



**Report**                **03.364**  
**Date**                 23 June 2003  
**File**                  ENV/12/1/1

**Committee**        **Council**  
**Author**             Jane Bradbury Divisional Manager, Environment

## **Regional Sustainable Development Strategy**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Council about the progress of the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy.

### **2. Background**

Greater Wellington has integrated management, co-ordination and research functions under the Resource Management Act 1991. The major policy document that Greater Wellington has to implement its role of integrated management is the Wellington Regional Policy Statement (RPS). This document sets out the resource management policy direction for the Region.

The Built Environment and Transportation chapter of the RPS considers the relationship between the built environment and physical and natural resources. It states that there is uncertainty about what sustainable management of the built environment involves.

Method 5 in the Built Environment chapter of the RPS reads:

*“The Wellington Regional Council will...*

*...(4) Consider the preparation of a Regional Urban Development Strategy as a means of providing guidance and direction for matters relating to infrastructure, urban areas and urban development that are of regional significance*

On 15 May 2001, the Environment Committee resolved that officers of the Regional Council work with their colleagues in local authorities on developing an urban growth strategy for the Region. This paper brings Councillors up to date with progress on this initiative.

### **3. Progress to Date**

Wellington City Council's Northern Growth Management Planning process in early 2002 was seen to be a good catalyst for a more regional approach to urban form and development. The idea had been discussed at land use and transport forums for quite some time, but no action had been taken. However, the issue of the need for co-operative action was discussed at a Chief Executives Group meeting where it was agreed that a low key approach was appropriate.

Following this discussion, an officers' group was established, comprising officers from Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Kapiti Coast District Council, Porirua City Council Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington. Two officers from each council attend. In Greater Wellington's case the representatives have been Dave Watson and Maree Sanders to cover the transport and land-use planning areas. The officers' group met several times during 2002.

### **4. Recent Progress**

The group had not yet met in 2003 due to resourcing and availability of staff. However, in a bid to progress the issue further, Gael Ferguson from the Kapiti Coast District Council prepared a paper with assistance from the other Councils, including Greater Wellington (see attachment). This paper was presented to the Wellington Mayoral Forum by the Regional Chief Executives on 30 May 2003

The Mayoral Forum unanimously approved the idea of developing a framework or strategy for urban form and development, linked to transport planning, with July 2005 as a target date. The paper asks that the issue be taken to Council's by 18 July to gain approval and the mandate to progress further.

The officers' group met following the Mayoral Forum decision. Matters discussed were reporting structures, the possibility of inviting the Wairarapa territorial authorities to be part of the group, and links to other processes. It was decided that recommendations from this group will be reported back to the Chief Executives group.

### **5. Comment**

We see this work as being very important to the Region. Ironically, it is reminiscent of the former Regional Planning Authority function. Its success will depend on the ability of Council's to work together and respect each other's roles and responsibilities, as well as our particular issues.

## **6. Recommendation**

*That the Council:*

- (1) receive the report and note its contents; and*
- (2) support the approach and authorise the officers to progress the work.*

Report prepared by:

**Jane Bradbury**  
Divisional Manager, Environment

**Attachment 1:** Paper to the Wellington Mayoral Forum: 30 May 2003