

Combined Tāngata Whenua Forum – SmartGrowth Implementation Group Representative

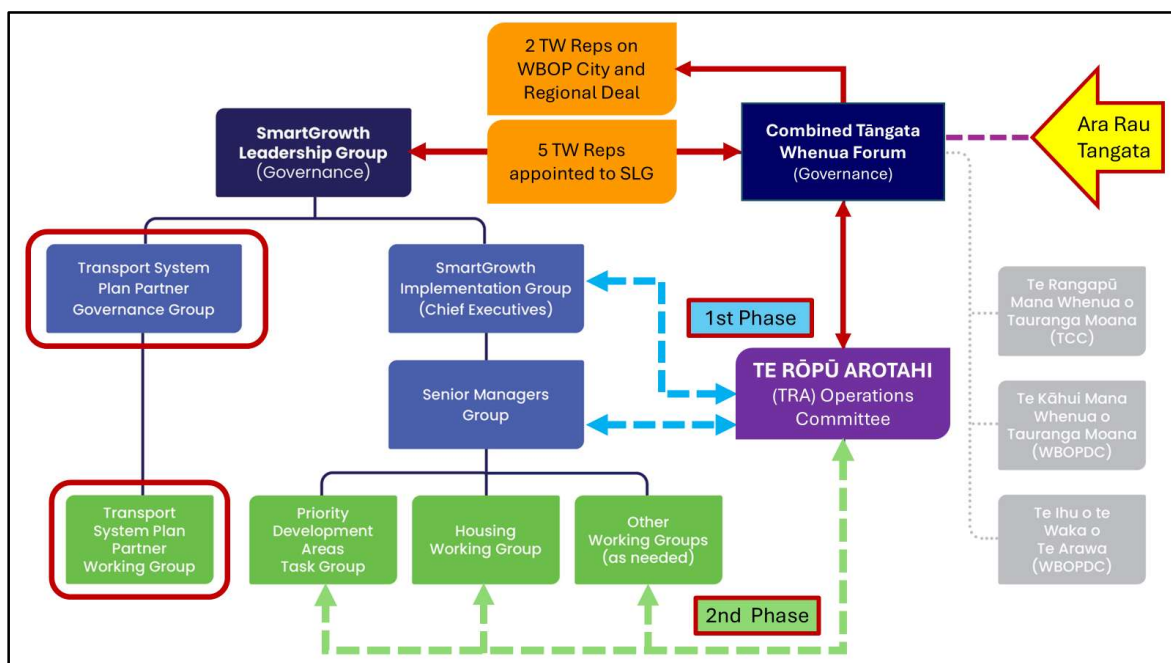
PART 1 - SmartGrowth Implementation Group (SGIG) Role Description

Introduction

The Combined Tāngata Whenua Forum (CTWF) has successfully established two new tāngata whenua membership positions within the wider SmartGrowth partnership structure.

The CTWF is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced tāngata whenua candidates to serve as a member on the SmartGrowth Implementation Group as a tāngata whenua executive management member on behalf of the CTWF.

The SGIG members work collaboratively across the three-council executive management officers, Priority One and equivalent Crown agency partners, including those responsible for transport, housing, education and health.



The EOI process will be administered and managed by Te Rōpū Arotahi on behalf of the CTWF as the first phase in the new tāngata whenua representation process in 2026. This is outlined in the above SmartGrowth committee and technical working group structure diagram.

For more information on SmartGrowth and the CTWF can be found by clicking [here](#).

SmartGrowth Implementation Group (SGIG) Position Description

The SGIG is the executive management tier of the SmartGrowth partnership, sitting between the SmartGrowth Leadership Group (governance) and the Senior Managers Group (SMG – technical management) as shown in the SmartGrowth structure diagram. SGIG is mainly made up of Chief Executive or Director level members from the SmartGrowth partnership.

The tāngata whenua SGIG executive management representative is mandated to provide strategic advice and oversight from a sub-regional tāngata whenua perspective, programme oversight and direction to the implementation of the SmartGrowth Strategy. SGIG leads the collaborative partnership-based delivery of the SmartGrowth Implementation Plan and actions through a sub-regional lens to:

- oversee, and provide strategic direction where required to, the development and implementation of the SmartGrowth Strategy;
- support implementation by helping to resolve delivery challenges, acting as a mechanism through which implementation issues can be resolved and partners aligned behind delivery;
- assess the impact on partners of requests for internal resources, support the setting aside of sufficient funding, and monitor the SmartGrowth budget;
- review achievement of Implementation Plan milestones, with particular attention to inter-council process and document alignment;
- promote SmartGrowth within the culture of each partner organisation and assist with effective, consistent internal communication; and
- advise the SmartGrowth Leadership Group where necessary, escalating strategic matters for governance-level decision.

Scope of Services

The CTWF representative will:

- ensure tāngata whenua values, perspectives and aspirations are embedded as the SGIG oversees and gives direction to the development and implementation of the SmartGrowth Strategy.
- exercises professional judgement on complex, multi-agency and partnership-based matters.
- will review milestone achievements, maintaining feedback and monitoring functions with the CTWF and SGIG to advance tāngata whenua priorities.

Core Competencies

- Applied capability in Te Ao Māori, and an understanding Tauranga Moana and Te Arawa including Te Reo me ngā tikanga in comparable planning, policy, or governance context.
- Proven capability in managing complex, multi-party relationships across Māori, central government, local government partners, and other stakeholders.
- Substantial experience in developing strategic policy through working with a range of people from different professional and technical disciplines; working with, influencing and leading a range of stakeholders; and briefing decision makers.
- Tāngata Whenua Strategic leadership and involvement in major policy programmes or projects in new, contentious, sensitive or complex areas or issues.

Technical Competencies

- An academic qualification in public policy, planning, spatial planning, social science, law, Māori studies or Te Reo Māori, or equivalent professional experience.
- Understanding of iwi / Māori and local government decision making processes and demonstrated knowledge of political administrative processes and structures.
- Substantial experience in iwi strategic leadership at an executive level, including briefing and influencing decision-makers across Māori, central government and local government.
- Understanding of Treaty of Waitangi/ Treaty Settlement issues
- Highly developed communication skills and experience in communicating clearly and succinctly in a variety of settings and in written and verbal styles.
- Effective working relationships and the ability to work with multiple partners that may have different objectives.

Representation and Reporting

- Ensure information on CTWF priorities are monitored and reported.
- liaise on CTWF risks, concerns and opportunities affecting key tāngata whenua matters.

Key Relationships

- SGIC members
- CTWF members, chairperson, and Te Rōpū Arotahi
- Tū Pakari Pou Ārahi and Kai Ārahi (Strategic and Technical Advisors)

Time and Resource Commitment

The successful appointee will be remunerated at the current SmartGrowth Tāngata Whenua meeting rate of \$297.00 gross per meeting. This rate covers:

- attendance at scheduled SGIG formal and informal meetings;
- preparation for each meeting, including reviewing the distributed agenda pack, and
- reporting back to the next CTWF hui following each SGIG meeting.

Meeting Frequency

The SGIG meeting frequency is determined by the three Council partners in the first quarter of each year for all SmartGrowth meetings. It is expected that there would be 5 or 6 SGIG meetings schedule in 2027.

PART 2 - Expressions of Interest Process

This Expressions of Interest (EOI) process invites suitably qualified and experienced tāngata whenua candidates to express their interest in the SGIG tāngata whenua executive management representative position described above. The process is administered and managed by Te Rōpū Arotahi on behalf of the CTWF and is the first phase of the CTWF's tāngata whenua representation across the SmartGrowth Committee structure in 2026.

The CTWF welcomes expressions of interest from candidates within Tauranga Moana and Te Arawa rohe who can represent tāngata whenua interests at a sub-regional, executive management level. Submitting an expression of interest places a candidate under no obligation, and the CTWF is under no obligation to appoint from those who respond.

How to submit an expression of interest

To express an interest, candidates are asked to provide the following:

- a cover statement of no more than two pages, outlining their interest in the role, the basis of their connection and standing within the rohe, and how they meet the core and technical competencies set out in this role description;
- a curriculum vitae outlining relevant strategic leadership, governance, policy and partnership experience; and
- the names and contact details of two referees who can speak to the candidate's experience, standing and suitability for the role.

Expressions of interest are to be submitted electronically to the SmartGrowth administrator at administration@smartgrowthbop.org.nz by the deadline set out below. Candidates are encouraged to keep their submission concise and focused on the competencies sought.

Indicative Expression of Interest (EOI) Timeline

Milestones:	Dates:
EOI SGIG position description and process released on SmartGrowth website.	25 June 2026
Closing date for questions on the SGIG EOI process to SmartGrowth via: administration@smartgrowthbop.org.nz	3 July 2026
Closing date to lodge an SGIG EOI application to SmartGrowth via: administration@smartgrowthbop.org.nz	4.00pm 10 July 2026
Shortlisted candidates contacted	13 July 2026
Interviews / kanohi ki te kanohi (preferred)	14 – 21 July 2026

Appointment confirmed by the CTWF	23 July 2026
Term commences	27 July 2026

SmartGrowth may amend this timeline and will notify candidates of any material change.

How expressions of interest will be assessed

Expressions of interest will be assessed against the Core Competencies and Technical Competencies set out in this role description. In particular, Te Rōpū Arotahi and the CTWF will have regard to the candidates:

- applied capability in Te Ao Māori, including te reo me ngā tikanga, and knowledge of Tauranga Moana and Te Arawa;
- standing and ability to carry the mandate of the CTWF and represent tāngata whenua at a sub-regional, executive management level;
- experience in senior strategic leadership, and in influencing and briefing decision-makers across Māori, central government and local government; and
- ability to maintain an effective, two-way interface with the CTWF, including reporting back on key matters discussed with SGIG.

As this is a mandated representative appointment rather than a procurement, candidates are not required to submit pricing. Remuneration is at the fixed meeting rate set out under Time and Resource Commitment above.

Te Rōpū Arotahi may shortlist candidates and meet with them kanohi ki te kanohi before making a recommendation to the CTWF. The CTWF will confirm the appointment and the conferral of its mandate.

Questions and point of contact

Questions about this EOI or the role should be directed to SmartGrowth administration at administration@smartgrowthbop.org.nz before the deadline for questions set out above. To ensure fairness, SmartGrowth may share questions of general relevance, and its responses, with all known candidates.

Appointment and next steps

The successful candidate will be appointed by the CTWF as its mandated tāngata whenua executive management representative on the SGIG committee to progress the collective WBOP subregional tāngata whenua views and perspectives in accordance with the description provisions and expectations in a professional manner.

The unsuccessful candidates will be notified following confirmation of the appointment.