

Representation Review

For the 2010 Local Authority Election

Initial Proposal
November 2008



Background to the Process

The Local Electoral Act 2001 requires local authorities to review their representation arrangements at least once every six years. The Christchurch City Council carried out its last representation review in 2003 and has now started a new review process for the 2010 elections.

This document sets out the process the Council is required to follow, and the issues and factors that have been considered as part of this review.

Representation reviews are carried out within the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Government Act 2002, and must also have regard for the guidelines the Local Government Commission has issued to assist local authorities in carrying out a representation review.

As required by the Local Electoral Act, the Council has made an "initial" decision on what its representation arrangements will be, and has publicly notified that decision. It is now opening that initial decision up for public consultation - **beginning on Thursday 20 November 2008 and ending on Monday 9 February 2009**. Anyone wanting to make an oral submission will be heard by the Council in the first week of March 2009.

The full Council will consider the submissions it receives on the initial proposal and then either confirm or amend the initial proposal, and issue its final proposal by 23 March 2009. The final proposal will be publicly notified. If any appeals or objections to that final proposal are received, then the matter must be referred to the Local Government Commission for determination. The Commission is required to issue its decision by 11 April 2010, and its decision is final (subject only to judicial review or appeal on a point of law).

Further detail on the issues contained in this document can be found in the report to the Council on this matter and the Council's subsequent resolution, which can be obtained from the Council website at <http://www.ccc.govt.nz/HaveYourSay/> or by phoning the Council Secretary on 941 8999.

Key Issues

The Council has considered this review of its representation arrangements in two stages.

Firstly, on 11 September 2008 the Council resolved to:

- (a) Note that no Maori ward can be established in the Christchurch City Council district at this point in time because the legislative threshold used to qualify for the election of at least one member to a Maori ward has not been met.

- (b) Retain the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system for the 2010 Christchurch City Council elections.

The Council has since given public notice of the right for five percent of electors to demand a poll on the electoral system to be used at the 2010 local elections. (A valid demand for such a poll would need to be made before 28 February 2009, so that a poll could be held no later than 21 May 2009.)

Secondly, the Council has considered the following issues:

- » Communities of interest; giving consideration to defining local community or communities of interest is an important part of the representation review process.
- » Effective representation; whether Councillors are elected on an at-large or by ward basis, or a mix of both.
- » Fair representation; if the Council's district is divided into wards (to elect its Councillors) or subdivisions (to elect its community board members), it must ensure fair representation for electors, taking into account the population of every ward or subdivision within the district.
- » The number of Councillors.
- » The existence and role of Community Boards.

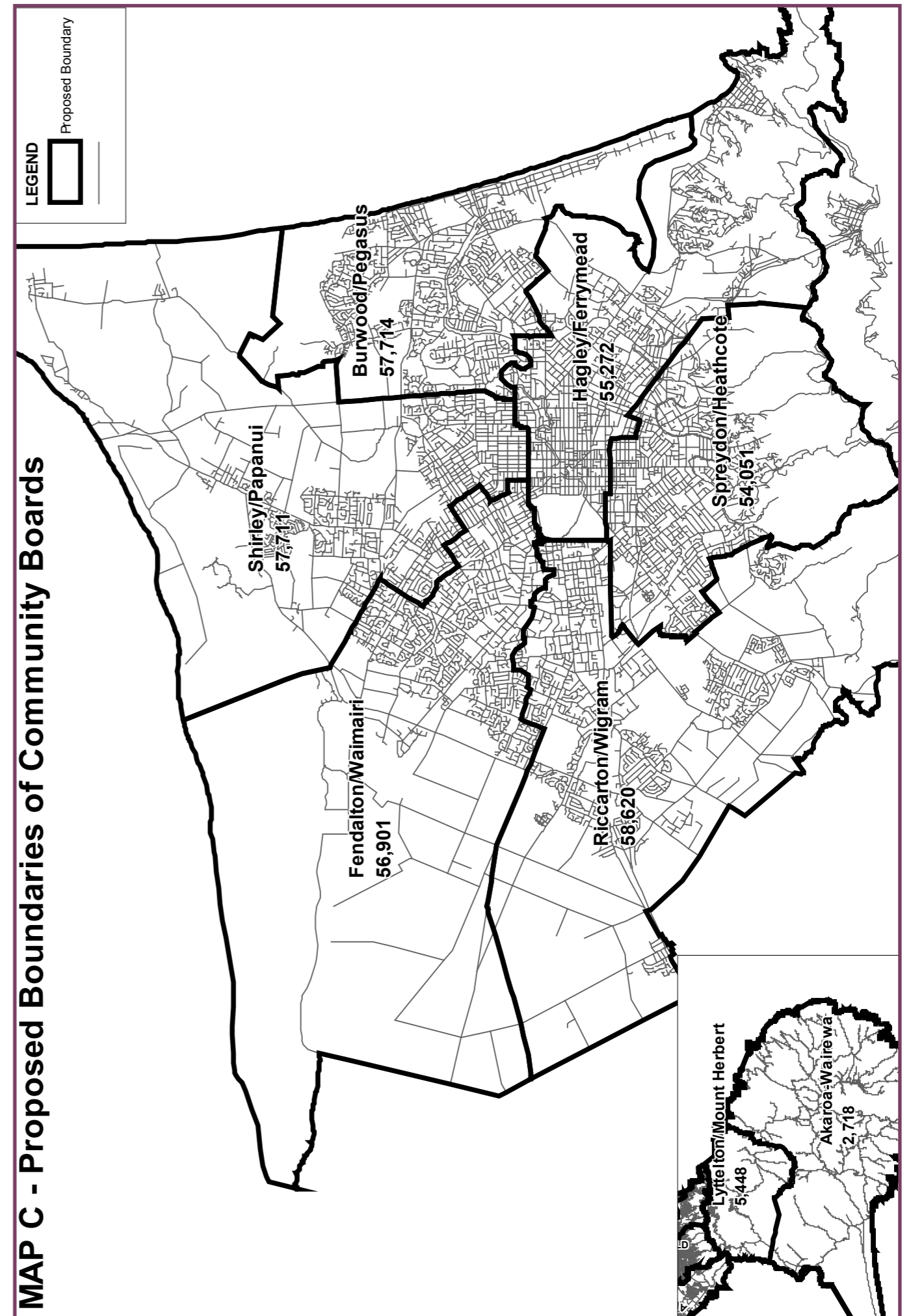
Consideration of Issues

In summary, the Council considers that the governance structure proposed - which essentially is the status quo - best meets the criteria of the Local Electoral Act 2001 for the governance of Christchurch. The only changes proposed are minor and relate to the boundaries of four wards, to ensure that all wards are in line with the requirements for population equality under the legislation.

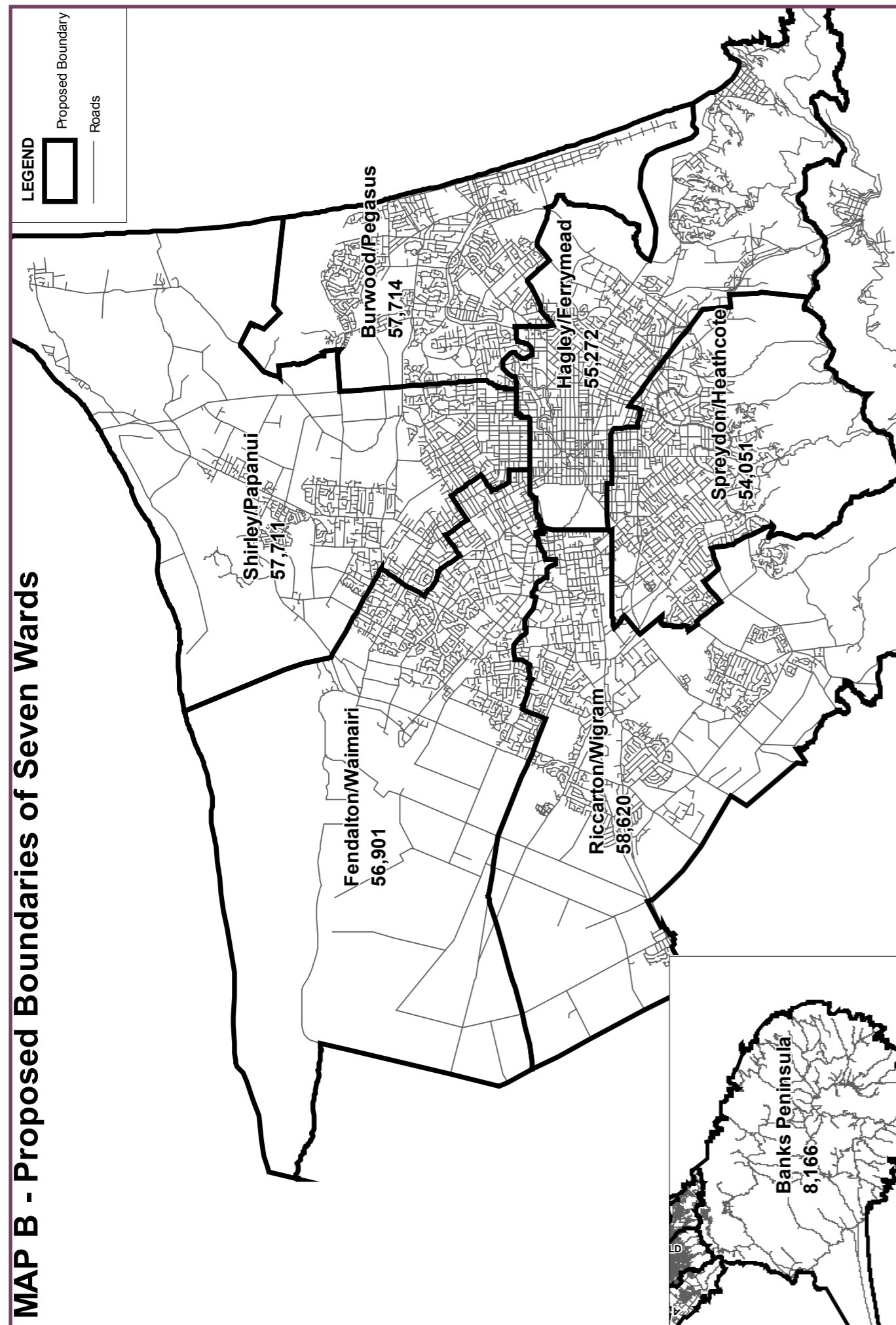
Communities of Interest

The Council is of the view that no changes are required to the communities of interest reflected in Christchurch's current wards, in light of:

- (a) the work undertaken in 2003 by the Council to define communities of interest in Christchurch City;
- (b) the Local Government Commission's Determination in 2004 on the membership and basis of election for Christchurch City in the 2004 elections; and
- (c) the work undertaken in 2005 by the Local Government Commission to identify communities of interest within Banks Peninsula.



MAP B - Proposed Boundaries of Seven Wards



Effective Representation

After giving some consideration to an at-large (city-wide) system of representation, the Council considers the existing model of ward representation continues to be an effective one.

Fair Representation for Electors

The Local Electoral Act requires fair representation based on population equity (unless there are good reasons to depart from it - as is the case with Banks Peninsula). In practice, this means that when the population of each ward is divided by the number of elected members for that ward, there should be no more than 10% variation between that number and the population of the district divided by the total number of Councillors - excluding the Mayor.

While the ward representation ratio must be within the 10% specified by legislation, the Council believes there should be an exception for the Banks Peninsula ward, which should be granted a dispensation from this tolerance as currently exists, given the area covered by the ward is a distinct community of interest. Such an exception is provided for in the legislation and would be on the basis that Banks Peninsula is an isolated community.

Population changes since the last review mean that slight changes to ward boundaries in the city are now required so that two wards – the Riccarton/Wigram and Shirley/Papanui Wards – can remain within the 10% level of variation. These changes are proposed for their boundaries with the Fendalton/Waimairi Ward and the Burwood/Pegasus Ward, as follows:

- » Moving a total population of 1,737 from an area in the Shirley/Papanui Ward to the Fendalton/Waimairi Ward; as set out in Map A of this document.
- » Moving a population of 2,205 from an area in the Riccarton/Wigram Ward to the Fendalton/Waimairi Ward, as set out in Map A of this document.
- » Moving a population of 750 from one area in the Shirley/Papanui Ward to the Burwood/Pegasus Ward, as set out in Map A of this document.

- » Moving a population of 54 (incorporating the Janet Stewart Reserve) from the Burwood/Pegasus Ward to the Shirley/Papanui Ward. This is set out in Map A of this document.

Community Boards

The Council has considered the issues of existence, nature and structure of the existing eight Community Boards. The Council believes that the current number of Boards and the number of members elected to those Boards ensures effective advocacy of local community interests to the Council, and effective decision-making at the local level where Community Boards have delegations. No changes are therefore proposed to the number of Community Boards or the composition of their membership.

Initial Proposal

The Council proposes that the following apply to the Christchurch City Council for the 2010 local body elections and subsequent elections until altered by a subsequent decision:

- 1.(a) That the Council continues to comprise 13 elected members elected from 7 wards, and the Mayor.
- (b) That the Council continues to retain the existing ward names and communities of interest with the existing seven ward structure comprising the following wards: Spreydon/ Heathcote; Riccarton/ Wigram; Fendalton/ Waimairi; Shirley/ Papanui; Burwood/ Pegasus; Hagley/ Ferrymead and Banks Peninsula.
- (c) That the proposed boundaries of the 7 wards are as shown on Map B of this document, based on proposed boundary changes to four wards.
- (d) That the population each ward will represent will be based on proposed boundary changes to four wards, as set out in the table below:

	Population	No of councillors per constituency	Population per councillor	Deviation from region average population per councillor	Percentage deviation from region average population per councillor
Riccarton/Wigram Ward	58,620	2	29,310	+2,507	+9.35
Shirley/Papanui Ward	57,711	2	28,856	+2,053	+7.66
Burwood/Pegasus Ward	57,714	2	28,857	+2,054	+7.66
Hagley/Ferrymead Ward	55,272	2	27,636	+833	+3.11
Spreydon/Heathcote Ward	54,051	2	27,026	+223	+0.83
Fendalton/Waimairi Ward	56,901	2	28,451	+1,648	+6.15
Banks Peninsula Ward	8,166	1	8,166	-18,637	-69.53
Totals	348,435	13	26,803		

2. That there will be communities and Community Boards in Christchurch City as follows:

- (a) That there continues to be eight Community Boards, one for each ward, except with two for the Banks Peninsula ward.
- (b) That the names of the existing Community Boards will be the same as for each of the existing wards, namely Riccarton/Wigram Community Board; Shirley/Papanui Community Board; Burwood/Pegasus Community Board; Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board; Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board and Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board; except for the two Banks Peninsula Community Boards which will continue to be known as the Akaroa/ Wairewa and the Lyttelton/ Mt Herbert Community Boards.
- (c) That the boundaries of the Community Boards will be the same as for each of the wards, with the exception of the Banks Peninsula ward, as shown in Map C of this document.
- (d) That each Community Board will comprise five elected members.

- (e) That each Community Board will have two appointed members, being the two persons elected from time to time as members of the Council representing the ward in which that Community Board is situated, except for Banks Peninsula where one person elected from time to time as a member of the Christchurch City Council is appointed to both Boards.
- (f) That the Community Boards will not be subdivided for electoral purposes except for the Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board which shall be subdivided into two subdivisions, namely the Akaroa subdivision and the Wairewa subdivision.
- (g) The community board for the Akaroa-Wairewa Community will comprise: three members elected by the electors of the Akaroa Subdivision; two members elected by the electors of the Wairewa Subdivision; and the person elected from time to time as a member of the Council representing the Banks Peninsula Ward and appointed to the Community Board by the Council.
- (h) That the population that elected members of each Community Board represent will be as follows:

	Population	No of community board members per constituency	Population per community board member
Riccarton-Wigram Community Board	58,620	5	11,724
Shirley-Papanui Community Board	57,711	5	11,542
Burwood-Pegasus Community Board	57,714	5	11,543
Hagley-Ferrymead Community Board	55,272	5	11,054
Spreydon-Heathcote Community Board	54,051	5	10,810
Fendalton-Waimairi Community Board	56,901	5	11,380
Lyttelton-Mt Herbert Community Board	5,448	5	1,090
Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board	2,718	5	544
Totals	348,435	40	

