



Report 08.818
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Committee Council
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Report on the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting held on 22 October 2008

1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee that took place on 22 October 2008.

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. Report

3.1 Gillies McIndoe Research Institute

Grant Stevenson, the Whiteboard Company, and Dr Paul Davis made a presentation to the committee about the Gillies McIndoe Research Institute. The institute aims to be a world class performer in reconstructive surgery and research. The purpose of the presentation was to seek the committee's support (in principle) for the institute being included as part of the region's Bio-medical Centre of Excellence. Grow Wellington is facilitating the establishment of the centre of excellence.

Grant told the committee the institute is being established in partnership with the University of Otago and the Hutt Valley District Health Board (HVDHB). The HVDHB has made a floor available at Hutt Hospital for a reconstruction surgery and laboratory.

The institute is currently preparing a business case which will address issues such as identifying the potential world class capability of the institute, globalising the institute's work, the economic benefits and the potential for the institute to provide global leadership in reconstruction research.

The committee members indicated their support for the institute, recognising the importance of the institute's work. They also raised questions about on-going funding. Grant responded by confirming the business case will address these concerns.

A similar presentation is to be made to the Grow Wellington Board on Friday 24 October.

3.2 FIFA Under 17 Women's World Cup

Mr Will McKenzie and Mr John Dow (Chair of the Under 17's Advisory Committee), made a presentation to the committee about the forthcoming Under 17 Women's World Cup. The Wellington Region is hosting 4 teams (England, Brazil, Nigeria and Korea) and will hold games at Westpac Stadium. The presenters acknowledged the support from Wellington City Council, as well as Upper Hutt, Hutt and Porirua City Councils.

The tournament organisers are predicting a high level of skills being demonstrated at the tournament. It is also anticipated that the New Zealand team will perform well. On 4 November NZ will play Colombia in Wellington.

Will and John told the committee they are hopeful that the Wellington games will be well-supported. Through the Department of Labour a "long lunch" concept is being promoted so that workers in Wellington can attend games. The first game is on Thursday 30th October (England vs Brazil).

The benefits of having a high level of support in Wellington were outlined as:

- Reinforcing Wellington's reputation as the "events capital"
- Promoting Wellington through the worldwide television coverage the tournament will enjoy
- Supporting future bids for FIFA events
- Supporting the potential for Wellington to host games during the 2018 FIFA World Cup, should Australia be successful in its bid to host the tournament.

3.3 Grow Wellington Annual Report

Nigel Kirkpatrick, Chief Executive of Grow Wellington presented the company's first Annual Report. He began by making reference to the current global economic conditions, and confirmed his belief that the Wellington Regional Strategy's focus on growing the region's exports continues to be appropriate. The committee discussed the impact of the Northern Hemisphere downturn on NZ, recognising that we are yet to experience the impact (although it was noted that Dunedin City Council's problems recently with refinancing was a consequence of the global conditions).

Nigel outlined to the committee the activities of Grow Wellington and its priorities. This includes:

1. Centres of Excellence (including Biotechnology and Life Sciences, Screen and Digital)
2. Sectors (primary, manufacturing, food, education, film Wellington)
3. Business growth (Activate, Incubate, Innovate, Accelerate)
4. Regional Foundations (broadband, international gateways, carbon neutral region).

He also talked about how Grow Wellington has measured its impact and performance.

Committee members congratulated Grow Wellington on its Annual Report, and agreed that Sir John, as chair of the committee, writes to the board acknowledging its performance.

The Committee discussed the ongoing funding of Grow Wellington. Under its Terms of Reference the committee makes recommendations to Greater Wellington on funding decisions. In the event that Greater Wellington does not agree with the recommendation it must refer the matter back to the committee for reconsideration.

The committee was told that the Chief Executives had discussed the potential funding level for Grow Wellington 2009/10, within the context of the pressure on councils to limit rate increases. It was also confirmed that initial discussions have been held with Grow Wellington on funding and service delivery consequences of possibly funding Grow Wellington below the maximums set when the company was established. The Chief Executives will bring a report to the December committee meeting on funding for 2009/10.

3.4 WRS Annual Report

Melanie Thornton, WRS Project Leader, presented the WRS office Annual Report to the committee. She highlighted the successful collaboration occurring through the Senior Officers' Resource Team. She acknowledged the work of Paul Desborough (Wellington City Council) as leader of the regional broadband project and Kim Kelly (Hutt City Council) who is leading the industrial land supply project.

3.5 Genuine Progress Index (GPI)

Melanie Thornton spoke to the GPI report outlining the general approach to the GPI will be to base it on the "WRS Outcomes". The committee agreed to the approach and noted they have a workshop to discuss indicators in early November.

3.6 WRS Office Update

The committee considered a report updating it on the activities of the WRS office activities. There was some discussion about the recently released Department of Internal Affairs discussion document “*Building Sustainable Urban Communities – a discussion document exploring place-based approaches to Sustainable Urban Development in New Zealand*”. A draft submission from the region will be prepared by the Senior Officers’ Resource Team and the Chief Executives Group, for consideration by the committee at its December meeting.

4. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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Attachment 1: Unconfirmed Public Minutes