

## Future Plans

Continued opportunities for shared procurement and shared services are being identified by councils and new activity groups formed.

## Who pays?

It is essentially a user pays system. The BOPLASS Board of Directors were determined that the company should not just become an ongoing charge on councils. Councils pay for their involvement in the services developed under the BOPLASS umbrella.

Councils are also contributing services "in kind" to minimise costs. There is a base levy for participation and additional revenue is based on levies of savings achieved and sale of services.

## Structure

The BOPLASS Board of Directors comprises of the nine Chief Executives from the constituent councils.

The Chief Executive Officer, Ross Carter, and the Business Development Manager, Stephen Boyle, are responsible for the identification, facilitation and management of projects. Administration and support is provided part-time by Kathryn Wilson. ([kathryn.wilson@boplass.govt.nz](mailto:kathryn.wilson@boplass.govt.nz))

Advisory groups meet as and when required.

BOPLASS staff are currently based at Tauranga City Council.

Financial administration support is coming from Tauranga City Council.

## **For further information contact**

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# BOPLASS Ltd



**“COUNCILS PARTNERING FOR  
VALUE AND SERVICE”**



## **INTRODUCING BOPLASS.**

There is one desire that councils have in common and that is delivering best value for the ratepayer.

BOPLASS Ltd has been set up specially for this purpose.

BOPLASS stands for **Bay of Plenty Local Authority Shared Services**. This is an initiative of the Chief Executives of all of the councils in the Bay of Plenty and Gisborne regions. The following are the nine shareholding councils:

- Bay of Plenty Regional Council
- Gisborne District Council
- Kawerau District Council
- Opotiki District Council
- Rotorua District Council
- Taupo District Council
- Tauranga City Council
- Western Bay of Plenty District Council
- Whakatane District Council



BOPLASS is subject to both the Local Government Act 2002 and the Companies Act 1993 and audited by Audit NZ.

### **Purpose**

BOPLASS has been set up specifically to add value to councils by assisting them to investigate, procure, develop and deliver shared services where a business case shows that they provide benefit to the (voluntary) council users by either improved levels of service, reduced costs, improved efficiency and/or increased value through innovation.

Over 90 staff from various councils are currently working in BOPLASS organised activity groups to facilitate and create opportunities to develop new initiatives.

These advisory groups are made up of representatives of participating councils to manage each activity or service. The participants decide the scope of the project and the desired outcomes and work collaboratively to achieve them. This enables BOPLASS to benefit from the expert knowledge of staff and involve them in the process.

### **How does it work?**

BOPLASS has two basic approaches. Shared services and joint procurement; each in their own way offer the benefits of size, collaboration and shared knowledge while protecting democracy by allowing councils to make their own choices and better use of resources.

The focus is on a number of initiatives that have already been identified and undertaken in the past two years.

### **What sort of services are we talking about?**

Initially BOPLASS is concentrating on corporate services but can look at other service and procurement options.

As an example, recent projects have been identified or completed for: office supplies, telephony services, advertising, electronic procurement, video conferencing, fuel supply and after hours telephone services.

We are currently managing a \$1.65m aerial photography contract which will provide significant savings.

In the shared service area we are well on the way to completing dedicated high-speed broadband connections between all our councils; with three Bay of Plenty Regional Council offices, Taupo, Tauranga, Rotorua, Whakatane and Western Bay of Plenty Councils already connected at 1Gbps, Opotiki is about to be linked by microwave with Gisborne and Kawerau following shortly.

Other investigations for shared service delivery include geographic information systems, rates processing, software support, business continuity, document archiving and storage, asset management - according to agreed priorities.



### **Savings to date:**

BOPLASS has helped the councils create substantial savings in contracts for: classified advertising, office supplies, land information, telephony, video conferencing and other important contracts. Combined software licensing has produced an annual saving of over \$75,000 for the next three years.

We have achieved long term savings on participating council's insurances. This initiative represented a saving in insurance premiums of approx \$850,000 in the first year with further savings in subsequent years. Overall these savings should top \$2.5m in a 3-year period.