

**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, G S F Miller 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**

The Chair, Councillor Alexander welcomed everyone to the meeting and 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020



**CHAIRPERSON**