

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES BAY OF PLENTY (COBoP) UPDATE FROM THE STEERING GROUP: 18 DECEMBER 2008

Ngā mihi nui mo te wā whakatā.

Hello and welcome to our final update to the rest of the COBoP network for 2008.

We will be sending you an update after each Steering Group meeting, to keep you informed about progress being made in between Plenary meetings, and to help keep us all connected.

Key meeting and event dates for 2009 are outlined below - **please diary these now!**

2009 SCHEDULE OF COBoP MEETINGS and EVENTS

2009 Plenary and Cluster meetings

- **Friday 24 April**
- **Friday 25 September**

All meetings will be at Rotorua District Council.

Plenary 9:30am - 1pm *followed by* Lunch 1 - 1:30pm *followed by* Cluster meetings 1:30 - 3:30pm.

Additional Cluster meetings will be scheduled as required by Cluster leaders.

There is a **Social Wellbeing Cluster Meeting** scheduled for:

- **Tuesday 24 February**, at MSD Regional Office, 1207 Pukuatua Street, Rotorua

2009 Steering Group meetings

- **Wednesday 21 January**, 12 noon - 2pm at RDC
- **Friday 20 March**
- **Friday 3 July**
- **Friday 23 October**

All meetings will be at Rotorua District Council, 1 - 3pm, unless specified otherwise.

Proposed COBoP engagement with the Deputy Secretaries Group: 5-6 March 2009

You will recall that the COBoP Network has been working towards more robust "joined up" engagement with deputy chief executives from across a range of central government agencies.

COBoP Chair, Stephen Town, recently met with DIA Deputy Secretary Anne Carter to discuss the focus that COBoP is seeking.

He emphasised:

- The diversity of the Bay of Plenty, and the linkages which have been developed
- The extensive relationships already in place between local and central government in the Bay of Plenty

- Our capability and willingness to engage and work with Wellington, to focus together on priority issues at a regional level, and to "learn as we go" about improved ways of achieving more integrated and responsive policy and resource allocation which supports regional and local development
- The importance of the Bay of Plenty as one side of the "Golden Triangle" with Auckland and Waikato, and the need for integrated approaches

and, in particular,

- The desire of COBoP to start a dialogue and work plan together with Wellington focussed on "turbo-boosting" integrated planning and resourcing in support of **Maori development, economic development, and the infrastructure integral to enabling this** in the Bay of Plenty.

As an area for focus encompassing all of these priorities, Stephen proposed the possibility of COBoP and the Deputy Chief Executives (jointly known as the Deputy Secretaries' Group, or DSG) working together to support and enable aquaculture in the Eastern Bay of Plenty - aquaculture is one of the high priorities in the Regional Economic Development Strategy.

Planning is currently underway for an initial visit to the Bay of Plenty region by key members of the Deputy Secretaries' Group to progress this work. The COBoP Steering Group is very involved in shared planning for this visit and intends that the programme will include plenty of site visits and minimise time spent indoors in meetings.

Tentative dates for this visit are 5 - 6 March 2009.

We expect the date to be firmed up early in the new year - we will keep you posted.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Cluster Updates

Communications: All Cluster meeting records will be circulated to all Plenary members by Barbara MacLennan, as acting Strategic Broker, once the records have been finalised.

Social Wellbeing Cluster meeting - 31st October

(led by Graeme Carruthers, MSD)

The Cluster has identified three key areas of focus at this stage, being:

- Youth, particularly youth gangs - to be led by Blair Gilbert, MYD.
- Housing - Tony Marsden, HNZC, leading.
- South Waikato issues arising from mill closure - MSD leading with the South Waikato Mayor, connecting in with Waikato agencies.

Economic Wellbeing Cluster meeting - 31st October

(led by Lionel Crawley, NZTE)

The Cluster has created a map showing the key elements of the Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) to help identify gaps and areas where COBoP can add value. These so far include:

- Energy, particularly coordinating existing literature
- Improving engagement with TEC re: linkages between the tertiary sector and the REDS
- Maori development, particularly leveraging TPK work to map current Maori resources
- (Possibly) migrant labour.

Environmental Wellbeing Cluster

(led by Henry Weston, DoC)

It is generally agreed that there are already good local-central government frameworks in place in the environmental wellbeing area. These will be the starting point for any COBoP Environmental Wellbeing Cluster work.

Cultural Wellbeing Cluster

(led by Wally Tangohau, TPK)

It is generally felt that the cultural wellbeing area will be best served in the interim by ensuring a focus on Maori is well integrated into the work of the other clusters. It is noted that the cultural dimension is very broad and will require future attention within COBoP.

Community Outcomes Processes (COP) Cluster

(led by local government)

Local Government Chief Executives briefly discussed the upcoming community outcomes reviews at their meeting on 31st October, and have provided some general direction their expectations regarding upcoming community outcomes review processes. The Steering Group has directed Anne O'Malley, TCC, to set up an initial COP Cluster meeting early in 2009.

This Cluster includes the former monitoring and reporting group as an ongoing workstream. This work has a high priority within the COBoP network.

5th December Seminar - 'Better joining up the horizontal and the vertical'

Members of the COBoP network were invited to a presentation and discussion led by Ross Tanner, President of the Institute of Public Administration of New Zealand (IPANZ) and Derek Gill, Visiting Senior Fellow to the Victoria University of Wellington School of Government.

Derek led a seminar to promote discussion about the issues - and possible solutions - emerging when public services that are focused on clearly defined business have to grapple with complex issues in local communities and settings. Derek has been working with a small project team on research about this topic, which has now been published by the Institute of Political Studies (IPS), entitled 'Better Connected Services for Kiwis'.

Ross spoke about IPANZ's active programme of learning and led a discussion on key public administration issues. IPANZ activities are generally Wellington based, but their leadership is interested in the potential for a regional connection with us, and learning about the matters that would be of interest to us here in the Bay of Plenty.

The key message from this session was to strongly endorse what we're doing, and how we're doing it, here with COBoP. In particular that we are creating a network of relationships that is not only going to be called upon in a crisis, but is also going to be used to do more and better things all the time.

Both Ross and Derek were very keen to learn more about what we're doing here, and to keep track of how the COBoP network develops into the future.

Finally, as this will be the last update this year, we'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy - and restful - Christmas and New Year break.

from the COBoP Steering Group:

Stephen Town, Vaughan Payne, Mary-Anne MacLeod, Graeme Carruthers, Henry Weston, Wally Tangohau, Lionel Crawley and Barbara MacLennan.