

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

Ngā mihi o te wā me te Tau Hou. Warm Season's Greetings to you, and all the best for 2010.
Welcome to our December update.

IN THIS EDITION:

1. Upcoming dates
2. Progress on COBoP priorities
3. COBoP Cluster News and Updates
4. Changing focus for local government
5. Central government changes from a regional perspective
6. COBoP Website

1 DATES to NOTE

2009 DATES

WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER– Economic Wellbeing Cluster meeting

Time: 9.00-11.00

Venue: Smart Business Centre, 65 Chapel St, Tauranga

WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER - Social Wellbeing Cluster meeting

Time: 12.00(noon) -15.00

Venue: MSD Regional Office, Floor 2, 1207 Pukuatua St, ROTORUA

2010 DATES

FRIDAY 19th MARCH- COBoP PLENARY MEETING (Signatories)

Venue: Rotorua District Council

- Plenary Group meeting – 9:30 am to 1:00pm
- Lunch - 1:00 - 1:30 pm
- **Tentative Cluster meetings** – 1:30 to 3:30pm

FRIDAY 17th SEPTEMBER – COBoP PLENARY MEETING (SIGNATORIES)

Venue: Rotorua District Council

- Plenary Group meeting – 9:30 am to 1:00pm
- Lunch - 1:00 - 1:30 pm
- **Tentative Cluster meetings** – 1:30 to 3:30pm

2 PROGRESS on COBoP PRIORITIES 09-10

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: During the past three months the COBoP Chair and some of the Steering Group have met with the Chief Executive and officials of the Departments of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), and the Ministry of Fisheries; Deputy Secretaries and officials of Treasury, Departments of Internal Affairs and Labour; Ministries of Economic Development, Social Development, Agriculture and Forestry, Fisheries; Te Puni Kokiri and the State Services Commission.

Key messages delivered include that local and central government managers in the Bay of Plenty:

- are networked and focussed on efficiency and effectiveness,
- are agreed on priorities together around Maori and economic development, supported by integrated infrastructure planning and resourcing, and as a demonstration of that focus
- are concentrated on supporting aquaculture in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, recognising the potential for this to bring significant positive stepped change to the whole Bay of Plenty
- are concerned that current and likely future restructuring will lead to internal focus within central government agencies, and increased "dis-connection" between the centre and the regions/local communities.
- are willing to conceive and able to trial improved options for connecting strongly with Wellington

Active dialogue continues.

The Minister of Fisheries has recently acknowledged that the lack of a clear Government Agency "lead" on aquaculture, including re infrastructure, needs addressing.

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 December Meeting Agenda includes hosting a discussion about recently published research into Iwi assets in the Bay of Plenty. The Cluster are also gathering information about existing resources and support for enhancing capacity and capability through government.

- b) Enhancing and leveraging regional networks to share information

Progress to report: Consolidated stronger formal linkages between Bay of Connections (regional economic development strategy and leadership) and COBoP. See www.bayofconnections.com Fostering central government engagement in CONNECT, a network of agencies working in support of BoP businesses

- c) Supporting sustainable aquaculture development in the eastern Bay of Plenty See November 09 Opotiki Harbour Development Update

<http://content.tauranga.govt.nz/cobop/Nov09OHDUpdate.pdf>

Progress to report: Engagement with central government Chief Executives and senior officials including the need for a government agency to take the lead in aquaculture and the need for integrated approaches to planning and resourcing. Active support to the launch of the Bay of Connections Aquaculture Strategy, on 30 November 09. Active involvement by Chair, COBoP, in group supporting planning for Opotiki Harbour development.

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

Progress to report:

- *Economic Wellbeing Cluster planning an early 2010 event drawing on regional experience to date on applied learning of "lean thinking" and other productivity improvement approaches. Particularly to explore what relevance these might have for local and central government in the Bay of Plenty.*
- *"Partnering for Results around COBoP Priorities" Workshop held on October 27th involving Regional Commissioner MSD, Bay of Plenty District Police Commander, and senior personnel from Police, Lakes and Bay of Plenty District Health Boards, Family and Community Services, Child Youth and Family Services - Youth Justice, Te Puni Kokiri, and Rotorua District Council – Event Venues. The Workshop focus was on applied practice of developing and maintaining partnering approaches.*

3. WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING – COBoP CLUSTERS

With over a year of practice "under our belts" the Steering Group had a useful discussion about the purpose and focus of Clusters in November. Some of the key points agreed included:

- Having the right people around the table so the region has a "go to" place for complex issues which central and local government agencies have roles and responsibilities in
- Being familiar with, and helping accelerate collaboration around, key regional strategies I.e. "Helping make the boat go faster"
- Identifying issues/gaps and opportunities, and facilitating discussion/focus on those
- Ensuring that responsibility for "wellbeing-related" projects/initiatives is with appropriate agencies, not with COBoP Clusters

CLUSTER UPDATES

Communications protocols: Once finalised, Cluster meeting agendas and records are circulated to the Plenary (Signatories) 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

(led by Anne O'Malley, Tauranga City Council)

The Cluster was meeting on 20 November to determine a response to Cabinet's decisions regarding the TAFM review (see pg 3 of this Update). The papers had not been released at the time of the Steering Group meeting on 5 November, but signals were that community outcomes would be narrowed to encompass only the aspects of community wellbeing to which councils themselves contribute.

The Cluster minutes will be circulated to the Plenary (Signatories) Group as soon as they have been signed off, and will provide further information.

Please contact Anne O'Malley at: anneo@tauranga.govt.nz with any queries.

Social Wellbeing Cluster

(led by Mike Bryant, Regional Commissioner MSD)

Work is progressing in the current project focus areas for this cluster including:

- Work underway in selected BoP communities around young people and gangs

- Outcomes of combined Regional Manager visits (Housing, MSD, TPK and DHB) to local authority CEs have been reported. Forward planning for 2010 will be discussed at December Cluster meeting
- WBOPDC presented their Social Infrastructure Framework and Guidelines, which has been developed jointly with TCC in response to a SmartGrowth action. The Framework is shared by both councils while separate Guidelines have been developed by each council. WBOPDC also presented a draft 'community wellbeing checklist' tool that is under joint development by WBOPDC, TCC, BOPDHB and Toi Te Ora Public Health. Information will be placed on the COBoP website in December, once approved.
- The Cluster has invited the Strengthening Families Chairs to attend December Social Wellbeing Cluster meeting to seek coordination/resolution of issues that they identify (see <http://www.strengtheningfamilies.govt.nz/about/>)
- DIA will present an update on the combined agency visits to Bay of Plenty marae, and the Cluster will discuss potential for visits in 2010.

Please contact Susan Jolley at Susan.Jolley001@msd.govt.nz with any queries.

Economic Wellbeing Cluster

(led by Lionel Crawley, Regional Manager NZTE)

Focus areas for this cluster are: Progressing regional Jobs Summit priorities, and supporting Bay of Connections, the BoP Regional Economic Development Strategy, by identifying gaps and stimulating discussion to galvanise new activity

- Continued pursuit of synergies and roles between Connect (regional business network), 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 (NZTE, Rotorua District Council and EnvBoP support noted.)
- Discontinued information gathering project about sources for business finance
- Continued project to identify central government agency "touch points" with businesses – as basis for exploring any efficiencies
- December meeting will focus on potential synergies between Maori assets research and Bay of Connections strategy, and also Rugby World Cup opportunities
- February meeting will focus on potential for forestry in the BoP
- Supporting meetings among BoP tertiary education providers to discuss alignment and co-operation

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

Also see <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 will commence in early 2010.

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



4. CHANGING FOCUS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFIRMED BY CABINET – THE TAFM REVIEW

A purpose of COBoP is to improve respective understanding between central and local government. On 27 October Cabinet considered the "TAFM" Recommendations and "agreed that requiring councils to co-ordinate a wide ranging community debate about services in which they have no direct involvement is inconsistent with the government's goals" Cabinet Minute (09) 38/17 (see link below). If this agreement is upheld in the amended legislation, it will remove the drivers for strategic alignment of central government planning and resources at local and regional levels.

The question "how do local and central government agencies effectively align their strategies, priorities and resources in service of local and regional communities?" requires a coherent response. While the mechanisms through the Local Government Act may not have been the best, the complete absence of any responsibility for this function would appear to leave a significant gap.

Legislation to enact these decisions is currently being drafted, with the goal of implementation in readiness for planning towards the 2012-2015 LTCCPs. To learn more, see the following link Cabinet Minute - <http://content.tauranga.govt.nz/cobop/TAFMCabinetPaperOct09.pdf> (Also see previous Steering Group Updates and links for other detail.)

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, and to consider other signals of changes that may impact on the region. As mentioned earlier in this Update, the Steering Group is seeking active interest by DIA, DPMC, Treasury and SSC to engage with COBoP around proactive and efficient ways to ensure close regional and national relationships, and promote better ways to ensure an understanding of regional implications of centralised decision-making. In July and September we reported on personnel changes including the removal of regional linking positions, and the enlargement of a number of agency regions. One recent announcement is the disestablishment of the DIA Interface Team. The future of the community outcomes website, www.communityoutcomes.govt.nz, is not clear at this point.

From visits to Wellington, we gather there is a likelihood of the merging of many smaller government agencies into larger ones, and we anticipate an increasingly "inwardly focussed" Wellington public service while such changes are underway. This further accentuates the need for active liaison and communication channels at regional levels and between regions and the centre, to support good decision-making at times of change. The Steering Group is interested to be kept informed of further changes you are aware of in the region.

6. HAVE YOU VISITED THE COBOP WEBSITE YET?

We have added two new public pages to facilitate sharing of key regional documents.

COBoP Priorities - <http://www.cobop.govt.nz/cobop-priorities.aspx>

Useful Documents and Links - <http://www.cobop.govt.nz/useful-documents-and-links.aspx>

We are also establishing a "sign-in" capacity for Signatory organisations to give you ready access to COBoP meeting records and papers. We will send you the link shortly.

This newsletter link is on our website at: www.cobop.govt.nz