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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy Committee
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Statement Review

Regional Policy Statement Update

1. Purpose

To provide an update on progress towards the next Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and a change to the release date of the proposed RPS.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

On 8 June 2007 Greater Wellington released for comment copies of the draft provisions (objectives, policies and methods) prepared for the next Regional Policy Statement (RPS).

The draft provisions included those developed by a working group of staff from Greater Wellington and the region's city and district councils, to reflect the *Investment in good regional form* focus area to the Wellington Regional Strategy. These provisions were presented to this Committee on 16 April 2007 in a workshop.

On 8 June full copies of the draft provisions for the next RPS were sent to mayors, chief executives and senior policy staff at the region's city and district councils, along with key stakeholders. A newsletter summarising the content was also sent to all councillors, stakeholders and a wide range of interested parties. A press release and article in Elements (delivered to all households) also advertised the availability of the provisions and that Greater Wellington was seeking comments.

Councillor Chris Turver and staff from Greater Wellington then visited each city and district council in the region to present and discuss the draft content for the next RPS.

4. Feedback on RPS and timetable change

Several key process messages emerged as a result of the consultation period. These included requests to:

- Provide an assessment of the costs of compliance for city and district councils
- Clarify that Greater Wellington will take a leadership role in research and investigation where issues are of regional significance
- Carry out wider community consultation; and, most significantly
- Prepare and consult on a fully integrated draft RPS.

Specifically, Kapiti Coast District Council and Porirua City Council also requested that a proposed RPS not be released in October as originally proposed.

Greater Wellington considered the current timetable at its Policy Finance and Strategy Committee Meeting on 14 August, and resolved that further time to address and/or respond, to these issues was appropriate.

A full integrated draft document will now be released for wide community consultation in February 2008, prior to notifying a proposed document in June/July 2008.

Greater Wellington officers are currently working through comments received, revising and clarifying draft provisions, and improving integration across provisions. Further discussion with the region's city and district councils and key stakeholders on matters such as costs of compliance, are also be undertaken over the next few months.

A presentation on the fully integrated draft document will be made to this committee in February 2008 with an opportunity to feedback on content. There will also be a further formal opportunity to submit when the draft document is released for consultation at the end of February.

5. Communication

The matters in this report on the change to the RPS timetable were communicated in a press release on 16 August 2007. Letters were also sent to all the region's mayors and city and district council chief executives. These matters will also be communicated in the next Regional Policy Statement Review Newsletter in September 2007.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

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