

Team update

Paul



Paul has joined the BID programme team, filling the second Governance Advisor position to work alongside Steve Branca.

The former communications contractor will continue to promote the programme through the [website](#) and *BID Update* newsletter, and also support the CCO Governance team.

We catch up with Paul to find out more.

One year on, the relatively new business model for the BID programme team continues to take shape with the recent appointment of Paul Thompson.

Paul brings an extensive local government and public relations background to what is effectively a hybrid role, covering both governance and communications.

Meet the team:

[Claire](#) - growth

[Rose](#) - relationships

[Steve](#) - governance

The recent article on Steve Branca outlined the scope of the Governance Advisor role, a job title now shared with Paul. Together, they focus on ensuring business associations have effective governance and accountability mechanisms in place for their BID programmes.

“Steve and I are keen to take the role to the next level, becoming more proactive in our dealings with BIDs.

“We plan to visit more town centres and business precincts to interpret the BID Policy where it’s needed and help address any issues before they become serious concerns,” says Paul.

In his communications role, Paul has already travelled across Auckland to interview BID programme managers, business association chairs and local board members to record their experiences and insights – and publish these online.

“It’s been great meeting people who share such pride and passion for their local business districts and the communities they serve.”

Paul recently interviewed Auckland Council’s Chief Economist David Norman to get his take on what the city’s growing population and changing demographics mean for town centres. [Read more.](#)

“Claire’s well-attended [Growth Workshop](#) in early July was further proof, if it were needed, that with growth comes opportunities. With BID boundaries expanding and more under ambitious consideration, BIDs are quite literally moving with the times.”



The [BID website](#), which went live last September (2016), is under technical review with reports of difficulty in accessing the site addressed by council staff.

“As a team, we’re keen to provide all the information, advice and resources needed to help you run successful, policy-compliant BID programmes. Our website is a key channel for us and a work-in-progress.

“We’re keen to hear your ideas on any additions or improvements you would like to see online.

“We want to profile your BID programme, share your stories about how you’ve overcome challenges, seized opportunities and made your local district a better place to do business.

“We want to publish an ever-growing series of case studies, showcasing the best of BIDs.

“We will be in touch.”

- Contact [BIDs](#) or [Paul](#)