

This advertisement is authorised by the Hauraki District Council

## One, three, four, two... How many councillors should represent you?

Every six years we have to look at the number of councillors and wards we have in our district. This is to make sure we have the right amount of people around the council table to fairly and effectively represent the number of people that live in each of our communities. We also have to decide whether we should have community boards.

### How are we looking right now?

At the moment we have one mayor (who is elected by the whole district) and 12 councillors - four representing the Waihi Ward, four representing the Paeroa Ward and four representing the Plains Ward. We do not have any community boards.

### What we know already

As things stand, councillor numbers don't quite stack up in the Waihi Ward. We also have more councillors overall than most other councils in the country when our population is taken into account.

Legislation says the population of each ward, divided by the number of councillors in that ward, should fall within plus or minus 10 percent of the total population of the district divided by the total number of councillors in the district. This is called the +/- 10% rule.

When we crunch the numbers, the Waihi Ward falls ever so slightly outside of this rule (by about 69 people!).

### What we've done about it so far

One of the options we looked at to comply with this rule was the possibility of changing ward boundaries. For example, shifting the Paeroa Ward boundary to include some, or all, of the Waikino community.

We held a meeting in the Victoria Hall, Waikino, on Monday 18 June to see what our communities thought of this option, and heard very strongly that you were completely opposed to this idea. So this option has now been ruled out.

## What we're proposing

We're proposing to have one mayor (who is elected by the whole district) and nine councillors - three representing the Waihi Ward, three representing the Paeroa Ward and three representing the Plains Ward - and to continue with no community boards, for the next two Council elections.

Despite being slightly outside the required range\*, we believe that this Council structure effectively represents our community. Councils can choose not to comply with the +/-10% rule if they believe it would divide a community of interest or unite communities of interest with few commonalities.

### A leaner, more efficient Council

A reduction in councillor numbers could result in greater diversity around the council table and a more efficient council overall.

*"It's a bit of a paradox, but because councillor's salaries are to be paid as a percentage of a fixed overall pool, reducing numbers would mean the remaining individual councillors would earn a little bit more, which we hope might make it affordable for more people to consider standing."*  
Mayor Tregidga

As it stands, Hauraki District councillors earn around \$20,000 per year. This means most are forced to juggle other roles to make ends meet, or be semi-retired. As well as attracting more diversity, having less councillors who are paid more might allow some to consider it as a full time occupation.

With 12 councillors to represent an estimated population of around 20,000 in 2018, Hauraki District currently has more councillors per head of its population than most other districts in the country. As a comparison Hamilton City has 12 councillors to represent around 160,000 people.

### 'One District'

The proposal to continue with an even number of councillors across all wards also reflects the current Council's view of Hauraki as 'one district'. While invested in representing the people in their own wards, our councillors are also interested in the bigger picture - what's best for the entire district as a whole.

### What do you think?

However, this is just an initial proposal and before it goes any further, we want to know what you think. Find out more about this proposal and make an online submission at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/representation-review](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/representation-review)

More information and submission forms are also available at Council offices in Waihi, Paeroa and Ngatea. **Submissions close at 4pm on Friday 3 August 2018.**

Following the one-month submission period and after looking at all the feedback, the Council will make a final decision on how it thinks councillor numbers and wards should look for the next two elections. There will then be a one-month appeal/objection period inviting further feedback from the community. However, the final decision is likely to rest with the Local Government Commission.

## Win an iPad mini!



Or you may get a phone call from Versus Research on our behalf.

We want to know what you think we do well, and what you think we could do better.

We'll be asking you general things like which town you live closest to, your age group and gender, and questions about how happy you are with our services and facilities. We won't be asking you other personal questions so if you are concerned about a phone call you've received please contact us.

Thanks a bunch for taking the time to help us with this!

## Don't get caught by pesky penalty fees!

Remember, dog registration fees are due before 31 July 2018. After that date you'll have to pay a penalty fee, so don't drag the chain!

Do it on line at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/dog-registration](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/dog-registration), or come into one of our service centres.



MAYOR  
HAURAKI  
DISTRICT

1 Mayor elected by the whole district

PLAINS  
WARD



Population 6,350

People per councillor: 2,117  
within allowable range of people per councillor

PAEROA  
WARD



Population 6,150

People per councillor: 2,050  
within allowable range of people per councillor

WAIHI  
WARD



Population 7,340

People per councillor: 2,447  
\*outside of allowable range by 23 people per councillor