

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES BAY OF PLENTY (COBoP) UPDATE FROM THE STEERING GROUP: 1 September 2009

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa
Welcome to our September update

IN THIS EDITION:

1. Dates to note
2. Progress on COBoP priorities
3. COBoP Cluster Updates
4. Changing focus for local government
5. Central government changes from a regional perspective
6. COBoP Website

1. DATES to NOTE

THURSDAY 16th SEPTEMBER – Social Wellbeing Cluster meeting

Time: 2.30-4pm

Venue: MSD Regional Office, Pukuatua St, ROTORUA

FRIDAY 25th SEPTEMBER - PLENARY GROUP (Signatories) & CLUSTER MEETINGS

Venue: Rotorua District Council

- **Plenary Group meeting:** 9:30 am to 1:00pm
- Lunch: 1:00 - 1:30 pm
- **Economic Wellbeing Cluster meeting:** 1:30 to 3:30pm

FRIDAY 16th OCTOBER – COBoP WORKSHOP – Partnering for Results around COBoP Priorities

Full day Workshop facilitated by Trish Hall, Thought Partners. Specifically arranged to help COBoP signatory agencies “go faster together” on agreed priorities. Max 20 participants, \$200 each. Please note the date. Further details available September 10th.

2. PROGRESS on COBoP PRIORITIES 2009-10

Priority A: Engagement with Central Government Department Deputy Secretaries

- a) to increase Wellington awareness about Bay of Plenty priority development areas, and
- b) to ensure their awareness of the COBoP network’s ability and readiness to work with Wellington to achieve enhanced local and regional outcomes that contribute to national wellbeing.

Progress to report: COBoP has been invited by the Departments of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) and Internal Affairs (DIA) to meet with a group of Central Government agency Deputy Secretaries in Wellington in September, to introduce COBoP and our priorities. Following that, the intention is for a small group of Deputy Secretaries to visit the Bay of Plenty specifically to learn more about the aquaculture and Opotiki Harbour developments.

Priority B: Supporting regional job summit recommendations

- a) Working together to support Maori development capacity and capability in the region.
***Progress to Report:** Economic Wellbeing Cluster Meeting Agenda for 25th September includes hosting a discussion about recent research into Iwi assets in the Bay of Plenty. The Cluster is also gathering information about existing government resources and support for Maori capacity and capability development.*
- b) Improving integrated planning and funding for priority infrastructure across the region by working together across local and central government.
- c) Supporting sustainable aquaculture development in the eastern Bay of Plenty including the Opotiki harbour development. (See www.opotikiharbour.co.nz for further information).
***Progress to report:** Commitment by Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and Department of Internal Affairs to support Deputy Secretaries engaging with COBoP around this priority.*

Priority C: Better aligning our individual work programmes to provide more efficient and effective service delivery for our communities.

Progress to report:

- *Community Outcomes Processes Cluster leading plans for a joined up Bay of Plenty approach to reviewing local community outcomes (see Cluster report).*
- *Economic Wellbeing Cluster planning to host a discussion (drawing on regional experience to date) on the potential usefulness of “lean thinking” and other productivity improvement approaches within local and central government in the Bay of Plenty.*
- *“Partnering for Results around COBoP Priorities” Workshop scheduled for Friday October 16th.*

3. WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING – CLUSTER UPDATES

Communications protocols: Once finalised, Cluster meeting agendas and records are circulated to the Plenary Group by the Strategic Broker. Cluster Chairs, and leaders of any project work within Clusters, are responsible for circulating agendas and meeting records within Clusters and project groups.

Community Outcomes Processes (COP) Cluster

The initial focus for this cluster is on the upcoming community outcomes reviews. The cluster is working to develop an efficient approach that shares processes wherever appropriate, while retaining the local focus of the eight sets of community outcomes. As reported in the July Update, local government Chief Executives in the Bay of Plenty have agreed in principle to undertaking a joint community outcomes review process across the region, taking into account outcomes of the local government review currently underway (TAFM, see following article) as well as any central government agency role changes that might impact on this process in the Bay of Plenty. Work is now underway with central government partners to achieve more detailed planning, so that a COBoP Project Plan can be circulated for sign-off at the September Plenary meeting.

Anne O'Malley at Tauranga City Council, email: anneo@tauranga.govt.nz is the contact for any queries.

Social Wellbeing Cluster

(led by Mike Bryant, Regional Commissioner MSD)

Work has progressed in the current project focus areas for this cluster including:



- Housing – Meetings are being held between Regional Managers (or their nominees) of HNZC, TPK, MSD and CEs of DHBs, and CEs of local authorities in the Bay of Plenty. Essentially these are relationship building meetings, touching on issues related to housing, and identifying broader common issues and information requirements. Housing New Zealand is preparing a detailed summary of the key points of each meeting for the next Social Wellbeing cluster meeting. Contact Tony.Marsden@hnzc.co.nz for more details.
- Gambling Venue Policy – Councils are due to review Gambling Venue Policies, and the Social Wellbeing Cluster has indicated willingness to
 - a) co-ordinate discussion about any useful joint work, and
 - b) compile existing New Zealand research available about the impacts of gamblingContact Susan.Jolley003@msd.govt.nz for further details.
- Young People and Gangs – A Bay of Plenty Response. The regional Advisory Group is meeting monthly. In Kawerau, K-oper-8 is leading the local response which they have named AKiK – Amazing Kids in Kawerau. Contact Blair.Gilbert005@myd.govt.nz for more details.

Economic Wellbeing Cluster

(led by Lionel Crawley, Regional Manager NZTE)

Focus areas for this cluster are: Progressing regional Jobs Summit priorities, and supporting the BoP Regional Economic Development Strategy, "Bay of Connections", by identifying gaps and areas we can leverage. Meetings held July and August, including:

- Clarifying and pursuing synergies and roles between **Connect** (network of organisations and agencies supporting businesses in the region), **Bay of Connections** (Regional Economic Development Strategy and leadership), and **COBoP** (local and central government managers' network).
- Promotion of the new www.bayofconnections.com website as a tool for sharing information (NZ Trade and Enterprise, Rotorua DC and Environment BoP support noted.)
- Commenced information gathering project about sources for business finance
- Commenced project to identify central government agency "touch points" with businesses – as basis for exploring any efficiencies
- Discussed potential synergies between Bay of Connections and Maori Assets and opportunities research, and agreed to host a discussion once the research is available.
- Identified a future focus on forestry
- Identified the value of broad government agency input at meetings including Dept of Labour, Te Puni Kokiri, NZ Trade and Enterprise, Ministries of Social and Economic Devt

Please contact Lionel Crawley at lionel.crawley@nzte.govt.nz with any queries.

Also see the Bay of Connections Update No.3 on the Bay of Connections website, at <http://www.bayofconnections.com/communications.asp>

Environmental Wellbeing Cluster

(led by Henry Weston, Regional Conservator DoC)

This Cluster is not formally meeting at this stage.

Please contact Henry Weston at hweston@doc.govt.nz with any queries.

Cultural Wellbeing Cluster

(led by Wally Tangohau, Regional Director TPK)

This Cluster is not formally meeting at this stage.

Please contact Wally Tangohau at wally.tangohau@tpk.govt.nz with any queries.



4. CHANGING FOCUS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

One of COBoP's aims is to improve respective understanding between central and local government. The future focus of local government is under review by Cabinet. The previous Steering Group Update reported on the "TAFM" paper released by Minister of Local Government, Rodney Hide (see COBoP website www.cobop.govt.nz for July Steering Group Update and SOLGM Commentary on the TAFM Cabinet paper).

Media continue to report on community debate and reactions. It is anticipated that the Minister will report back to Cabinet by late October this year. Two further items of interest are:

- 1) *TAFM: A critique – prepared by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ)* – which can be viewed on the COBoP website, under the Steering Group Updates section.
- 2) Minister's speech to Local Government New Zealand Zone 1 meeting, 28 August: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/speech/speech+local+government+new+zealand+zone+1+meeting>

5. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CHANGES IN THE REGION

The Steering Group continues to monitor changes in the presence of senior central government roles in the Bay of Plenty. Active senior state sector roles and personnel at regional levels are vital to ensure connections with local communities, and to connect regional and local experiences with Wellington policy making and priority setting. In addition to the changes reported in the July Update, we are aware of the following:

The **Crime Prevention Unit (Ministry of Justice)** has been disestablished. This Unit had dedicated regional personnel, and resources for regions to access to support community safety initiatives. This support and funding was frequently used to enable local government involvement in co-ordinating community crime prevention approaches, and to leverage other support and resources.

The **Ministry of Justice** regions have been re-configured, and are much larger. They now match Department of Corrections regions. Congratulations to Sue Little (a COBoP Signatory under the previous arrangements) who has been appointed as the Regional Manager.

Careers Services has combined regions, and in five months the Bay of Plenty will also be managed from a Waikato base. Congratulations to Ross Jones who has been appointed as Regional Manager. Ross is actively supportive of continued Careers Services involvement in COBoP by Robert Naumann, who is acting in an interim role in the Bay of Plenty region until the new structure is implemented.

The **Ministry of Economic Development** has also restructured and no longer has positions dedicated to regional relationships and understanding. From a regional perspective, the Steering Group is very aware that with the loss of both Ministry of Economic Development regional "eyes" and Department of Labour Knowledge Managers (as reported in the last Update), the onus is on local and central government personnel in regions to find and educate Wellington based champions "project by project".

The Steering Group is interested to hear from you about other changes in the region.

7. HAVE YOU VISITED THE COBOP WEBSITE YET???

This newsletter link is on our new website, which will be developed further over coming months. The website is at: www.cobop.govt.nz Take a look and follow the links!

