

#### **4) Representation Arrangements**

The Council has chosen to elect its Councillors under the ward system and has done so since 1986. It is a legislative requirement that the Mayor be elected by the electors of the city as a whole (i.e. at-large). The Council reviewed its representation arrangements in 2006 and, because appeals were received against the Council's final proposal, the matter was referred to the Local Government Commission to determine. The Local Government Commission decided that Wellington City should be divided into five wards and have a total of fourteen Councillors (excluding the Mayor) elected to represent the electors of those wards. This determination was in support of the Council's final proposal.

The names, locations and the number of Councillors each ward elects are as follows:

<i><b>Ward Name</b></i>	<i><b>Number of Members</b></i>	<i><b>Geographic Location</b></i>
Northern Ward	3 members	Comprising Churton Park, Glenside, Grenada North, Grenada Village, Horokiwi, Johnsonville, Newlands, Ohariu, Paparangi, Takapu Valley, Tawa and Woodridge
Onslow/Western Ward	3 members	Comprising Broadmeadows, Crofton Downs, Kaiwharawhara, Ngauranga, Khandallah, Ngaio, Karori, Makara, Makara Beach, Northland, Wadestown and Wilton
Lambton Ward	3 members	Comprising Aro Valley, Highbury, Kelburn, Mt Cook, Brooklyn, Mt Victoria, Oriental Bay, Pipitea, Te Aro, Thorndon and Wellington Central
Southern Ward	2 members	Comprising Berhampore, Island Bay, Kingston, Mornington, Newtown, Owhiro Bay, Southgate and Vogelstown
Eastern Ward	3 members	Comprising Breaker Bay, Hataitai, Houghton Bay, Karaka Bays, Kilbirnie, Lyall Bay, Maupuia, Melrose, Miramar, Moa Point, Rongotai, Roseneath, Seatoun and Strathmore Park

## ***Community Boards***

The Wellington City Council has two community boards – the Tawa Community Board and the Makara/Ohariu Community Board. These boards are constituted under section 49 of the Local Government Act 2002 to:

- represent and act as an advocate for the interests of their community
- consider and report on any matter referred to it by the council and any issues of interest or concern to the community board
- make an annual submission to council on expenditure in the community
- maintain an overview of services provided by the council within the community
- communicate with community organisations and special interest groups in the community
- undertake any responsibilities delegated by the council.

Both boards have six elected members. These members are elected triennially by the electors in the respective communities. In addition to its six elected members, the Tawa Community Board has two appointed members. These members are appointed by the Council and must be Councillors who have been elected by the electors of the ward in which the community board is located (in this case two Councillors from the Northern Ward). The Makara/Ohariu Community Board does not have any appointed members. The boards elect their own chairpersons at their first meeting after the triennial election.

Council reviewed the community board structures within the city as part of its review of representation arrangements for the 2007 local authority elections. Apart from some very minor boundary adjustments to the two existing boards, Council proposed to not make any changes to the current structure. Council also decided not to establish any new community boards at this stage.

Outside of this review of community boards, which the council is required to undertake every time a representation review is carried out, electors can request the formation of a new community board. This is done by a process similar to the reorganisation process described elsewhere. Further information on these requirements can be found in Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

## ***Representation Arrangements***

The council is required to review its representation arrangements at least once every six years. This review must include the following:

- the number of elected members it should have (every territorial authority must have at least six members and no more than 30 members, including the Mayor);
- whether the elected members (other than the Mayor) are to be elected across the city as a whole (i.e. at-large), or whether the city will be divided into wards for electoral purposes, or whether there will be a mix of ‘at large’ and ‘ward’ representation;
- if election by wards is preferred, then the boundaries and names of those wards and the number of members that will represent each ward;
- whether or not to have separate wards for electors on the Maori roll;

- whether to have community boards and if so how many, their boundaries and membership and whether to subdivide a community for electoral purposes.

The council must follow the procedure set out in the Local Electoral Act 2001 when conducting this review, and should also follow guidelines published by the Local Government Commission. The Act gives interested persons the right to make a written submission to the council on any notified proposal, and the right to be heard in support of their submission if they so wish.

They also have the right to appeal any decisions made by the Council on the above to the Local Government Commission which will make a binding decision on the appeal. Further details on the matters that the Council must consider in reviewing its membership and basis of election can be found in the Local Electoral Act 2001.

The Council conducted a review of its representation arrangements in 2006 in time for the 2007 local authority elections. It is therefore not legally required to carry out another review until 2012, in time for the 2013 elections.

### ***Maori Wards and Constituencies***

The Local Electoral Act 2001 also gives council the ability to establish separate wards for Maori electors. The Council may resolve to create separate Maori wards or conduct a poll on the matter. Alternatively, the community may demand that a binding poll be held on the issue. The demand for a poll can be initiated by a petition signed by 5 per cent of the electors who were enrolled as eligible to vote at the previous local authority election.

The Council considered this issue in October 2005 and decided not to have separate Maori wards at that time.

### ***The Reorganisation Process***

The Local Government Act 2002 sets out procedures which must be followed for proposals to:

- make changes to the boundaries of the district;
- create a new district;
- create a unitary authority;
- transfer a particular function or functions to another council.

The procedures for resolving each type of proposal are slightly different. In general they begin with a proposal either from the local authority, the Minister of Local Government, or by a petition signed by 10 per cent of electors.

Proposals for a boundary alteration or transfer of functions from one local authority to another will be considered by one of the affected local authorities or by the Local Government Commission if the local authorities refer the proposal to the Commission or if they cannot agree on which of them should deal with the matter. Proposals for the establishment of a new district or for the creation of a unitary authority will be dealt

with by the Commission. These proposals cannot be implemented without a poll of electors.

Further information on these requirements can be found in the Local Government Act 2002. The Local Government Commission has also prepared guidelines on procedures for local government reorganisation.

(Local Government KnowHow: Governance; Local Electoral Act 2001; Local Electoral Regulations 2001; LGA 2002)