

Appendix A – Electoral System Alternative Attributes

Implications of an At-Large System of Representation

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electors have greater choice and flexibility in elections (each voter has the opportunity to consider every candidate in the Council election). • Electors are able to select the candidates they think will do the best job, rather than having to make a choice among candidates who happen to run in their ward. • The system promotes the concept of a municipal-wide focus, with Councillors being elected by, and concerned for, the municipality as a whole, rather than placing a priority on more local interests. • The likelihood of acclamations is reduced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates must campaign across the entire municipality; this may make the cost of a campaign prohibitive (especially for newcomers). • There would be no designated voices for particular communities or localities within the municipality. At-large elections can lead to significant communities of interest and points of view being unrepresented (or under-represented). • Candidates who appeal to areas where voter turnout is highest tend to be elected disproportionately.

Implications of a Ward System of Representation

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors are more likely to be truly local representatives, easily accessible to residents and aware of local issues. • Distinctive communities of interest are more likely to be represented. • It is less likely that one particular point of view or sectional interest will dominate the Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors may be elected on minor or parochial issues and lack a perspective of what is to the benefit of the whole municipality. • Ward boundaries may divide communities of interest (which may be difficult to define anyway). • Voters may have a restricted choice of candidates in elections for individual wards. • There is a greater likelihood of acclamations. • There may be problems if a Councillor is not performing effectively or is clashing with some electors, as electors for that ward • May discourage new candidates if an incumbent is generally popular or if an incumbent who is popular with a dominant community of interest is running.

