**SmartGrowth Strategic Partners Forum Meeting**

**Tuesday, 7 February, 2017 8:00am – 10:00am**

**Classic Flyers, The Armoury Room**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Present** | Bill Wasley (Chair), Anne Pankhurst (PATAG Chair), Emily Rogers (WBoPDC), Annie Hill (PriorityOne), Kate Longman (NZKGI), John Garwood (Fruit Growers Assc.), Fern Nielsen (National Council for Women), Paul Hickson (Te Puke Fast Forward), Mark Boyle (Te Puke EDG), Jo Wills (chair of Environment and Sustainability Forum), Mary Dillon (Envirohub),– for discussion of item 7 on streamlined process), Jacqui Knight, Katch Katikati,) | |
| **In attendance** | Bernie Walsh (SG Implementation Manager), Karen Summerhays (People and Place) Philip King (Tauranga City Council | |
| **Apologies** | Jeff Fletcher (PDF), Christine Ralph (HAF Chair), Buddy Mikaere (CTWF), Lena Kovac (Creative Bay of Plenty) | |
| **Previous minutes and matters arising** | Discussion | No matters arising from the previous minutes. Minutes confirmed by the forum.  Note: SPF membership paper not on agenda. Update in item 5. |
| **SmartGrowth Briefing** | Discussion | Bernie outlined and spoke to the high level Incoming Briefing to the SmartGrowth Leadership Group, explaining how the briefing had been informed by a range of documents including the position papers. It was a strategic ‘starter paper’ and raised a number of issues and priorities for the committee to consider. It outlined a range of work underway including the response to the forum position papers, the response to the National Policy Statement for Urban Development Capacity – and key challenges for the leadership group going forward. It has been through the Chief Executives’ Advisory Group.  **Feedback on ‘Briefing to Incoming Senior Leadership Group’**  General strong agreement on the briefing – however, attendees felt there were some issues that weren’t given enough emphasis and needed a higher profile in the briefing from their perspectives. The parts of the briefing that came from the strategy also needed refreshing and updating.  Understand briefing was high level – and seeking to take a general briefing approach. Promote strategic discussion.  Attendees said that there were other issues that needed greater emphasis in terms of some key strategic challenges and issues for the sub-region. Discussion of these issues is summarised below.  **Education of young people**  Need to be supported and educated to “be the best they can be”. They need access to the resources to reach their full potential. Young Maori population in our region. There is a risk that we don’t pay enough attention to managing the risk that they don’t have the opportunities and resources to reach their full potential.  There are workforce changes and direction ahead. Maori economic development stream in Bay of Connections will be very important – Regional Growth Strategy – and support from central government. This is a SmartGrowth sub-regional issue too if we want a Smart Future.  **Connection between country and city**  Need to be careful about being too “city-ified” - this is an overarching and strategic issue for the sub-region. That Tauranga doesn’t dominate every aspect of the strategic thinking, when our future is about the ‘rural and the urban’ working in the best way possible. A truly sub-regional strategic issue for SmartGrowth.  This is an issue for the SmartGrowth Forums too – we need membership from across the sub-region and perhaps we could do better in that area. Our focus is on areas of interest, based on expertise but we need to keep the focus on sub-region and ensuring good representation across the rural and urban areas of our sub-region**.**  **People focus**  We need to always keep the focus on people – it’s about building communities – not providing housing and land. It is about what amenity we provide for our people, and our communities – and how we build new communities, but also work with our current communities as we grow, change.  The SmartGrowth 2013 Strategy put the emphasis strongly on social infrastructure and people – and this needs more emphasis. Need to keep that strong.  Beware of the slippage from the four wellbeings – social, economic, environmental and cultural.  **Future thinking**  Is very important – but it is not just about dollars – e.g funding infrastructure. 20% live below the poverty line – ‘not well connected with’.  **Last but most importantly**  **Environmental sustainability**  This is the umbrella – it’s the over-arching, framework and not an “add-on”.  We need good jobs and housing – but we also need connectivity to our land/our environment. |
| **SmartGrowth structures diagram** | Update/  Discussion | General comments that “it (the diagrams) make sense” as does the Engagement Diagram.  Annie Hill (PriorityOne) expressed her disappointment that community voice was now missing from managers group.  Bill explained that the two groups would be working together on key issues at different times – Strategic Partners and Strategic Managers. Managers also needed to have their own discussions and the SmartGrowth management discussions had been lifted up a level to be more strategic in nature. This change process required a more structured and team-building approach with managers but included the DHB manager Sarah Davey and NZTA’s Alistair Talbot. |
| **Update - positioning and membership of Strategic Partners Forum** | Update | Bill explained that there was still a need to review membership of the Strategic Partners Forum in light of new forums and new chairs. New engagement research involving forums and partner staff was underway. SG need to explore and examine the value of the forums. What is effective? Any gaps in operation? Gaps in membership? Fit for purpose and improving effectiveness? This would form the basis for tweaking – rationalising, terms of reference etc. what SPF would look going forward. It was not about losing the value of SPF – but having wider perspective…Work on the engagement research commenced in late Feb early March. Bill had been working that through with forum chairs. Timely to review operating environment and what opportunities – other ways of engaging? Some forums – SPF – for example generally had a good turnout – but attendance is variable across the forums –need to understand that and consider if there are there other ways to provide engagement opportunities. |
| **Engagement Approach diagram** | Update | Noted new engagement diagram going to the SmartGrowth Leadership Group. General comments and agreement “that it made sense”. As above. |
| **Streamlined engagement processes SmartGrowth Forums** | Update  Discussion | Karen Summerhays spoke to this item as she had been developing this process for SmartGrowth with Bill, the forums and the councils. This table of options and mechanisms for engagement with the forums came out of a request from Christine Jones at TCC – how to engage efficiently with forums – structure plans and compact city particularly – NZTA.  Happy for feedback as this is a work in progress. It was noted that feedback was yet to be received from TCC and WBOPDC.  Talking is really critical element. Best mechanisms. Regional Council – how does it work with co-governance arrangements? CTWF? Attendees said they would like their feedback/positions “understood rather than considered”. Councils could seek clarification to understand. That was what the forums said on delivery of their position papers. Outcomes of workshops fed into forum papers. Set of principles under which a project will develop is needed – test – yardstick. Regional Policy Statement – implement what we want to do. Baseline of principles established.  General discussion on the need for forums to be able to inform policy – and use their “collective strength”.  Philip King (TCC) explained that the city council was in the process of reviewing/reconfirming its strategic frameworks in preparation for the Long-term Plan (LTP). There were new committees at TCC and a long period of community engagement would start in April 2016 and continue until March 2018, when the formal engagement on the LTP would begin. There was a huge opportunity for the forums to contribute to that process.  Bill notes that SPF/SmartGrowth could put a sub-regional lens across everything. The SmartGrowth Leadership Group connected all three councils in one forum with Tangata Whenua. |
|  | **Action** | Philip to keep SPF/forums up to date with process for TCC engagement on their long-term plan and strategic direction work and opportunities for forums to become involved and contribute. |
| **Forum Position Papers response update** | Update | Bernie explained this work and said that Cheryl Steiner was leading the project. The council GMs had been very helpful and fully engaged. The councils had responded with a lot of information that Cheryl was now working through and summarising for further discussion with them.  The update table was noted by attendees. Bernie Walsh explained the process and that all forums would receive the full council response information from the councils once it had been seen, discussed and agreed by the Strategic Managers Group and their councils. Then a joint hui would enable full discussion before the full response documents went back to the Strategic Leadership Group. |
| **Progress Report Framework** | Discussion | Discussed and noted the framework for the Progress Report. Attendees agreed a report of this nature was a good idea and would be a useful way of tracking progress (direction of travel) on the SmartGrowth Strategy. |
| **Forum chairs roundtable update – each forum chair to give a brief update on their forums, and any key points on strategic issues. (verbal)** | Update | **Environment & Sustainability (Jo Wills)** – found our feet after establishment. Struggle to figure out what able to share. After the fact. Took time to understand. Really helpful – to do the position paper – this is what we are here for. Membership settled now – high calibre of people – different expertise. Transport, climate change, health, scientific basis, robust and diverse group of people; focus and time has been given to Te Tumu development – meetings and workshops – understanding – sharing our expertise. Big piece of work – requests to regional council on current activity around Te Tumu – ecological value – fundamental design component – what’s happening in that space. Wanting to look beyond current compliance – ecological areas – gather information on TCC – great presentations – Cam Larking and James Low – work through that – apply our knowledge. Questions and know what we can make recommendations on. Transportation – whole region – impacts on every other part of development and infrastructure. A lot of other things happening around transport – forum involved in figuring out value add to transport as well as Te Tumu. Year coming up soon. Pleased with where we got to – massive when first started. High expectations and specific – come a long way to recognise – analysis – environmental considerations across entire region.  **PATAG (Anne Pankhurst**) – going since 2008. Raise awareness of population ageing – this is ‘cradle to grave’ – ageing across all of the ages. Moved from awareness to influence. Influence thinking – how? Eastern Bay – how do we work with them – extend slightly. Rental situation paper. Understanding as housing affordability bites – home ownership dropping dramatically – what does that look like? Rental tenure? Thought leadership – leading a discussion – not really considered. SG part of National Science Challenge through PATAG – really good place for us to be – forums – interesting piece of work – proud of – awareness to influence – paper in National Science Challenge. Ongoing discussions – really value Danni from TCC. Membership – looking forward to paper Bill was talking about.  **Discussion**Jo commented that the region was losing really good people because we don’t know how to treat renters. Commercial market – landlord owns the house, paying for privilege – tenancy agreement – you own the space you live in. Social implications – sense of security.  Karen said the focus groups showed an institutional bias against renters. “No one likes you if you are a renter.” For example people think it is better to live in a street of owner-occupied than renters.  Anne – got to change the way we think – what does SG say about it – NPS work implications.  Paul – These issues are landlord dependent. There are two sides to these issues.  Jo – yes, but it is the perception of the role. As housing affordability bites, rental is the next issue because people cannot buy houses. |
| **Any other business** |  | Bill thanked Mark and Paul for eastern tour for Bernie, Ken and Bill. SmartGrowth Leadership Group is going to eastern part later on in the year.  Many changes have occurred – conversion from dairying to kiwifruit; value add as part of that process and pressures that brings. Accommodation etc. Rangiuru – Te Puke – industrial land provision – further details what’s happening and pressure. Need thinking long term  Kate from Kiwifruit Growers said that Zespri doesn’t have a database on developments – are there ways to get hold of that information to understand level of consents – land use changes through consent process?  Mark said he had raised the need for this with Western Bay District Council already and their co-ordination role in this – input into that – collector of the information. PriorityOne is also keen to know how much rural development in kiwifruit. Regional consent – water? Bill says this is a significant spatial planning issue. Bought licence or established. Development a lot sooner than that.  Jo mentioned that on March 22 there was a symposium on water – Sustainable Backyards – overall freshwater futures – at Bayfair exhibition centre. |
| **Other matters** |  | Transport comes across all forums and whole region. Needs discussion.  Reminder from Bernie to attend Smart Talk event with Professor Paul Spoonley this afternoon (Feb 7) |

**Meeting ended at 10.03am Next Meeting 11April 2017 – Classic Flyers, Armoury Room**

**ACTION POINTS – from Feb 7 meeting  
Strategic Partners Forum**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item No.** | **Meeting** | **Action** | **Action** |
| 1. | **February SmartGrowth Leadership Group** | Anne Pankhurst would represent the Strategic Partners Forum in the Chair’s Forum at the next Strategic Leadership Group meeting on Feb 15. She would summarise the group’s feedback on the incoming briefing to add to the advice in the reports and to inform their decision-making on future priorities. Bernie to assist Anne with preparing a summary of meeting discussion. Anne would also be speaking on behalf of PATAG on the rental housing research. | Bernie W/  Anne P |
| 2. | **Database of land use changes - new Kiwifruit orchards** | Bernie/Emily to gather update from Western Bay of Plenty District Council. How could this be actioned? Were they looking into this kind of co-ordination role to assist with future planning?  Bernie to look into Zespri forward planning (GM) talking to the SmartGrowth Leadership Group. | Emily/  Bernie W |
| 3. | **TCC strategic direction engagement/Long-term Plan work** | Philip to keep SPF/forums up to date with process for TCC engagement on their long-term plan and strategic direction work and opportunities for forums to become involved and contribute.  Also progress on it with new committees. | Philip |