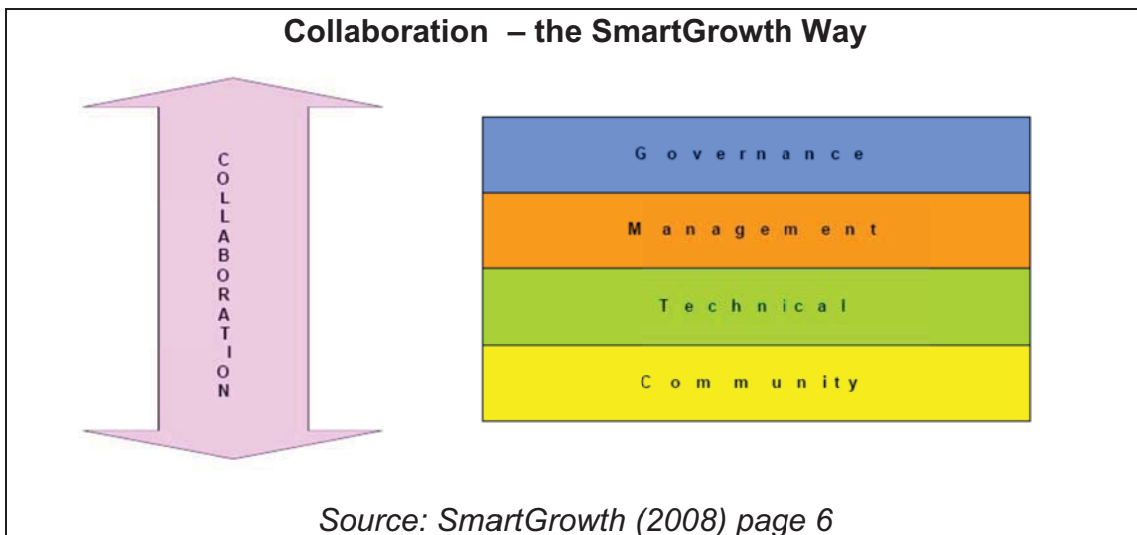


Information sheet: Decision making the SmartGrowth way

Instructions: Read the following. Then answer the questions provided at the end of this information sheet.

SmartGrowth is being led by Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Tauranga City Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council and tangata whenua working with community groups and government agencies, such as the NZ Transport Agency. Each of these agencies and groups represents a different community and/or has a different agenda or mandate influencing what they believe should be done in response to the sub-regions predicted population growth and how.

The SmartGrowth Way or approach to planning and implementing change for our future relies on collaboration. Collaboration is required between those who are involved in governance of the sub-region (the elected councillors and mayors), those with management and technical roles (typically employed by key local and sometimes central government agencies) and the community. The collaboration diagram below summarises how this approach works.



These groups have worked together to develop the SmartGrowth Strategy 2051. The SmartGrowth Strategy 2051 is a 50 year plan that says how future growth will be managed in the western Bay of Plenty sub-region. This document also outlines methods for achieving the stated goals. These are called implementation methods.

SmartGrowth achieves and implements the SmartGrowth Strategy 2051 through a number of Committees, forums and groups that are made up of representatives from Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Tauranga City Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, tangata whenua and a range of other community groups and government agencies.

The SmartGrowth Implementation Committee is the governance group has the main task of doing what is stated in the SmartGrowth Strategy 2051. This committee is responsible for prioritising, reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the Strategy. The membership of this committee includes councillors from Tauranga City Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, tangata whenua and SmartGrowth (an Independent Chairman and an Implementation Advisor).

There is also a range of other groups, forums and sub-committees who are responsible for implementing the SmartGrowth Strategy. These include:

- Chief Executives Advisory Group (CEAG)
- SmartGrowth Implementation Management Group (SGIMG)
- Smart Transport Group (ST)
- Combined Tangata Whenua Forum (CTWF)
- Strategic Partners Forum (SPF)
- Population Aging Technical Advisory Group (PATAG)

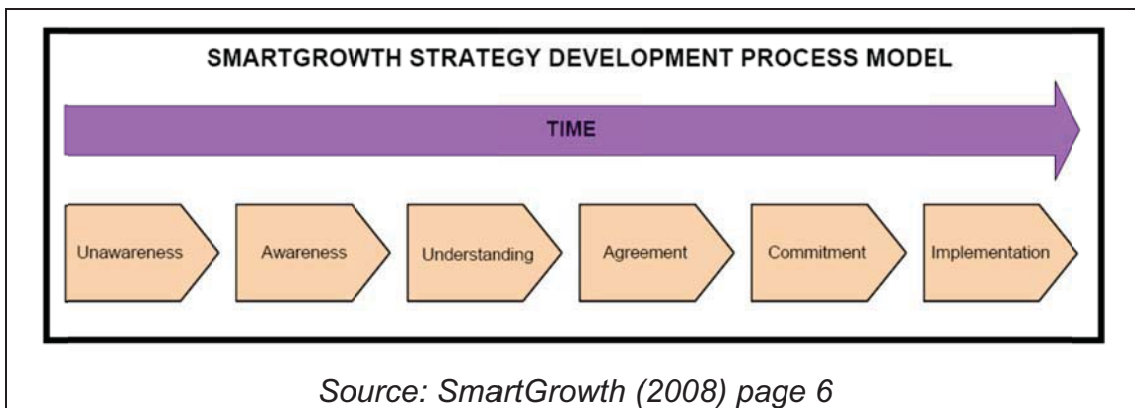
Information about each of these groups can be found on the SmartGrowth website under the tab *committees and forums*.

Since the establishment of the SmartGrowth partnership in 2000 there has been the development of the SmartGrowth “Way” of doing things. This approach was used to develop the SmartGrowth Strategy – a 50 year plan for the SmartGrowth region’s future.

The SmartGrowth way of decision making has involved the following:

- Parties at all times seek a co-operative approach to addressing issues.
- Action implementation occurs through co-operation and consensus (and this does mean giving some things up or compromising).
- Issues are considered in a measured, effective and timely manner.
- There is a commitment to act in good faith.
- Parties are prepared to be questioned and challenged on a particular view or perspective.
- Compromise and being prepared to give up something are important.
- Focusing on the relevant issues and not personalities assist the process.
- Taking a solutions-based approach when raising issues.
- SmartGrowth is a coalition of the willing, between the regulators and the regulated.
- SmartGrowth is founded on the notion that a community needs to plan together as a sub-region rather than as separate authorities.
- A Memorandum of Understanding has helped resolve any conflict by an agreement not to drive decisions through if any governance group members were uncomfortable with them.

The SmartGrowth Strategy Development Process Model was used throughout the process of creating the SmartGrowth Strategy. Where failures in decision making occurred, they could usually be put down to a failure to work through one part of this model (see the Development process model diagram).



One interesting aspect of SmartGrowth is that the SmartGrowth Strategy was developed with input from the community by some whose roles continue to exist (such as tangata whenua) and others whose roles have ceased or may cease (due to non re-election). This reflects the difference between static (such as tangata whenua) and dynamic roles (such as the elected Mayor) in decision making.

References

SmartGrowth website – www.smartgrowthbop.org.nz

SmartGrowth, 2008, The SmartGrowth Way – A partnership and collaborative approach to growth management with a strong emphasis on inter agency implementation, community understanding and buy in. November 2008.

Questions / Pātai

1. Who are the four main partners in SmartGrowth and how might their values and perceptions on managing future growth differ?
2. What is the main document that outlines how the sub-region plans to deal with projected population growth?
3. In your own words describe the meaning of 'implementation methods'.
4. What might happen if the chairman on the SmartGrowth Implementation Committee was not independent? How would this affect the decision-making process?
5. What is the SmartGrowth Memorandum of Understanding and how do you think this would have helped and hindered in the decision making process?
6. Write your own definition explaining the meaning of the terms *Governance* and *Collaboration*.
7. What do we mean by 'a solutions-based approach'?
8. SmartGrowth is founded on the notion that a community needs to plan together as a sub-region rather than as separate authorities. What could happen if we planned for the future independently as separate authorities?
9. Provide three examples of people who have dynamic decision making roles related to SmartGrowth.
10. The SmartGrowth Strategy was developed by some whose roles continue to exist (such as tangata whenua) and others whose roles have ceased or may cease to exist (due to non re-election). What implications could this situation have in the future of SmartGrowth?