

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES BAY OF PLENTY (COBoP) UPDATE FROM THE STEERING GROUP: July 2010

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa. Welcome to our July update.

IN THIS EDITION:

1. Update from Stephen Town, COBoP Chairperson
2. Some news snippets
3. COBoP Plenary date reminder for Signatories
4. COBoP Cluster News and upcoming dates
5. COBoP Communications and Website
6. Central and local government changes in the region
7. Our focus on learning – Improving our practices: acting bigger and adapting better

1. Update from Stephen Town, COBoP Chairperson

“Faster alone, further together”

(Derived from an African proverb: ‘If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk together.’)

Cross-sectoral collaboration is the only way NZ communities will achieve the stepped changes we need. Increasingly complex issues require many different parties working together within communities to envisage and implement solutions together, and to constantly learn from our experiences. Local and central government have enormous roles to play here, and increasingly there is a spotlight on our skills and capability to model excellent practice which is both efficient, and responsive to ever changing demands. Other sectors are thinking about these same challenges, and later in this Update we’ve included some useful thinking from the Philanthropic Sector.

At our March Plenary meeting we tested the value proposition of COBoP, given policy changes and resource pressures in both central and local government. Signatories were unequivocal. COBoP is even more important within the context of diminishing resources, and a rapidly changing national context. The network offers efficient ways of forming and maintaining relationships across managers and staff in our sectors, and together spotting gaps and challenges, teasing them out, and (where appropriate) catalysing action.

Since March, progress has accelerated at a number of levels:

- There is increasing interest from Wellington in engaging around COBoP priorities
 - In particular, good progress has been made on securing funding towards the next planning stages for the Opotiki Harbour development. This will support Bay of Plenty aquaculture, and has the potential to transform eastern Bay of Plenty wellbeing. COBoP has assisted with opening doors, fostering relationships and accelerating information flows
 - COBoP has created an opening for the Victoria University of Wellington Institute of Policy Studies Research Fellow who is focussing on future Marine Governance for NZ, to visit the BoP and consider undertaking an in-depth case study

- COBoP has added value in Wellington by growing awareness about good practice collaboration in the Bay of Plenty – and has fostered the possibility of a learning tour for local government chief executives and elected members to the Bay in early 2011
- There is emerging interest from other sectors about opportunities to collaborate with the COBoP network.
- An increased range and number of representatives from signatory agencies are actively participating in COBoP Cluster work, including in the new Cultural Wellbeing Cluster.
- Clusters are more clearly identifying strategic areas for focus together. This is imperative in a fiscally constrained setting where the desire by Government for negative cycles of failure to be broken is very evident.
- The Steering Group has been focussed on supporting these developments and refining and improving our business and communication processes and practices within the Network, including with Clusters, Steering Group, and Plenary. We will be looking onto a more sustainable funding plan beyond December to give greater certainty of leadership and opportunity for leveraging off the network.

2. Some News

Congratulations and haere ra to Gary Smith, BoP District Commander of Police, who has been on secondment to Auckland, and is shortly departing for a two year posting to London. (Mark Harrison continues as acting BoP District Commander and is active with COBoP.)

Welcome to Aileen Lawrie, the new Chief Executive for Opotiki District Council who commenced in June, moving eastward from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Congratulations to Stephen Town, COBoP Chairperson and Chief Executive of Tauranga City Council, who will be leaving his post at the end of September to take up a new position as Regional Director, Auckland/Northland, for the New Zealand Transport Agency.

<http://content.tauranga.govt.nz/cobop/TCC%20CE%20new%20road.doc>

Congratulations to Taupo District Council for their IPANZ GenI Public Sector Excellence Award in the 'Crown-Maori Relationships' category.

<http://www.cobop.govt.nz/UsefulDocumentsandLinks.aspx>

Welcome to Miles McConway who is replacing Mary-Anne MacLeod on the COBoP Steering Group, representing the BoP Regional Council Chief Executive.

3. Date Reminder for Signatories (Plenary meeting)

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
- **Economic Wellbeing Cluster meeting** – 1:30 to 3:30pm

4. COBoP CLUSTER ACTIVITY and upcoming dates

COBoP Cluster participation is open to staff of COBoP signatory agencies as approved by their own Chief Executive or Regional Manager. It is expected that representatives to all COBoP meetings are actively networking information within their own agencies.

The Cultural Wellbeing Cluster is now active and has met three times since March. Chaired by Wally Tangohau (Te Puni Kokiri), the Cluster includes representation from two Councils and eight central government agencies.

The Cluster is clarifying priority focus areas which are likely to include:

- Supporting Whanau Ora implementation in the region through sharing information and spotting and leveraging connections
- Keeping the COBoP network informed about progress on Treaty Settlements across the Bay of Plenty, and emerging issues and opportunities
- Adding value to capacity building initiatives for Marae in the BoP
- Exploring ways to add value to the Bay of Connections Economic development strategy

For further information contact Wally.Tangohau@tpk.govt.nz

The Cluster administrator is Kahu McClutchie – mcclk@tpk.govt.nz

Next meeting: Tuesday 10 August, 1-3pm, at Te Puni Kokiri House, Rotorua

The Economic Wellbeing Cluster has met twice since March. Chaired by Lionel Crawley (NZTE) the Cluster includes representations from three territorial authorities, the regional council and seven central government agencies.

This Cluster focuses on adding value to and leveraging the Bay of Connections Regional Economic Development Strategy. Recent progress includes:

- News of the approval of the full Bay of Connections Regional Strategy Fund Application (\$390k). This will enable further work around Aquaculture, Forestry, Energy and Supply Chain Industries. Congratulations to all involved in preparing the application.
- Increasing collaborative interest in forward planning for Rugby World Cup 2011. Some frustration about the lack of proactive regional collaboration and processes for tourism across the BoP and the risk of lost opportunities
- Increasing dialogue among tertiary education providers in the BoP around learning and skill needs to advance the regional economic development strategy
- Exploring more work around productivity for service organisations
- Having recognised a gap in regional strategy for building business capability – further discussion is planned

For further information contact Lionel.crawley@nzte.govt.nz

Next meeting: Friday September 17, 1.30-3.30pm, Rotorua District Council

The Social Wellbeing Cluster has met twice since March. Chaired by Mike Bryant (MSD) the Cluster includes representatives from four local government agencies and twelve central government agencies.

The Cluster has received a number of presentations about regional events, strategies and monitoring. The Community Response Model, recently released by Minister Bennett, will be a focus for discussion at the next meeting (see below).

Priority areas for the Cluster are:

- Whanau Ora – a watching brief on this as information becomes available
- Effective working together – shared services
- Age targeted projects e.g. Youth, vulnerable under 5's
- Improved engagement with Maori
- Effective delivery of social services
- The role of Local Government in community wellbeing

For further information contact Mike.Bryant001@msd.govt.nz

The Cluster Administrator is Susan.Jolley003@msd.govt.nz

Next meeting: Wednesday 28 July, 1.30-3.30pm, Youth Justice Facility, Rotorua

The Environmental Wellbeing Cluster is not currently meeting.

For information contact Henry Weston hweston@doc.govt.nz

The Community Outcomes Processes Cluster awaits the outcome of the Local Government 2002 Amendment Bill and subsequent impacts on community outcomes processes.

For information contact Anne.O'Malley@tauranga.govt.nz

5. COBoP WEBSITE and COMMUNICATIONS

We've made some improvements to the COBoP website www.cobop.govt.nz to enable easier exchange of information about COBoP business within the network, and to improve usability for public users. Access to the signatory section of the website is available to approved users from COBoP Signatory Agencies.

Please contact Barbara MacLennan at: Barbara.MacLennan@cobop.govt.nz with any queries.

Improving Communication Flows in COBoP

A fleet-footed network depends on efficient information flows. Responsibility for sharing information efficiently depends on everyone involved in the Network.

There are clear protocols in place to ensure that Signatories are fully informed and are taking responsibility for appropriate processes within their own agencies.

These are detailed in the COBoP Terms of Reference document and are basically that:

- Cluster Chairs, and leaders of any project work within Clusters, are responsible for circulating agendas, papers/presentations and meeting records within those Clusters and project groups.

- Once finalised, Cluster agendas, papers/presentations and meeting records are posted on the signatory section of the website and the link is circulated to the Plenary (Signatories) Group by the Strategic Broker.

These protocols recognise that not all signatory agencies will be involved in every Cluster, so enable all to access Cluster information should they wish to; they also ensure one point of distribution for all-Signatories communication. This is channelled through the Strategic Broker.

6. CENTRAL and LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGES IN THE REGION

The recession and the drive for efficiency are impacting on all sectors. The Steering Group is interested to keep informed about changes happening and any impacts of importance.

Shortly we will circulate a table of changes we're aware of to Signatories and ask you to update this.

7. OUR FOCUS ON LEARNING

Improving our Practices – Acting Bigger and Adapting Better

The COBoP network has placed value on learning how to improve our practices for working together. Other sectors are also recognizing the value and importance of doing this – it is a global phenomenon in the face of rapid change and increasingly complex issues.

Contemporary research across the enormous philanthropic sector in the US has resulted in some guidance of interest to COBoP. It indicates that we need to move beyond the past decade's focus on *effectiveness, efficiency and responsiveness*:

*"... the most successful funders in the future will do more than operate as effective, independent institutions. The next decade will call on them to develop "next practices"—effective approaches that are well suited to the emerging landscape of public problem solving—that allow them to **act BIGGER** and **adapt BETTER**. The good news is that the very same global trends and forces that are pressuring funders to change are also opening up new opportunities for doing so..."* (**WHAT'S NEXT FOR PHILANTHROPY: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**)

Other sectors are subject to exactly the same pressures and drivers as the philanthropic sector, and the opportunities to learn and innovate together are significant. This is well worth a look!

For a two page summary see:

<http://content.tauranga.govt.nz/cobop/PhilanthropySnapshot.pdf> (157kb)

For the Executive Summary see:

<http://content.tauranga.govt.nz/cobop/PhilanthropyExec.pdf> (913kb)

For the full document see:

<http://content.tauranga.govt.nz/cobop/PhilanthropyFullReport.pdf> (LARGE 3mb)

For further information about COBoP or the content of this Update, contact Barbara.MacLennan@cobop.govt.nz, Strategic Broker, COBoP