

Pen to paper

Creating Partnering Agreements That Work



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Waitakere City Council
Tē Taiao o Waitakere

Putting pen to paper

Creating Partnering Agreements That Work

Introduction

Over the last 10 years, relationships between central and local government have continued to strengthen. As a result a wide range of new local-central government initiatives has developed across the country. The Local Government Act 2002 has strengthened this trend. The need for both levels of Government to work together as part of the community outcomes process has added a new and important focus to the relationship at the local level.

New ways of working must be supported by new tools and processes. This document focuses specifically on the development of partnering agreements. Putting time and effort into getting both the agreement process and end product right is worth it. While the focus of this report is on interagency working between central and local government many of the principles will apply more widely.

Much of this document is based on my experiences of interagency working within Waitakere City. It also builds on many of the key learnings from the Strengthening Communities through Local Partnerships Research Project which ran from 2002-4. (see www.lpg.org.nz)

This report is in two parts. The first gives guidance to those entering into new multiparty relationships or about to “put pen to paper”. The second part of the report highlights some current challenges and opportunities related to developing and implementing partnering agreements in New Zealand. Many of the issues raised are not new and will need to be proactively addressed if the expected gains from partnering are to be realised.

Many people have suggested that an appendix of good practice examples be compiled to support this document and practically assist others putting agreements together. Rather than delay the release of this document, a compendium of agreement case studies is now underway and will be available later this year.

Finally, thank you to all those who offered their feedback and advice on previous drafts. Like partnering, this report is the result of a team effort.

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