

## **Ōrākei Local Board feedback on the review of Auckland Council's representation arrangements for the 2019 elections for the Political Working Party Hearings on 21 September 2018**

### Submissions

Regrettably there were only 29 submissions from residents of the Ōrākei Ward relating to the Proposal One. They are almost evenly divided between support and oppose (55% support and 45% oppose).

This is in contrast to submissions received from the Waitemata Local Board area (144) with 88% opposing. One would need to carefully read through them to determine reasons for supporting or not supporting that part of the proposal which refers to joining area to the Ōrākei Ward.

While some Ōrākei submitters did not provide a reason, those who did had in common the retention of "communities". Of the few who were specifically from the Ellerslie area there was clear division of views - the Ellerslie Business Association having strong views about Ellerslie remaining in the present Ōrākei Ward, while the residents association asked for the opposite. Given the poor response in terms of number of submissions, the Ōrākei Local Board does not have a clear mandate.

### The Ōrākei Local Board's view

The Board's preference to address the variance of 43% for the Waitemata and Gulf Ward is the status quo in terms of Ward boundaries, with the Waitemata Ward having an extra member, and for the Governing Body to seek legislative change to allow it to increase the number of Governing Body Members for the Waitemata and Gulf Ward from one to two. This is the simplest outcome. However, the Board does not support an increase in the total number of Governing Body members. The Board does not consider that ward boundaries need to align with local board boundaries at all times, as Proposal One demonstrates. The Board supports the Governing Body seeking legislative change to allow the Council to review the boundaries, but maintaining the number of ward members to enable the better management of the Fairness of Representation requirements in the Local Electoral Act 2001, and to better align with the legislators' clear desire to separate local and regional decision-making.

Should the Board's approach not be successful, the Board would reluctantly support a variation to the proposed option as follows, bearing in mind that it is possible that the Local Government Commission may at a later stage follow what the Governing Body proposes:

- The addition of Parnell to the Ōrākei Ward because it shares a similar history, character and heritage buildings as other parts of the ward and the residents have a similar socio-economic status. Parnell shares a common boundary with Hobson Bay, so including Parnell will ensure that the planning and development of the Hobson Bay area and Tamaki Drive is integrated. The Parnell boundary should also be extended down to the start of Tamaki Drive in the vicinity of the Port area, not including the Port or the heliport, but including Teal Reserve, as there is a community of interest for this area with Parnell.
- Newmarket should remain with the Waitematā Ward as it shares characteristics with Grafton and the CBD so would best remain with that community of interest.
- There is a stronger community of interest between Stonefields and St Johns than between Glen Innes and St Johns so St Johns should remain with the Ōrākei Ward.
- Colin Maiden Park and Ngahue Reserve should remain within the Ōrākei Ward as most of the users come from the Ōrākei Ward so there is a distinct community of interest for St Johns with the Ōrākei Ward. In addition there are no residents on these parks so they should remain in the Ōrākei Ward.

- Ellerslie is a community which has been split across two wards since 2010 as it is bisected by the motorway and railway and its school and some places of worship are not within the present Ōrākei Ward. It would be sensible to join up the two parts of Ellerslie into one ward and one local board area and the Board acknowledges that in order to address the Ōrākei Ward variance it may be that Ellerslie has to move to the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Ward. However, if Ellerslie is to move to the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Ward the Grand View Drive side of Ellerslie racecourse and then across to Abbotts Way should be on the Ōrākei Ward side of the boundary. In addition, the Board notes that many residents of the Ōrākei Ward use community facilities in Ellerslie, such as those at Michael's Ave Reserve, so moving these assets into another ward will split a community of interest.

## **May 2018 resolutions of the Ōrākei Local Board**

That the Ōrākei Local Board:

a) provides feedback on the review of Auckland Council's representation arrangements for the 2019 elections as follows:

i. General feedback

The Board supports the general approach to the review of Auckland Council's representation arrangements for the 2019 elections for the Governing Body's ward boundaries, which is to make changes on an issue-by-issue basis and to not seek significant change. However, it is not clear whether the review was intended to include both the Governing Body arrangements and Local Board boundaries, given that local boards are legislatively part of the Auckland Council and no there has been no specific consultation with each local board on its boundary and membership. Accordingly, it cannot be considered a review of Auckland Council's representation arrangements. The Board's feedback is based solely on Governing Body ward boundaries.

The Board does not consider that ward boundaries need to align with local board boundaries at all times and supports the Governing Body seeking legislative change to allow it to review the number of Governing Body members as this would enable the better management of the Fairness of representation requirements in the Local Electoral Act 2001.

ii. Waitematā and Gulf ward and Ōrākei ward

The Board's preferred option to address the variance of 43 per cent for the Waitematā and Gulf ward is for the Governing Body to seek legislative change to allow it to review the number of Governing Body members as this change would enable the addition of a second Governing Body member to the Waitematā and Gulf ward which in turn would result in minimal changes to the rest of the isthmus wards.

Should this preferred approach not be successful, the Board supports a variation to Option 2 in the report as follows:

- The addition of Parnell to the Ōrākei ward because it shares a similar history, character and heritage buildings as other parts of the ward and the residents have a similar socio-economic status. Parnell shares a common boundary with Hobson Bay, so including Parnell will ensure that the planning and development of the Hobson Bay area and Tamaki Drive is integrated. The Parnell boundary should also be extended down to the start of Tamaki Drive in the vicinity of the Port area, not including the Port or the heliport, but including Teal Reserve, as there is a community of interest for this area with Parnell.
- Newmarket should remain with the Waitematā ward as it shares characteristics with Grafton and the CBD so would best remain with that community of interest.
- There is a stronger community of interest between Stonefields and St Johns than between Glen Innes and St Johns so St Johns should remain with the Ōrākei ward. In addition Colin Maiden Park should remain within the Ōrākei ward as most of the users come from the Ōrākei ward so there is a distinct community of interest for St Johns with the Ōrākei ward.
- Ellerslie is a community which has been split across two wards since 2010 as it is bisected by the motorway and railway and its school and some places of worship are not within the present Ōrākei ward. It would be sensible to join up the two parts of Ellerslie into one ward and one local board area and the Board acknowledges that in order to address the Ōrākei ward variance it may be that Ellerslie has to move to the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki ward. However, if Ellerslie is to move to the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki ward the Grand View Drive side of Ellerslie

racecourse and then across to Abbotts Way should be on the Ōrākei ward side of the boundary. In addition, the Board notes that many residents of the Ōrākei ward use community facilities in Ellerslie, such as those at Michael's Ave Reserve, so moving these assets into another Ward will split a community of interest.

- b) delegates authority to the Chairperson and the Chairman Emeritus to represent the Board's views on the review of Auckland Council's representation arrangements for the 2019 elections, should the Joint Governance Working Party seek further engagement with and/or feedback from the Board, prior to reporting to the Governing Body with a proposal in July 2018, or during the consideration of submissions following public notification.