



**AGENDA FOR THE
ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
REPRESENTATION REVIEW
COMMITTEE**

**TO BE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
2 NORMAN KIRK DRIVE,
ROLLESTON**

WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2020

COMMENCING AT 8.30AM

**AGENDA OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
REPRESENTATION REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
SELWYN DISTRICT COUNCIL, ROLLESTON
ON WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 8.30AM**

MEMBERS

Mayor S T Broughton, Councillors M A Alexander (Chair), S Epiha, J A Gallagher and G S Miller, and J B Morten (Malvern Community Board Chair)

KARAKIA

APOLOGIES

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Representation Review Subcommittee held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday 28 October 2020 (Pages 3 - 6)

Recommendation:

‘That the Representation Review Committee confirm the minutes of its Meeting held on 28 October 2020, as circulated.’

REPORTS

- 1. Deputy Electoral Officer (Pages 7 - 11)**
Population – Representation Tables Update 2019

Recommendation:

‘That the representation review subcommittee receive the report for information.’

- 2. Deputy Electoral Officer (Pages 12 - 15)**
Representation review – consultation with other councils on basis of election

Recommendation:

‘That the representation review subcommittee receive the report for information.’

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
REPRESENTATION REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
SELWYN DISTRICT COUNCIL, ROLLESTON
ON WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 10AM**

PRESENT

Mayor S T Broughton, Councillors M A Alexander (Chair), S Epiha, J A Gallagher and Mr J B Morten (Malvern Community Board Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor R H Mugford, Messrs. D Ward (Chief Executive), S Hill (Group Manager Communication and Customers, Deputy Electoral Officer) and M Staite (Miro-Business Services Ltd.), Mrs N Smith (Executive Assistant); and Ms T Davel (Governance Coordinator)

KARAKIA

Councillor Epiha opened with karakia.

APOLOGIES

None.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved – Mayor Broughton / **Seconded** – Councillor Gallagher

‘That the Representation Review Committee confirm the minutes of its Inaugural Meeting held on 19 August 2020, as circulated.’

CARRIED

REPORTS

1. Deputy Electoral Officer

Consideration of Establishing Maori Wards or Constituencies

The Group Manager Communication and Customer Services reminded the Subcommittee that this report came before them in August, when it was moved to lay on the table. A period of further consultation was to take place with iwi. Council would need to make a decision regarding the establishment of Maori Wards or Constituencies no later than 23 November 2020 in order to keep to the statutory timeline of publicly notifying the resolution.

The Subcommittee heard from Mayor Broughton that further discussions were held with iwi but that neither iwi supported the establishment of a Maori Ward at this stage.

Moved – Mayor Broughton / **Seconded** – Mr Morten

‘That the Representation Review Subcommittee:

- (a) uplifts the report ‘Consideration of establishing Māori wards or constituencies’, left to lie on the table at the meeting of the Subcommittee on 19 August 2020; and*
- (b) considers further information in relation to the report on the consideration of establishing Māori wards or constituencies;*
- (c) recommends to Council to resolve that no Māori Ward be established for the 2022 and 2025 local government triennial elections.’*

CARRIED

2. Deputy Electoral Officer

Population – Representation Tables Update 2019

The Subcommittee was informed that an update will be available early 2021 from Stats New Zealand. There was a discussion about the possibility of having a pre-consultation. Mr Morten said that Council’s final decision on a community committee structure would be a leading factor. The Chief Executive noted a staff report on the matter will be available at the end of November.

Councillor Miller said it would be prudent to firstly undertake an independent effectiveness review of the current representation before looking to the future. The Mayor agreed, saying the status quo couldn’t be the answer and there was clearly a need for change.

The Chair said it would be good to know whether the District needed more or fewer Councillors. He said the current structure doesn't work. Having such a review in 2020, would fit in well with the timeline.

Mr Morten added that Malvern communities have indicated they want a Councillor who lives in their area and who would be best able to represent them.

Moved – Mayor Broughton / **Seconded** – Councillor Gallagher

'That the representation review subcommittee receive the report for information.'

CARRIED

3. **Deputy Electoral Officer**

Representation Review Timeline and Preliminary Consultation

The Deputy Electoral Officer provided brief background information. Mr Staite said getting feedback from communities in a pre-consultation was viewed as good practice by the Local Government Commission. It was important that Council hears what the community is telling them. He added it was not a final decision, but important.

The Mayor referred to two neighbouring Councils that recently changed the number of their Councillors and said he knows of at least one where having fewer Councillors have resulted in improved debate.

The Subcommittee agreed to ask communities for their options, e.g. did they want election at large, by ward, or a mixed model; a model where there are wards for Selwyn Central and the rest of the district; or Selwyn Central and a number of other wards, or other possible options.

A round of comments included: Councillor Gallagher noted concerns that Councillors get paid in respect to their representation; and that it would be better to wait until it was clear the number of wards and councillors before any decisions can be made.

Councillor Epiha said he didn't want to lose the local connection and while he saw the advantage of Selwyn at large, it would be difficult in that scenario to keep the community connection.

Mr Morten said he didn't want any changes to the current structure; saw no need for a Community Board; and wanted to see consultation with communities at least 3 times a year on matters such as the LTP, Annual Plan etc. He said a part of this would be a piece of work to streamline the community committee structure.

The Chief Executive said there was a separate process of engagement to the process of decision making. He asked whether constituents related to the Ward or Council. Decisions were made by Council as a whole and not by individual ward councillors.

Action Points:

- Deputy Electoral Officer to seek discussion with other Councils as to pros and cons of moving to an at-large or mixed model, and having more or fewer Councillors;

- Consider displaying mesh blocks on GIS / interactive tool for the Subcommittee to look at various scenarios.

Moved – Mayor Broughton / **Seconded** – Mr Morten

‘That the representation review subcommittee receive the report for information.’

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

Councillor Epiha raised the issue of Maori Wards and representation noting that mana whenua has given a view but tangata whenua have not yet. He asked the Subcommittee to consider a poll in this regard to ensure tangata whenua has an opportunity to respond about what they want. The Subcommittee agreed that some of the questions during the pre-consultation will provide opportunity to reflect on this but that a separate poll on the matter would not be sought at this stage.

The meeting closed at 11.11am

DATED this day of 2020

CHAIRPERSON

REPORT

TO: Representation Review Subcommittee

FOR: 9 December 2020

FROM: Deputy Electoral Officer

DATE: 4 December 2020

SUBJECT: POPULATION – REPRESENTATION TABLES UPDATE 2019

RECOMMENDATION

That the representation review subcommittee receive the report for information.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide updated information on population data which the Council will need to consider when undertaking the representation review.

2. BACKGROUND

Section 19V, Local Electoral Act 2001 details the factors to be applied in determining the membership for wards/constituencies/subdivisions in order to achieve fair representation of electors.

Under this provision, membership of wards/constituencies/subdivisions is required to provide approximate population equality per member, that is, all votes are of approximately equal value (referred to as the ‘+/-10% rule’) unless there are good (prescribed) reasons to depart from this requirement.

When carrying out its representation review, the local authority must (s19X) apply the “ordinarily resident population” figures derived from either:

- the most recent census, or
- population estimates prepared by Stats NZ.

The Commission recommends that most recent population estimate is used, so that each local authority is applying population data that most accurately reflects its current situation.

Stats NZ produces sub-national population estimates annually. Estimates for local authority districts and existing electoral areas are published by Statistics New Zealand and on the Local Government Commission’s website.

2020 population estimates

The Local Government Commission has now released the latest Stats NZ population estimates (as at 30 June 2020) for current wards and community board areas. A set of tables showing this information is shown below. The tables also show the number of members elected from each area and the population to member ratio.

Some further analysis of population is also provided for the information of the committee in the attachment.

As previously noted, the updated data confirms that the population to member ratios for Malvern, Selwyn Central and Ellesmere wards now fall well outside the +/-10% rule.

TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES						
DISTRICT	WARD	Population	Members	Population-member ratio	Difference from quota	% Difference from quota
Selwyn District	Malvern Ward	9330	2	4,665	-1,676	-26.43
	Selwyn Central Ward	30700	4	7,675	1,334	21.04
	Ellesmere Ward	9620	2	4,810	-1,531	-24.14
	Springs Ward	20100	3	6,700	359	5.66
	Total	69,750	11	6,341		
COMMUNITY BOARDS AND LOCAL BOARDS						
DISTRICT	COMMUNITY/LOCAL BOARD AREA & SUBDIVISION	Population	Members	Population-member ratio	Difference from quota	% Difference from quota
Selwyn District	Malvern Community	9330	5	1,866		
	Area outside community	60400				
	Total	69,730				
	Malvern Area Community					
	Tawera Subdivision	3,580	2	1,790	-78	-4.18
	Hawkins Subdivision	5,760	3	1,920	52	2.78
	Total	9,340	5	1,868		

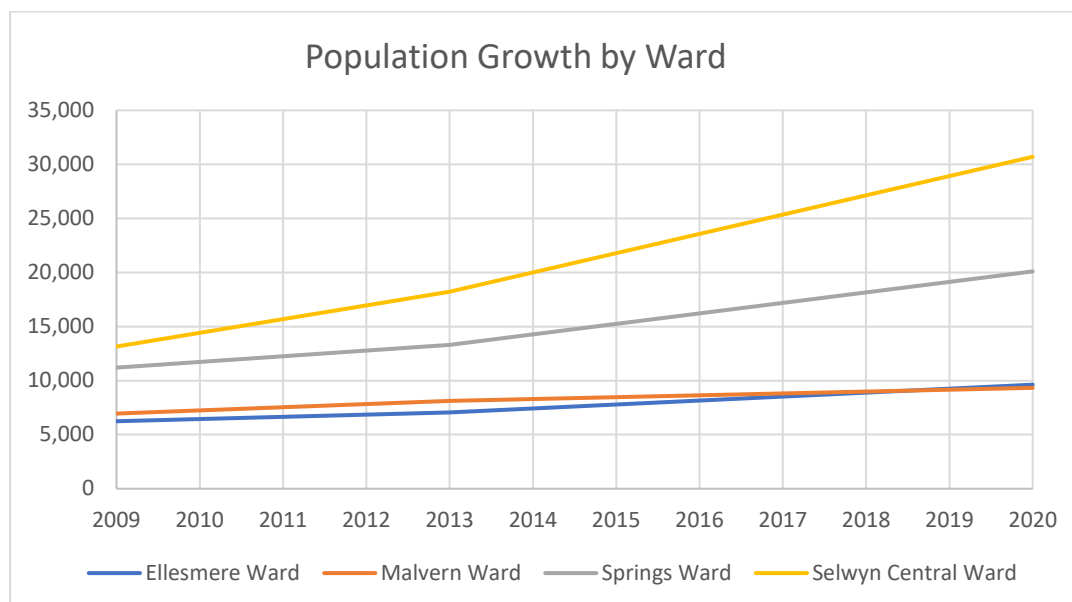


Stephen Hill
Group Manager Communication and Customers/Deputy Electoral Officer

Population Increase by Ward

Selwyn District Council (SDC) has received the 2020 population estimates from the Local Government Commission. The following graph illustrates these estimates by ward and shows the significance increase in rate of growth occurring in both the Selwyn Central Ward and Springs Ward.

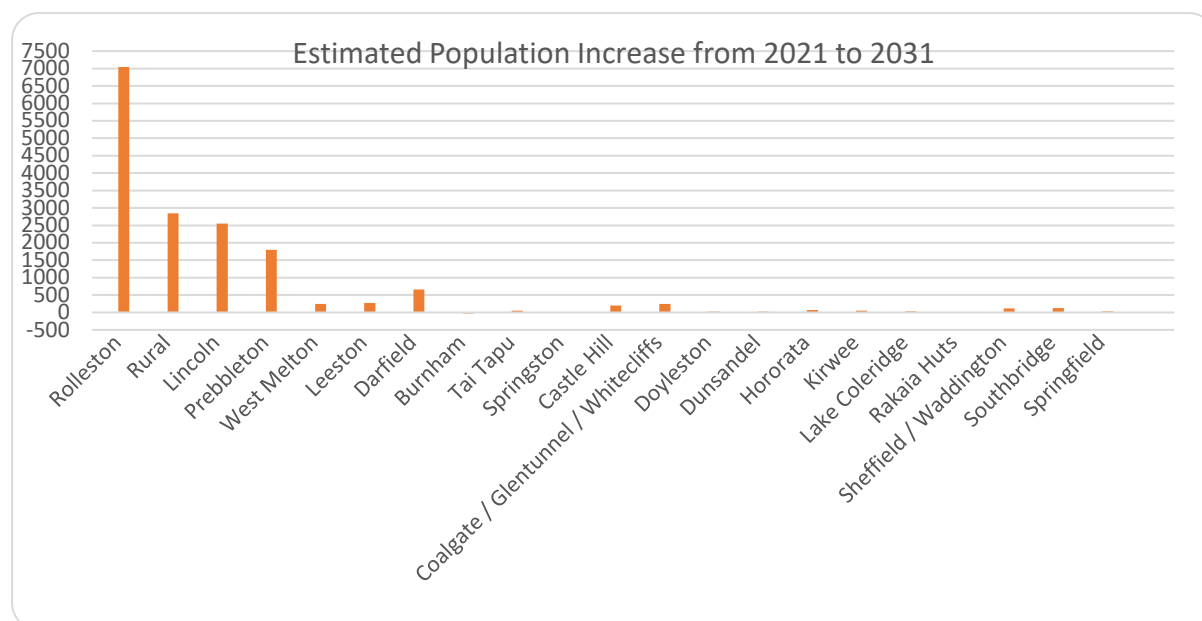
Figure 1: Change in Population by Ward: 2009 to 2020



Population Estimates

The upward trends in figure 1 are expected to continue with the Local Government Commission estimating the population increase for Rolleston at an additional 7,040 people by 2031. While Lincoln and Prebbleton are expected to grow at a slower rate they also show a steady increase. This continued increase in population numbers shown in figure 2 clearly has implications for the next representation review.

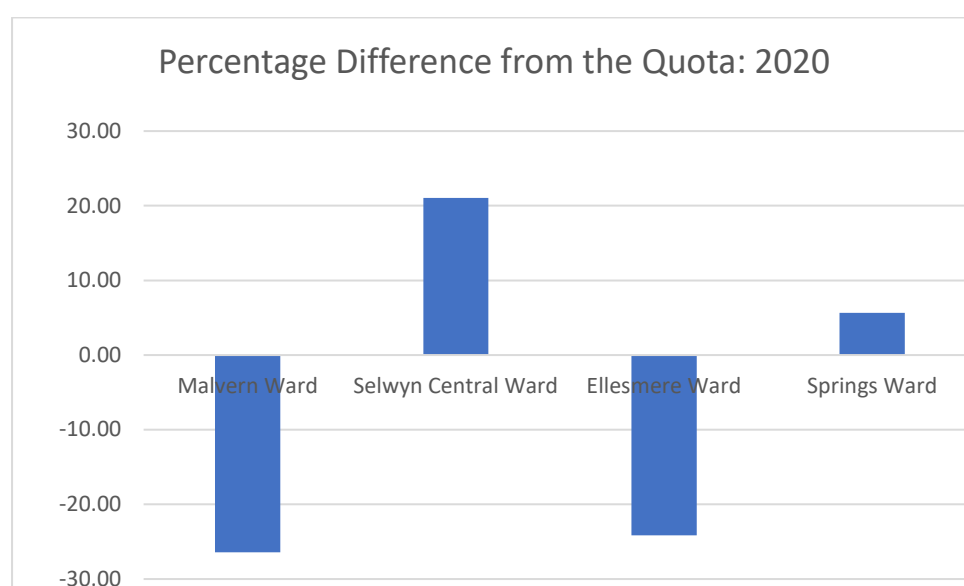
Figure 2: Estimated Change in Population from 2021 to 2031 by Township



Quota

The Local Government Commission has a requirement that the population per councillor for each ward of a council must be within plus or minus 10% of the district population per councillor (quota). SDC has an average of 6,341 people per councillor and figure 3 shows that with the exception of the Springs Ward the quota is not being achieved.

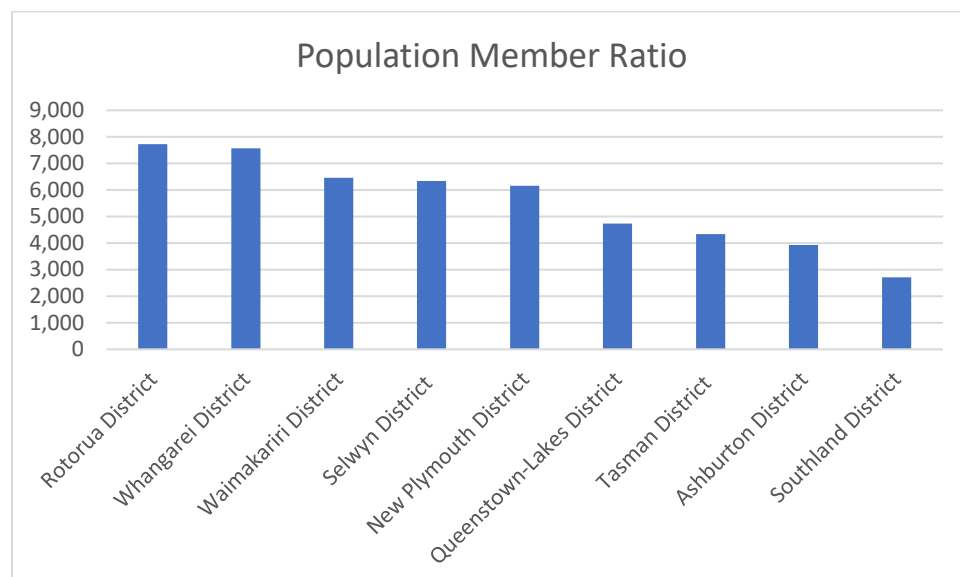
Figure 3: Difference from the Quota



Population Member Ratio

Figure 4 shows the population to member ratio for councils similar to SDC. A very low ratio was one of the reasons that the Ashburton District Council decided to review and ultimately reduce the number of councillors thereby increasing the population member ratio.

Figure 4: Population Member Ratio



REPORT

TO: Representation Review Subcommittee

FOR: 9 December 2020

FROM: Deputy Electoral Officer

DATE: 4 December 2020

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION REVIEW – CONSULTATION WITH OTHER COUNCILS ON BASIS OF ELECTION

RECOMMENDATION

That the representation review subcommittee receive the report for information.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of informal consultation undertaken with other councils that have undertaken a change in their basis of election.

2. BACKGROUND

The subcommittee has previously noted:

The Local Electoral Act 2001 allows territorial authorities to elect their representatives by wards, at large, or a combination of both. At the 1989 local government reorganisation two territorial authorities used elected at large while the balance used elected by ward. Over subsequent years there has been a move towards more territorial authorities using the at large basis and a small number have moved to the mixed basis.

By the 2019 elections the proportions were:

- a) 51 Councils electing members by wards
- b) 12 Councils electing members at large
- c) 4 Councils electing members by a mixed system

Selwyn District Council presently elects its members on the ward system basis.

The Act requires that the population of each ward divided by the number of members to be elected by that ward must produce a figure no more than 10 per cent greater or lesser than the population of the district divided by the total number of members (the '+/-10% rule')

With the district's population rapidly expanding to the east of SH1 the '+/-10% rule' will become increasingly more difficult to meet. In past representation reviews this issue was dealt with by adjusting ward boundaries however boundaries can only be changed so much before issues relating to communities of interest and fair representation occur.

A review of the Local Government Commissions calculations showed that changing to a mixed basis does not resolve the +/-10% rule issue on its own as the +/-10% rule continues to apply to

the representatives that are voted in by ward. However, this question raises some important points around the mixed approach that the Council may wish to explore via pre-consultation.

3. CONSULTATION WITH OTHER COUNCILS

At its last meeting the subcommittee indicated it would be helpful to consult with other councils that have made a change to their basis of election, to assist in understanding the advantages and disadvantages of different systems, along with insights from the processes followed by those councils. Discussions would explore:

- What issues or challenges led to change?
- How did community respond to change?
- What has worked well/not so well?
- Significant challenges, learnings.

Videoconference meetings have been held with the following councils:

Ashburton District Council

In 2019 reduced councillors from 12 to 9, all elected via wards. In this case the Ashburton ward dominates the council with five elected from that ward.

Napier City Council

From 2013 to 2019 members were elected on a mixed basis, then from 2019 changed to a ward only basis.

Information has also been sought from Nelson City Council, which currently elects all 12 members at large.

A summary of key themes and learnings from these consultations is attached.

Relevant documentation from these councils has also been circulated separately to the subcommittee.



Stephen Hill
Group Manager Communication and Customers/Deputy Electoral Officer

Purpose of the Report

To update subcommittee members on the recent conversations with the Napier City Council and the Ashburton District Council.

Background

To assist subcommittee members and staff in understanding the various representation options available to them, staff were asked to contact several councils who had made recent changes to their basis for election or had made changes to the number of councillors.

Council staff approached 3 councils namely Napier City Council, Ashburton District Council and the Nelson City Council. Replies were received from both the Napier City Council and the Ashburton District Council with meetings held via Zoom during the week of November 30, 2020.

For the meetings both Napier City Council (Napier) and Ashburton District Council (Ashburton) supplied a mix of council staff and elected members.

Discussion

Napier City Council

Napier has made several changes to its basis of election over the years and in 2019 moved from electing its members on a mixed basis (some members elected at large, and some elected by ward) to a ward only basis.

Their Findings on the Mixed Basis

1. Workload was seen as higher for councillors elected by ward compared to councillors elected at large.
2. Ward issues that came to an-at-large councillor were often pushed to the ward councillor to deal with.
3. With less members being elected by ward, new councillors at times felt isolated and not supported.
4. It was felt that for candidates elected at large, name recognition was required to get elected not connection with the community.

Benefits of the Ward Basis

1. Greater connection with the community.
2. Lower cost for candidates seeking election.
3. Improved diversity was seen as a benefit.
4. Staff analysis showed a higher number of nominations received and a higher voter turnout.

Ashburton District Council

During its 2019 representation review Ashburton changed the number of elected members from 12 to 9. One of the reasons for this was the realisation that their population to membership ratio was very low compared to other councils.

Even though there was early engagement with ratepayers, criticism was still received that the changes had not be well signalled or that the options given for consideration were too limited.

A year on from the change, the Council is positive that the change has been good for their overall democratic process. Councillors are still connecting with the people and it was felt that meetings were now running more smoothly with the democratic process being more efficient.

A key lesson they shared was the need to communicate early and often with ratepayers and to ensure the process was well planned and resourced.