



Media Release
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Further consultation planned on local representation

Consultation is planned in September on a proposal for future local representation for Selwyn District.

The Council's Representation Review Subcommittee this week recommended that the Council release a proposal for consultation which keeps the existing four wards and 11 councillors, and retains the Malvern Community Board.

The subcommittee's recommendation will be considered by the full council later this month.

The Representation Review looks at possible changes to the number of wards, ward boundaries, the number of councillors, whether councillors should be elected across the whole district or within wards, and whether there should be community boards.

Initial consultation on four options for councillor representation and the number of wards took place during July, involving public meetings and online feedback. A total of 225 submissions were received as part of this process, and 45 members of the public attended public meetings.

The option to retain 11 councillors and four wards received the most public support with 60% of submissions in favour of this option. 72% of submitters supported keeping the Malvern Community Board, while 25% of submitters wanted to keep the Selwyn Central Community Board.

"As Selwyn's population has not grown evenly across all areas, some change to existing ward boundaries is needed to ensure that the number of residents per councillor is relatively similar from ward to ward," says the subcommittee chair Councillor Mark Alexander.

The subcommittee is recommending that some of the Burnham area and Burnham Military Camp move from the Selwyn Central ward to the Ellesmere ward, but other ward boundaries remain largely the same. It is proposed that the Selwyn Central ward is renamed Central.

The subcommittee's preferred option is to keep the current first past the post system for local elections, and to elect Selwyn's mayor at large (from across the district). The subcommittee is not proposing to retain the Selwyn Central Community Board in the future.

Formal consultation on the Council's preferred representation arrangements is planned for September and early October.

"The feedback the Council received from the first round of consultation provided us with useful information on the community's views and we have used this information to develop a proposal for consultation," says Councillor Alexander. "We hope people will also take the time to look at the Council's proposal when it is released for consultation and let us know their thoughts."

The representation arrangements adopted as a result of the current review would apply from the 2016 local elections.

Councils are required to review representation arrangements at least once every six years. Selwyn District Council last undertook a review in 2009, in preparation for the 2010 elections.

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