



Meeting: Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum/Triennial Meeting

Meeting Date: 23 October 2020

Item under Separate Cover

As noted on the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum/Triennial Meeting Agenda for the meeting on Friday 23 October 2020, the following item is included under separate cover:

Verbal Updates

6.3 Update from the Bay of Plenty Chief Executives' Local Government Workshop held on Friday 9 August 2020

Presented by: Bay of Plenty Chief Executives

Attachment 1 - Local Government Reimagined Bay of Plenty

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Local government reimagined -

Bay of Plenty

23 October 2020



Context

Recently New Zealand local government authorities have been facing the prospect of significant change. Three waters reforms have become clearer and major redesign of the RMA has been signalled by both major political parties following the recent major review of the legislation.

These changes follow an extended period of Councils being under pressure to do more with less, expectation to respond to population changes, economic, social and environmental needs, all while managing pressure to limit or contain on rates rises.

Councils are grappling with what these changes will mean for their organisations, and for some what might remain when the changes are complete. There is every reason to think that further changes will be forthcoming from central government.

The CEO workshop – 9 October 2020

The workshop was an opportunity to provide thought leadership to Councils in the Bay of Plenty by imagining what a valued sustainable future could look like. This conversation is similar to conversations and considerations across the local government network, including LGNZ.



At our best

At our best, local government in the Bay of Plenty use our skills, resources and relationship to protect, represent and advance the communities of the Bay of Plenty and its economies and environments.

We know our local communities.

- During COVID our local knowledge and networks meant that we were able to ensure that services and support got to the people who needed COVID support.

We know our places.

- We are able to plan and design our communities because we understand our environmental dynamics, business needs and community identities

Our elected members are chosen by our communities to be the first call for support and representation, on any matter, for local action or national policy change. Matters of national concern at often local concerns.

- For example, a lack of access to affordable housing is not simply a concern for national policy makers, it is also a concern for local communities and creates a desire to act locally to ensure communities are safe places for everyone to live.

Critical for the success of the our local councils is the ability to build and maintain relationships with iwi leaders, to create a shared leadership for the development of local communities and strong connections with neighbouring communities.



Core capability and functions for the future

The core role of local government in the future is to:

- Work with local, regional and national leaders in terms of **placemaking** for all of the local communities in our rohe
 - **Placemaking** is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of communities and their environment. **Placemaking** capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of **creating** communities that promote people's health, happiness, and social, cultural economic and environmental well-being.
- Build the **strength and resilience of our communities and places**.
 - Through planning and community development we build **the strength and resilience of our communities, including climate change and wider matters of resilience**. We, along with our iwi and government partners support and care for our people, particularly in times of need
- Be part of the **national fabric of government service design and delivery**
 - Facilitate national service delivery to ensure key services are designed and delivered in a way that meets the needs of our places and our people. Our capability is to enable national policy intention to reach the whanau, business shores and streams of our places.
 - Maintain a national network of local services – to support local employment, development and support
- **Represent and act on the needs and perspectives of all people in our local community**

To create local government with these roles for a stronger local government will mean a different investment approach to local government. To invest in local government as a part of the national fabric of government for Aotearoa/New Zealand.



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Relationship with Central Government

To be recognised as a part of the national fabric of government aligned from national intent to local delivery with require a change of relationship with government; an investment in facilitation, design and local service delivery, and leadership that brings together not only local and central government but also iwi leaders to recognise the shared commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi.

The current Mayoral Forum and Chief Executive forum are important forums to share information, but it is difficult to advance the communities of the regional without a stronger connection to iwi and central government.

The regional leadership forum is focussed on advancing the communities of the region, building an understanding of community needs and impact of national policy initiatives on local communities and to build a nationally and locally aligned approach to government.

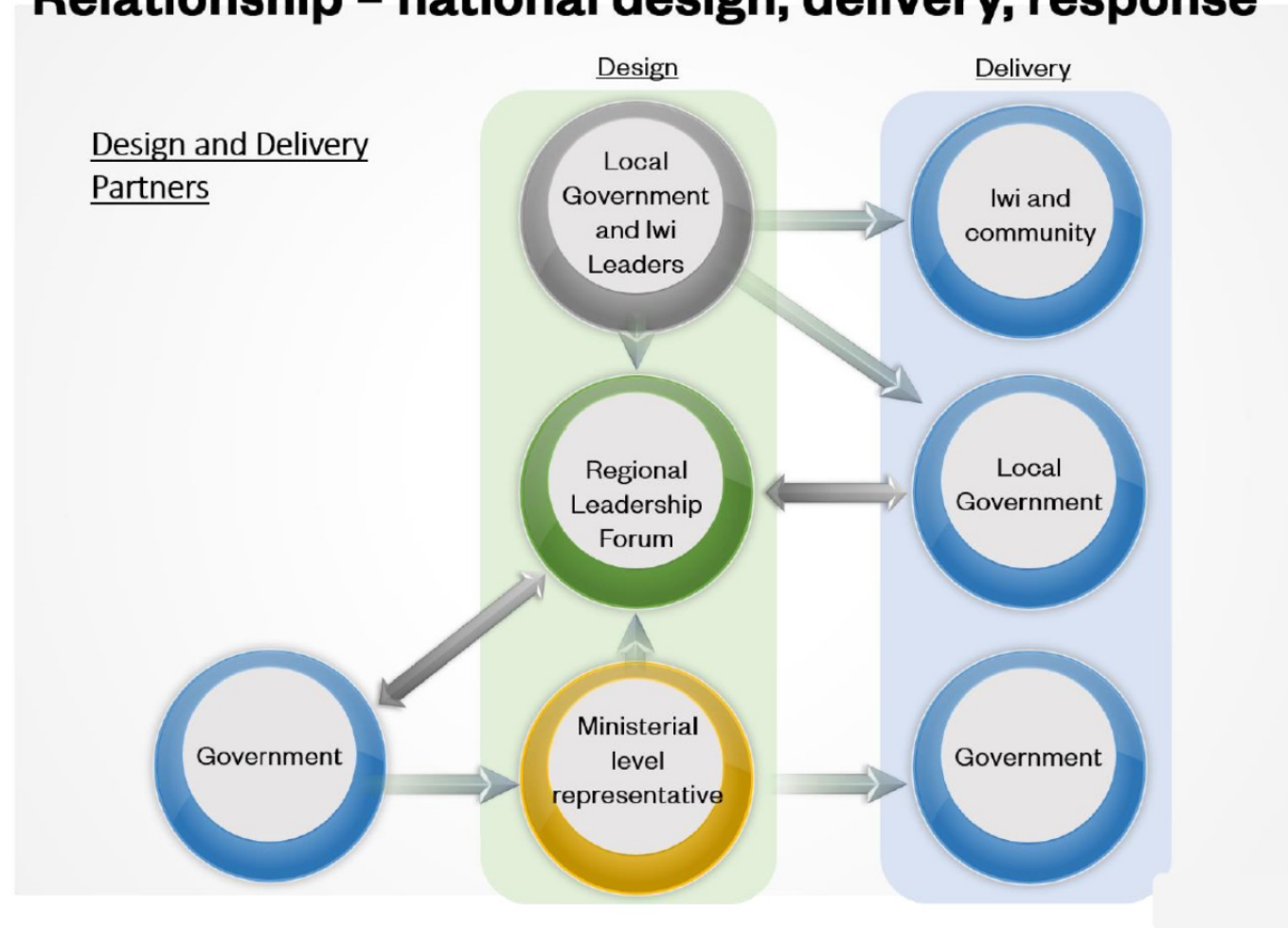
The Regional Leadership Forum would be convened by a Ministerial level, government representative. The forum would draw together elected leaders from all local government authorities and iwi leaders from across the region. Together these leaders, supported by a small team of executives and staff would act as design and delivery partners.

On a six monthly basis the forum would meet to:

- Plan development for the region
- Identify and agree local contribution to the implementation of national programmes
- Shape national policy priorities based on local community needs



Relationship – national design, delivery, response



Principles

The principles to underpin the successful regional leadership function for aligned government across the regional:

- Giving mana and respect to all leaders in the regional
- Commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi
- Participation of local government, iwi and government elected leaders to create a national network of service needs identification, service design and delivery
- Focus on advancing the four wellbeings for all of the communities of a region
- Diversity of leadership perspectives
- Trusted relationships
- Resourced by managers, services and staff to facilitate moving agreement into action



Recommendation

To work with the incoming government and iwi leaders to further build this model of aligned system of government and to use the Bay of Plenty as a region to prototype a new role for local government and iwi leaders to lead and advance our communities and places.

