

Building Vibrant Communities;-Challenging Conventional Approaches to Community Economic Development-

"The Village Way"

Community Economic Development Conference

February 2010

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The “Big Village” challenge- An Enabling environment and Institutional thickness

- ⊗ Build capacity at the local level- discover local connectedness and culture characterized by “dialogue between local actors, who seek to increase their negotiating strength pursue reciprocal advantage and common interests between local localities and global flows and attempt to build common projects in pursuit of the best development opportunities for their respective communities” (Bressi-“Glocalism”).
- ⊗ Co-operation and collaboration- “we’re all in this together”
- ⊗ Devolution and subsidiarity- put the power, money resources and responsibility closest to the action-decide who leads , who partners, who supports
- ⊗ Creating networks of association across localities (and communities) to build social capital (connections among individuals – social networks and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them) and institutional thickness -Co operation and collaboration (minimise sectionalism)
- ⊗ Facilitate and optimise endogenous potential, Integrate plans, policies and strategies



The Big Village Challenge...

- ⊙ Engaging the Most vulnerable/polarised communities in these processes
- ⊙ What are the mechanism/vehicles for facilitating/maximising/optimising this involvement/engagement
- ⊙ Non for profit focus – role of church/Mosque/temple/community trusts



The small/local village challenge-An Inside job

- @ Solutions from within
- @ Key is leadership/Champions
- @ Work through our own diversity (The "Pasifika" trap)
- @ Build capacity and capability to enhance our place in the wider economic development tapestry



The Village Community Services Trust-

It takes a Village to raise a Child

- ② A community response to community needs
- ② Village of services connected to a village of partners
- ② The Village Sports Academy (VSA)- A partnership in empowerment



Take Aways?

- ④ Enhance/enable level of engagement
- ④ Identify best mechanism/vehicle/vaka
- ④ Build capacity and leadership
- ④ Community knows best
- ④ Get rid of cowboys
(transparency/accountability)

