

# LASSO

Hawke's Bay Local Authority  
Shared Services Newsletter

DECEMBER 2014

## Hawke's Bay Councils delivering value and service

### WHAT IS HB LASS?

Hawke's Bay Local Authority Shared Services (HB LASS) is the company that the five Hawke's Bay councils established to advance Shared Services in our region.

The Company is owned on an equal basis by all the councils, that is Central Hawke's Bay District, Hawke's Bay Regional, Hastings District, Napier City and the Wairoa District Councils.

Our objectives are about involving staff in delivering benefits to councils and their

stakeholders through:

- Improved levels of service
- Reduced costs
- Improved efficiency, and
- Increased value through innovation

Collaboration on Shared Services, procurement and working together is not a new thing for Hawke's Bay councils. There are many existing examples, with just a few set out below.

Joint Property Valuation Service	Joint Energy & Insurance Procurement	Civil Defence
Omaranui Landfill	Business Hawke's Bay	Regional Transport Strategy
Pathways Development	Regional Community Outcomes	Sport Hawke's Bay
Refuse/ Recycling Collection Contracts	Regional Cultural Archives	Road Safety Initiatives

In this newsletter we set out some HB LASS projects being advanced by the company with the help of staff at all councils.

### GIS PROJECT

Through the advisory group of all five councils working collaboratively a tender for the provision of ortho photography (aerial images) for the whole region has been completed. This region-wide approach will enable a consistent regional view (all images in the same timeframe) with improved quality and clarity for our rural sector.

The level of accuracy and quality is only possible through the councils taking

a regional approach. The cost of the imagery is over \$500,000. Each council is contributing towards the cost of the project based on the benefits they will get from the enhanced scale and quality.

This approach has also enabled a contribution of \$70,000 to be gained from LINZ towards the cost, for a total saving of over \$100,000 due to the collaborative approach that was adopted.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

An Advisory Group has been working for some time on a project looking at the way the councils each provide their Information Technology services.

As part of that project an opportunity was taken to maximise value by procuring a product called VMware, used by all councils. Consequently, we're saving over 18% on an already discounted price arranged by the Association of Local Government Information Managers (ALGIM).

Maximising the buying power of the combined councils is one of the aims of HB LASS. The Information Management Project is also progressing in other areas - see the article overleaf.



# WORKING WITH OTHERS .....

At a meeting of the HB LASS Board on 14 November, Craig Grant, the Executive Officer of MW LASS (Manawatu-Whanganui LASS) made a presentation about their journey and some of their projects.

The Board has agreed to investigate joining in a tender for Insurance Services that MW LASS are running on behalf of themselves, the Bay of Plenty LASS and some South Island councils.

If the HB LASS councils participate it will mean at least 25 councils are involved. The Hawke's Bay councils have been working together for several years and have generated significant savings. Joining a wider group is expected to

provide even more opportunities to generate value for ratepayers. The Chief Financial Officers of the councils have met and, on the strength of this opportunity, have agreed to join the tender.

One of the issues that MW LASS has addressed is the vexed problem of record archives through the establishment of Archives Central. The HB LASS Board is keen to identify if there is an opportunity to participate in this shared service. Consequently the Board has agreed to conduct a stock take of archiving in the five councils. HB LASS will engage an external resource to take on this project.

# IT NETWORK SERVICE .....

Other initiatives of the Information Technology project are progressing. The advisory group has developed an overall framework for the project and among other things has created the potential for a network across all of the councils. The advisory group working with Chairman

Andrew Siddles from Napier City Council has made good progress. Andrew has since left and the Board has agreed to engage an outside resource to review the progress and help map a way forward to ensure the project can achieve its objectives in a reasonable timeframe.

# ASSET MANAGEMENT .....

A project to look at Asset Management across the councils has started. The initial approach has been to look at three core themes (Procurement Management, Consistency and Support Services).

Work on Long Term Plans does limit the time that staff can give to this project, but it is progressing looking initially at opportunities around roading, contract alignment and design capability.

# FUEL SAVINGS .....

Through a review of vehicle management across the HB LASS councils, significant savings have been made. A collaborative fuel purchasing contract has been adopted and year-on-year savings across the councils will be at least \$20,000 per council.

# STRATEGIC WORKSHOP

An outcome of the latest HB LASS Board meeting has been a decision to involve a wider cross section of people within the Council organisations in the work and direction of HB LASS.

The Board also wants to look a little further ahead and identify other projects and initiatives that would move toward our objectives.

Consequently a workshop that involves the directors of HB LASS and second tier managers from all the council organisations is planned for 16th December. Details of the workshop are being developed.

# QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about HB LASS or any ideas which you think could be of value to the advisory group, talk to your Chief Executive as a first step.



**John O'Shaughnessy**  
Acting Chief Executive  
Hastings District Council



**Liz Lambert**  
Interim Chief Executive  
Hawke's Bay Regional Council



**John Freeman**  
Chief Executive  
Central Hawke's Bay  
District Council



**Wayne Jack**  
Chief Executive  
Napier City Council



**Fergus Power**  
Chief Executive  
Wairoa District Council



**Craig Waterhouse**  
Independent Board Member