



SOLGM's Sector Futures Working Party Newsletter

SOLGM's Sector Futures Working Party met on 10 July. The following are items of interest and a short list of thinkpieces others have done that you might find interesting:

Fit for the Digital Future

The next wave of new technology is already upon us. As a species we now create as much data in two days as was created up to the end of 2003.

The ICT future is based on mass deployment of sensors, the ability to create and extract meaning from really big data, and cloud storage.

At the same time the emergence of cheap, relatively mobile electric motor vehicles, new forms of renewable energy and distributed generation will change our transport and the urban form.

We've now signed off on a joint SOLGM/ALGIM report on 10 emerging technologies, ***Fit for the Digital Future***, which is now in pre-publication and will be released in the next month. As technology is an ever-changing thing we will continue to monitor developing technology and will repeat this report in a couple of years.

Watch for the webinar ***Emerging Technology: Coming Ready or Not*** – dates to be confirmed

Climate Change Adaptation

We've also signed off on a report that looks at local governments role in climate change adaptation and draws together some examples of what's being done. It's timely that we did this in the same week that the Government announced new targets. Again watch for further details about an upcoming webinar.

Working Shoulder to Shoulder

A third report looking at engagement under co-governance and collaborative models is being readied for publication. This has been written as a primer to stimulate your own thinking using case studies.

These approaches are becoming a standard part of treaty settlements, and the LAWF model remains a strong possibility for legislative enactment. We very much hope that

Working Shoulder to Shoulder will encourage others to come forward with case studies.

What We've Been Reading

The Working Party and its seven aides have been considering the following reports that you may find interesting:

Localism and the New Communities – housing availability is a major issue in the UK. Yet there is a concern that these new communities are experiencing higher levels of mental distress and anti-social behaviour. This report from the Local Government Information Unit suggests local government should be encouraging building communities as opposed to building houses. This rings true in the New Zealand context, especially as the UK legislation is a lot more permissive in its approach to funding growth needs than ours.

<http://www.lgiu.org.uk/report/localism-and-new-communities/>

(Hat tip: Matthew Leighton who drew this report to our attention)

The Council and the Commons – UK local government is approaching a tipping point in terms of its ability to adapt to the cuts without reducing front line services. This report looks at the strategies used to date and argues for a new definition of place as a commons. We will be initiating a project looking at how overseas local authorities have adapted to declining budgets and managing in an environment of declining demand at our next meeting. This report was prepared by the New Local Government Network

<http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/2014/the-council-and-the-common-local-government-in-2020/>

The Top Ten Emerging Technologies of 2015 – this annual report from the World Economic Forum does pretty much what the title says. This year's edition has a biotech focus, but we were also pleased to note many of the technologies in our own report are there.

<https://agenda.weforum.org/2015/03/top-10-emerging-technologies-of-2015-2/>

Demystifying data – another one from the New Local Government Network. This one argues that open data and big data are a potential generator of economic development. UK councils need to adopt local data Strategies and upskill themselves in the use of new technologies. Some of the thinking in this report helped us shape the approach the concluding parts of Fit for the Digital Future take

<http://laria.org.uk/2015/04/demystifying-data-the-data-revolution-and-what-it-means-for-local-government/>

(Hat tip: Ilana Batchelor, who found this as part of preparing the last edition of the SOLGM policy bulletin)

And Finally

If you have a report, blog etc you'd like to bring to our attention please contact us at raymond.horan@solgm.org.nz

None of the things we are working on is secret, though they are available only to those councils who pay the SOLGM Sector Good subscriptions (due at the end of the month).