



SmartGrowth Environment & Sustainability Forum

Balcony Room, Historic Village, 17th Avenue, Tauranga

Agenda

Tuesday 6th September 2016

1. Apologies	Jo Wills
2. Minutes and Actions from the previous 5 July 2016 meeting (<i>Paper A</i>)	Jo Wills
3. Position Paper Analysis – Liz Davies Paper (<i>Paper B</i>)	Karen Summerhays
4. Te Tumu Urban Growth Area discussion	Forum
5. SmartGrowth Thank you Function	Karen Summerhays
6. General Business	Chair

Upcoming E&S Meetings

1 November – The Balcony Room, Historic Village 1.30-3.30pm

Paper A

Environment and Sustainability Forum

Tuesday 5th July 2016, 1.30-3.30pm

The Village Hall, Historic Village, 17th Avenue

Present	Jo Wills (Chair), Hans Pendergrast (Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust), Glen Crowther (Sustainable Business Network), Barry Roberts (Federated Farmers), Julie Midson (Kaimai Settlers Assn. and Federated Farmers) Kath Low (Tourism BOP), Janine Schmalfuss (Carbon Reduction group), Callum Barnett (Papamoa Community Garden), Dave Hursthouse (Papamoa Community Garden), Mary Dillon (Envirohub and Welcome bay Community Centre), Gray Southon (Carbon Reduction Group), Eddie Orsulich (Aongatete Forest Restoration Trust and Forest & Bird) Michelle Adams (WBOPDC), Julian Fitter (Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society), John Garwood (Fruit growers Assn.), Riki Nelson (Master Painters) Michelle Elborn (TCC) Athole Herbert (Papamoa Progressive Assn.) Karen Summerhays (SmartGrowth), Megan Rumble (SmartGrowth)	
Apologies	Anna Larson (Welcome Bay Community Centre), Glenn Ayo (WBOPDC), Marty Hoffart (Waste Watchers), Ian Mclean, Paul Hickson (Surf break Society), James Hughes (The Sustainability Society)	
Previous Minutes		The group agreed to the previous minutes with no matters arising Moved: Julian Fitter Seconded: Mary Dillon It was noted that political parties are not seen as a NGO so green party representation will be removed. Ian will be invited to represent another organisation on the forum. Previous actions Karen and Jo Wills to invite a representative from NZTA to join the forum.
	Action	Karen and Jo to approach NZTA and invite a representative to join the forum.
Presentation of Civic Space Proposals		Morgan Baker from TCC presented on the Civic Heart Project. Morgan encouraged all to submit on this. Consultation closes 18 July. Discussion and questions followed.
	Action	
Discussion and Confirmation of		Karen gave an overview of the Development and Adoption of the Position Paper. Discussion followed working through the paper. It was agreed that the draft paper would be finalised by Wednesday ready for the Combined

Environment and Sustainability Forum Positioning Paper		Fora Hui on 12 July. Members took responsibility for fleshing out certain points and having these back to Jo and Megan for inclusion by Wednesday. There will be opportunity for final tweaks after the Hui on the 12 th .
	Action	
SmartGrowth Actions and other Forum updates	Update	Karen provided an update advising all of the other forums are also working on their position papers looking to have these drafts ready for the Hui on 12 July. All position papers will be presented to elected members at SGIC on 20 July. Everyone is welcome to come along and support Jo Wills as she presented the E&S position.
	Action	
Membership overview	Discussion	Karen gave an overview of the Forum Terms of Reference advising if there are any other representatives wishing to join the forum this needs to go through the Chair, Jo Wills. Members will need to have a non-government organisation to represent that is not already represented on the forum. Megan asked for everyone to email overview of their organisations to her.
	Action	Forum members to email overview paragraph of their organisation to Megan Rumble.
General Business	Discussion	Wrap up of the meeting. Jo thanked everyone for their contribution into the position paper which has been a very large task for such a newly established forum.
	Action	

Summary of Actions	May	Karen and Jo to approach NZTA and invite a representative to join the forum.
	July	Forum members to email overview of their organisation to Megan Rumble.

Next meeting Tuesday 6th September 1.30-3.30pm, The Balcony Room, Historic Village, 17th Avenue.



Committee Name	Environment and Sustainability Forum
Forum Meeting Date	6 September 2016
Author (s)	Karen Summerhays – SG Well-beings Implementation
Purpose	To introduce the Position Paper Analysis Report by consultant Liz Davies and to provide an opportunity for the individual forums to indicate the type of action they could take to contribute to the outcomes sought in their Position Paper.

Next steps – SmartGrowth Forums’ Position Papers Response and Analysis

Consultant Liz Davies has completed an analysis for SmartGrowth of the nine position papers presented to the SmartGrowth Implementation Committee in July. Her full report is attached.

Common ground and recommendations

The report highlights six themes identified by five or more of the forums representing what the forums and the Bay of Plenty District Health Board collectively believe to be essential ingredients to be considered as part of the work of the settlement pattern review. There are also 19 other themes listed that specific to each forum’s areas of interest.

The six most common themes are:

- Community involvement in land use planning,
- Urban design,
- Planning and funding of social infrastructure,
- Compact urban form,
- Housing - affordable, housing choices, energy/resource efficient,
- Active transport options and public transport.

At the SGIC meeting on the 17/8/16 it was agreed that the Liz Davies position paper analysis be circulated to all the SmartGrowth partner councils and forums for their feedback, and with some further advice from the SG then reported back to SGIC; likely to be in December.

NOTE: At that SGIC meeting the Settlement Pattern Review was also endorsed by the Committee; the details of what was endorsed can be found on SGIC August Agenda at:

<https://www.smartgrowthbop.org.nz/media/76034/without-back-page-sgic-agenda-and-papers-17-august-2016.pdf>

The Forum is asked to provide any feedback on the Position Paper Analysis Report. The Forum’s Position Paper is attached for completeness.

SmartGrowth Forums and Bay of Plenty District Health Board

Position Statements – Next Steps

August 2016

Report prepared for SmartGrowth

By

Liz Davies – Working Together

Executive Summary

This report was prepared by Liz Davies – Working Together, at the request of SmartGrowth (SG). This report identifies the themes that arose from the Position Statements prepared by each of the SmartGrowth Forums who represent a range of community interests and the Bay of Plenty District Health Board (BOPDHB). Six themes were identified by five or more of the forums representing what the forums and the BOPDHB collectively believe to be essential ingredients to be considered as part of the work of the settlement pattern review along with 19 other themes specific to each forums areas of interest. The six most common themes are:

- Community involvement in land use planning,
- Urban design,
- Planning and funding of social infrastructure,
- Compact urban form,
- Housing - affordable, housing choices, energy/resource efficient,
- Active transport options and public transport.
- A more detailed analysis of each theme is provided along with suggested actions for the six most common themes.

A more detailed analysis of the six common themes is provided along with possible actions. The 19 other themes are listed in Appendix 1 along with the Forums that identified the theme.

Position Statement Themes

All of the SmartGrowth Forums and the BOPDHB were invited to prepare a position statement to articulate what each of the Forums believe is important and requires consideration as part of the settlement pattern review. Each of the Forums and the BOPDHB presented their position statements to SGIC on 20 July 2016. In total 25 themes were identified in the SG Forum position statements. Six themes were identified by five or more of the Forums. These are listed in no particular order in the table below. A more detailed analysis of each theme is provided along with suggested actions. The remaining 19 themes are listed along with the Forums who identified the theme in Appendix One¹.

Six most common themes	Forums (see below for full Forum names)
Community involvement in land use planning	CTWF, BOPDHB, SSF, PATAG, PDF, SIP, SPF
Urban design	CTWF, SSF, HAF, PATAG, SPF, ESF
Planning and funding of social infrastructure	BOPDHB, HAF, PATAG, PDF, SIP, SPF
Compact urban form	BOPDHB, SSF, HAF, PATAG, ESF, PDF, SIP, SPF
Housing - affordable, housing choices, energy/resource efficient	CTWF, BOPDHB, SSF, HAF, PATAG, SIP, SPF
Active transport options and public transport	BOPDHB, SSF, PATAG, ESF, SPF

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¹ It is important to note that most position statements supported various other Forum position statements, for example the Environment and Sustainability Forum endorsed the position statements of CTWF, PATAG, HAF, SSF and the BOPDHB. In this respect, a Forum may not have explicitly mentioned a theme because they were aware other Forums were raising the issue.

Forum Names

CTWF -	Combined Tangata Whenua Forum
SSF -	Social Sector Forum
HAF -	Housing Affordability Forum
PATAG -	Population Ageing Technical Advisory Group
ESF -	Environment and Sustainability Forum
PDF -	Property Developers Forum
SIP -	Social Infrastructure Providers Forum
SPF -	Strategic Partners Forum

Community involvement in SmartGrowth planning

The importance of the involvement of communities was reflected very strongly in most of the Forum position statements. It was recognised that involving communities early on in the planning processes significantly reduces the need for regulatory responses at the end of the planning process including reduced community resistance throughout the consenting process. The importance of community engagement is well articulated in Martin Udale's Infill and Intensification report (2015) which states *"Council effectively needs to obtain a 'social licence to operate' an infill and intensification program within existing neighbourhoods and communities. Unless this is achieved communities will resist, political leaders will respond accordingly, and developers will just keep away as being all too hard."*

The following terms reveal the nature of involvement from communities the Forums are seeking:

- Co-creating or designing solutions/community led planning.
- Community as equal partners in planning.
- Coordinated, consistent community and cultural consultation.
- Community empowerment.
- Community led master planning.
- Overall wellbeing of people is paramount in planning.
- Community participation and control.
- Lifetime community planning.
- People focused planning and meaningful engagement of communities.
- Respond to current and future needs of local communities.
- Liveable communities that address social inequity, promote social interaction, access to services and reflect current and future population demographics (i.e. age, income and household sizes).

Overall, the Forums are seeking a deeper involvement of communities in planning than what is generally afforded by 'consultation'. It is useful to consider the International Association of Public Participation spectrum of involvement which is the standard tool for considering levels of public involvement in decision-making.

Increasing impact on decision making

	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Public participation goal	The 'inform' level of public participation does not actually provide the opportunity for public participation at all, but rather provides the public with the information they need to understand the decision-making process.	Ask the public for their opinions and consider the input received when making decisions.	At the 'involve' level, the public is invited into the process, usually from the beginning, and is provided multiple if not ongoing opportunities for input as decision-making progresses. The organisation/s is still the decision-maker and there is no expectation of building consensus or providing the public with any sort of high-level influence over the decision.	To collaborate means to work together. At the 'collaborate' level, the public is directly engaged in decision-making. Collaborate often includes the explicit attempt to find consensus solutions. The organisation/s is still the ultimate decision-maker. The degree to which consensus will be sought and how much decision authority the organisation is willing to share must be made explicit.	Organisations provide the public with the opportunity to make decisions for themselves. The most common activities at this level are public voting or ballots, there are other techniques available as well.
Promise to the public	Keep the public informed.	Consider the public input received and to provide feedback as to how that input influenced the decision.	The public have access to the decision process and decision makers and give input to the process and feedback on how their input influence the decision.	The public engaged in all key activities and decisions, and input incorporated to the maximum possible. Consensus not always sought.	The organisation will implement what the public decides.

Possible actions

SmartGrowth (SG) needs to consider the way in which it wishes to work with communities in the growth planning process. The Forums are clearly wanting to see SG move further to the right of the spectrum and beyond 'consult'².

- That SG progress the 9A1 action in the SG Strategy, with urgency, i.e. to develop evidence-based community partnership and engagement guidelines to provide clarity on ways to engage communities throughout the planning process. Considerations and some examples of what such a guide could include:
  - More targeted input from SG Forums (e.g. appoint two SG Forum representatives to each settlement pattern project team) into the four settlement pattern work streams, in particular structure/master planning. It is recognised that it is not feasible for a range of reasons for a representative for each Forum to participate in each work stream. To ensure that the views of each the forums is captured a checklist be developed that the SG Forum representatives would use to ensure they represent the views of all the Forums.
  - Consider inclusion of Council community development, community engagement and communications staff in supporting community involvement in structure/master planning.
  - For brownfield intensification areas consider allocating Council community matching fund grants to affected communities to develop vision/plan for intensification (e.g. employ an independent local facilitator to work with the community) with support from the relevant territorial local authority to ensure the community plan fits within the statutory planning framework.
  - Provide community led training and mentoring to Council staff and elected members.
  - Engage with CTWF and review the three Council SG partners tangata whenua guidelines to ensure appropriate tangata whenua involvement in the settlement pattern, particularly land use planning.
  - Develop a checklist, based on the Forum position statements, to assist the SG management and governance groups in their decision making.
  - Identify and implement a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the extent to which the themes identified in the position statements are reflected in the implementation of planning and the extent to which community support (or 'social licence') has been achieved to implement the planning.
- To better reflect the outcome sought from the settlement pattern work streams, change the name of the settlement pattern to 'building/creating communities'.

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² There are examples of community involvement in growth planning e.g. www.placestogrow.ca that could inform the development of the guidelines. However it is recommended that there is sufficient knowledge and experience within SmartGrowth to develop its own, tailored approach to community involvement in growth planning.

Urban design

The majority of the Forums identified the critical importance of the role of urban design in creating communities. In particular, urban design encapsulated a number of features including:

- Cultural design so tangata whenua can see themselves reflected in the built environment.
- Building on and reflecting cultural heritage.
- Use of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles to improve the safety of built environments.
- Use of ecological design e.g. permaculture design.
- 'One size does not fit all', urban design enables expression of community identity and prevents homogenisation of communities.

Possible actions

- SG prepare cultural urban design guidelines (which promote and use Te Aranga urban design principles – Auckland Council) to be used by local authorities and developers.
- SG work with local authorities to identify the barriers and enablers to the use of the existing Council urban design guidelines to inform work on how to ensure better use of urban design guidelines e.g. in relation to intensification/infill consider having 'no density' controls and instead driving quality through an urban design programme assessed as a restricted discretionary activity.
- Employ a community planning approach to encourage identity and ownership of any proposed changes.

Planning and funding of social infrastructure (SI)

The importance of social infrastructure was noted by the majority of the Forums, in particular:

- The need to plan for SI with other SI providers, community and developers.
- SI planning undertaken as part of and equal to other infrastructure planning.
- Plan for SI early on in the planning process.
- Ensure the right mix and timing of SI.
- Recognise that SI help creates community identity.
- Under investment in SI needs to be addressed.
- SI contributes to improved social amenity.
- Resource use, recovery and waste minimisation as well as 'green' and 'blue' infrastructure be considered as part of infrastructure planning.
- Importance of high quality public open space for intensified areas.
- Recreation spaces – access to the natural environment, holding events in public spaces, encourage interaction, neighbourhood green space and access to water bodies, ecological corridors and biodiversity preserved, natural view shafts preserved, use of green infrastructure e.g. storm water reserves.
- Cultural infrastructure –including museum, flat floor facility.

Possible actions

- Continue SIP Forum to enable SI providers, the community and developers to plan for SI.
- Integrate SI infrastructure planning with wastewater, stormwater and transport infrastructure planning throughout the planning process from step 1-5 identified in report 'Discussion Paper – Next Steps in progressing future urban growth areas'.

- Take into account the placement of social Infrastructure sub-regionally and locally and how they ‘talk’ to each other and contribute to place making when allocating land for public and private social infrastructure (e.g. transport hubs in relation to schools etc).
- Consider undertaking a Social Return on Investment (SROI) of SI.
- Encourage the review of the Infrastructure Development Code to have flexibility and show innovation including a review of infrastructure requirements and need for public open space in intensified areas.

Compact urban form

The importance of intensification was highlighted by most of the Forums with the Property Developers Forum noting that the question is not ‘whether to intensify’ but ‘how to lead intensification’. Comments made in relation to compact urban form included:

- Intensification needs to occur in both brownfield and greenfield sites.
- Need to monitoring/enforce intensification targets set in the Regional Policy Statement (RPS).
- What are the opportunity costs and benefits of *not* having a compact urban form.
- Requires courageous leadership, the Forums will support such leadership.
- Evidence base for intensification established through community input and consideration of the four well beings.
- Importance of high quality public open space for intensified/infill areas, including consideration of who creates, funds and maintains open spaces is required.

Possible actions

In addition to the position statements, recommendations from Martin Udale’s report ‘Residential Intensification Review – City Living Zone (2015) have been drawn on where they align with the views of the position statements:

- Overt leadership, focus, resources, practices and processes needed to provide an enabling environment for infill and intensification.
- Increase interaction between developers and the community (e.g. Property Developers Forum and the other SG Forums) to enable a better understanding of each other’s views.
- Evidence base for intensification established through community input, consideration of the four well beings and research on healthy urban environments.
- Identify those areas most suitable for infill/intensification taking into account the capacity of existing infrastructure.
- Review regulatory settings to encourage and enable infill/intensification is critical. For example:
  - more permissive rules for intensification including height limits, coverage and remove requirements for parking,
  - introduce urban design controls to ensure good quality development,
  - enable mixed use development particularly in commercial areas i.e. residential development above ground level commercial activities.

- In concert with a review of the planning controls develop a “pattern book”, or design guide, with model solutions for a range of suburban infill solutions providing a range of housing typologies that could either be undertaken as a redevelopment of a single suburban lot or as an infill solution at the rear of an existing dwelling. These model designs could be “pre-approved” by Council so that projects generally in accordance with such solutions could then have an expedited consent path with a lower level of activity status. Such model solutions might deliver between 4 – 6 new dwellings on a standard lot.
- The non-regulatory role of the territorial local authorities is also critical in ensuring good quality intensification i.e. develop a holistic understanding of the quality of amenity that is required to make infill/and intensification housing choices more appealing to developers and end buyers. Considering access to work opportunities, accessibility of the ocean/harbour/recreation areas, infrastructure services, transport and facilities, and the quality of the environment are intrinsic factors in making these types of housing more attractive, and thus more viable, and the role that Council might play in delivering these is important.
- The operation of the consenting programme must focus on enabling efficient processing of quality consents including rewarding good development by way of a smooth, quick and certain consenting process.
- If a development agency was established (in line with a recommendation from Martin Udale’s report to establish a development agency/internal team focusing on infill/intensification staffed by Council to establish partnerships with developers) it is recommended that partnerships are also created with the community.
- Consider whether the SmartGrowth action to undertake an affordable housing project could also become an exemplar for infill/intensification including a range of dwelling sizes, shared facilities etc.
- Develop an appropriate measurement and monitoring framework that can be constantly updated so that things that are working can be expanded upon, those that are not working can be stopped and new ideas and innovations can be tested for effectiveness.

Housing

Providing safe and healthy housing that caters for a range of ages, incomes and household sizes was highlighted by most of the Forums. Terms referred to in the position statements included:

- Shared definition of affordable housing.
- Retaining affordability.
- Catering for the ‘missing middle’.
- Explore different methods to achieve affordable housing provision e.g. licence to occupy, inclusionary zoning.
- A range of housing choices and typologies is available to meet the population composition and incomes.
- Availability and proximity of housing to work, services, retail.
- Energy/resource efficient, safe and warm and dry housing.
- Recognition that the ‘market’ cannot provide housing that meets the needs of everyone, including existing and future communities.
- Social housing provision.
- Papakainga/development of Maori land.
- Emergency housing/homelessness.

- Role of central government in affordable, social and emergency housing.
- Focus on both rental (including security of tenure) and 'own your own' homes.
- Cost of materials contributing to lack of affordable housing.
- Costs of provisions in covenants that contribute to unaffordable housing.
- Ageing in place.
- Mixed housing/co-living.

Possible actions

- Currently SmartGrowth plans for the number of dwellings required to accommodate population growth. For a range of reasons, including there being no statutory requirement, planning for housing that caters for a range of ages, incomes and household sizes that is healthy and safe receives limited attention. For this reason, a long term sub-regional housing strategy, informed by a housing needs assessment, is necessary to plan for the number, type, and quality of housing (including affordable and social housing provision and their location within developments). Successfully planning for the range of housing required would reduce the requirement for emergency or transitional housing and provides a powerful tool to engage with central government, iwi, hapu and the philanthropic sector about their role and investment in housing for future communities e.g. public private partnerships.
- Investigate methods to retain affordability of homes over time, in particular the establishment of a Housing Trust (e.g. Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust). This would not necessarily need to be established by local authorities.
- Investigate methods to ensure the provision of affordable housing as part of the settlement pattern, in particular the feasibility of introducing inclusionary zoning which requires developments to build a certain percentage of affordable housing (e.g. Queenstown Lakes District Council district plan inclusionary zone provisions).
- Advocate for standards of new builds to be raised to focus on energy and resource efficiency, orientation, local materials, passive heating/cooling, and thermal performance as per international best practice.

Active transport options and public transport

The importance of creating healthy urban environments that reduce the need for private vehicles and increase cycling and walking opportunities was frequently identified in position statements as critical for successful community building. Comments included:

- Walkable neighbourhoods for good connectivity.
- Public transport nodes linked to and between neighbourhoods/cities/towns, that is reliable and of sufficient frequency and accessible to specific destinations e.g. hospitals.
- Walk and cycle ways which facilitate commuting and recreation.
- Take into account disability access to transport.
- Destination planning.
- Electric vehicles supported.
- Increase proportion of freight volume transported by rail.
- Appropriate infrastructure e.g. cycle racks.
- Shared transport options.

Possible actions

- Cycling, walking and public transport (including rail) afforded the same consideration as roads, vehicular freight transport and private vehicles in all transport planning e.g. completion of the Tauranga urban cycle ways and the Omokoroa – Tauranga cycle way will contribute to increased cycling and walking with subsequent reduced private vehicle use.
- Connectivity within neighbourhoods, between neighbourhoods and across the sub region to be a key principle in transport planning.
- Inclusion of electric vehicle charging points and cycling racks as a consideration of transport planning.
- Procurement of electric vehicles and provision of appropriate infrastructure for cycling (e.g. cycle racks) considered by the three Council SG partners recognising their potential to be role models as major employers in the sub region.
- Targets set for cycling, walking and public transport to increase their share of total travel movements each year with matching targets for a reduction in private passenger vehicle trips.

Conclusion

A total of 25 themes were identified from the position statements produced by the Forums and the BOPDHB.

Six themes were identified by five or more of the forums representing what the forums and the BOPDHB collectively believe to be essential ingredients to be considered as part of the work of the settlement pattern review along with a 19 other themes specific to their areas of interest.

The forums represent a broad range of community interests. They have invested considerable time in articulating what they believe to be important in relation to the settlement pattern review. They look to SmartGrowth for this to be considered and incorporated into future work determining how and where the sub region will accommodate growth and build successful communities.

Appendix 1 – Other Themes identified in the position statements

Other Themes	Forums
The Treaty of Waitangi and the CTWF 2012 Aspirational Plan which articulates the cultural, social, environmental, economic and political aspirations of tangata whenua.	CTWF
Rangatiratanga/mana (leadership, power, authority, control, recognition and self determination) and Whanaungatanga (social connections and networks) principles considered as part of the settlement pattern review.	CTWF
Tipuranga – development of Maori Land considered as an opportunity, not a risk within the settlement pattern.	CTWF, HAF, PATAG
Create healthy urban environments that promote health and well-being for all so everyone has a fair chance of being healthy.	CTWF, BOPDHB, SSF, PATAG
Measures of success includes fair distribution of health, well-being, environmental and social sustainability, not just economic growth.	CTWF, BOPDHB
Address climate change through mitigation and adaptation in land use planning e.g. sea level rise, reduce green house gas emissions.	SSF, ESF
The need for communities to be resilient including enabling local food production, establishment of lifelines and consideration of civil defence (reduce risk, readiness, response and recovery).	SSF, PATAG, ESF
Ensure environmental sustainability/kaitiakitanga is incorporated into land use planning e.g. coastal ecosystems are protected and restored, consideration is given to ecological corridors, water quality and allocation, air quality, marine reserves, natural view shafts.	CTWF, ESF
Productive land is protected for food production	ESF, SPF
Waste minimisation is prioritised throughout the development process and services that minimise waste are established for households and businesses.	ESF
‘Blue’ and ‘green’ infrastructure is actively considered in infrastructure planning.	CTWF, ESF
Infrastructure for the kiwifruit industry is considered in infrastructure planning.	SPF
Population composition considered as part of the settlement pattern e.g. aging ethnic diversity, young people.	SSF, PATAG
Central government, territorial local authorities and communities show courageous leadership and innovation.	SSF

Commercial areas are mixed use and accessible with 'bumping spaces'.	SSF, PATAG, ESR, PDF
Consider how the settlement pattern can reduce income disparity e.g. Provision of adequate social and affordable housing.	BOPDHB, SSF.
Digital infrastructure required that is accessible and affordable e.g. free Wi-Fi in public places.	SSF
Important for SmartGrowth and settlement pattern work streams to collaborate with developers in recognition that developers are responsible for a substantial share of the implementation of the SG strategy.	PDF
The planning process is well resourced and planned including guidance such as best practice examples to provide certainty and consistency in investment.	PDF

SmartGrowth Environment and Sustainability Forum

July 2016

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1) Purpose

To present the position statement of the SmartGrowth Environment and Sustainability (E&S) Forum regarding the sector requirements when considering accommodating growth within the western Bay of Plenty sub-region.

2) SmartGrowth Implementation Committee (SGIC) recommendations

- That the position of the E&S Group is noted
- That SmartGrowth and the partner staff respond to the points in all future reporting regarding the SPR
- That the future stages of planning incorporate, where feasible, the outcomes sought and when deemed not appropriate or feasible an explanation provided.

3) Introduction

According to the Environment and Sustainability (E&S) Forum Terms of Reference (2015) its role is to have on-going input into the Strategy thinking, development and implementation including the following specific aspects:

- Providing input and feedback in respect of partner projects relating to strategy actions where such input is sought by the Implementation Management Group (IMG) particularly with regard to sustainable development/management considerations
- Monitoring of relevant strategy actions.
- The development of statutory and non-statutory policies by the SmartGrowth Partners that either arise from the strategy or have the potential to impact on the strategy.
- SmartGrowth representations to regional and national forums and central government.

Using the grassroots knowledge of the forum to alert SmartGrowth to emerging environmental matters and sustainability developments that may impact on SmartGrowth policy and direction.

Our people and our prosperity depend upon the life supporting capacity of our environment.

The following positions and outcomes sought are all inter-connected and need to be considered in the context of the complex environmental and social systems in which we exist.

4) Key current Environment and sustainability concerns

- I. Increased sprawl of low density housing with associated environmental, affordability and transport related issues which work against good placemaking. The infrastructure and settlements built now lock in behaviours and emissions for decades.
- II. Issues regarding water quality and quantity
- III. Significant loss of indigenous biodiversity
- IV. Impacts of development on coastal and marine environments (including flora and fauna)
- V. Loss of community 'heart' and identity through poor urban design
- VI. Poor environmental health resulting in poor community health
- VII. Poor resource recovery and low recycling rates and waste minimisation
- VIII. Lack of action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- IX. Inefficient use of energy in the built environment
- X. Continued threat of the conversion to other uses of our productive land and soils
- XI. Car dependency due to lack of public transport and safe, active transport alternatives
- XII. Use of agrichemicals, methyl bromide, and other hazardous substances.
- XIII. Preparedness for climate change effects and disaster recovery.
- XIV. Horticultural and Agricultural land use regarding risks to food security and environmental degradation.
- XV. The need for integrated planning to manage growth in the interests of improving the quality of life and wellbeing of communities.

5) Position Statements

- a) **Urban Form:** The concept of a compact city is strongly supported. It is critical to design vibrant settlements that allow people to live in proximity to jobs and urban amenities, with abundant, accessible and attractive transport choices. A clear vision is needed to establish a sustainable and resilient city that protects the natural environment. Urban form (including compact city) is the primary enabler of a sustainable and low carbon future for the sub-region. When considering horizontal infrastructure, multifunctional green infrastructure is a primary consideration
- b) **Coastal Environments:** It is of vital importance that our coastal ecosystems are restored and protected. These include Dunelands, Harbours and Wetlands as well as the in-shore Benthic Environment. Access to and use of regionally significant surf-breaks should be protected.
- c) **Ecological corridors, Biodiversity and Water Bodies** are of high value (both ecologically and economically) and should be identified, honoured, protected and restored.
- d) **Productive Land and Food Security:** Productive land is protected and provision is made to enable citizens to access locally and communally produced food supplies.
- e) **Water:** Maintaining and restoring waterbodies to the best water (considering the particular environment) quality and ensuring sustainable water use (quantity) needs to be embedded

in any development and management strategies together with policies to promote its most efficient and productive use.

- f) **Air quality:** Health and environmental impacts of exposure to small particulate matter, chemicals e.g. methyl bromide and from burning coal. A precautionary approach to the use of agrichemicals and other chemicals, based on peer reviewed scientific papers is needed to protect the wellbeing of urban and rural residents.

g) **Climate Change:**

- i. Mitigation: Ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets consistent with national and international targets to keep global temperature increase below 2 degrees C need to be established and implemented through a robust action plan to reduce emissions.

- ii. Adaptation: A comprehensive community adaptation plan needs to be developed to understand, prepare for, and respond to the risks and impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise and increased severity and frequency of storm events.

- h) **Resource Use, Resource Recovery and Waste Minimisation:** Best practice resource use, resource recovery and waste minimisation practices needs to be implemented to meet aggressive targets.

- i) **Energy:** Enabling micro and distributed generation infrastructure (renewable and clean) in the built environment along with international best practice standards for energy-efficiency will support the development of a sustainable and resilient region.

- j) **Transport:** High quality transport planning including destination planning, with well-connected, accessible and safe cycleways and walkways, together with public transport, enabling a shift away from car dependency.

- k) E&S particularly endorses the position paper of:

- a. The Combined Tangata Whenua Forum
- b. The Population Ageing Technical Advisory Group;
- c. The Housing Affordability Forum
- d. The Social Sector Forum; and
- e. DHB

6) **Specific outcomes E&S is seeking:**

a) **Urban Form**

- i. A compact city is the primary enabler of a sustainable and low carbon future for the sub-region. To be successful a compact city must be an attractive and vibrant place to live. Active transport modes must be prioritised, with safe, accessible, protected and well-connected cycleways and walkability. The trade-offs that occur to deliver higher density must be acceptable to the community. A thoughtfully planned and well-funded approach to community engagement is vital.
- ii. The key to a compact city is great place-making together with the support of communities because they have been involved right from the beginning
- iii. To deliver a compact city, the following methods should be considered:
  - A rethink of zoning and planning policy settings is required to enable better outcomes. The following are three specific suggestions:

- More permissive rules for intensification, including height limits, coverage, removing min requirements for access and parking.
  - Incentivising mixed use town centres
  - Tighter rules to prevent inappropriate retail developments (eg UK Town Centres First Policy)
- iv. Tauranga City Council should implement its 2006 Urban Design Strategy and better promote TCC's 2008 Urban Design Guidelines, focusing on diversity, density and public amenity. These are under-utilised existing resources.
  - v. There are a range of non-rule based approaches that Council should investigate further, including:
    - Making the consenting process much simpler for intensification projects
    - Councils investing in and enhancing 'town centre' areas to make them sustainable and attractive places to live.
    - Acquire and amalgamate land in order to build exemplar projects and address 'land contiguity problems' and thereby enable key strategic developments to proceed
    - A range of other approaches that are outlined in the Udale Report to SmartGrowth and a further report from TCC by Michael Tucker
    - Apply ecological design processes to urban and bioregional planning e.g. permaculture design
  - vi. Develop a robust, multi-criteria decision making process (such as ecosystem services) to assist in guiding land use decisions.
  - vii. ES evaluations are undertaken to inform decision making at the appropriate planning stage
  - viii. Encourage the use of Green Infrastructure (GI) for stormwater management in public and private development where stormwater infrastructure is to be vested in / managed by council
  - ix. GI is recognised as an asset which is maintained and improved and incorporates multipurpose use where possible.

b) Coastal Environments

- i. Planning exercises designed to cater for an increasing number of people should treat the coastal dune system as a highly protected resource. This approach is anchored in the Regional Policy Statement. SmartGrowth should support this policy approach.
- ii. Support the protection of marine resources e.g. more marine reserves.
- iii. Protection of natural view shafts.
- iv. Protect access to, and use of regionally significant surf breaks as identified in BOP regional coastal environment plan. Protection of all coastal wetland areas including Harbours.
- v. Protection of all coastal wetland areas including Harbours.
- vi. Provide for public use and amenities within this protected resource

c) Ecological corridors, Biodiversity and Water Bodies

- i. The development of a region-wide strategy for the conservation, protection and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity and natural ecosystems and the services they provide.
- ii. Provision of ecological corridors
- iii. Communities empowered and supported to be the stewards of their environment.

d) Productive Land and Food Security

- i. High-quality soils around the urban periphery are protected, especially in Pyes Pa, so they can be used for food production into the future.
- ii. Community gardens, fruit trees on public land, school gardens and other measures are actively supported to improve food security and resilience throughout the city
- iii. Agricultural and horticultural practices actively protect and regenerate soil quality, water quality, air quality and biodiversity. These practices enable economic and environmental prosperity, while ensuring regional food security.

e) Water

Water is our greatest natural asset. Our lakes, rivers and wetlands are outstanding features of our landscape. Our water assets support and sustain our unique indigenous biodiversity. Water has immense environmental, social and economic value. Water and waterbodies are of particular significance to Maori for cultural, heritage and life-giving reasons.

The quality of our water is degrading and water quantity is under significant pressure. As a goal all water bodies should be of swimmable quality and where quality is compromised it needs to be restored over time.

The following actions should be implemented;

- i. That the entire ecosystem health of each of our water bodies is mapped and where compromised is restored over time.
- ii. That where water is taken to supply social and economic needs, resource consent ensures that the water body ecosystem is not compromised and is sufficient to preserve whole ecosystem health.
- iii. That where cities, towns and new communities are developed water conservation and efficient water use are part of the development planning together with the taking of water from rich areas to enable water in other areas to be used for productive purposes e.g. food
- iv. That continuing education is provided to all communities about the value of water as a resource and its value in our ecosystems.
- v. That the cultural values of water and water bodies to Tangata Whenua is acknowledged and provided for.
- vi. That the heritage, landscape and amenity value of water bodies is recognised and protected.
- vii. That in view of climate change consideration is given to the issue of storm-water run-off in the degradation of water bodies and the potential to treat storm-water as a resource.
- viii. That SmartGrowth acknowledges the work, research and community contributions to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Fresh Water Futures projects and submits

in due course to the BOP Regional on the recommendations for the water bodies in the Western Bay of Plenty.

f) Air

- i. Use of international best practice guidelines in the banning or recapture of methyl bromide.
- ii. Use of international best practice guidelines, based on peer reviewed scientific papers, to assess the usage of agrichemicals accordingly and prioritize potential health impacts when determining weed control policies and processes.

g) Climate Change

- I. Full implementation of the Local Government Leaders Climate Change Declaration.
- II. Greenhouse gas baseline and reduction targets are established.
- III. Develop and promote an action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- IV. Climate change risks and vulnerabilities are assessed for the region and adaptation plans developed.
- V. Climate change implications are considered in all coastal development and flood plain planning.

h) Resource Use, Resource Recovery and Waste Minimisation

- i. Detail is developed on how the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and the Bay of Plenty Waste and Resource Efficiency Strategy will be incorporated.
- ii. More efficient use of resources is prioritised in procurement processes.
- iii. Aspirational targets are set for increasing resource recovery and recycling, and diversion of waste from landfill.
- iv. A strategy for diverting construction and demolition waste along with targets is developed, including e-waste
- v. A strategy and targets for diverting organic waste (food and green waste) waste are developed. Currently this accounts for 45% of all domestic waste to landfill (across the BOP). This is the most harmful waste, as it generates GHG's as it rots underground.
- vi. A strategy for managing dumping and burning of farm waste along with targets is developed
- vii. A strategy for managing and disposal of 3D waste is developed

i) Energy

- i. Standard of new builds is raised to focus on energy & resource efficiency, orientation, local materials, passive heating/cooling, and thermal envelope performance (etc) as per international best practice.
- ii. Resilience and energy achieved through clean and renewable generation as well as micro and community generation is recognised as best practice and is enabled and encouraged.
- iii. LED street lighting and other new lighting technologies are evaluated to the latest international best practice, weighing up all costs and benefits, including energy

efficiency. Any new street lighting to be low correlated colour temperature (CCT) to avoid adverse impacts on human, animal and bird populations and unduly brightening night skies.

- iv. Healthy Homes retrofitting for existing houses is supported by Council initiatives.
- v. Use of LED street lighting and other new lighting technologies should consider potential impacts on community health and wellbeing e.g. solar.
- vi. Industrial sector required to develop policies for moving to low energy low polluting systems

j) Transport

- i. Electric vehicles and non-fossil fuel forms of transport are actively supported.
- ii. Increase the proportion of total freight volume which is transported by rail.
- iii. Targets set for cycling and walking to increase their share of total travel movements every year, and matching targets set for reduction in private passenger vehicle trips as percentage of total journeys
- iv. Targets set for patronage on public transport to increase their share of total travel movements every year, and matching targets set for reduction in private passenger vehicle trips as percentage of total journeys.
- v. Public transport modes link effectively with active transport and are supported by the appropriate infrastructure e.g. user-friendly fares, bike racks on buses, park and ride facilities and accessible bike storage areas
- vi. Promote and encourage shared transport options

7. The E&S Forum expects to see:

The following deliverables in order be a liveable, vibrant, adaptive city:

Transport / Mobility Infrastructure
- Well-connected accessible and safe cycle-ways and walkways enabling a shift away from car dependency   - Pathways (walk and cycle) which facilitate both commuting and recreation   - Greater use of electric cars and non-fossil fuels   - Attractive public transport options
Commercial Areas
Mixed use town centres
Green/Recreational Infrastructure
- Access to clean, natural waterbodies and safe neighbourhood green spaces for informal recreation and greenways.   - Multiple use of green infrastructure.   - Ecological corridors and biodiversity are actively preserved.   - Communities empowered and supported to be the stewards of their environments   - More and better protected marine reserves   - Natural view shafts towards the land preserved   - Surf breaks protected
Health & Well-being

• Trees in streets, commercial areas and reserves.   • Prioritise the health concerns related to agrichemical use   • Full capture or banning of Methyl bromide.   • Active transport networks
Housing and Neighbourhoods
• New builds focus on energy & resource efficiency, orientation, local materials, passive heating, and practice thermal envelope performance e.g. to best international practice   • Resilience and energy achieved through micro and community generation (clean/renewable).   • Healthy Homes retrofitting for existing houses   • Electric vehicles and non-fossil fuel forms of transport are actively supported.   • Targets set for cycling and walking to increase their share of total travel movements every year, and matching targets set for reduction in private passenger vehicle trips as percentage of total journeys   • Water conservation and efficient water use planning is implemented
Infrastructure for Resilience
• Empowerment of local food production.   • Lifelines for lifetime neighbourhoods: those infrastructural elements essential to sustain life (e.g. food supply line, heating or fuel, water)   • Public access to free potable water.   • Local/community energy supply.   • Align to the four R's of Civil Defence: Reduce risk, Readiness, Response and Recovery

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