

Report To: UDS Implementation Committee (UDSIC)
Subject: UDS Bi-Monthly Implementation Report
Report Author(s): Independent Chair & Implementation Manager
Report Date: 17 August, 2009
Reference to UDS: Effective Governance and Leadership

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide a bi-monthly update to the Committee on UDS implementation.

2. IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 RPS PC1

Partners are now focussed on preparing to answer Hearing Commissioners' questions as set down in their Sixth Minute (attached) over a couple of days at the end of the hearing process (31 August – 2 September). The partners continue to work together to coordinate their efforts where possible, led by a project control group chaired by the Independent Chair.

Decisions are expected to be available by mid-December 2009. The UDS partners will need to consider processes for lodging and responding to appeals no later than March 2010.

2.2 Outline Development Plans

As mentioned in the June Bi-Monthly Report work is progressing on Outline Development Plan (ODP) Guidelines to ensure that a consistent message and set of understandings is communicated across the UDS partners for implementing the ODPs which will be required under PC1.

The guidelines will set out exactly what is expected in ODPs in order to meet that new requirements under PC1 and to help both developers and councils ensure the clearer process makes development in Greenfield areas easier than the status quo (for both sides), rather than simply requiring an extra step of compliance which simply leads to a more complex process.

The Independent Chair led a workshop on Friday, 7 August, involving up to forty planning staff across the partners to run through a draft set of guidelines. The group of officers writing the guidelines will now integrate the feedback received with a view to bringing a comprehensive document to UDSIC towards the end of the year.

2.3 MP Engagement

Over the past two months engagement has taken place with Clayton Cosgrove and Lianne Dalziel.

Clayton Cosgrove is focussed around progressing his proposed Christchurch International Airport Protection Bill which seeks to elevate into legislation the manner for dealing with aircraft noise for CIAL; protect the airport from the threat of curfew; set standards for noise control and mitigation; and on the other hand remove most restrictions regarding development with regard to aircraft noise. The bill is a Member's Bill and has not yet been successfully drawn from the ballot and put on the parliamentary Order Paper.

Lianne Dalziel was given a brief update as to where UDS implementation is up to, and the need to continue to push the benefits of the UDS as a growth management mechanism.

2.4 Transport – Roads of National Significance (RoNS)

As mentioned previously the Minister of Transport, Hon Steven Joyce has approved a programme of Roads of National Significance (RoNS) with major implications for the Greater Christchurch sub-region. See the separate agenda item regarding a proposal to ensure RONS-UDS integration.

2.5 Legislative Reform

The Government's legislative reform agenda continues to slowly move forward.

In terms of Local Government Reform the government is almost exclusively focussed on Auckland, and successfully moving forward with their response to the Royal Commission – this is likely to be substantially different from their initial response.

Hon Rodney Hide's desire to pursue wider reform regarding local government's role, highlighted in the *Improving Local Government Transparency, Accountability and Fiscal Management Paper* circulated last meeting, has so far failed to gain any significant support among his Cabinet colleagues. When his paper was taken to Cabinet earlier in the year he was asked to report back with more detailed work in August – the entire sector awaits the results of this work with keen interest.

Reform of the Resource Management Act Stage I remains on track, with the Select Committee report due tomorrow (18 August).

Of more interest is RMA Reform Stage II. This significant body of work is divided into ten work streams:

- Management of:
 - Aquaculture
 - Infrastructure
 - Urban Design
 - Water
- Scope, Functions and Structure of the Environmental Protection Agency
- Alignment of the Resource Management Act processes with the:
 - Building Act,
 - Conservation Act,
 - Forests Act,
 - and the Historic Places Act
- Further generic and complex issues left out of Stage I

This reform agenda will inevitably touch on issues central to the UDS and of most interest, the continued role and function of regional government.

Indications are that over the next 18 months the combination of establishing the EPA (particularly if the model with strong regional presence holds sway) and Hon Nick Smith's desire to push ahead reform of national water policy will result in a significant realignment in regional governance.

Which agencies and outside stakeholders have access to the Minister's ear, and each other, in framing these reforms will likely determine the outcome. It is safe to say though that the status quo will not survive this government.

2.6 LTCCP Alignment

Last meeting Cr Wells asked whether the current LTCCPs, those recently adopted, contained the resources necessary to implement the UDS. A preliminary answer was given at that meeting but to give a fuller picture of the situation a presentation will be given as a separate agenda item.

2.7 Risk Profile

There are several key risks which this implementation phase of the project faces between now and the end of 2008:

Nature of Risk	Ranking (1 = low; 10 = high) Bracketed is previous	Comment
Adequate and consistent resourcing in a timely manner. This covers both purely budgetary and staff resourcing. (CEAG to address risk in the first instance)	2 (2)	Budgets seem adequate for Partnership for 09/10 at this stage
RPS PC1 slippage	2 (2)	PC1 progressing to timeframe; likely to have decisions reported to ECan in December.
Failing to successfully implement, in a form intended by the UDS partners, the growth management strategy through the Regional Policy Statement.	4 (5)	There is inherent uncertainty surrounding commissioner decisions, but in general confidence should be strong at this stage.
Inconsistent communications/Lack of alignment	4 (5)	
Government Engagement alignment	7 (7)	
Essential Tangata Whenua input not being achieved in a timely manner	7 (7)	As reported above, engagement continues to be unacceptable.
Private Plan change risk of undermining UDS	5 (-)	

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1** *That the monthly report of the Independent Chair and Implementation Manager be received.*
- 3.3** *That the next meeting of the UDSIC be on Monday 19 October 2009 commencing at 1.30 pm at Environment Canterbury.*

Bill Wasley - Independent Chair

James Caygill - Implementation Manager