

Report 13.166
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Committee Council
Author Jane Davis, General Manager, Strategy and
Community Engagement

Report on the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee that took place on 24 April 2013.

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3. Report

3.1 Grow Wellington's Draft Statement of Intent 2013/2014

Grow Wellington's Draft Statement of Intent (SOI) for 2013/2014 is the first to be prepared under the refreshed Strategy. The Committee noted that the Draft SOI is more output than activity focused and is based on "intervention logic" as the driver behind decision making. This means that everything Grow Wellington undertakes is because that particular activity or support could not happen or be given without the intervention of Grow Wellington due to a gap in the market which is not filled by the private sector or any central government agency.

The Committee discussed employment levels in the region and noted that Grow Wellington is focused on high growth areas. However, the net employment situation in the region is more heavily dependent on public and private sector decisions which are beyond the influence of Grow Wellington.

3.2 Grow Wellington Half Yearly Report (July – December 2012)

The Half Yearly Report is based on the previous Statement of Intent and Wellington Regional Strategy prior to the refresh. The report provided the Committee with a 'flavour' of change rather than a full operational transition

between the old and new Statements of Intent. Changes within the organisation and a new business plan will be implemented by July 2013.

Some of the highlights of the Report included the provision of funding to over 100 businesses under the New Zealand Trade and Enterprise capability building scheme, the facilitation and management of two million dollars of research and development funding in partnership with TechNZ and the launch of Lightning Lab which is New Zealand's first digital accelerator programme.

3.3 Grow Wellington Updates on Callaghan Innovation and New Zealand Marine Energy Centre

The Committee discussed the need for the region to retain the science and technology sector and noted that there is a need for an evenness of spread of facilities throughout New Zealand. It was agreed to meet collectively with the Board of New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, to discuss the interests of the Wellington region.

The Committee noted Grow Wellington's 'watching brief' on the marine energy sector and added its support for growth in this area. Grow Wellington will continue with their 'watching brief' in this area until such time as they are able to re-join the conversation in this area and make an impact with their available resources.

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Jane Davis
General Manager, Strategy
and Community Engagement

Fran Wilde
Chair