

Report 14.123
Date 4 March 2014
File E/12/01/04

Committee Council
Author Jane Davis, General Manager, Strategy and Community
Engagement

Report on the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting 4 March 2014

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee that took place on 4 March 2014.

2. Report

2.1 Committee Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson arrangements for the 2013-2016 triennium

The Committee elected Councillor Wilde as the Deputy Chairperson for the 2013-2016 triennium. As the Committee is not deemed to be discharged following each triennial election and Sir John Anderson's membership was not impacted by the recent local government elections, he remains the Chairperson for the duration of his current membership of the Committee, unless a future decision is made by the Committee to replace him in the period.

2.2 Grow Wellington Half Yearly Report (July – December 2013)

The Grow Wellington Half Yearly Report outlines the company's activities implementing the new strategy (attached as **Attachment 1**). Amongst its activities, Grow Wellington has been focusing on positioning the region to attract and retain business and talent with the creation of a talent value proposition that communicates the benefits of working in Wellington to potential inbound businesses and workers.

The Committee noted that Grow Wellington has recently launched business clinics, a new initiative across the region which provides an opportunity for private business service providers to give an introduction to an area of capability for businesses such as governance, market validation, sales and change management. The Business Growth team at Grow Wellington is concentrating on enhancing investment connections between businesses in the region and the capability for businesses to pitch for and attract investment.

2.3 Labour Market Activities Update

The Committee was provided an update on the labour market activities lead by the Wellington Regional Strategy Office. The update focused on three key areas of activity – immigration, a skills project with Victoria University and skill matching services. The Committee noted the appropriate focus on economic based outcomes for migrant attraction, settlement and retention. As part of the changes to government migrant settlement strategies, Wellington, as well as Auckland, will have the opportunity to review current practises and create a Regional Partnership Agreement with Immigration New Zealand. It is proposed that the Committee will be the regional signatory to the Agreement.

During 2013, Victoria University carried out a skills project which involved surveying businesses at a CEO or owner level. Survey questions related to reasons for being located in Wellington, what are barriers to growth and skill needs. The further survey will be carried out again this year, with a formal steering group established with representatives from Grow Wellington, Victoria University, businesses and councils. It is also intended to have a more formal arrangement between the business sector and the university as a basis for on-going input into skills supply projects.

A scoping study on skill matching services was completed late last year and illustrates the disconnect across sectors and lack of strategic approach to regional business needs. Grow Wellington has been reviewing the findings and considering actions as part of its workforce development programme.

2.4 2013 Wellington Regional Economic Profile

Officers presented the Wellington Regional Economic Profile to the Committee (**Attachment 2**). The Profile is a set of economic data available online that provides an economic overview report on the Wellington region including labour market statistics, standards of living and productivity.

3. Communication

No external communication is required.

4. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

5. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:

Jane Davis
General Manager, Strategy
and Community Engagement

Report approved by:

Fran Wilde
Chair

Attachment 1: Grow wellington Half yearly Report (July – December 2013)

Attachment 2: Wellington Economic Profile