

Report 13.8
Date 4 February 2013
File WRS/09/01/01

Committee Wellington Regional Strategy Committee
Author Colin Drew, Project Leader

Wellington Regional Strategy - Draft Implementation Plan

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the draft Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) Implementation Plan.

2. The decision-making process and significance

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

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. Due to the procedural nature of this decision officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

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

3. Background

The new WRS, refreshed in 2012 has a tighter focus than the original Strategy, and focuses primarily on economic development matters. It also moves away from a core focus on exports and centres of excellence to a more supportive, promoting and enabling approach that is focused on the key strengths of the region.

The aim of the refreshed WRS is to build a resilient, diverse economy – one that retains and creates jobs (especially high value jobs), supports the growth of high value companies and improves the relative regional position in relation to the national GDP and national employment.

The WRS is centred around six focus areas. Combined, they set out what the WRS Office, councils and Grow Wellington (in support of businesses in the Wellington region) propose to do to support economic growth and build a resilient and diverse economy, in collaboration with other parties.

The WRS review process also highlighted the need to improve planning, reporting and communication practices associated with the implementation of the WRS.

4. Comment

The draft WRS Implementation Plan is a framework to help guide planning, delivery and reporting activities to implement the WRS in the short term and out ten years. It is appended as **Attachment 1** to this report.

The draft Implementation Plan collates the activities of Grow Wellington, the WRS Office and councils in the region. It also provides a monitoring process for the WRS and highlights the importance of leadership and relationships with government, and the private sector in particular.

Activities in the plan are aligned to the six focus areas in the WRS. More detailed action plans will be provided in the annual plans of the various agencies involved in implementing elements of the WRS. The 2012/13 summary business plan for the WRS Office is included in the attached draft WRS Implementation Plan as an example.

Grow Wellington's annual Statement of Intent would reflect implementation activities and outcome measures in the WRS implementation plan.

Annual plans for Grow Wellington, the WRS Office and council economic development functions would include agreed delivery activities and demonstrate a collective response to growing the regional economy. Thus roles are clear and any duplication of activity is reduced.

The implementation plan can be reviewed annually based on the economic climate, priorities determined by the WRS Committee, analysis of performance and outcomes achieved, and government policy. A call for more direct measures such as job creation and dollar investment figures will result in monitoring and reporting practices being refined over time.

5. Communication

The WRS Implementation Plan will be made publicly available on the WRS website.

6. Recommendations

That the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee:

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

3. *Adopts the draft Wellington Regional Strategy Implementation Plan (Attachment 1).*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Colin Drew
Project Leader, WRS

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Strategic Planning

Jane Davis
General Manager, Strategy
and Community Engagement

Attachment 1: Draft Wellington Regional Strategy Implementation Plan