

Representation Review

Council Briefing
29 June 2021

Purpose of the briefing

To get clear direction on your preferred representation option

Where we are at in the process



- Engaged the community, listened to their perspective
- Engaged Councillors, gained their input
- Engaged Community Board Members, gained their input
- Updated Youth Council, Older Persons' Council, Accessibility Advisory Group
- Updated Iwi Partners



- Considered what we heard
- Considered ways to meet the brief – high-level conceptual approaches, with some technical work to ensure feasibility



1 June : Briefings

- Updated Councillors and Iwi Partners on work to date, got direction on principles and approaches
- Updated Community Board Members on work to date, got input on principles and approaches



- Followed the direction given, worked up options and maps in detail



29 June : Briefing/Workshop

- Present Councillors and Iwi Partners with detailed options – maps and numbers – based on earlier direction provided
- Councillors provide direction on which option to progress, provide further direction for refinement



- Update Community Board Members on direction and progress
- Update the public on progress, maybe set the scene for proposal



- Refine option preferred by Councillors, create full Initial Proposal (draft)



5 August : Briefing

- Present Councillors with Initial Proposal (draft), identify required tweaks



- Tweak full Initial Proposal



26 August : Council Meeting

- Present Councillors with Initial Proposal for approval

Our approach so far

- Targeted research and engagement to understand the community voice
- Led to us establishing some design principles

- Reflect distinct geographic communities of interest
perception: achieved through smaller wards, careful boundary placement.

- Help ensure high-calibre representatives
perception: achieved through bigger wards, at-large

- Don't spread councillors too thin. Ensure they can get across the people and issues
perception: achieved through small wards, more councillors

- Support councillors' responsibility to reach out and hear from the community

perception: achieved through small wards.
some perception: could be achieved through community panels, community boards, council officers
some perception: council-led shared responsibility hinders

- Ensure minority voices are heard, not overshadowed

perception: achieved through careful boundary placement, and/or at-large, and not spreading councillors too thin

- Support the likelihood of councillors coming from across the district

perception: achieved through small wards

- Give more focus to the in-need suburbs.

Tackle inequity, foster equity

perception: achieved through ward councillors who see local issues, and at-large councillors who look across the district

- Build barriers to parochialism. Support ability to look across the district. Make it easier to do what's best for Kāpiti as a whole.

perception: achieved through councillors coming from across the districts but not having to answer to wards.

- Ensure councillors hear from a diverse range of community voices, not just one type.

Majority perception: not achieved through another layer of elected reps.
minority perception: could be achieved by strengthening role of community boards

- We have drawn from these design principles to develop the options you will be seeing today



Here's what we heard from you

- You challenged us to look at the function of community boards:
 - whether they contribute to effective local representation; and
 - their impact on your workload
- You had concerns about councillor workload if the overall number of elected representatives was to reduce

Here's what we heard from you

- You expressed a concern that an all-districtwide model may not provide representation across the district
- You gave us examples of some of the challenges when ward and community board boundaries do not align

What we've done in response

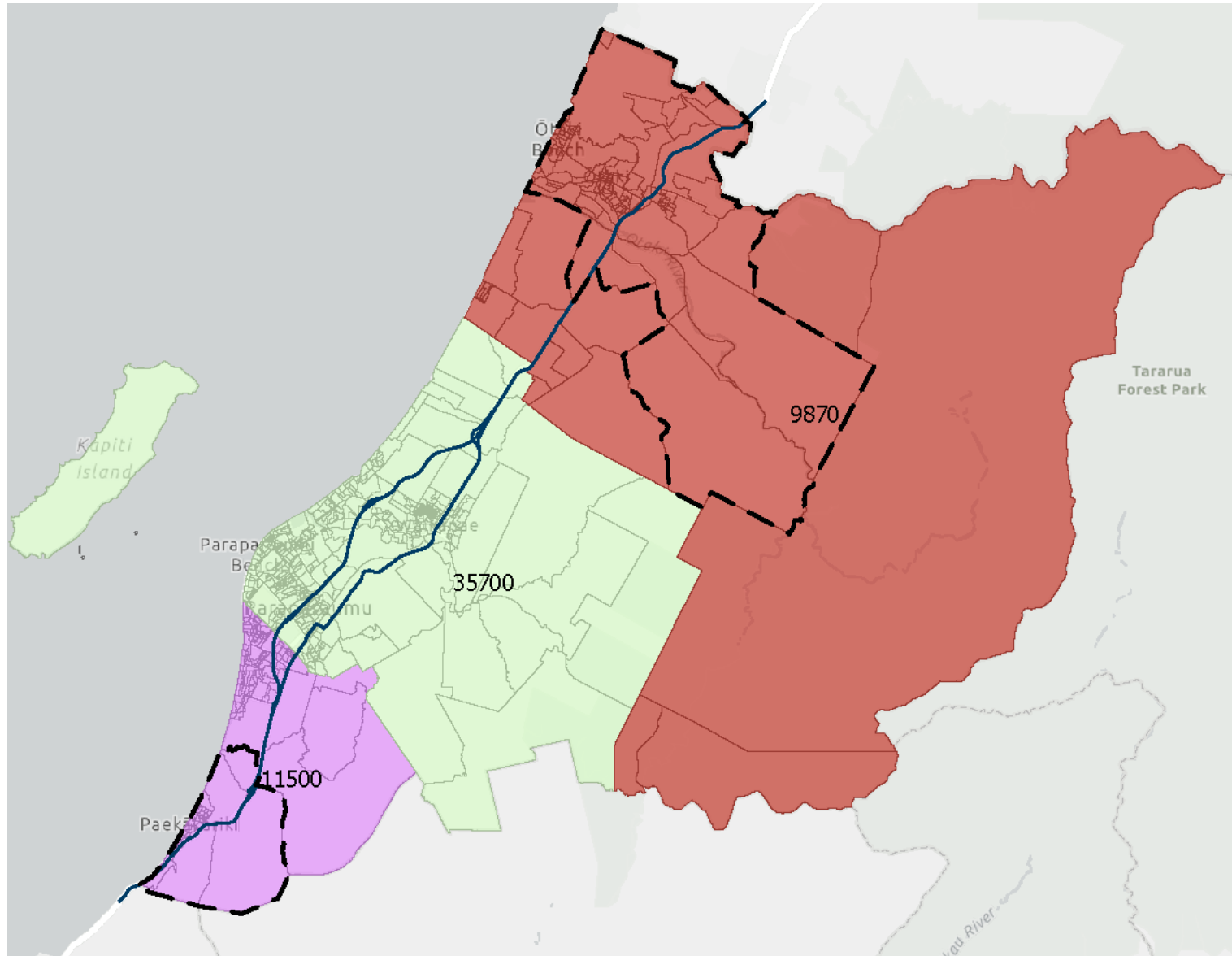
- Explored the impact of size of wards and placement of ward boundaries
- Calculated the population data to determine what is viable within the Local Government Commission's guidelines
- Looked at the relative strengths of using different options

Options overview

- Four options to present today
- There are similarities and differences between the four options – it's the way the components are packaged together that is important
- The options explore different ward size, number and mix of councillors and treatment of community boards
- Have done the “rough-sandpapering” to get to this point – there is some “fine-sandpapering” still to be done

Presentation of options

Large Wards A – mixed model with 2 community boards (Ōtaki and Paekākāriki)



Large Wards A – mixed model with 2 community boards (Ōtaki and Paekākāriki)

<p>NON-COMPLIANT WITH +/-10% RULE</p> <p>LARGE WARDS A – MIXED MODEL</p> <p>5 Ward Councillors 5 Districtwide Councillors 2 Community Boards (Ōtaki and Paekākāriki)</p> <p>Dataset: Estimated Resident Population at 30 June 2020 as provided by Stats NZ</p>	Population	Number of councillors per ward	Population per councillor	Deviation from district average population per councillor	Percentage deviation from district average population per councillor
Red	9,870	1	9,870	-1,544	-13.53
Green	35,700	3	11,900	486	4.26
Purple	11,500	1	11,500	86	0.75
Ward	57,070	5	11,414		
Districtwide	57,070	5	11,414		
Total	57,070	10	5,707		

Community Perception

Strengths

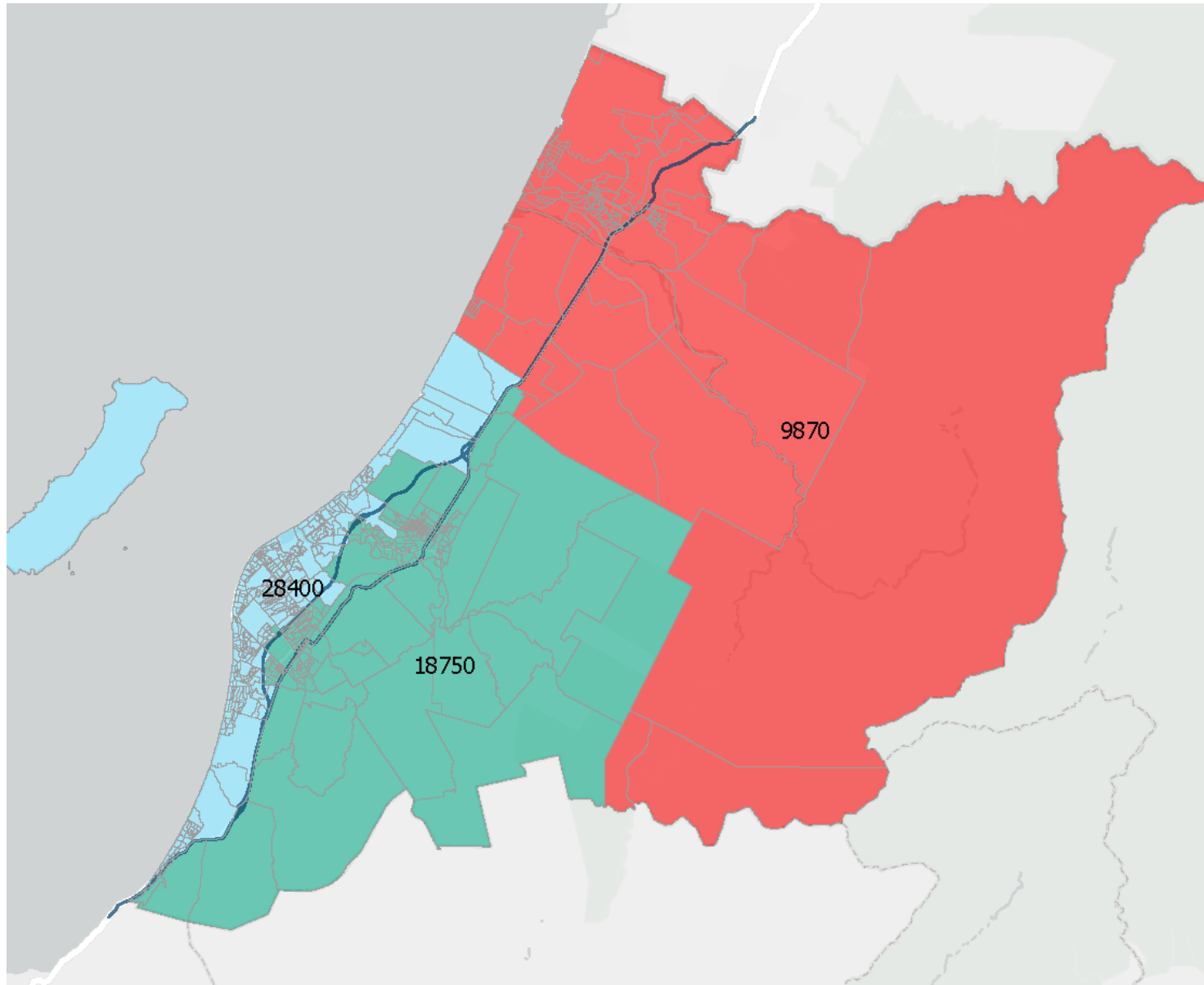
- The mixed model helps councillors stay close to the people at a local level and see the big picture to do what's best for Kāpiti as a whole
- The size of Council is within the range perceived as being big enough for diversity yet small enough for efficiency
- Two of the three very distinct communities of interest (Ōtaki and Paekākāriki) are given special attention and representation by community boards
- Bigger wards have a bigger pool of candidates – they want good quality candidates

Community Perception

Potential Issues

- Ward boundaries clump together distinct communities of interest
- Bigger wards increase risk of representatives living in same area; lack of geographic spread
- The larger wards might make people feel Council isn't able to appreciate local perspectives and issues
- People in other areas might perceive that the Green Ward is given more focus because it has more ward councillors

Large Wards B – all ward councillors, no community boards



Large Wards B – all ward councillors, no community boards

<p>COMPLIANT WITH +/-10% RULE</p> <p>LARGE WARDS B – ALL WARD MODEL</p> <p>12 Ward Councillors No Community Boards</p> <p>Dataset: Estimated Resident Population at 30 June 2020 as provided by Stats NZ</p>	Population	Number of councillors per ward	Population per councillor	Deviation from district average population per councillor	Percentage deviation from district average population per councillor
Red	9,870	2	4,935	183	3.86
Blue	28,400	6	4,733	-18	-0.39
Green	18,750	4	4,688	-64	-1.35
Ward	57,020	12	4,752		
Districtwide	57,020	0	0		
Total	57,020	12	4,752		

Community Perception

Strengths

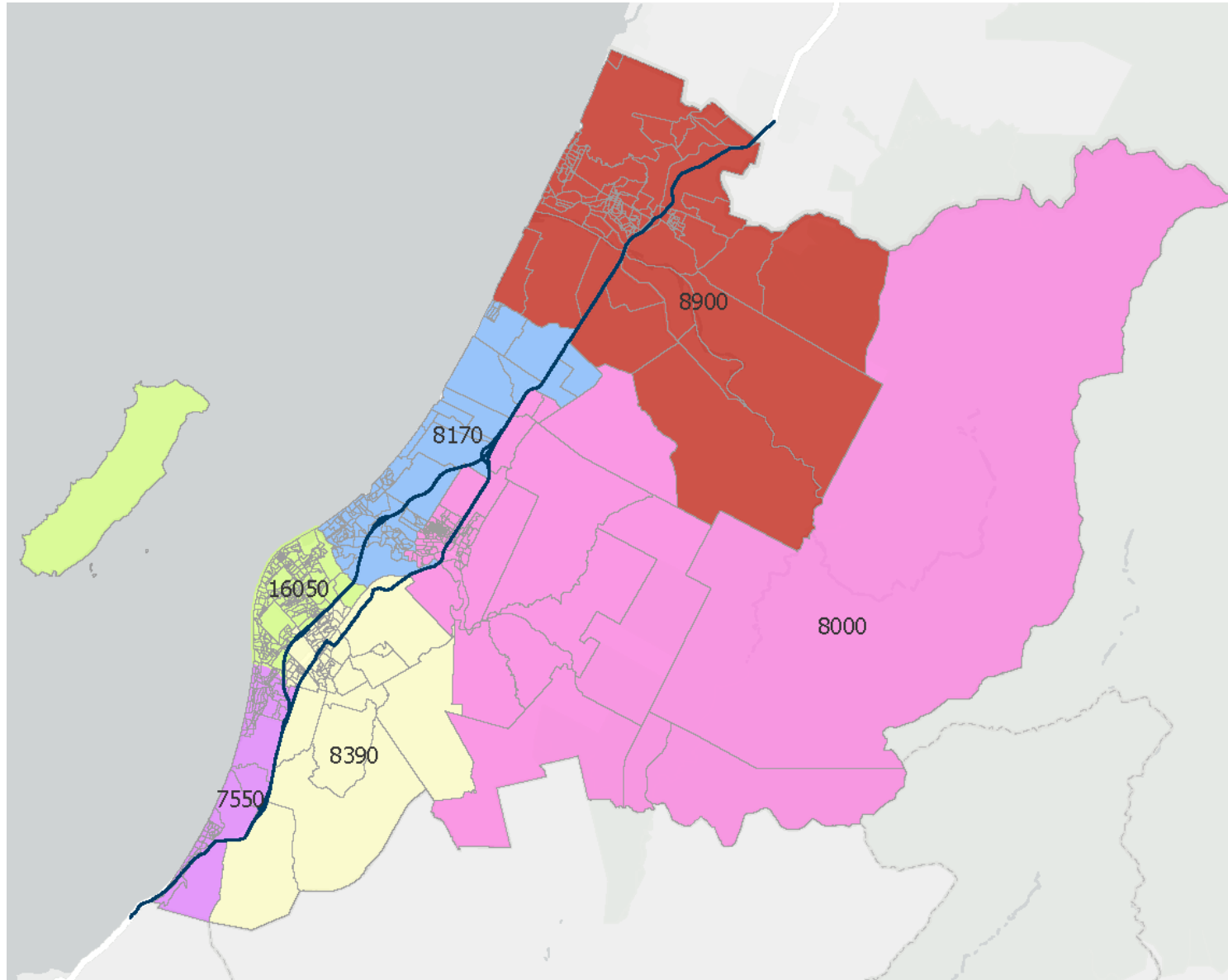
- Ōtaki is one of the very distinct communities of interest so it is good that they are a separate ward
- The size might bring more diversity, still hopefully efficient
- Bigger wards have a bigger pool of candidates – they want good quality candidates

Community Perception

Potential Issues

- The ward boundaries group communities of interest, but perhaps not the major communities of interest
- Wards clump together distinct communities of interest
- Bigger wards increase risk of representatives living in same area; lack of geographic spread
- For some, the size of Council is too big to be efficient
- With all ward councillors people might fear parochialism and the inability to do what's best for Kāpiti as a whole

Small Wards – all ward councillors, no community boards



Small Wards – all ward councillors, no community boards

<p>COMPLIANT WITH +/-10% RULE</p> <p>SMALL WARDS – ALL WARD MODEL</p> <p>7 Ward Councillors No Community Boards</p> <p>Dataset: Estimated Resident Population at 30 June 2020 as provided by Stats NZ</p>	Population	Number of councillors per ward	Population per councillor	Deviation from district average population per councillor	Percentage deviation from district average population per councillor
Red	8,900	1	8,900	749	9.18
Pink	8,000	1	8,000	-151	-1.86
Blue	8,170	1	8,170	19	0.23
Green	16,050	2	8,025	-126	-1.55
Yellow	8,390	1	8,390	239	2.93
Purple	7,550	1	7,550	-601	-7.38
Ward	57,060	7	8,151		
Districtwide	57,060	0	0		
Total	57,060	7	8,151		

Community Perception

Strengths

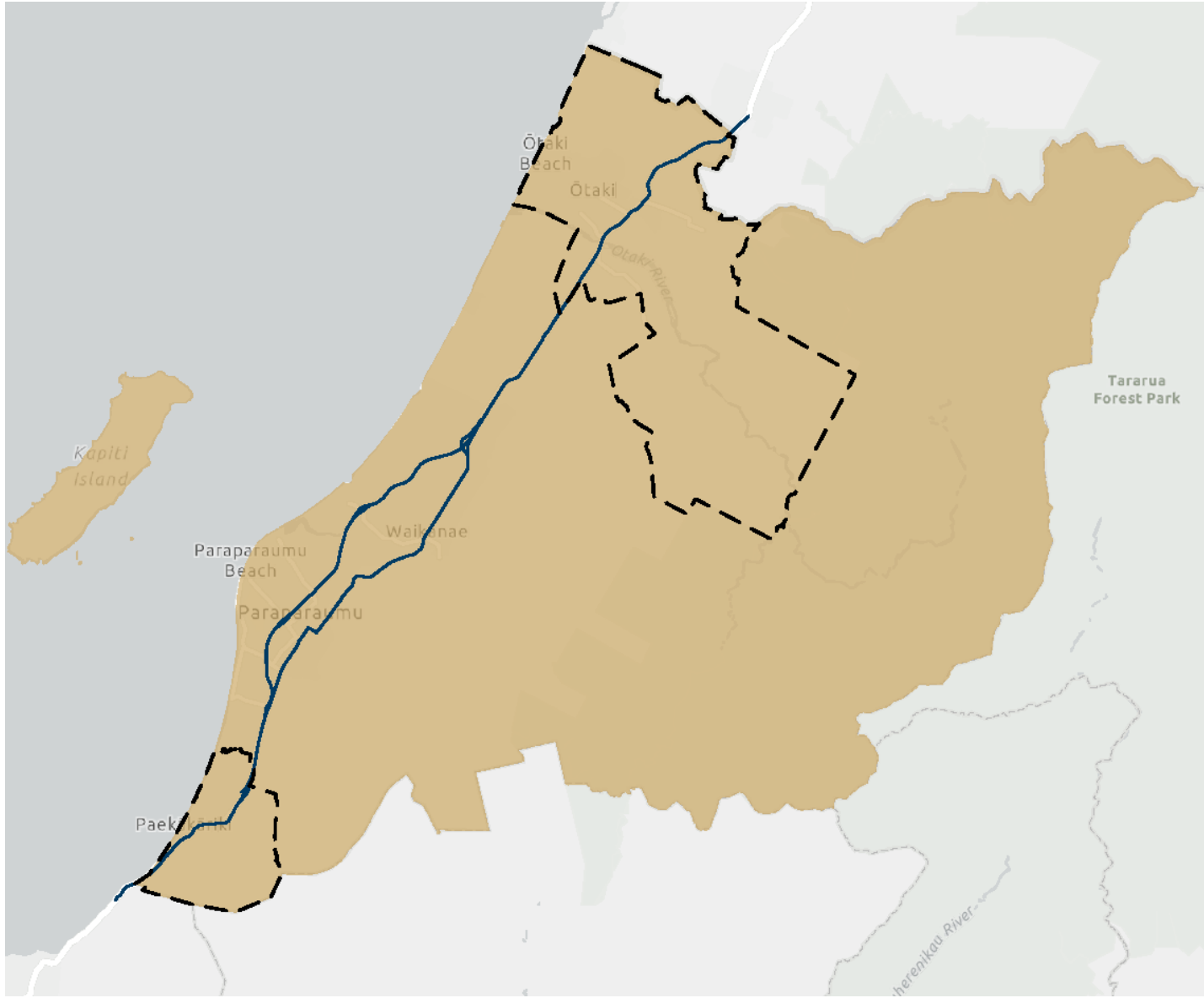
- Small wards enables councillors to see local issues, get across their area better, and give voice to in-need places
- Small wards increases the chance of councillors being spread from across the district
- Small wards mean councillors aren't spread too thin and have a better chance of hearing from their people
- With smaller wards there is less need for other ways of getting the community voice
- Smaller Council brings efficiencies

Community Perception

Potential Issues

- With all ward councillors people might fear parochialism and the inability to do what's best for Kāpiti as a whole
- Smaller wards give a smaller pool of candidates – they want good quality candidates
- Size of Council is at the lower end of what people think is good to ensure diversity of thought and representation and high workload

All districtwide with 2 community boards (Ōtaki and Paekākāriki)



All districtwide with 2 community boards (Ōtaki and Paekākāriki)

<p>+/-10% RULE DOES NOT APPLY</p> <p>ALL DISTRICTWIDE MODEL</p> <p>10 Districtwide Councillors 2 Community Boards (Ōtaki and Paekākāriki)</p> <p>Dataset: Estimated Resident Population at 30 June 2020 as provided by Stats NZ</p>	Population	Number of councillors	Population per councillor
Districtwide Total	57,070	10	5,707

Community Perception

Strengths

- Districtwide councillors look across the district and less prone to parochialism
- Biggest possible pool of candidates, increased chance of quality candidates and councillors
- The size of Council is within the range perceived as being big enough for diversity yet small enough for efficiency
- Two distinct communities of interest given special focus through community boards

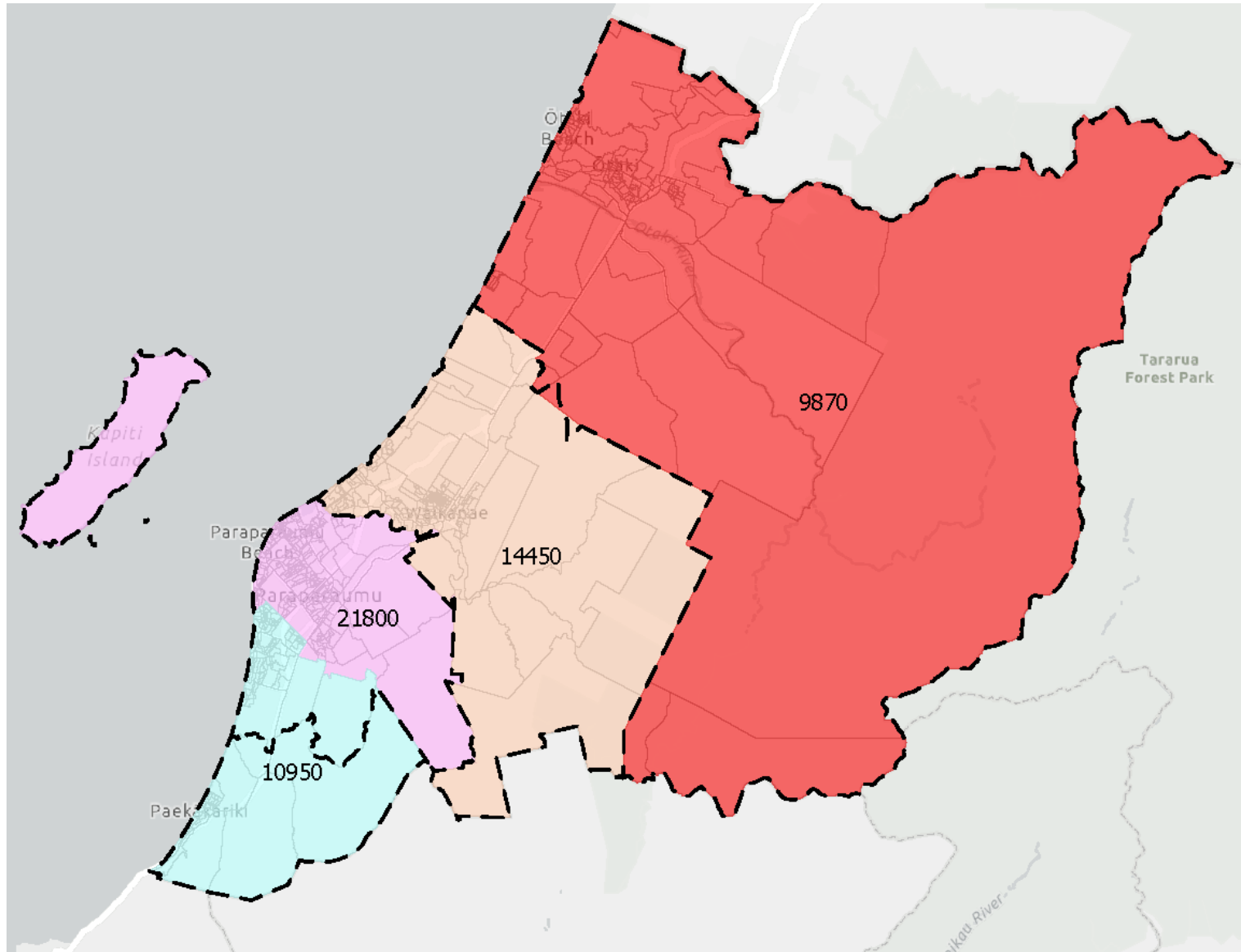
Community Perception

Potential Issues

- Districtwide councillors have to get across the district, so are less able to zoom-in on localised issues
- More chance of councillors coming from one-suburb, which reduces diversity of local knowledge and potentially world view
- Much harder to see local issues, hear local voice, which makes it harder to do what's best for Kāpiti as a whole

**Why not the
status quo?**

Status Quo – mixed model with 4 community boards



Status Quo – mixed model with 4 community boards

<p>NON-COMPLIANT WITH +/-10% RULE</p> <p>STATUS QUO – MIXED MODEL</p> <p>5 Ward Councillors 5 Districtwide Councillors 4 Community Boards</p> <p>Dataset: Estimated Resident Population at 30 June 2020 as provided by Stats NZ</p>	Population	Number of councillors per ward	Population per councillor	Deviation from district average population per councillor	Percentage deviation from district average population per councillor
Ōtaki	9,870	1	9,870	-1,544	-13.53
Waikanae	14,450	1	14,450	3,036	26.60
Paraparaumu	21,800	2	10,900	-514	-4.50
Paekākāriki-Raumati	10,950	1	10,950	-464	-4.07
Ward	57,070	5	11,414		
Districtwide	57,070	5	11,414		
Total	57,070	10	5,707		

Your next steps

- Explore the relative strengths of each option
- Consider several factors:
 - the community perspective
 - the Local Government Commission’s guidelines and their historical judgement on compliance
 - what you know to be effective – supporting good governance
- Give direction on which option is the best to meet the needs of our district

Your direction needed on...

- What is the optimal number of councillors and how they are elected – all ward, all districtwide or a mixed-model?
- If wards – size, boundaries and names?
- Should we retain community boards?

Organisational initiatives support many of the design principles

- Support councillors' responsibility to reach out and hear from the community
- Ensure minority voices are heard, not overshadowed
- Give more focus to in-need suburbs – tackle inequity; foster equity
- Ensure councillors hear from a diverse range of community voices, not just one type

Organisational initiatives support many of the design principles

- Voice of the customer programme – build in year 1 of the LTP
- Review of advisory groups – year 1 of the LTP
 - Rural interest / advisory / consumer group?
- Local outcomes programme – ongoing
- Additional Democracy Services staff from year 2 of the LTP

What is the right size Council for Kāpiti?

- Community perception: Big enough that there is good representation of different communities and diversity of councillors, but not so big that it is ineffective and inefficient

What feels right to you?

Unpacking the mixed model

- Kāpiti is one of only 4 councils with mixed model
- Community perception: that the mixed model delivers balance of local view (ward councillors) and best for Kāpiti view (districtwide councillors)

What has been your experience?

Does it play out that way around the Council table?

Larger wards or smaller wards?

Community perception:

- That smaller wards represent all the distinct geographical communities of interest that emerged from community feedback
- That larger wards have a bigger pool of candidates which might facilitate good quality councillors, however may not appreciate all local issues and perspectives

Which best reflects the design principles?

All districtwide

- Single transferable vote (STV) particularly effective for districtwide
- Some concerns raised at the last briefing about potential for lack of diversity of representation

Does this remain a concern?

What are the potential benefits?

Community boards


- Community voice showed that people liked the theory of them, but little evidence they actually worked:
 - Unhelpful layers / barriers to representation/participation
- To reduce barriers, no options have full coverage
- Included where there was potential for them to add representation for distinct communities of interest
- Flipside – at need areas potentially disenfranchised by the layers/barriers (i.e. Ōtaki)

Should community boards continue to be a part of the representation package here in Kāpiti?

Clear direction needed now

- Are there any options that clearly don't work and we can throw away now?
- Number of councillors?
- Wards, districtwide or mixed?
- If wards – small or large?
- Community boards – yes or no?

Next Steps



5 August : Briefing

- Present Councillors with Initial Proposal (draft), identify required tweaks

- 
- Tweak full Initial Proposal



26 August : Council Meeting

- Present Councillors with Initial Proposal for approval



Public Submissions

- Receive public submissions (one month)
- Consider submissions (Hearings 19 October)



26 October : Briefing

- Discuss submissions, determine changes (if any)

- 
- Update Community Board Members
 - Update the public




11 November : Council Meeting

- Present Councillors with Final Proposal for approval



Appeals/Objections

Receive any appeals or objections (one month)



Send to Local Government Commission for determination if we receive an appeal or objection, and/or if Final Proposal is outside of guidelines