

Report 12.475
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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy Committee
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Grow Wellington and WRS Office Annual Reports 2011/2012

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to the Committee the Annual Reports of Grow Wellington and the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) Office for the 2011/2012 year.

2. The decision-making process and significance

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act).

2.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

The Local Government Act (2002) sets the requirement for Grow Wellington to provide its shareholder with an Annual Report.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

3. Background

Grow Wellington was established in 2007 to deliver economic growth initiatives under the Wellington Regional Strategy. The company is required to report to the WRS Committee on its activities at the end of each financial year. The report in **Attachment 1** is Grow Wellington's Annual Report and covers the financial year 2011/2012. As a Council Controlled Organisation, Grow Wellington is required to have audited accounts. The Auditor General has carried out its independent assessment of Grow Wellington's Annual Report.

This assessment is included in the Financial Statements of Grow Wellington's Annual Report. The audit states that "the financial statements and statement of service performance... comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and... gives a true and fair view of the company's service performance achievements measured against the performance targets adopted for the year ended 30 June 2012."

The WRS Office was established within Greater Wellington to support the implementation of the Strategy. During the 2011/2012 year the Office had a reporting role for all the Good Regional Form activities and the economic growth projects that were being undertaken by the region's councils. The report in **Attachment 2** is the WRS Office's Draft Annual Report for the 2011/2012 financial year.

Note that the 2011/2012 year included the refresh of the WRS.

4. Comment

4.1 Grow Wellington Annual Report

Grow Wellington's Annual Report highlights significant milestones over the last year. Grow Wellington has successfully worked with industry to connect key organisations and businesses to develop key sectors.

Areas where targets were met and exceeded include Centres of Excellence – Screen and Digital Technologies, Business Growth, Film Wellington, Visa Wellington on a Plate, Education Wellington, and the Primary and Manufacturing sector.

Performance highlights include:

- Digital Technologies Centre of Excellence space launched with 24 individual resident members and 17 businesses.
- The AnimFX event was delivered again with 91% of respondents stating that they felt that the event "helped them achieve their business objectives."
- A funding proposal for the School of Computer Graphics was agreed and the school was launched in 2012.
- A strategy for the retention/increase of international television activity in the region was developed and various projects implemented.
- There were 1,173 business assessments and 1,232 action plans completed by the Business Growth team.
- 81% of businesses stated that they are satisfied with the business growth support.

- The annual Bright Ideas initiative resulted in 881 ideas being received which lead to the development of 143 business plans.
- Grow Wellington made 115 placements through the intern programme with 92% of business respondents being satisfied as a result.
- Film Wellington managed 600 industry enquiries with a 97% satisfaction rate for services provided.
- Visa Wellington on a Plate expanded its reach, with the Australian market being targeted with a mix of electronic direct mail in conjunction with a 'sister' Festival in Melbourne and Positively Wellington Tourism's own databases.
- Education Wellington International members had a 90% satisfaction rate with 98% of members retained.
- Grow Wellington assisted the development of the Wairarapa Water Use Project. A detailed project plan was completed with Grow Wellington input and investment plans incorporated.
- Creative HQ had a highly successful year, achieving all of its measures. Nine new companies were inducted, 29 ventures supported, ten ventures graduated from the incubator and there are now 62 alumni ventures. Total economic value generated \$589million and cumulative lifetime value totals \$310million.

Areas in the Grow Wellington Statement of Intent where targets were only partially met include the Clean Technology Centre of Excellence, Rugby World Cup, Food and Beverage Sector, and the Optimising Manufacturing Programme. As at 30 June 2012, the Clean Technology Innovation Fund was still in the pre-securement phase and therefore no business opportunities were presented due to the fund being incomplete. However, the Clean Tech Centre now has additional ventures and expansion plans with financial contributions from the Kapiti Coast District Council in its Long-Term Plan.

Areas where targets have not been met include the Wood Sector and Centres of Excellence – Biotech and Life Sciences. The latter was due to the initiative effectively ceasing in February 2010 when the business case was not approved by the then Ministry of Economic Development.

4.2 WRS Office Annual Report

The WRS Office Annual Report 2011/2012 outlines the work undertaken on the refresh of the Strategy. The new Strategy was adopted by the WRS Committee in June 2012.

The report also outlines the further progress that was made on the good regional form priority projects under the previous version of the Strategy (Open Spaces and Urban Design). Much of last year's work involved reviewing project action plans and setting up working groups to enable them to continue beyond the leadership provided by the WRS Office.

The Broadband Operational Group (BOG) continues to be supported and success can now be seen as ultra fast broadband is rolled out across the region.

The Genuine Progress Index (GPI) reports were published and the GPI website went live in August 2011. The GPI and its website received recognition by winning two national awards from the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM).

5. Communication

Grow Wellington's Annual Report is publicly available on the company's website. Any other communications will be the responsibility of Grow Wellington.

The WRS Office Annual Report will be made publicly available on the WRS website.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Accepts the Grow Wellington Annual Report 2011/2012.***
4. ***Adopts the Wellington Regional Strategy Office Annual Report 2011/2012.***

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1:

Grow Wellington Annual Report 2011/2012

Attachment 2:

Draft Wellington Regional Strategy Office Annual Report
2011/2012