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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy Committee  
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Regional Strategy

## WRS workstreams

### 1. Purpose

This paper provides detail to the Committee on the workstreams developed for each of the five priority WRS projects. This is to inform Committee members of the project workstreams for each of the projects so that Committee members are kept up to date about the work being undertaken by council staff to progress these projects.

### 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

As the priority WRS projects have progressed over the last year, several working groups for those projects have now developed action plans or workstream project briefs. The four projects this particularly relates to are Urban Design, Broadband, Open Spaces and Genuine Progress Index. The fifth project on industrial land is in the process of being re-configured and a series of workstreams is being developed.

This is not to say that other projects haven't progressed but some of them have been handled in a slightly different way, such as Centres and Intensification. The reports on the other two projects are due in December.

### 4. Broadband

A summary of the workstreams for this project appears in a separate report entitled "Implications of Ultra-Fast broadband Initiative for Councils."

See **Attachment 1** for detail on the workstreams.

## 5. Open Spaces

A summary of the workstreams for this project appears in a report tabled separately entitled “Wellington Regional Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan. See **Attachment 2** for detail of the action plan.

## 6. Urban Design

The Wellington Regional Strategy document identifies that investment in good regional form is fundamental to successful and sustainable economic growth of the Wellington region. Good urban design is important to the success of the regional focus areas identified in the strategy. Good urban design in its broadest context is significant to all of the “good regional form” projects identified in the WRS.

The main Wellington Regional Strategy actions on urban design are:

### **All councils are signed up to the New Zealand Urban Design protocol (NZUDP)**

All but one council is signed up. The WRS office and Ministry for the Environment are working with South Wairarapa District Council to support them in considering commitment to the protocol.

### **The development and implementation of a Wellington Regional Urban Design Action Plan and Stocktake**

Led by the WRS office and the regional urban design working group, a Regional Urban Design Action Plan and Stocktake was produced in July 2009 and signed off by the WRS Committee. This includes a stocktake of urban design initiatives across the region, as well as urban design related actions, milestones, and responsibilities for action. The action plan will be reviewed annually.

### **Review of subdivision design guides**

Kapiti Coast District Council is leading this project. This action included a regional information sharing exercise involving a stocktake and looking at best practice across the Wellington region. A separate report has been written on this.

### 6.1 Workstreams

Actions, milestones and responsibilities have been allocated in the regional urban design action plan covering the following areas:

- New Zealand urban design protocol
- education / training
- urban design information hub
- best practice
- register of urban design practitioners

- peer review panel
- subdivision design guidelines review
- annual regional urban design summit

The regional urban design action plan will be reviewed by the regional urban design working group on an annual basis and updated accordingly, in conjunction with the outcomes of an annual regional urban design summit.

See **Attachment 3**.

## **7. Genuine Progress Index (GPI)**

The WRS document sets out how the Strategy will be monitored, utilising a Genuine Progress Index (GPI). An indicator framework has been finalised to form the basis of the Wellington Region GPI. The WRS Committee adopted this framework on 17 March 2009. Data has been gathered on the measures outlined and is currently being analysed. The draft GPI report is being compiled and is expected to go before the WRS Committee on 3 December 2009.

### **7.1 Workstreams**

The GPI working group continues to work together on an as needs basis. Recently a workshop with the WRS Committee and Chief Executives was held on 2 September and working group members assisted in this.

An all-day workshop was held with Dr Ron Colman of Canada on Saturday 26 September. Dr Colman assisted in the earlier work of helping educate the working group and others on the GPI and helped in the establishment of a GPI framework for the Wellington region.

On-going tasks of the working group will involve:

- Writing and editing a yearly GPI report
- Reviewing framework and indicators
- Developing effective communications around the GPI report
- Assisting in the organisation of GPI forums

## **8. Industrial Land**

The Wellington Regional Strategy recognises the importance of industrial land to the future economic development of the region. Prime industrial land prices continue to rise over time, partly as a result of competition with commercial and residential demands. Once industrial land changes use it will very rarely be available for industrial use again. The region needs to ensure that there is always enough industrial land in the region for predicted use to ensure that the region remains competitive.

A study was recently completed by Boffa's on behalf of the councils to assess the following:

- How much land in the Wellington region is zoned to be able to be utilised as industrial?
- How much land is currently being utilised as industrial land?
- The impacts of current District Plan rules at each Council regarding land that is/could be used as industrial activity.

## 8.1 Workstreams

Taking this baseline information, the next steps for the project involve developing an Industrial Land Working Group to help re-focus the project and determine the key outputs and workstreams for the project.

## 9. Communication

Communication on matters relating to the workstreams will happen as relevant information is identified.

## 10. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

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

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Attachment 1 Broadband Operating Group Workstreams  
Attachment 2 Draft Regional Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan  
Attachment 3 Wellington Regional Urban Design Action Plan & Stocktake