

## SmartGrowth Social Infrastructure Providers Group

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### 1. Purpose

To present the position statement of SmartGrowth Social Infrastructure Providers Group (SIPG) regarding the provision of social infrastructure (SI) when considering accommodating growth within the western Bay of Plenty sub-region.

### 2. Introduction

The Social Infrastructure Providers Group has recently been formed as response to the findings of the Social Infrastructure and Placemaking Think Tank (Oct 2015) where the need to encourage SI providers to connect for better SI and placemaking was identified. The Group is presently exploring the possibility of becoming a formal SmartGrowth Forum. It presently has a broad membership including representation from: health providers, central government, local government and the Property Development Forum and is predominately concerned with the provision of 'hard' social infrastructure (bricks and mortar rather SI services).

The Group was invited to present this paper to provide a high level view of what they think is relevant and how the providers would like to be involved going forward. As the group becomes more established these high level positions may become more detailed and refined.

### Position Statements

- High quality social infrastructure is an integral ingredient of ongoing growth ensuring that both new and existing populations can access a full range of services at convenient times and locations throughout the western bay of plenty sub-region in both green field and brown field 'compact city' developments.
- Social infrastructure provides important gathering places for people and can be focal points for community activity and social interaction. They are well recognised as contributing to the creation of public spaces that give a sense of place and distinctive

community identity. Thus it is important that community facilities have a civic quality and level of amenity that marks them as an important place for the community.

- Social infrastructure services and facilities that are planned well can promote social cohesion and maximise efficient asset utilisation through co-location and integrated services reflecting new, emerging models of service delivery.
- In line with the National Infrastructure Plan and good practice, local, regional and central government social infrastructure providers in the sub-region recognise the importance of working with each other and communities to plan for the delivery of social infrastructure.

Equally, social infrastructure providers recognise that social infrastructure needs to be considered early on in the planning process for new growth areas and wishes to work closely and in a timely manner with all of the other infrastructure planning that is occurring as a part of the implementation of the settlement pattern.

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