

**SACN | Launch of the BEITT Compendium**

Event Briefing Note

## Seeding change, what have we harvested?



Join us to celebrate 4 years of connection, learning, debate and growth. Come and explore the exciting journey walked by built environment practitioners as we celebrate the launch of the BEITT Compendium.

27 MAY 2021 | 10:00 – 11:30

CLICK ON THE LINK TO REGISTER AND TO RECEIVE THE ZOOM MEETING LINK:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYucuugrjwsEtVIEVNX7QNoZc7croCtGpiP>

## Introduction

The South African Cities Network (SACN) was established in 2002 by the Minister for Provincial and Local Government, in collaboration with the mayors of South Africa's largest cities and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), as an independent Section 21 company with the mandate to:

- Promote good governance and management in South African cities;
- Analyse strategic challenges facing South African cities, particularly in the context of global economic integration and national development challenges;
- Collect, collate, analyses, assess, disseminate and apply the experience of large city government in a South African context; and
- Promote shared-learning partnerships between different spheres of Government to support the management of South African cities.

Within the SACN, the Built Environment Integration Task Team (BEITT) was established in 2017 to support local government practitioners who drive spatial transformation and integration in the built environment. The BEITT is comprised of a group of municipal practitioners that meet regularly to share knowledge and insights from their own practitioner experience of trying to deliver spatial transformation objectives whilst navigating the established systems of governance that can sometimes hinder their transformative intentions.

The BEITT's objectives are:

- To formulate a collective city voice on issues of built environment integration and spatial transformation that is led by city practitioners and rooted in their lived experiences.
- To deepen the collective understanding of practice through case studies, thereby creating a repository of city experiences and practitioner voices to shape the discourse on spatial transformation.
- To continuously improve built environment practice in cities, by using a collective understanding of practice as shaped by the case studies and experiences.

The BEITT's insights not only serve as an opportunity for self-reflection and co-learning for the group, but also lead to further research inquiries that engage with specific governance issues that need urgent attention.

## The BEITT Compendium

The BEITT project documents the experiences of municipal practitioners in conceptualising, managing and implementing projects in the built environment. The objective of the BEITT meetings is to provide a safe space for open sharing between people at a personal and professional level. The "experience" of municipal practitioners refers to the actual day-to-day lived reality of what happens in municipal institutions. At the meetings, we do not discuss transport (trains, buses, Uber etc.) or settlement options (RDP houses, flats, estates etc.). Rather we engage on what are the internal dynamics around decisions, how easy is it to try new things, how do politics influence the inner workings of government projects, what performance managements systems are in place, etc.

Through these engagements, the BEITT has provided a body of practitioner-centric knowledge that can be used to understand the spatial transformation system in order to improve its functioning. The Compendium summarises the meetings, events and research work held throughout the four years and includes lessons learnt. The BEITT Compendium therefore acts as a critical practitioner-centric record of the experiences walked by the BEITT, and is indeed the city voice that the BEITT project has, since the beginning, strived to elevate.

## Event description

This event is a both a celebratory launch of the BEITT Compendium and a sharing of the BEITT journey so far. The BEITT Compendium has been designed into a visual book and has been shared with the BEITT members as a hard copy. During this launch we want to share and promote the digital copy with interested stakeholders and partners.

The event objectives include:

- Promoting the work of the BEITT and sharing the findings of the research
- Celebrating the BEITT journey and thanking the members of the BEITT
- Introducing the political principals to some of the core issues emerging from the work

The event will be a 1.5 hour virtual engagement that will be facilitated by the BEITT facilitator, Rehana Moosajee. The programme promises to be both informative and instructive as well as fun and engaging.

## Key messages emerging from the BEITT Compendium



**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE, TO SHARE THE LEARNINGS AND EXPERIENCES FROM THIS INCREDIBLE JOURNEY, AS WE REFLECT ON WHAT WE HAVE HARVESTED SINCE THE BEITT SEEDS WERE PLANTED IN 2017.**