



Planning and Accountability Working Party Newsletter

April 2016

SOLGM's Planning and Accountability Working Party met on 1 April.

This edition of the newsletter covers:

- SOLGM long term plan guidance review
- Better Local Services
- Exposure Draft: Service Performance.
- Changing Demographics Event
- Community Plan

Long term plan guidance review

SOLGM has commenced reviewing its existing long term plan guidance. Revamped guides will be made available before commencement of the Road to 2018 long term plan training. Additionally, SOLGM has looked to create core principles for the review of its long term plan guidance. These principles will be made available alongside reviewed guidance.

Performance Management Guidance Review

SOLGM is looking to simplify its performance management guide. This document looks beyond the long term plan, to the importance of good performance management for local authorities. The reviewed guide will cover strategic direction setting, performance culture, levels of service, targets and performance measures.

More Dollars and Sense Review

SOLGM is reviewing its More Dollars and Sense guide, which looks at financials and the long term plan. The aim of the review will be to build on lessons from the 2015 round of long term plans. Key messages within the guide will be clarified, along with greater emphasis on good practice, particularly around infrastructure strategies. Furthermore, the review will build in diagnostic or other tools for assessing existing strategies.

Better Local Services

The Minister of Local Government announced the government's Better Local Government reforms earlier last month. The reforms look to legislate and allow councils to collaboratively set up CCOs, with a focus on transport, water and economic development. As we

understand it councils may choose from some legislated 'off the shelf' models or design their own.

For transportation there will be two off the shelf models, one that is a land transport CCO, one a pure roading CCO (or councils can design their own). The off the shelf models presume existing regional council boundaries as a basis – councils that say want to set up a CCO within a region (say South Canterbury roads) would need approval from the Minister of Transport. The water model appears to be based on a joint committee. Departure from the off the shelf model in this case appears to require approval from the Minister of Local Government. A water CCO will be prohibited from distributing surpluses to its shareholders.

Further changes include increased local oversight – including changes to SOI preparation, links to LTPs and infrastructure strategies. Similarly, transfers of functions will be better enabled.

SOLGM will provide an opportunity to discuss these changes at part of its Managing CCOs and Alternatives Training to be held 30 and 31 May in Wellington.

Registrations are open – you can register at:

http://www.solgm.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=371

Exposure Draft: Service Performance

The External Reporting Board has released an exposure draft of a standard on reporting service performance. Finance, and Planning and Accountability Working Parties will look at this from the standpoint of relationships between the standard, the requirements of local government legislation and the information necessary for the daily operations.

Those interested can find it at:

https://www.xrb.govt.nz/Site/Accounting_Standards/Exposure_Drafts/SPR_ED_2016-6.aspx

Submissions close on 29 July.

Changing Demographics Event

This interactive one day event is an opportunity not to be missed for local authorities nationwide to come together to gain an understanding about how changing demographics could impact their communities and how to plan for those changes.

The event will explore, in multiple workshop sessions, many of the issues facing New Zealand due to changing demographics within both rural and urban communities. Delegates will hear from experts in the field, have the opportunity to share ideas and information with their peers and learn about potential strategies, particularly around the principal role of service delivery, for meeting the future needs of their communities.

Included in the event are a series of interactive workshops on:

- ageing population and local authorities
- applying international lessons and strategies to changing demographics in rural New Zealand
- engaging communities on changing demographics
- working with local partners
- strengthening the relationship between rural and urban areas

Please note that spaces are limited for this event.

Registrations are open – you can register at:

https://www.solgm.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=378

Community Plan Forum

This Forum is for those involved in the direction setting, community planning, and engagement processes of Long Term Plans and Annual Plans. The Community Plan Forum brings together local government managers and staff involved in the direction setting, community planning, and engagement processes.

SOLGM is organising this year's Community Plan Forum, which will be held:

- Wellington
- 15 and 16 August

SOLGM is looking for local authority employed professionals who'd be willing to help us develop the programme for the event by being part of the steering group.

Being part of the steering group doesn't mean you have to present or lead a session, all it means is that you have to bring some good ideas. There is usually recognition when it comes time to pay your registration fee for the event.

And you won't even need to come to Wellington to be part of the group.

If you'd like to be part of the steering group please contact Raymond Horan, while we particularly welcome those who haven't been involved before, we also benefit from having one or two of the 'older hands' on board.

And if you can't make the steering group but have an idea feel free to send it through to Raymond Horan at raymond.horan@solgm.org.nz.

Registrations are open – you can register at:

https://www.solgm.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=374

Chris Ingle

Chair, Planning and Accountability Working Party

April, 2016