving a population per member ratio falling outside the *+/-* 10% provided for, would need to specifically identify its reasons for doing so to support its decision.

The Council is required to use the most up to date population figures available when carrying out its review and these are the figures on which the fairness criteria must be based. The estimated resident population for Wellington City as at 30 June 2005 (based on the existing five ward boundaries) on which the Council is required to carry out its review are as follows:

Northern Ward	42,400
Onslow/Western Ward	37,000
Lambton Ward	45,200
Eastern Ward	34,700
Southern Ward	25,800
Total	**185,100**

Review of Community Boards

Section 19J of the Local Electoral Act 2001 requires the Council to carry out a review of community boards every time it carries out a representation review.

The Council must take the following factors into account in carrying out its review of community boards.

(1)   Every community board:
    (a)   is to consist of not fewer than four members nor more than 12 members
    (b)   is to include at least four elected members
    (c)   may include appointed members.

(2)   The number of appointed members is to be less than half the total number of members.

(3)   The persons who are appointed under subsection (i)(c) as members of the community board must:

    (a)   be members of, and must be appointed by, the territorial authority for the district in respect of which the community is constituted
    (b)   if the territorial authority is divided into wards, also be members of the territorial authority representing a ward in which the community is situated.

(4)   The part of a district in respect of which a community is constituted may be subdivided for electoral purposes.

(5)   Each subdivision must elect at least one member of the community board.

(6)   If a community comprises two or more whole wards, the elected members of the community board may be elected by the electors of each ward.

(7)   lf the community is not subdivided for electoral purposes, the members of the community board must, unless they are to be elected in any case to which paragraph (6) above applies, be elected by the electors of the community as a whole.

(8)   If a community is subdivided for electoral purposes or if the members of the community board are to be elected in any case to which paragraph (6) above applies

    (a)   each member of the community board who represents a subdivision must be elected by the electors of the subdivision
    (b)   each member of the community board who represents a ward must be elected by the electors of that ward.

The resolution the Council is required to pass must determine:

- (a)   whether one or more communities should be constituted

- (b)   whether any community should be abolished or united with another community

- (c)   whether the boundaries of a community should be altered

- (d)   whether a community should be subdivided for electoral purposes or whether it should continue to be subdivided for electoral purposes, as the case may require

- (e)   whether the boundaries of any subdivision should be altered

- (f)   the number of members of any community board

- (g)   the number of members of a community board who should be elected and the number of members of a community board who should be appointed

- (h)   whether the members of a community board who are proposed to be elected are to be elected:

    - (i)   by the electors of the community as a whole
    - (ii)   by the electors of two or more subdivisions
    - (iii)   if the community comprises two or more whole wards, by the electors of each ward.

- (i)   in any case to which paragraph (h)(ii) applies:

    - (i)   the proposed name and the proposed boundaries of each subdivision
    - (ii)   the number of members proposed to be elected by the electors of each subdivision.

Criteria for reorganisation schemes (as prescribed in Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002)

Subpart 2—Criteria to be considered

3   Promotion of good local government
    (1)   When considering a reorganisation proposal or scheme, the joint committee of the affected local authorities or the appointed local authority or the Commission must satisfy itself that the proposal or scheme will—
        (a)   promote good local government of the districts or regions concerned; and
        (b)   ensure that each local authority provided for under the proposal will—
            (i)   have the resources necessary to enable it to carry out its responsibilities, duties, and powers; and

(ii) have a district or region that is appropriate for the efficient and effective performance of its role as specified in section II; and

(iii) contain within its district or region a sufficiently distinct community of interest or sufficiently distinct communities of interests; and

(iv) be able to meet the requirements of section 76.

(2) When considering the matters specified in subclause (1) in relation to any reorganisation proposal or scheme, the joint committee of the affected local authorities or the appointed local authority or the Commission must have regard to—

(a) the area of impact of the responsibilities, duties, and powers of the local authorities concerned; and

(b) the area of benefit of services provided; and

(c) the likely effects on a local authority of the exclusion of any area from its district or region; and

(d) any other matters that it considers appropriate.

4 Appropriate boundaries

In determining boundaries under any reorganisation proposal or scheme, the joint committee of the affected local authorities or the appointed local authority or the Commission must ensure that,—

(a) if practicable, the boundaries of regions conform with catchment boundaries; and

(b) if practicable, the boundaries of districts conform with the boundaries of regions; and

(c) the boundaries of regions and the boundaries of districts conform with the boundaries of statistical meshblock areas determined by Statistics New Zealand and used for parliamentary electoral purposes.

Comments received on Discussion Document

Issue 1: Community of Interest

Do you think this (i.e. identifying its communities of interest at the suburb level) is an appropriate way of identifying and defining communities of interest?
Yes or No?

If "no", what other suggestions do you have?

Northern Ward:

- City wide as a single community. (153)
- Suburbs and 'Common Community Groups (CCG's)' which are groups of suburbs that a geographically co-located that share a common interest and make up between 10%-30% of Wellington's population. (155)
- It should be a neighbourhood community/residents association level. (174)

Onslow/Western Ward

- The term is confusing. Difficult to understand. Simply use the word 'community'. (32)
- 1. Commercial, 2. Residential 3. Rural, 4. Iwi. (33)
- The city as a whole. (156)
- Age and ethnicity. (180)

Lambton Ward

- As the Council should focus on roads, water and basic services why would anything other than suburbs work? (164)
- Based on interest and service use eg sports facilities, libraries and culture, walkers and cyclers. (166A)

Southern Ward

- No comments

Eastern Ward

- Current method used for choosing Councillors. (108)

Issue 2: Effective Representation

Which of the following three options, in your view, provides the most effective representation of the city's communities of interest and why?

Issue 2: Option 1   An at-large (i.e. citywide) system

Northern Ward

- All city Councillors have to swear to serve the interest of 'Welington City' and are not accountable to their ward! (23)
- I want to have my vote on ALL members of Council. (27)
- All councillors participate in decision making and thus should be accountable to each elector. (153)

Onslow/Western Ward

- Let's keep it simple and therefore straightforward. (31)
- Enables the voter to select from a much wider group of people in choosing councillors. (33)
- Better choice of candidates, less likely to end up with single issue candidates, better decision making by Council. (156)
- Like to have a choice in electing all councillors. (175)
- Don't like being restricted to voting for the best of a bad lot. (178)

Lambton Ward

- In a democracy ALL councillors must be accountable to all ratepayers. (42)
- I am affected by decisions made relating to areas outside my ward. I swim at Princess Bay, for example. I attend events in the inner city, travel to and from the airport, walk the whole town belt etc. (161)
- The city needs decision making that reflects the interests of the city as a whole and not partisan views. This approach ought to attract better qualified and skilled councillors. (162).
- So each individual can decide what is best for the city as a whole, not just their suburb. (166).
- I do not believe that interests are geographically based. At large encourages us all to think as Wellingtonians and about the needs of the city not a suburb. (166A)
- Too many suburbs have too few people with any ability or intelligence. (164).
- This is democracy at work. (182)

Southern Ward

- Poor representation from the ward system. (168).

Eastern Ward

- Hopefully to reduce size of local government. Provide the best choice. (128)
- We simply don't have the population base to have the mass of councillors that we employ. The city should be able to work as a far more cohesive community, separation into a ward increases isolation. (172).

Issue 2: Option 2:	A Ward System

Northern Ward

- A Ward system allows better opportunity for electors to know Councillors and candidates and should give more even weight to each areas needs. (21)
- I feel it is a fair representation. (25)
- Reduces cost and canvassing effort of candidates, improves accountability in that ward. Ward councillors better known locally. (26)
- So that there is fair representation for all suburbs. (154)
- Provides direct representation on the Council for key areas of the city. (173)

Onslow/Western Ward

- Those elected are representative of, and accountable to, a specific part of the city. (30)
- Fairer representation for the whole city. (32)
- Assist councillors to be accountable to their own ward, yet take part in city-wide decision-making. Assist citizens to feel more connected to WCC and local democracy. (157)
- There is nothing to be gained by moving to an at-large election system. A ward system provides minimal hurdles to democratic representation. Wellington City has three MPs representing three electorates. It is repugnant to democratic convention to amalgamate this area for local body purposes. (158)
- Simpler for us to assess candidates and councillors and to get to know them and vice versa. Mixed system adds to complexity, hinders STV, with very little benefit. (159).
- For representation to be effective under the STV voting system, there should not be too many candidates for voters to choose from. A ward system with 3-5 councillors per ward will keep the number of candidates on any individual voter's ballot paper to a reasonable number while still retaining proportionality of views represented on council. An at-large system would create too many choices on the ballot paper, and reduce the probability of electors actually taking the time to rank all candidates. This was the problem with the DHB election conducted along with the last council election. (160).
- Local Knowledge = local accountability. (177)

Lambton Ward

- Councillors know their own areas intimately, can't know whole city in same way. Citywide system could be unbalanced e.g. all Councillors from say Khandallah or CBD. (41)

Southern Ward

- Makes Councillors more accountable. (51)
- Wards mean the each councillor is directly responsible to a constituency for his/her actions. It is essential for: continued public interest in the council; voter turnout, and; citizen empowerment that each councillor is directly accountable to as small a group of constituents as possible. (169).

Eastern Ward

- If suburbs are not represented their views may not be put forward. (62)
- Fair system of representation. (65)
- Local suburban knowledge and contacts. (72)
- Local voice. (80)
- Present system appears to be working OK. Give it another term. (84)
- Every Councillor should have (main) connection to local area, not at large. (98)
- Local Councillors are more aware of local issues. (103)
- Tried and tested. (108)
- My wife and I believe that we would be better served. (109)
- More effective representation. (115)

- The best core interest groups operate best at real local level. (117)
- Councillor Gill – very obliging person. (123)
- We can get the people we want representing our views. (125)
- Since its introduction in 1986, the ward system has proved effective both for ratepayers and elected Councillors. It is very unlikely that elected members, in an at large system of elections, would be able to represent communities of interest effectively. (126)
- Gives local representation by people who are known to community. (129)
- Democracy. (130)
- The elected members have their ward's wellbeing at heart, even if some of us object. (131)
- Agree with "Arguments in Favour" (pg. 6). Not aware of 'Ward Bias" in Councillor's voting decisions, should consider whole of city. (137)
- If Councillors have to please more people they might be less direct. (138)
- As far as I can see and have experienced, the ward system works well. (139)
- Best way to represent population group and local issues. (144)
- Better than others. (186)
- Ward councillors know their locality and have a closer affiliation with the community, an important aspect of the ward system. (187)

Name and Ward Unknown

- Councillors then know the district they represent. (150)

Issue 2: Option 3	**A mixed system, where some councillors are elected at-large and some are elected by ward.**

Northern Ward

- With 2 Ward councillors for each ward and 3 or 5 (not 4 or an even number) at large councillors, ward councillors would be able to work on ward issues. At present ward councillors rarely spend time working with their communities. They tend to be ensconced at the Town Hall rubber stamping projects they are coerced into supporting by vested parties, rather than listening to, and evaluating the views of residents in their communities. (152)
- Major monetary allocations and decision making need to be given to the CCG's based on their % of Wellington\'s population, but all need a 'Wellington City' set of councillor's to focus on the direction and events of the city long term and who vote with the combined council involving all CCG members. (155)

Onslow/Western Ward

- We're a small population and 'able' to cover, but one representative per ward would remind (?) others. (176)
- To cater for other communities of interest e.g. age and ethnicity. (180)
- There are many electors e.g. University students who live in one area but have interests which require a helpful councillor with wider expertise. (181)

Lambton Ward

- It allows a higher standard of councillor to be elected. (165)

Southern Ward

- Widens opinions, lessens personal and private prejudice. (54)
- To give citywide representation at the same time as representing the wards. (61)

Eastern Ward

- I think it would mean a Council where the members think of both their own special area and of the city as a whole, as well. (77)
- Gives a better representation by a wider view for discussion purposes. (82)
- More effective representation of all communities of interest, not just suburban, e.g. music, sporting etc. (105)
- If keeps the money spending Councillors in line. (111)
- It would be good to have some Councillors with a city wide viewpoint and some more locally focused. (112)
- WCC is not listening to ordinary ratepayers on lower scale. (124)
- Hopefully improve citizen representation. More choice of Councillors. Improved democracy. (134)

Issue 3: Possible Representation Options

A)   At-large system

Which of the (at-large) options (if any) outlined on page 9-10 of the discussion document do you think would be appropriate to provide effective representation for the city as a whole.

Issue 3(A): Option 1	(12 Members)

Northern Ward:

- As long as Community boards are established and have a budget for works in their area – no need for councillors. (23)
- Councillors now have less "hands on" involvement. Now dealing more with strategic and policy matters. (26)
- Maintains the present Population/Councillor ratio. (153)
- Wellington is not a big city by world standards and the lesser the number of Councillors the more easily major rational decisions can be made. (156)
- Larger numbers create more difficult decision making. (162).

Onslow/Western Ward

- Sufficient to manage a city like Wellington. (175)
- Should be enough to run a city the size of Wellington. (178)

Lambton Ward

- No comments

Southern Ward

- No comments

Eastern Ward

- Councillors really need to promote more suburbs. (104)
- Too many Councillors on the band wagon and not doing anything. (124)

Issue 3 (A): Option 2	(13 Members)

Northern Ward:

- No comments

Onslow/Western Ward

- 5 wards now 8 at large – including the Mayor. (176)

Lambton Ward

- No comments

Southern Ward

- No comments

Eastern Ward

- No comment

Issue 3(A): Option 3   **(14 Members)**

Northern Ward:

- All councillors participate in decision making and thus should be accountable to each elector. (153)

Onslow/Western Ward

- Nearly equal population in each ward. (32)
- The current size is about right. (33)

Lambton Ward

- No comments

Southern Ward

- Limited numbers but wider base of interest through a mixed representative. (54)

Eastern Ward

- A fair system without it being to costly. (65)
- The population increases, if less members it will increase the work load of the few. (68)
- Would like to see one more term with 14 members. (84)
- 14 members seem to be an adequate number for our needs. (131)
- Positively no fewer than 14. (141)

Issue 3(A): Option 4   **(15 Members) – Reason for choice?**

Northern Ward:

- No comments

Onslow/Western Ward

- No comments

Lambton Ward

- No comments

Southern Ward
- No comments

Eastern Ward
- No comments

Issue 3(A): Option 5	**(16 Members)**

Northern Ward:

- No comments

Onslow/Western Ward

- No comments

Lambton Ward

- No comments

Southern Ward

- No comments

Eastern Ward

- Work loads can be shared. (82)

Issue 3(A): Option 6	**(17 Members)**

Northern Ward:

- No comments

Onslow/Western Ward

- No comments

Lambton Ward

- No comments

Southern Ward

- No comments

Eastern Ward

- A wider range of opinions. (109)
- Even more than 17 – involves us all. (119)
- Need for more councillors not less. With more councillors you are more likely to get different people from all social economic, minority groups and cultures. At the moment this is not happening in the present council. (170).

Issue 3(A): Option 7	(18 Members)
Northern Ward: ▪ The broadest possible options on all council matters must be expressed. (27)	
Onslow/Western Ward ▪ No comments	
Lambton Ward • Allows for a wider range of people and a spread of workload. (166A)	
Southern Ward ▪ No comments	
Eastern Ward ▪ No comments	

Issue 3(A): Option 8	(Any Other)
Northern Ward: ▪ No comment	
Onslow/Western Ward ▪ More representation. 20 Members. Less chance of dysfunctional Council as at present. (37)	
Lambton Ward ▪ None acceptable. (42) ▪ Too many. 7 is more than enough. (164).	
Southern Ward ▪ 19 - To return to the previous level of representation. (61)	
Eastern Ward ▪ None of the above. We have effective (not efficient) paid administration. Three elected people should be ample for political leadership. Minor matters should be dealt with by city administration. Three alert elected members should be able to seek out the need of the city. (128)	

ISSUE 3

B) Ward System

If council decides to retain the ward system which of the options (if any) outlined on pages 10-12 of the document do you prefer and why?

Issue 3 (B): Option 1   **(5 wards electing 14 councillors with a shift of Roseneath)**

Northern Ward:

- Closest to present system – don't see any reason to change it. (173)
- I don't support wards but if we have to – let's have the widest possible representation. (174)

Onslow/Western Ward

- No comments

Lambton Ward

- Keep status quo as much as possible. (38)

Southern Ward

- Keeping Councillors with local areas of responsibility. (45)
- Leave things as they are. (185)

Eastern Ward

- Better representation. (66)
- Satisfied with current system. (72)
- Try Option 1 for an initial term. (84)
- Southgate is a southern suburb and Roseneath is on eastern side of city. (103)
- That we have, as at present, an easy contact and core of local councillors. (114)
- Maintains more effective local area options. (117)
- Don't want it to be too hard for Councillors to represent the views of the community and it will become harder the larger the area becomes. (125)
- To balance the wards. (132)
- Geographic affinity, population mix. Administratively least disruptive. (137)
- Harder to represent a larger area adequately. (138)
- Looks reasonable. (139)
- Reflects local issues in most effective way. (144)
- Local representation. (146)
- Keeping Councillors in touch with own people, their needs. (147)
- 3 wards too restrictive and unwieldy. (187)

Issue 3 (B): Option 2	**(5 wards electing 14 councillors with a shift of Roseneath and Wadestown)**

Northern Ward:

- This seems to provide the best outcome for communities of interest and adjusts the balance of representation somewhat. (21)

Onslow/Western Ward

- Reasonable balance. (157)
- Addresses the problem of an over-populated central ward while retaining the communities of interest with minimal disruption. Changing to three wards runs contrary to the LGC principle that "grouping together two or more communities of interest that share few commonalities of interest should be avoided." Under the current 5 ward option, Brooklyn and Aro Valley rightly share a commonality of interest and therefore are in the same ward. The 3 ward plan would see Brooklyn and Aro Valley in different wards, while Oriental Bay and Makara somehow share a stronger commonality of interest. Why this is so is not explained in the discussion document. (158)

Lambton Ward

- No comments

Southern Ward

- No comments

Eastern Ward

- It's communities of interest and is equitable for representation. (119)

Issue 3 (B):Option 3	(5 wards electing 14 councillors with a shift of Roseneath, Wadestown and Southgate)

Northern Ward:

- Maximum number of wards to ensure local preferences are protected. (27)

Onslow/Western Ward

- Appears to provide the "most balance population per Councillor". (30)
- Most balanced. (32)
- Adequate yet better representation. (176)

Lambton Ward

- Lambton has nothing in common with Makara! The 3-ward options lump together too many "communities of interest" to be representative. Retaining Lambton as a distinctively urban ward is essential, and shifting Wadestown and Roseneath helps that. I have no specific opinions on whether Southgate belongs in the Southern or Eastern ward, but if shifting it helps the balance, then that is the best option. (163).
- More Wards equates to more representation per person. (169).

Southern Ward

- Retains 5 wards as well as more even distribution of voters. (61)

Eastern Ward

- 5 Wards give a reasonable community of interest. Large wards are difficult to represent effectively. (70)
- Will keep a line along hills. (71)
- Geographically appears better. (108)
- Democracy. (130)
- To make the responsibility of Councillors more even. (131)

Issue 3 (B): Option 4	(3 wards electing 12 Councillors [4 Councillors per ward])

Northern Ward:

- I want Councillors once elected city wide to be assigned to one of the wards – which are supported by community boards. (23)
- Equitable value of each elector's vote, a broader outlook on affairs of city and greater electoral accountability and hopefully a more effective "board of management". (153)

Onslow/Western Ward

- Sufficient to manage a city like Wellington. (175)

Lambton Ward

- No comments

Southern Ward

- No comments

Eastern Ward

- As I've said before, some not doing enough. (124)

Issue 3 (B): Option 5 (3 wards electing 15 councillors [5 Councillors per ward])

Northern Ward:

- No comments

Onslow/Western Ward

- I suggest option 5 as a way of making it easier to set boundaries and getting a situation where STV may work a little better. But the wards may be getting too big for the councillors and voters to manage, so I am not sure about this. (159).
- I prefer the mixed system, but if this is rejected I still think the 3 wards are preferable to the current system, because I think the boundaries in this system divide groups which have community of interest e.g. Kelburn and Northland. (181)

Lambton Ward

- No comments

Southern Ward

- No comments

Eastern Ward

- No comments

Issue 3 (B): Any other options?

Northern Ward:

- Create new wards across the city based on the population size and area of the Tawa Community Board so that suburbs have better representation. (154)

Onslow/Western Ward

- Option 3, but with 4 Councillors per ward. (37)
- Five wards electing one Councillor with remaining Councillors elected by city wide ballot. (156)

Lambton Ward

- None acceptable. (42)
- 3 wards with 2 Councillors per ward = 6. (164)

Southern Ward

- No comments.

Eastern Ward

- Status quo. (73)
- NOT option 4. Should not use 4 member wards under STV. (98)
- 5 Wards – Shift Wadestown to Onslow/Western and Southgate to Eastern. (101)
- 5 wards (boundaries as current) revised councillors (18) plus Mayor. (115)
- Do away with wards. (128)
- 5 Wards with shift of Roseneath but with over 18 councillors. (170)

Issue 3

C) Mixed System

If you prefer the option of electing some councillors under the ward system and some at-large, do you support the option outlined on pages 12-13 of the discussion document (i.e. 12 Councillors elected from 3 wards and 4 Councillors elected at-large giving a total membership of 16 [excluding the mayor])?
Yes or No?

If "no" what would your preference be and why?

Northern Ward:

- Not sufficient representation. (25)
- Do not need 16 Councillor's. (26)
- I do not support this option at all. (27)
- There should be an odd number of councillors and each has an equal vote. The Mayor should be apolitical and not have a vote unless there is a split vote due to councillor/s abstaining or absent. In the event of a split decision, then and only then, should the Mayor vote and it must be cast in favour of retaining the status quo of a motion (in line with established protocol). This would prevent councillors from being coerced or pressured by veiled threats if they didn't vote how the Mayor wanted. A recent example being the Mayor vehemently lobbying councillors to renew Fran Wilde's WW contract, in spite of the fact that the WCC CEO had recommended it not to be renewed. This in effect resulted in a vote of no confidence in the CEO's judgement and will ultimately cause internal friction. Especially when the total Chaffers Park development contract over budget costs are made public. The Mayor had no right to put councillors or the CEO in such a position, the contra! Judgement should have been based on the facts, which were damning and compelling, not on the Mayor's friendship with Fran Wilde. At-large councillors would be able to concentrate on central areas and also cover for ward councillors should the need arise. (152)
- Either "at large" or "ward" representative is a clear and cleaner accountability for electors. (153)
- 5 CCG's of 3 Councillor's, 3 central Councillors, plus the Mayor. This allows a quorum to always be possible for each ward and the Mayor to have a casting vote over the full council if numbers are split evenly on a vote. (155)
- Less ward councillors = less parochialism. (174)

Onslow/Western Ward

- 3 councillors elected from the 3 wards (giving residents a direct point of contact for local concerns) and the balance of Councillors elected by a City wide ballot. (156)
- Only need one per ward to remind (?) others elected at large. (176)

Lambton Ward

- Citywide is only option. (42)
- It's a dumb idea that offers only the worst of both systems. (164).
- Don't favour. (182)

Southern Ward

- Retain 5 wards and 4-5 at large. (61)

Eastern Ward

- Keep it simple and fair. (65)
- I am voting for 14 councillors (i.e. 5 ward option). (66)
- Satisfied with the current system. (72)
- Suburb representation, otherwise it ends up like MMP. (104)
- 10 Councillors from 5 wards, 2 councillors at-large. (105)
- The more elected the better. (108)
- Keep 5 wards with 2 Councillors each and 4 at-large Councillors. (112)
- Unfair and complex – MMP took years to understand. (119)
- Total of 12 Councillors. Some Councillors not doing enough. (124)
- The existing ward system in satisfactory. (126)
- 4 at large councillors should be elected from across all wards not just 1 or 2 only – needs to be legal requirement. (134)
- Present system appears to work well. (139)
- Provided community boards are abolished. (171)

Unknown Ward (Submitters name not given)

- All should be voted for. (150)

Issue 4: Number of Councillors

The Council is required to ensure effective representation of communities of interest. In order to achieve this do you think the number of Councillors (excluding the Mayor) should:

Issue 4:	Remain the same (i.e. 14)

Northern Ward:

- Three councillors per ward is reasonable but should be reduced to two if there is an increase in the number of community boards. (21)
- We feel this is satisfactory. (25)
- Seems to be about right. (173)

Onslow/Western Ward

- Don't lets make things more complicated that at present. (31)
- Having already lopped off 5 Councillors last election, it is too soon to continue the purge without good reason. No reason has been provided that demonstrates that more effective representation would be achieved with fewer councillors. (158)
- No need for more that's for sure. (177)

Lambton Ward

- Not broke, so why meddle? (38)
- Seems to provide reasonable coverage of the city. (41)

Southern Ward

- The number is correct. Councillors have a high workload and any reduction would make the job impossible to do with any degree of diligence. (169).

Eastern Ward

- Reduction from 19 to 14 was good, no need to reduce further – <u>work load.</u> (65)
- 14 should be enough. (66)
- See no need for change. (72)
- 14 appears to be working satisfactory and should be given another term. (84)
- Should not be further reduced. (98)
- Seems to operate in a reasonable way. <u>Can't afford</u> more. (103)
- Gas generation, expands expedentialy as numbers increase. (108)
- Anymore would be cumbersome, any less would concentrate power. (117)
- 14 is sufficient. (121)
- Very happy with representation. (123)
- The present number (14) seems about adequate for a city of Wellingtons size. (126)
- Need sufficient to deal with agendas. (130)
- With the present numbers, Council seems to be working reasonably well. (131)
- Reducing leaves too few for 5 wards. Increasing – already decided against more. (132)
- Current system has only been in place for one triennium, no known deficiencies in level of representation. (137)
- Works well. (139)
- Representation will suffer if numbers reduced. (144)
- An increase not necessary, a reduction would not be representative. (187)

Issue 4:	Be increased to (please state)

Northern Ward:

- 18 - I support 'at large' option. (27)
- 16 – I expect this to cause least change and hence a fairly quick settling down of the new council. (29)
- As stated, an uneven number of Councillors and a non-voting Mayor. Numbers not to be less then currently exists. Any elected Councillor must reside in the ward they represent, if after being elected they move out of the area, then they would forfeit their position. (152)
- There should be 3 members for each ward and each ward should be the size of the Tawa Community Board area. (154)
- 18 - 5 CCG's of 3 members, plus 3 central CCG members. (155)
- 15 - I suspect the number of councillors was reduced too much so I am suggesting a slight increase. Councillors do have to get a little involved in day to day operation in order to understand and monitor what is going on and to sort out citizens' problems. In other words, one can't have a complete separation of policy and operation and the LGC seemed to want, so you need more Councillors that they suggested. But Councillors' views also need to be taken account of – how do they see their work load? (159)

Onslow/Western Ward

- 19 – So that the specialised committees can be reinstate e.g. Natural Environment, Built Environment etc. (30)
- 15 - I do not have a particularly strong view about how many councillors there should be. Fifteen would ensure the same number of councillors per ward under my favoured system, and keep the numbers similar to the status quo. (160).
- 16 - Because I prefer the mixed system option for reasons already given. Also I agree with the note re STV, on page 12 of the discussion document. (181)

Lambton Ward

- 18 - Allows for a wider range of people and a spread of workload. (166A)

Southern Ward

- 19 – Hopefully to give Southern Ward our 3rd member. (52)
- 19 – To return to previous level of representation. (61)
- 16 – Any less than 16 would not be representing the citizens effectively. (185)

Eastern Ward

- 18 + Mayor – Greater variety and improved opportunity for others to become Councillors. (115)
- More is more democratic. (119)
- 16 or more. – Too much emphasis on policy and strategy at expense of 'real' consultation and democratic process for individuals. (134)
- 16 – better representation. (138)
- 18 or more - Need for more councillors not less. With more councillors you are more likely to get different people from all social economic, minority groups and cultures. At the moment this is not happening in the present council. (170).

Issue 4:	Be reduced to (please state)

Northern Ward:

- 12 – Introduce more community boards with significant delegated roles and responsibilities. (22)
- 9 or 12 – Enough councillors to be assigned to support the community boards established. (23)
- 12 – Effective representation of communities will still occur with a total of 12 councillors elected across all wards (preferably 3 wards). (26)
- 12 - Provides a manageable council plus chair: increases electoral responsibility and accountability. Hopefully develop a "Management Board" approach to city administration. (153)
- 12 - Less Councillors = less parochialism. (174)

Onslow/Western Ward

- 12 - Smaller number of Councillors likely to result in better quality of Councillors and easier decision making by those elected. (156)
- 12 – Sufficient Numbers. (175)
- 13 – Councillors provide policy - officers operations. (176)
- 12 – Shouldbe enough to run a city the size of Wellington. (178)
- 10 – 2 ward councillors each for 3 wards and 4 city wide. Less is best! (179)

Lambton Ward

- 12 - As already indicated a greater number adds confusion. (162).
- 7 - The fewer the better as it means that the dumb ones and weirdos have less chance of getting elected and stuffing the City up as they are now. (164).

Southern Ward

- No comments

Eastern Ward

- 12 – Top heavy bureaucracy is costing us too much – rates too high. (105)
- 12 – To many on band wagon and not listening to rate payers. (124)
- 3 – The often unwise and politically biased decisions can easily be made by three no need for 14 or more. (128)
- 9 - 3 wards, 3 councillors per ward. (172)

Issue 5: Ward Names

If you support the retention of wards, are you happy with the ward names currently in use (i.e. Northern, Onslow/Western, Lambton, Southern and Eastern)?

Yes or no?

Issue 5: If "no" what are your suggested alternative names?

Northern Ward:

- Ward names are of least importance. (27)
- Current names are boring - maybe we could have a competition for new names - rata, kowhai, fuschia, clematis, jasmine, perhaps? (154)
- The area's for the CCG's may differ from the Ward's, plus you need a break from the past if bringing in a different financial and voting structure such as CCG's. (155)
- If the current wards are kept, what purpose is there in changing the name? (174)

Onslow/Western Ward

- Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western, Central. Lambton Ward may be confused with the Lambton Quarter, while Onslow/Western seems redundant. (158)
- Use or acknowledge mana whenua. (177)

Lambton Ward

- Change "Lambton" to "Central", as it represents Te Aro and the inner suburbs, not just Lambton Quay and Lambton Harbour. (163)
- Keep them simple. (164).

Southern Ward

- Red Herring – Who cares what they are called. (185)

Eastern Ward

- Yes, but Onslow/Western is clumsy – why not just Western? (70)
- Yes – but perhaps more imaginative than, North, South and East. (130)

Issue 5:

If the current five wards were amalgamated into three wards (i.e. Option 1 and 2 on page 12) do you have any suggested names (other than those used in the examples in the discussion document) for the new wards?

Issue 5:	Yes (what are they?)

Northern Ward:

- We oppose any reduction of wards. (152)
- Totally disagree with having fewer wards. The main suburb in each ward, Tawa, Johnsonville, etc., is another option. (154)
- Wards to be called "Common Community Group's". Let each CCG choose it's own name. (155)

Onslow/Western Ward

- I am opposed to 3 wards, prefer 5. (37)
- Mana whenua names. (177)
- 1. Northern-Western, 2.Central, 3.Southern-Eastern. (180)

Lambton Ward

- I totally oppose the amalgamation, but if it does happen, "Central" is an inappropriate name for a region that includes Makara and Karori. Perhaps "Central and Western", but the difficulty of finding a simple name for that ward just highlights its unnatural status. (163).
- North, Central, South; East, West; 1, 2, 3; KEEP IT SIMPLE! (164)
- Southern, Central, Northern. (165)
- Keep Wellington as Wellington. (182)

Southern Ward

- Maybe S/E for Southern Eastern or suitable Maori name. (51)
- Don't support. (57)
- Stupid, Dumb, Idea. (169)
- North, Southern and Eastern. (184)

Eastern Ward

- I do not regard this as an option. (62)
- North, Central, Rongotai. (80)
- No amalgamation. (99)
- Leave as it. (121)
- Names are not important – the work that councillors do is! (125)

Issue 6: Review of Community Boards

A) Do you think the establishment of community boards across the city would provide fairer and more effective representation for individuals and communities in Wellington city than the current arrangement provides

Issue 6 (A):	Yes – reason for choice?

Northern Ward:

- It would be to the benefit of populations and councillors to have a closer relationship so that area needs and aspirations are better understood. (21)
- So long as representation within boards is done on a mesh block basis so each suburb is proportionally represented. (23)
- The more 'local' input available should ensure 'balanced' decisions from Council. (27)
- Many ward councillors currently provide poor representation to the communities they were elected by. For more accountable and effective representation CB's should be established in all wards provided that the majority of residents are in favour of them for their particular ward. CB's should have clearly defined responsibilities and an allocation of funding for their area. CB members should be elected by ward residents rather than appointed by council. (152)
- Retain Tawa Community Board and change all the wards across the city to this size, so there would be more wards. This would give much fairer representation. (154)
- What I'm calling CCG's are Community Boards, but with more voting and financial powers. (155)
- Provides for more effective participation for smaller communities. (173)

Onslow/Western Ward

- Better communication with the community. (32)
- More consultation. (175)

Lambton Ward

- If there are to be community boards, it makes sense for all communities to have them (option C), not just Tawa and Makara. (163)

Southern Ward

- Not if they are instead of wards, but alongside would be OK. (45)
- A further level of grass roots representation. (61)
- Community boards provide for a greater level of citizen interaction with what is becoming an increasingly remote organisation. (169).

Eastern Ward

- There would be a wider view of opinions. (109)
- Strongly support Makara/Ohariu as "rural' community board. No opinion as to Tawa and others. (115)
- Democracy. (130)
- There is little or no consultation at a community level with councillors. Once they are elected they lose touch (if they ever had) with the communities they are meant to represent. The power of decision making should be driven back down into communities instead of held by a bunch of people no one knows the name of. (172).
- Provides for more effective participants for smaller communities. (173)

Issue 6 (A):	No – reason for choice?

Northern Ward:

- No doubling up of representation. (24)
- I believe that the mixed at large, plus wards based election gives sufficient local input. (29)
- Would lead to parochial demands without financial responsibility, distort council planning and add an expensive layer to our local body administration. (153)
- Community Boards are more political and less effective than residents associations. I'm disappointed that this review appears to ignore a model that I see working well in Porirua. That is, the active promotion and support of residents, associations. I have extensive experience working with community boards and ward committees in Hutt City Council. I found most "members" to be failed politicians, has beens and wannabe's. They tend to be narrowly focussed and despite their claims actually do or achieve almost nothing. In contrast, residents associations are much closer to their community, more realistic in issues they become involved in AND much more likely to be actively involved in "solutions". The lobby for community boards is both self interested and naïve. Any analysis of submissions should seriously consider the self interest in particular. I think Council should put forward or at least seriously consider residents associations as a viable option to community boards.

Onslow/Western Ward

- Keep Makara/Ohariu Board. Wind up Tawa Board. (30)
- Let's keep thing as simple as possible i.e. the existing arrangement. (31)
- They are just another layer of bureaucracy. (33)
- Community boards have the potential to become rubber stamping exercises for council officers' agendas. Less accountability. Community Boards would cost more to run and produce too much extra waste paper in the form of agendas, minutes etc. Unsustainable. Also they do not, in my experience, have any real power. (37)
- Wellington has a small population and officers are paid too. (176)
- Not crucial to ongoing well being of the City. (156)
- Duplication of effort and paper war, increase in potential for tensions over boundaries of power and ego clashes. Better to have all councillors both representing a community of interest and feeling responsible for city-wide decision making. (157)
- Establishment of city-wide community boards would only provide scapegoats for city council and not improve representation. Without any powers apart from what Council delegated to them, community boards would be Council puppets. (158).
- I don't think citizens would be come more involved and it would be harder to understand who was responsible for what. (159).
- What's the point? (177)
- Unnecessary. (178)
- What would they add to the city except cost? More representation should come directly from the community through better consultation and communication. (179)
- People are used to approaching their Councillors. Adding community boards could be confusing. (181)

Lambton Ward

- Increased administration, decreased view of city as a whole. (40)
- Happy as is. (43)
- Community boards are not required other than Makara/Ohariu. (162).
- They are useless and merely interfering fools with nothing better to do than add cost to the running of the City. Dump the lot. (164).
- Interests are not geographically based. If we could create community boards based on interest eg sports facility users; walkers; park users then that would be great. (166A)

Southern Ward

- Lack of interest. Expensive. Ward system good enough. (51)
- Better to increase ward membership rather than have boards. (52)
- Definitely not. (58)
- They have no standing. (60)
- Boards would not have the standing of elected councillors. (185)

Eastern Ward

- Do not approve of creating another layer. (64)
- We want decision made by those who have knowledge of the background of the issues. (65)
- Boards are another word for bureaucracy. (66)
- Another layer of bureaucracy. Residents Associations are effective. (70)
- No thanks. (75)
- The experience in Petone is that its just a fob. (76)
- Community boards are just an unnecessary tier in levels of local government. They have no powers, so are just talking shop and an expensive waste. They are a waste of rate-payers money. (77)
- Fine as is.(78)
- Leave as is. (84)
- Yes another layer of bureaucrats. (85)
- Councillors currently do a good job. (90)
- This would create too much bureaucracy. (91)
- Don't support. (92)
- Don't support the idea at all. (95)
- Everything is fine as is. (96)
- Community Boards should be used only in special circumstances – small, well-defined community. (98)
- Not necessary. (99)
- Whatever for? (100)
- Makara Fine. No community boards – too separate. (101)
- Do not believe there should be any community boards. (103)
- Top heavy bureaucracy is costing us too much – rates are too high. (105)
- I think it would make the system clumsier and would increase bureaucracy. (107)
- Too many fragmented views. (108)
- Present system seems satisfactory. (114)
- We already have hard working Residents Associations – Put the support behind existing groups. (117)
- Nice idea but too impractical given population density – empower existing range of community instead. (119)
- Not needed. (120)
- Too many divisions. (121)
- Very satisfied. (123)
- Never had any community notices to attend any meetings. (124)
- Community Boards powers are very restricted. They are not committees of the WCC. They cannot pass bylaws or appoint staff. (126)
- Just another system of bureaucracy. (129)
- Residents can put forward their views and these should be considered. (131)
- Diluting access to Council and inimical to ratepayers associations. (132)
- Allows councillors to abrogate responsibility, accountability. (134)
- Too many levels of bureaucracy, statutory requirements don't make community boards totally independent. (137)
- I don't see why we would need community boards. (139)
- Not enough resources to make them effective. (147)
- Community boards are normally badly serviced by council officers, the lack funds and political clout. They become resented within council and ineffective to the community. (170).
- Community boards are ineffective and wasteful of Council resources to support them. (171)
- Community Boards are more political and less effective than residents associations. (174)

- Satisfied with current arrangement. (186)
- Residents Associations would be just as effective. (187)

Unknown Ward (Submitters name not known)

- Less bureaucracy, more involvement of residents and their wishes.

B) If community boards were established across the city would you support a reduction in the number of Councillors currently elected to the Council?
Issue 6 (B):   **Yes – reason for choice?**

Northern Ward:

- Most projects could be sorted and prioritised at community board level so 2 councillors per area would be sufficient. (21)
- Otherwise no need to have community boards AND same number of councillors. (26)
- Community input would proved the necessary balance. (27)
- The boards handling of local issues would allow councillors to concentrate exclusively on policy. (29)
- As per views previously expressed. If Councillors do the job as they're supposed to, they would have a lot to do and less councillors would only add to the rubber stamp concept. (152)
- Call the community boards wards and the members elected to these boards would be the members of the City Council - there is no need to double up. (154)

Onslow/Western Ward

- Costs. (32)
- Costs and egos. (157)
- Don't want top heavy management. (175)
- 5 councillors plus Mayor, too many getting the way. (176)
- Democracy at less cost. (177)
- Keep level of representation to a minimum. (179)
- Too much governance. (180)

Lambton Ward

- If you are going to have more morons on Boards you need fewer morons in Council. (164).

Southern Ward

- No Comments

Eastern Ward

- Community Board could do some of the work Councillors do. (65)
- No experience or knowledge of 'boards'. (72)
- But I do not want Community Boards. (80)
- Reduce duplication of representation. (102)
- Less government is good. (128)
- No need to duplicate structures – not cost effective. (144)

Issue 6 (B):	No – reason for choice?

Northern Ward:

- I've said each CCG should contain 3 councillors. (155)

Onslow/Western Ward

- Because Councillors make decisions which board members cannot. (30)
- Not enough representation. Prefer more not less. Prefer 20. (37)
- I am vehemently opposed to replacing Councillors, armed with wide-ranging local government powers and responsibilities, with a bunch of Council puppets. (158).

Lambton Ward

- On a cost basis – yes. (42)
- No need. (163).
- Prefer Councillors. (165).

Southern Ward

- Community Boards don't have same power. (51)
- Elected councillors have standing. (60)
- To retain status quo and to create another level of representation. (61)
- Community Boards and Councillors have two totally separate functions. Community Boards can only advise Council, not make decisions on behalf of the citizens of Wellington. The Council often ignores the wishes of Community Boards so a reduction in the number of Councillors would further reduce accountability. (169).
- Elected Councillors have standing. (185)

Eastern Ward

- Council is supreme. (64)
- No community boards. (66)
- No boards! (67)
- Wellington is not a large city and the current ward system manages the city effectively and economically. (70)
- It's a 'con'. (76)
- They're useless, a white elephant, community boards are, I mean. (77)
- Stay with 14 for the first term, then review. (84)
- Community Boards not effective or efficient. (98)
- Degree of expertise would reduce. (108)
- Councillors are easy to call for "help" – boards are bureaucracy. (114)
- Boards don't have the full responsibility of Council. (115)
- Concentration of power is not my choice. (117)
- No community boards. (119)
- Community Boards would still be dependant entirely on WCC for powers to be delegated to them. (126)
- If it is Councillors who should decide. The presence of a community board would make things top heavy. (131)
- No. 14 is a more effective number. (132)
- No. They have different roles. Workload for councillors would increase and will include community board responsibilities. (137)
- I think people would rather go directly to Councillors. (138)
- Only Councillors have real representative power. (146)
- Definitely not. You need all social economic, minority groups and cultures in council not just on an ineffective community board with no money and power. (170).
- Because community boards are useless and powerless. (174)
- Number of Councillors already reduced by the last review. (187)

Unknown Ward (Submitters name not given)

- No, because I don't think the majority are interested in Council (unless something is wrong). (150)

Issue 6: **c) If you reside in either Tawa or Makara/Ohariu are you happy with the current operation of the Boards and their existing boundaries and level of membership**	
Tawa Community Board	
Northern	
Yes	**No – What are the concerns?**
▪ No Comments	▪ No Comments
Makara/Ohariu Community Board	
Northern	
Yes	**No – What are the concerns?**
▪ No Comments	▪ No Comments
Onslow/Western	
Yes	**No – What are the concerns?**
▪ No Comments	▪ The board should have more power and input. (32)

Issue 6:
D) Which, if any, of the community board options outlined in the discussion document (pages 13 – 15) do you prefer?
Issue 6 (D):Option 1   Status Quo (i.e. retain the existing boards and not establish any more)?

Northern Ward:

- If all wards want their own CB then they should have one, but if one or more wards don't, that should not preclude others from having their own CB. (152)

Onslow/Western Ward

- No Comments

Lambton Ward

- Seems to work – if Tawa and Makara/Ohariu are happy. (41)

Southern Ward

- Don't want community boards. (60)
- Boards have no standing or authority. (185)

Eastern Ward

- Initially thought Tawa became a ward but that would increase the number of councillors which I don't favour. (65)
- Prefer to see the present position retained. (84)
- There is no justification for increase in number of community boards. Historically Makara/Ohariu was administered by a district roads board. Makara was not part of urban Wellington. Historically, Tawa was a borough, and not part of Wellington city. (126)
- The status quo is working quite well. (131)

Issue 6 (D): Option 2	Retain the Makara/Ohariu Community Board as the only community board in the city

Northern Ward:

- Only the rural ward is necessary. (24)
- Makara/Ohariu communities are the only rural areas, and because of their small population, need a community board to be heard. Tawa currently has double representation through elected councillors and a community board as compared with all other suburban communities. (26)
- In the event that one or more community boards are selected, I prefer minimum change, in the interest of a smooth transition. (29)

Onslow/Western Ward

- Makara/Ohariu is a special case, because it is rural with farming and forestry principal activities. (30)
- Retention of the Makara / Ohariu Board is desirable as the area has special needs. The Tawa Board is no longer needed. (156)
- Really up to Tawa whether they want to keep their community board, but there doesn't seem to be a lot of justification for it. Makara/Ohariu seems to have special interests and requirements that would justify a community board, if they want it. (159).
- What effective delegation do Community Boards really have? (179).

Lambton Ward

- No Comments

Southern Ward

- Why does Tawa now need to be ward? It is an urban, not rural suburb. No special need. (51)

Eastern Ward

- Retention of Ohariu, deletion of Tawa – no need for favouritism. (80)
- Location. (85)
- Because it is rural. (96)
- Makara/Ohariu geographically distinct. (115)
- It is the only rural area that could benefit from board activities. (117)
- Rural interests need voice. (119)
- Lone rural population. (132)
- Special characteristics of rural area, distinct from urban wards. (137)
- Wonder why a community board is required at Tawa as I understand thatTawa is already represented on the city council. (139)
- Tawa better represented by ward system – Makara is a different demographic. (144)
- Rural area. (187)

Issue 6 (D):Option 3	Establish five new community boards (based on a five ward council arrangement electing 14 Councillors) and retain the Makara/Ohariu Community Board (with a reduction in membership)

Northern Ward:

- I would prefer Option 3, <u>but</u> with a reduction of councillors to <u>two</u> per ward. (21)
- If we must have wards ALL should have input ability. (27)

Onslow/Western Ward

- Retain 6 members on the Makara/Ohariu Board. It is a large area. (32)

Lambton Ward

- It makes sense for all communities to have them, not just Tawa and Makara. (163).

Southern Ward

- To create a wider representation within community boards. (61)
- This will be invaluable in encouraging greater participation in Council. It will also increase the accountability of Councillors and council staff to the people who pay their wages. (169).

Eastern Ward

- Democracy. (130)

Issue 6 (D):Option 4	Establish three new community boards (based on a three ward Council arrangement) and retain the Makara/Ohariu Community Board (with a reduction in membership

Northern Ward:

- Puts the decision making back to grass roots level. I would like to see Makara/Ohariu expanded to include Horokiwi and any other rural community (as a community of interest). (23)

Onslow/Western Ward

- No Comments

Lambton Ward

- No Comments

Southern Ward

- No Comments

Eastern Ward

- No Comments

Issue 6: (D)	Any other option?

Northern Ward:

- Retain existing 2 boards and establish several (e.g. 5) more. (22)
- Retain current community boards and add community boards this size across the city. Call them wards instead of the existing wards. Elect 3 Councillors per each of these new wards and they would form the city council. They would also hold their own board meetings so that they can effectively represent their areas. (154)
- See suggestions I've already made in my other answers. (155)
- Have none, but foster and support residents associations. (174)

Onslow/Western Ward

- Disestablish all community boards. (158)
- Community boards are pointless. (177)

Lambton Ward

- Get rid of the lot. They don't add value - quite the opposite... add cost! (164)

Southern Ward

- No Comment

Eastern Ward

- No community boards. (67)
- Wipe the two existing ones. (77)
- Dispense with community boards. (102)
- Remove all community boards – they are COSTLY , unfair and another layer of bureaucracy. (103)
- Disband Boards. Less government is good. (128)
- No community boards at all in any areas. (134)
- Remove community boards and get more councillors. I do not think a dual system works. (170).
- Abolish all community boards. (171)
- Establish three new community boards and reduce the number of councillors. (172).

Issue 6:

E) If community boards were established across the city, would you support the division of those larger community board areas into smaller subdivisions as outlined in the examples in the discussion document?

Issue 6 (E):	Yes.	Reasons for view?

Northern Ward:

- "Mesh Block" representation will ensure each suburb has a fair chance of being adequately represented on the community boards. (23)
- I am against expanding community boards, but if they were adopted across the city, then to be effective they would have to be subdivided. (26)
- More valid locality involvement in input to council. (27)
- Community boards will be seen as 'local representation'. Subdivision into smaller 'sub wards' would further their appearance and acceptance as representational. I acknowledge that this would not help the STV cause. (29)
- Smaller area equals greater representation. (154)
- Smaller, compact communities should have a greater opportunity to participate in their areas. (173)

Onslow/Western Ward

- So they can focus on smaller communities. (159).

Lambton Ward

- Better fit of boards to communities. (163).

Southern Ward

- To make representation more focused on communities within the city. (61)
- Better than nothing. I oppose the community board option. (185)

Eastern Ward

- If it had to occur the method of choice should be changed. The current traditional method is proven, with all its faults. Community Boards can and will be hi-jacked by pressure groups who could create too much pressure in areas where our current processes do not handle such issues well. Preferable one person from selected groups represents one issue in WCC which would also occur in the voting. Therefore not one group could outvote another or that is not well represented. (108)

Issue 6 (E):	No.	Reasons for view?

Northern Ward:

- I think that the larger area of the five wards would produce a more coherent plan than breaking it into smaller parts. (21)
- No more community boards. (24)
- This could lead to fragmentation of decision making. A ward CB that is effective, informs, communicates and listens to the community will be sufficient. It would also keep ward councillors on their toes and ensure they represent the people who elected them. (152)
- Increases personal and communication lines needed to manage more disparate groups. (155)
- It's just more bureaucracy! (174)

Onslow/Western Ward

- More boards would add to bureaucracy and expense to running the city. (30)
- We would finish up with too many community boards. (32)
- Too fragmented. (156)
- No matter how often you divide zeroes, you're left with the same result. (158).
- Too much local government. (176)

Lambton Ward

- Fragmentation is wasteful. (42)
- You can't get enough good people on Boards and Council as it is. The fewer involved the better. (164).

Southern Ward

- Leave as is. (47)
- Too 'clunky'. Not enough interest in meetings etc. Not needed. (51)
- 1. Our ward councillors should be doing this work. 2. Only if the city-wide vote came back then community boards would be vital. (52)
- I oppose the community board option. (60)

Eastern Ward

- Totally opposed to community board expansion. (64)
- Community Boards by areas (suburbs) are likely to get agreement on issues (more likely than not). (65)
- Without control of the rates it is a 'con'. (76)
- Because the two existing boards are two too many, so I don't want any at all! All Community Boards everywhere in NZ since 1989 have just been consolation prizes for areas that lost their status then – counties or boroughs, of which there are now none at all. It is ?? to Britain's inventing the commonwealth to consol Britain for losing it's great empire – just a silly game of make believe. (77)
- Review after first term. (84)
- Doubtful value even if smaller community areas. (98)
- No community boards necessary. (99)
- More bureaucracy and clumsier. (107)
- It is doubtful whether a division of a larger community board would have the resources necessary to enable it to carry out its due responsibilities, or to fulfil its duties and powers. (126)
- Conferring with residents of the area, should provide the feedback needed. (131)
- Too many levels; decision – making process too slow. Administrative costs. (137)
- Unnecessary duplication and infrastructure costs. Economies of scale must be retained while still providing for representation of local interests. Administrative costs of WCC are already very high on a per capita basis and this must be contained. There is no need to grow local government bureaucracy. (144)
- Too much 'local' government. (176)

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL: 2006 REPRESENTATION REVIEW

CONSULTATION PLAN

1. PROPOSAL

To notify the Council's initial representation review proposal outlining the basis on which it is proposed the 2007 local authority elections be held in Wellington city. The notification of the Council's initial proposal is a statutory requirement and give interested individuals/organisations/stakeholders the opportunity to make submissions on its representation proposal.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To provide accessible, quality information to support informed consideration of the Council's initial representation review proposal to the extent that all interested parties, including the public, feel that issues presented in the notified proposal and supporting information are clear and easy to understand.
- To obtain feedback from individuals, interested groups/organisations and other stakeholders on the Council's initial proposal.
- To ensure that the representation review proposal and consultation process are understood and accurately reported by the local media.

3. KEY ISSUES AND MESSAGES

The notification of the Council's representation review decision must be in compliance with the requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001, both in terms of content and timing.

Section 19H of the Act sets out the issues which Council is required to determine as part of its review (ie whether Councillors are to be elected by ward, at large or a combination of both, how many Councillors are to be elected, the proposed boundaries of any wards if the ward system is chosen etc). These details must be included in any resolution the Council adopts in this respect.

The Council is also required to undertake a review of community boards as part of its representation review and section 19J sets out the issues the Council is required to include in its resolution.

The Council must publicly notify its initial proposal by 8 September 2006 (at the latest) and must allow a period of at least one month, from the date of its first publication, for interested persons to make a submission on the resolution. The notice must include details of the submission process and the deadlines involved. Although not legally required to do so, the notice will also invite any interested party to contact the Special Projects and Electoral Officer if they wish to view or talk about any of the representation arrangement options Council considered before adopting its "initial" proposal.

4. TARGET AUDIENCE

The consultation process is intended to increase public awareness of the representation review process and to seek feedback from the general community and stakeholders who have been identified as having a particular interest in this issue.

The identified stakeholders are:

- Mayor and Councillors
- Mana Whenua – Wellington Tenths Trust and Ngati Toa Rangatira
- Tawa and Makara/Ohariu Community Boards
- Residents/Progressive Associations
- Council's Disability Reference Group
- Ethnic community
- Pacific Island community
- Youth groups
- Media
- Political and other interest groups
- Local authorities in the Wellington Region
- Wellington MPs
- External stakeholders (ie Local Government Commission, Secretary for Local Government, Surveyor-General, Government Statistician, Remuneration Authority, Capital and Coast District Health Board)
- Internal stakeholders, including:
    - External Communications
    - City Information staff
    - All interested Council staff members.

5. CONSULTATION TECHNIQUES

The "initial" representation review proposal will be adopted by Council at its meeting on 28 June 2006 and its resolution will outline the basis on which the 2007 local authority elections for Wellington City Council will be held.

- The Council's resolution must contain the information required by sections 19H to 19M of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

- The public notice of the proposals contained in the resolution must:
    - include a statement about how persons interested in the proposal may inspect it;
    - specify the communities of interest considered by the Council in reaching its decision;
    - specify the ratio of population to proposed members for each proposed ward (if any) or subdivision (if any), and the reasons for those proposals;

- specify a period of not less than one month (from the date of the first or only publication of the notice) within which interested persons may make a submission on the proposal.

The receipt of all submissions must be acknowledged and submitters given the opportunity to present their submissions in person if they so wish, including information on when and where oral submissions will be heard.

Information on the proposal will be conveyed through a range of means including:

- an editorial in the Our Wellington Page in the Dominion Post (on either 13 or 20 July 2006)
- media releases will be developed as necessary and sent out to ensure the main issues are clear (eg. what the basis of election will be, proposed number of elected members, submission process and relevant closing dates etc)
- public notices in the local daily papers
- a copy of the Council's proposal will be sent to all those people and organisations who responded to the initial consultation (approximately 200 of them)
- an article in Council's *APW* newspaper
- the Mayor and Chief Executive's radio interviews
- a page on the Council's website (including electronic submission form)
- meetings with relevant community groups (eg Ethnic, Pacific Island, Disability, Youth etc)
- appropriate radio advertising (including community based radio stations eg Samoan Capital Radio)

6. CONSULTATION EVALUATION

Written submissions will be summarised and analysed and the Strategy and Policy Committee will hear any oral submissions. The result of the consultation will be reported back to the Strategy and Policy Committee for its further consideration on 21 September 2006. That Committee will recommend a "final" proposal to Council for its decision on 27 September 2006.

All submitters will be notified of the Council's final representation review decision and informed of any appeal/objection rights they may have in relation to the Council's decision.

7. CONSULTATION PROGRAMME

DATE	TASK/TIME
28 June 2006	Council adopts its (initial) representation review proposal.
8 July 2006	**Consultation begins**
	- Public notice published in daily newspaper (on 8 July 2006). - Representation review proposal and submission form on the web - Representation review proposal sent to stakeholders, residents/progressive associations, libraries, service centres and to all individuals and organisations who took part in the "pre-decision" consultation. - Briefings held with specific interest groups (eg Ethnic, Pacific Island, Disability Reference Groups). - Other consultation methods outlined in the plan.

28 August 2006	**Closing date for the receipt of written submissions.**
September 2006	Strategy and Policy Committee considers the written submissions received to the Council's initial proposal (and hears those submissions if the submitters so wish) and develops a final representation proposal for Council approval
27 September 2006	Council adopts its final representation review proposal.
7 October 2006	**Council required to advertise (and notify all submitters and stakeholders) of the Council's final proposal.**
10 November 2006	**Closing date for the receipt of any appeals or objections to the Council's final (notified) proposal. If no appeals or objections are received, the final proposal becomes the basis for the 2007 triennial election and will continue in effect until the next representation review takes place. If appeals or objections are received they must be referred to the Local Government Commission for their consideration and decision.**
24 November 2006	**Any appeals, objections and supplementary information must be lodged with the Local Government Commission.**
11 April 2007	**Last day for the Local Government Commission to issue its decision.**