



Report 10.87
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Committee Council
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Report on the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting held on 25 February 2010

1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee that took place on 25 February 2010.

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 Grow Wellington Draft Statement of Intent 2010-2011

Murray McCaw, Chairperson of Grow Wellington and Nigel Kirkpatrick, CEO of Grow Wellington, presented the company's draft Statement of Intent (SOI). A copy of the presentation is in **Attachment 2**.

Grow Wellington has signalled in the Draft SOI an expectation by the Board that it will receive from Greater Wellington \$4,400,000 in the 2010/11 year. This is \$150,000 more than it is budgeted to receive this current financial year. The additional \$150,000 is for resources to support business growth opportunities associated with the Rugby World Cup event in 2011. This primarily involves facilitating introductions between regional businesses and visitors to Wellington.

The Committee supported the Draft SOI provisions, except for the Rugby World Cup activity. It resolved to ask the Board to prepare a business case for that activity, should it wish to pursue the additional funding, and present this to the Committee at its next meeting. The Committee will then make a decision whether to ask Greater Wellington to fund Grow Wellington for this activity

through the Annual Plan process. The next WRS Committee meeting is on 29 April which is prior to the Council's Draft Annual Plan hearings.

3.2 Proposal to establish a Creative HQ council controlled organisation

Grow Wellington sought the support of the Committee for the establishment of a subsidiary company for Creative HQ. This is the subject of a separate report on the Council's agenda.

3.3 Broadband Project update

Melanie Thornton, WRS Project Leader, updated the Committee on the activities supporting the rollout of broadband. She told the Committee that the Broadband Operational Group (BOG) is continuing to work collaboratively in preparation for the roll-out of the Government's Ultra Fast Broadband Initiative (UFBI) and the Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI). The focus is on local government's facilitation role through approval processes and asset standards.

Activities have centred on deployment technologies and related Resource Management Act controls. There are four areas of work:

- access to assets policies
- region-wide rules for new trenching technologies
- road openings
- region-wide rules for aerial deployment.

3.4 Update on the Wellington Regional Labour Market Strategy (WRLMS)

A report was provided to the Committee on the activities under the WRLMS. The Committee was happy with the progress. This strategy is led by the Ministry of Social Development and Department of Labour and is a complementary strategy to the WRS.

3.5 WRS Office update

Melanie Thornton updated the Committee on the various WRS projects currently underway. Projects highlighted included the Genuine Progress Index report (the subject of a separate workshop session following the meeting) and the Open Spaces workstream.

Melanie noted that, with South Wairarapa recently signing up to the NZ Urban Design Protocol, all the councils in the region are now signatories. This is a major milestone for the WRS.

3.6 Appointment process – Grow Wellington Board

The Committee agreed a process to consider new appointments to the board of Grow Wellington. The initial directors were appointed for a three year term and this term comes up in May. Three directors are due for re-appointment. The committee agreed to have 7 directors (including a chair) on the board, down from the current 8 directors.

The process will be led by the Chair of the Committee, Sir John Anderson, with support from the Chief Executives group.

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Unconfirmed Public Minutes

Attachment 2: Grow Wellington Draft Statement of Intent Presentation