



NAPIER
CITY COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri

Napier Civic Building
231 Hastings Street
t +64 6 835 7579
e info@napier.govt.nz
www.napier.govt.nz

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Open Agenda

Meeting Date: Thursday 1 August 2024

Time: 9.30am

Venue: Chapman Room
Level 1, Chapman Pavilion
McLean Park
Latham Street
Napier

Livestreamed via Council's Facebook page

Council Members **Chair:** Mayor Wise

Members: Deputy Mayor Brosnan, Councillors Boag, Browne, Chrystal, Crown, Greig, Mawson, McGrath, Price, Simpson, Tareha and Taylor

Officer Responsible Chief Executive

Administrator Governance Team

Next Council Meeting
Thursday 15 August 2024

2022-2025 TERM OF REFERENCE - COUNCIL

<i>Chairperson</i>	<i>Her Worship Mayor Kirsten Wise</i>
<i>Deputy Chairperson</i>	<i>Deputy Mayor Annette Brosnan</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>All elected members</i>
<i>Quorum</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Meeting frequency</i>	<i>At least 6 weekly and as required</i>
<i>Executive</i>	<i>Chief Executive</i>

Purpose

The Council is responsible for:

1. Providing leadership to and advocacy on behalf of the people of Napier.
2. Ensuring that all functions and powers required of a local authority under legislation, and all decisions required by legislation to be made by local authority resolution, are carried out effectively and efficiently, either by the Council or through delegation.

Terms of Reference

The Council is responsible for the following powers which cannot be delegated to committees, subcommittees, officers or any other subordinate decision-making body¹:

1. The power to make a rate
2. The power to make a bylaw
3. The power to borrow money, or purchase or dispose of assets, other than in accordance with the long-term plan
4. The power to adopt a long-term plan, annual plan, or annual report
5. The power to appoint a chief executive
6. The power to adopt policies required to be adopted and consulted on under the Local Government Act 2002 in association with the long-term plan or developed for the purpose of the local governance statement, including the 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy
7. The power to adopt a remuneration and employment policy.
8. The power to establish a joint committee with another local authority or other public body².
9. The power to approve or change the District Plan, or any part of that Plan, in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991.
10. The power to make the final decision on a recommendation from the Parliamentary Ombudsman, where it is proposed that Council not accept the recommendation.
11. The power to make a final decision whether to adopt, amend, revoke, or replace a local Easter Sunday shop trading policy, or to continue a local Easter Sunday shop trading policy without amendment following a review.³

1 Schedule 7, clause 32. Local Government Act 2002.

2 Schedule 7, clause 30A

3 Shop Trading Hours Act 1990, section 5D.

Delegated Power to Act

The Council retains all decision making authority, and will consider recommendations of its committees prior to resolving a position.

Specific matters that will be considered directly by Council include without limitation unless by statute:

1. Direction and guidance in relation to all stages of the preparation of Long Term Plans and Annual Plans
2. Approval or amendment of the Council's Standing Orders⁴.
3. Approval or amendment the Code of Conduct for Elected Members⁵.
4. Appointment and discharging of committees, subcommittees, and any other subordinate decision-making bodies⁶.
5. Approval of any changes to the nature and delegations of any Committees.
6. Appointment and discharging of members of committees (as required and in line with legislation in relation to the role and powers of the Mayor) ⁷.
7. Approval of governance level strategies, plans and policies which advance council's vision and strategic goals.
8. Resolutions required to be made by a local authority under the Local Electoral Act 2001, including the appointment of an electoral officer.
9. Reviewing of representation arrangements, at least six yearly⁸.
10. Approval of any changes to city boundaries under the Resource Management Act.
11. Appointment or removal of trustees, directors or office holders to Council's Council-Controlled Organisations (CCOs) and Council Organisations (COs) and to other external bodies.
12. Approval the Local Governance Statement as required under the Local Government Act 2002.
13. Approval of the Triennial Agreement as required under the Local Government Act 2002.
14. Allocation of the remuneration pool set by the Remuneration Authority for the remuneration of elected members.
15. To consider and decide tenders for the supply of goods and services, where tenders exceed the Chief Executive's delegated authority, or where projects are formally identified by Council to be of particular interest. In addition, in the case of the latter, milestone reporting to Council will commence prior to the procurement process.

4 Schedule 7, clause 27,

5 Schedule 7, clause 15,

6 Schedule 7, clause 30,

7 Schedule 7, clause 30,

8 Local Electoral Act 2001, section 19H.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Karakia

Apologies

Nil

Conflicts of interest

Public forum

Announcements by the Mayor including notification of minor matters not on the agenda

Note: re minor matters only - refer LGOIMA s46A(7A) and Standing Orders s9.13

A meeting may discuss an item that is not on the agenda only if it is a minor matter relating to the general business of the meeting and the Chairperson explains at the beginning of the public part of the meeting that the item will be discussed. However, the meeting may not make a resolution, decision or recommendation about the item, except to refer it to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

Announcements by the management

Confirmation of minutes

That the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Thursday, 27 June 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.14

Information items

Agenda items

1 Maori Wards Amendment Legislation - Community engagement considerations5

Minor matters not on the agenda – discussion (if any)

Reports under Delegated Authority

Recommendation to Exclude the Public

AGENDA ITEMS

1. MAORI WARDS AMENDMENT LEGISLATION - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

<i>Type of Report:</i>	Legal and Operational
<i>Legal Reference:</i>	Local Electoral Act 2001 & Local Government Act 2002
<i>Document ID:</i>	1775274
<i>Reporting Officer/s & Unit:</i>	Jane McLoughlin, Project Manager - Strategy and Transformation Anna Eady, Team Leader Governance Anne Bradbury, Manager Community Strategies

1.1 Purpose of Report

To outline a high-level engagement plan for Council approval, aimed at consulting on whether to revoke or reaffirm the Council's previous decision regarding the establishment of Māori wards for the 2025 local government election.

Officer's Recommendation

That Council:

- a. **Note** that at the time of writing this report on 29 July, officers are expecting the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill to go through its third and final reading on 30 July. The following recommendations are written on the basis of our current understanding of the Bill. If the Bill is changed, a verbal update will be provided at the meeting and any required changes to the recommendations will be made at that time.
- b. **Note** by 6 September, Council must make a decision on whether to revoke or reaffirm Council's previous decision regarding the establishment of Māori wards for the 2025 local government election and consult with the community.
- c. **Approve** the high-level engagement plan outlined in Attachment 1.
 - i. Consult with the community that Council's preference is to reaffirm Council's previous decision to establish Māori wards for the 2025 local government election.
- d. **Note** officers will present community feedback at a council meeting scheduled for 5 September. The council will then decide whether to reaffirm or revoke its previous decision on establishing Māori wards for the 2025 local government election.
 - i. At that time, if Council decides to reaffirm Council's previous decision, then a binding poll must be held at the 2025 local government election, or
 - ii. At that time, if Council decides to revoke Council's previous decision, then Council will also need to decide whether it retains the current representation arrangements as per 2019 and 2022, or whether it undertakes a shortened representation review with an initial proposal due by 13 September 2024.

1.2 Background Summary

In 2021, central government removed the requirement for binding polls on Māori wards. Napier City Council then agreed to establish Māori wards in the 2025 local government elections. Council has been undertaking a scheduled representation review, of which Māori wards is included, and made an initial proposal to the community on 27 June 2024.

The proposed legislation and community engagement considerations

Central government have proposed the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill. This Bill essentially reverses the changes made by the previous government concerning Māori wards, by reinstating the binding poll provisions.

The Bill is scheduled for a third and final reading on 30 July. The information in this report is based on the current version of the Bill. If changes occur, officers will provide an update at the meeting and adjust recommendations as needed.

The substantive decision that Māori wards will revert to the poll system is being made by central government so the engagement does not need to seek views on a decision that is outside the council's ability to change. The decision councils need to make is how to chart the path back to the previous system. The options are either to pre-empt a community decision with a council decision to disestablish/revoke, or to hold a poll at the 2025 elections for the community to vote on the Council's prior Māori ward decision.

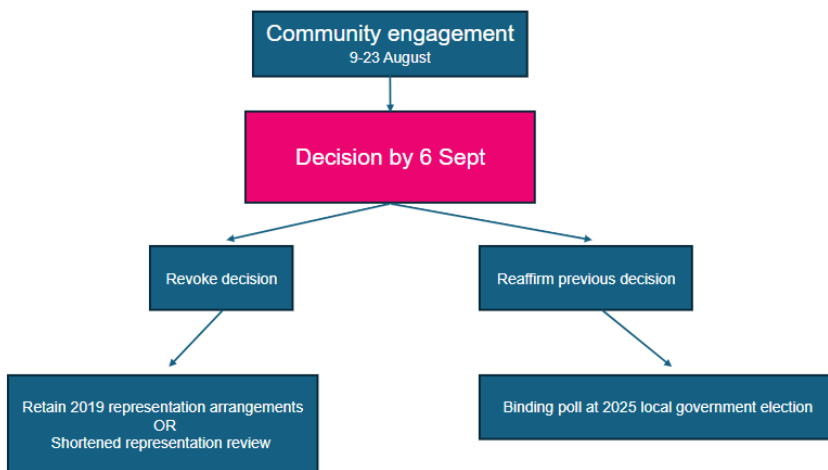
The Bill sets a deadline of 6 September for councils to make a decision to reaffirm or revoke their previous decision to establish Māori wards. If Council reaffirms its previous decision it must hold a poll at the 2025 elections.

Councils only have 5 weeks from the Bill being enacted to the 6 September deadline to undertake an appropriate engagement process and make a decision. The Bill is silent on what an appropriate engagement process would look like in the short timeframe but a special consultative procedure as per section 83 is expressly ruled out.

Councils must consider the level of engagement required, taking into account all of the circumstances including the short timeframe.

If Council decides to disestablish or revoke Māori wards, it must also decide by 6 September on its next steps, i.e., whether it intends to undertake a shortened representation review or revert to its 2019 arrangements. If Council wishes to revert to its 2019 arrangements it needs to work through technical requirements set out in the Bill. If Council wishes to undertake a shortened representation review, it must decide on its initial proposal by 13 September 2024.

The following diagram highlights the broad pathways available to Council:



Considerations for community engagement

Napier City Council holds community views on the perceived advantages and disadvantages of establishing Māori wards in Napier. There are a range of opinions, however the majority of the community are not in favour. However, community sentiment has increasingly leaned towards supporting Māori wards since the initial survey conducted in 2017 and there is particularly strong support from Māori to establish Māori wards. The following outlines the broad results over the last 7 years on the topic.

In 2017, a brief survey was undertaken and 20% were for Māori wards and 80% against.

In 2021, there was a lot of interest generated in the topic including protests when Council decided it would be a rush to undertake consultation and make a decision in time for the 2022 election. Council then embarked on a 5 month consultation which included a survey undertaken by SIL Research. In the survey, a large number of submitters took part with 1,300 submissions and hearings were held over several days. At the hearings, Māori, who are most affected by the decision about Māori representation, spoke strongly in support of establishing Māori wards.

In the 2021 consultation,

- 31% of submitters on the general roll were for Māori wards and 68% against.
- Submitters on the Māori roll were 95% for Māori wards and 5% against.

For more detailed information including key themes for/against Māori wards refer to the council agenda of the Hearings in 2021,

https://napier.infocouncil.biz/Open/2021/10/CO_20211018_AGN_612_AT_EXTRA.PDF

In the 2023-4 pre-consultation on the representation review, SIL Research undertook two separate surveys,

- In November 2023, when asked “Would you prefer Napier City to have one or two Māori ward(s) if two councillors to be elected?”, 44% respondents on the general electoral roll responded they do not want Māori wards.
- In May 2024, the community was presented with 5 representation options and asked to pick their favourite. All of the options contained Māori wards. 85% of respondents picked one of the options, however 15% chose not to choose any, of which most cited they do not want Māori wards.

Undertaking community consultation again will provide Council with an updated view.

Proposed community engagement

Officers have considered two main ways of consulting. Either, going out with an open question, or stating a position and asking the community for their thoughts. If the latter, there are two positions available to Council

- 1) Council’s preference is to reaffirm the previous decision to establish Māori wards or
- 2) Council’s preference is to revoke the previous decision to establish Māori wards.

At a Council Workshop on 4 July, Council gave direction they wish to proceed with stating Council’s preference to reaffirm the previous decision to establish Māori wards. Officers have developed a high-level engagement plan (refer **Attachment 1**).

Officers have also undertaken targeted engagement with Māori

- Mana whenua leaders meeting (held on 17 July).

A summary of the engagement plan is

Consultation	9 to 23 August (2 weeks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • includes community meetings for community to be heard • survey
Council Consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • during the consultation period at community meeting(s) • report with findings from consultation brought to Council for decision on 5 September (no hearing)

The shortened time of two weeks for the consultation is so there is time to implement either of the possible outcomes. We are also only consulting for two weeks because we have an understanding of the communities’ views following recent consultations. As mentioned earlier, if Council decided to revoke their previous decision, then it also needs to decide on its next steps.

1.3 Issues

Due to changes in the central government policy environment and recent legislative amendments proposed, Council is compelled to review its prior decision. Legal advice is that the council should decide whether to revoke its previous decision and initiate consultation accordingly.

With Māori wards, there is potential to enhance the current representation arrangements in Napier to better serve Māori as a community of interest. Reasons include:

- Māori are under-represented in Napier City’s local government representation arrangements. The Māori population comprise nearly one quarter of Napier’s population. However, there have only been 3 Māori councillors that officers can recall in Napier’s local government electoral history.
- Moreover, Māori participation in democracy and governance in Napier, such as voter turnout and awareness of electoral wards, lags significantly behind non-Māori counterparts. For example,
 - voter turnout among Māori roll voters has ranged between 18% and 28% over the last four elections, while general roll voters have seen turnout between 41% and 52%.

- 63% of Māori know their ward versus 71% of NZ European and 68% Other ethnicity.
- Māori have shown strong support for Māori wards and the establishment of them may assist with encouraging greater participation of Māori in local democracy.
- Māori wards guarantees Māori representation at the Council table.

The representation review underway has showcased various options for including Māori wards in Napier. The actual impact of introducing Māori wards in terms of the representation arrangements, is at best, minimal, on the non-Māori population.

For example, based on status quo arrangements, introducing Māori wards means one less councillor in Nelson Park ward, and gaining two Māori ward councillors. From a council size of 12+ Mayor there could be a council size of 13+ Mayor. The impact on Māori however is significant as Māori gain two Māori ward councillors dedicated to representing them at the Council table, and only those on the Māori roll get to select those two councillors.

General roll voters have a significantly higher voter turnout than Māori roll voters and make up a larger proportion of the population than those on the Māori roll. The general roll voters, as the majority, will ultimately make the decision for/against Māori wards if it goes to a binding poll. Through the proposed consultation, Council will get a feel for community sentiment on the issue. If Council revokes the decision, it is extremely unlikely that Māori wards will get established in Napier in the foreseeable future (unless binding polls are removed again or community sentiment changes significantly). Retaining Māori wards for 2025 election may be the only opportunity for the community to experience what having Māori wards is actually like. Community sentiment may shift after seeing how Māori wards actually works alongside the other wards in Napier.

Balancing the view of the majority (who are not significantly impacted) with the view of the minority (who are significantly impacted) will likely be a key consideration for Council.

1.4 Significance and Engagement

Recent engagement with our community showed there is no general agreement from the community on this issue so there is a high level of community interest. This issue has an impact on a specific group, our Māori residents. Therefore, this issue has a high level of significance.

We would normally recommend having a four-week consultation period on an issue that has a high level of significance however in this instance we are recommending consulting for two weeks. This is because we already have an understanding of the communities' views from recent engagement that has been outlined above. Engagement has shown there is strong support from mana whenua for having Māori wards and this was confirmed at a recent hui with mana whenua leaders.

1.5 Implications

Financial

Both pathways can be met within existing budgets.

The consultation budget is \$5,000. That will come out of existing operational budgets for 2024/25.

If a poll is held, the service provider for elections has advised an indicative budget of \$60,000. This will need to come out of 2025/26 operational budgets and will be

accommodated within existing budgets. Any communications and advocacy campaign would be additional.

Social & Policy

In Council's previous decision to establish Māori wards, reasons to support the decision were recorded in the minutes as follows:

- It guarantees Māori participation in decision-making.
- It helps enable a stronger bi-cultural perspective for Council planning and decision-making and create a balance of Te Ao Māori and tau iwi.
- It provides Māori with a voting voice at the table and ensures engagement on local issues.
- It creates a platform for Māori to grow and to have the confidence to put themselves forward as leaders.
- It will build Māori capacity in the leadership of our city and thus accelerate and broaden the socio-economic capacity.
- It is inclusive and provides fairness and equity for Māori at the Council table.
- To honour our obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 to enable pathways for Māori contribution to decision making.
- To recognise the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, The Treaty of Waitangi, as our founding document.
- It contributes to the wellbeings of the whole community.
- It responds to the overwhelming support of those submissions by those on the Māori Electoral Roll.

Risk

There is a risk of public confusion due to central government-imposed changes coinciding with our scheduled representation review. The Council is obligated to operate within current legislation and has proceeded with its representation review accordingly. The public provided input into the initial proposal, which includes the introduction of Māori wards. They may question why the Council is revisiting the Māori wards debate when it has already made a decision in 2021 and is midway through the representation review that includes Māori wards. Clear communication messaging will be developed to address and mitigate this risk of public confusion.

There is a risk of undermining the Council's credibility with mana whenua and tangata whenua stakeholders who actively participated in the decision-making process regarding the establishment of Māori wards. Māori leaders, including the Ngā Mānukanuka o te Iwi committee, have been kept informed of the necessary ongoing work.

There is a risk of increased divisiveness in the community by this matter being relitigated.

There is also a risk to Council if we do not consult with our community. Community members could challenge Council's decision if we did not provide adequate opportunities to inform decision-making.

1.6 Options

The options available to Council are as follows:

- a. Consult with the community that Council's preference is to stick with the previous decision to establish Māori wards.
- b. Consult with the community that Council's preference is to revoke the previous decision to establish Māori wards.
- c. Consult with the community with no stated preference.
- d. Not consult with the community and breach legislative requirements.

1.7 Development of Preferred Option

Option A. For reasons that:

- enables Council to meet legislative requirements.
- Council holds community views on the matter.
- gives the community an opportunity to express their views on Council's stated preference.
- stating a preference is beneficial as it helps streamline the consultation given the short timeframes for the transitional period.
- Council's preference to uphold the previous decision to establish Māori wards underscores its response to recent changes in central government policy and legislation.

1.8 Attachments

- 1 High level engagement plan (Doc Id 1780063) [↓](#)



High Level Engagement Plan – Māori Ward Amendment Legislation

The Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment legislation comes into effect in late July 2024. The legislation requires councils who have made the decision to establish Māori wards to rescind their earlier decision, or if they wish to continue to establish Māori wards they must further consult their constituencies with a decision made by 6 September 2024.

Napier City Council made the resolution to establish Māori wards in 2021 following a lengthy pre-consultation and formal consultation process.

A decision to rescind the establishment of Māori wards in Napier would mean leaving our current ward arrangements as is until next triennium when we would conduct a full Representation Review, or we conduct a very shortened Representation Review this year with an initial proposal decision required by 13 September 2024.

If Napier chooses to continue with the earlier resolution to establish Māori wards for the 2025-2028 triennium, a binding poll will take place at the 2025 election as to whether Māori wards are retained in Napier.

Significance and Engagement Policy

This matter is significant because it could affect the representation arrangements for the city and therefore affects the whole community. It also particularly affects those on the Māori Electoral Roll. It is also significant as previous engagement has shown the community is not in general agreement on this issue.

We would normally recommend a four-week consultation period for a significant issue however we are recommending consulting for two weeks as we already have an understanding of the communities' views. Napier City Council undertook a formal consultation process for the establishment on Māori wards in 2021 and is already aware of many of the views and preferences of the community in relation to the decision to be made.

Approach

Consultation (9 August – 23 August) – to provide an opportunity for the community to identify their preference and provide feedback to the Council. The campaign will encourage people to have their say on whether keep or rescind the 2021 decision to establish Māori wards.

Te Waka Rangapū will lead engagement with Mana whenua entities, marae, and Māori organisations.

A comprehensive Communication and Marketing campaign will be undertaken during the engagement and consultation period. The campaign is simple and clear to explain the complex journey we have taken to end up here.

Online submissions will be strongly encouraged, but hard copy documents will be available at Napier City Council Customer Services and libraries.

Communication & Engagement Tools

Key Activities	Communication and Marketing Campaign – Say it Napier, website and Social media Advertising (print, radio, digital)
	2 drop in sessions
	Direct emails
	Media releases / opportunities



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Open Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday 1 August 2024

Time: 9.30am – 9.42am

Venue Chapman Room
Level 1, Chapman Pavilion
McLean Park
Latham Street
Napier

Livestreamed via Council's Facebook page

Present **Chair:** Mayor Wise
Members: Deputy Mayor Brosnan, Councillors Boag,
Browne, Chrystal, Crown, Greig, Mawson, McGrath, Price,
Simpson [via zoom] and Taylor

In Attendance Acting Chief Executive (Jessica Ellerm)
Executive Director City Strategies (Rachael Bailey)
Executive Director Infrastructure Services (Russell Bond)
Executive Director Community Services (Thunes Cloete)
Manager Strategy and Transformation (Stephanie Murphy)
Team Leader Governance (Anna Eady)
Project Manager – Strategy and Transformation (Jane
McLoughlin)
Manager Community Strategies (Anne Bradbury)

Administration Governance Advisors (Carolyn Hunt and Jemma McDade)

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – Open Minutes

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Order of Business	Page No.
Karakia.....	3
Apologies	3
Conflicts of interest.....	3
Public forum.....	3
Announcements by the Mayor.....	3
Announcements by the management	3
Confirmation of minutes	3

Agenda Items

1. Maori Wards Amendment Legislation - Community engagement considerations.....4
-

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Karakia

The meeting opened with the Council karakia.

Apologies

Councillor Tareha was not present at the meeting.

Conflicts of interest

Nil

Public forum

Nil

Announcements by the Mayor

Nil

Announcements by the management

Nil

Confirmation of minutes

**COUNCIL
RESOLUTION**

Councillors Greig / Taylor

That the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Council held on Thursday, 27 June 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Carried

AGENDA ITEMS

1. MAORI WARDS AMENDMENT LEGISLATION - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

<i>Type of Report:</i>	Legal and Operational
<i>Legal Reference:</i>	Local Electoral Act 2001 & Local Government Act 2002
<i>Document ID:</i>	1775274
<i>Reporting Officer/s & Unit:</i>	Jane McLoughlin, Project Manager - Strategy and Transformation Anna Eady, Team Leader Governance Anne Bradbury, Manager Community Strategies

1.1 Purpose of Report

To outline a high-level engagement plan for Council approval, aimed at consulting on whether to revoke or reaffirm the Council's previous decision regarding the establishment of Māori wards for the 2025 local government election.

At the meeting

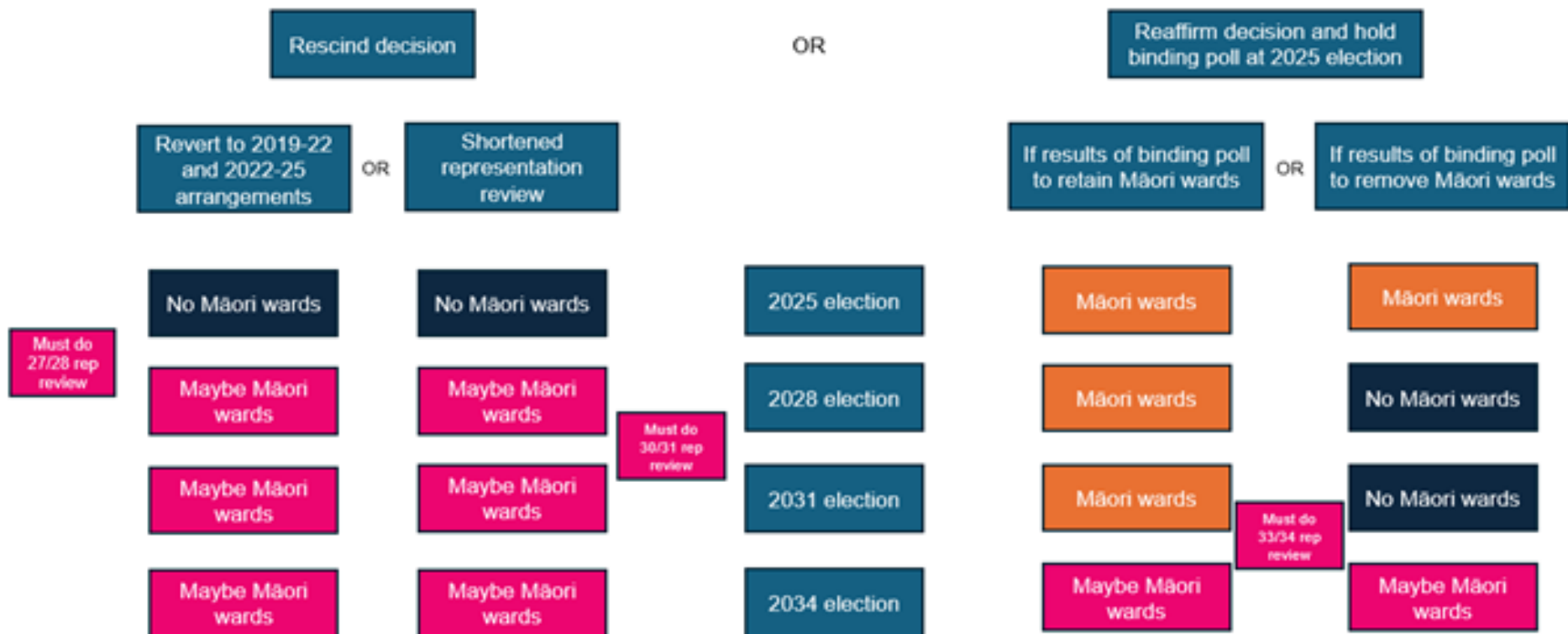
Officers spoke to the report and provided a brief update, as at the time of writing the report the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill had not been enacted. There is an amendment in the Act which requires Council to make an active decision on either to rescind or reaffirm their previous Council decision to establish Māori Wards for the 2025 election.

An additional Council meeting has been scheduled for 5 September 2024 as the formal decision by Council has to be made by 6 September 2024.

The following diagram was displayed at the meeting to assist in conceptualising the different options and their consequences. The high level engagement plan in the report proposed a two week consultation period with two drop in sessions.

Two minor amendments to the engagement plan noted were:

- There would be no radio communications
 - The consultation would commence 9 August and end on 22 August 2024 at 5.00pm, not 23 August 2024.
-



In response to questions the following was clarified:

- A submission to the Bill was made on behalf of Council in line with the Waitangi Tribunal and Local Government New Zealand that it was considered that the Bill was not in line with how Napier City Council (NCC) thought Māori Wards should be treated as there are other wards, such as Rural Wards, that are not subject to these provisions.
- In regard to all Councils having to make a decision on Māori Wards since the passing of the Act, Ms Eady advised that there were three groups of Councils.
 - Councils like Wairoa that had Māori Wards prior to the Labour Party’s legislation were not required to do anything further as they had a Poll as part of their establishment of Māori Wards.
 - Councils in Group 1 that resolved to establish Māori Wards for the 2022 election, like Hawke’s Bay Regional Council. Their decision would be to retain or dis-establish Māori wards, rather than rescind, with a different process as a result of that.
 - Councils in Group 2, which NCC is part of, together with 8-10 other Councils who made the decision but have not yet established Māori Wards.

Mayor Wise advised that there was slight amendment to the original recommendation (a) as the Bill had now been passed. The original recommendation was as below:

- *Note that at the time of writing this report on 29 July, officers are expecting the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill to go through its third and final reading on 30 July. The following recommendations are written on the basis of our current understanding of the Bill. If the Bill is changed, a verbal update will be provided at the meeting and any required changes to the recommendations will be made at that time.*

**COUNCIL
RESOLUTION**

Mayor Wise / Deputy Mayor Brosnan

That Council:

- a) **Note** that the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill was passed into law on 31 July 2024.
- b) **Note** by 6 September, Council must make a decision on whether to revoke or reaffirm Council’s previous decision regarding the establishment of Māori wards for the 2025 local government election and consult with the community.
- c) **Approve** the high-level engagement plan outlined in Attachment 1.
 - i. Consult with the community that Council’s preference is to reaffirm Council’s previous decision to establish Māori wards for the 2025 local government election.
- d) **Note** officers will present community feedback at a council meeting scheduled for 5 September. The council will then decide whether to reaffirm or revoke its previous decision on establishing Māori wards for the 2025 local government election.
 - i. At that time, if Council decides to reaffirm Council’s previous decision, then a binding poll must be held at the 2025 local government election, or

-
- ii. At that time, if Council decides to revoke Council's previous decision, then Council will also need to decide whether it retains the current representation arrangements as per 2019 and 2022, or whether it undertakes a shortened representation review with an initial proposal due by 13 September 2024.

Carried

The meeting closed at 9.42am

Approved and adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Chairperson

Date of approval