

Report 08.536
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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy Committee
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WRS Projects Update

1. Purpose

To provide an update on current WRS projects.

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. Projects Update

3.1 Genuine Progress Index (GPI)

Progress on development of Wellington region GPI

The GPI working group continues to progress the development of a GPI framework for the Wellington region. The GPI working group has met fortnightly since May. A Terms of Reference has been prepared and accepted by the GPI Working Group.

The working group has drawn on the background research and analysis of GPI for the Wellington region that took place in 2005. The working group has assessed many GPI frameworks being utilised around the world including the New Zealand national-level GPI that has been developed.

It has determined that the key indicators for the Wellington region GPI will be based on the Community Outcomes set out on Page 2 of the WRS (see **Attachment 1**). This is a departure from the more traditional “4 pillar” approach (social, cultural, environmental and economic) that is used in GPIs around the world. It was considered important to take this approach because these outcomes have already been agreed by the region and it was a logical first step in the development of a GPI specifically for the Wellington region. These WRS outcomes are almost the same as the LTCCP outcomes adopted for the region by Greater Wellington and are complementary to existing community outcomes being utilised by councils throughout the region for their LTCCP monitoring work.

Proposed work programme and indicative timeframes

The working group has determined a two-phase process for the GPI:

Phase 1:

- Develop a GPI approach.
- Develop measures/indicators.
- Develop a single account to illustrate how a GPI account might look.
- Test other possible ways to categorise measures (e.g. the more traditional environmental, economic, social, cultural approach).

Phase 2:

- Undertake full cost-accounting of indicators where possible. This involves determining a more detailed economic assessment of the cost and benefits of indicators.

A report on GPI was presented to Ara Tahi, Greater Wellington's inter-iwi representative group, on 24 June 2008. Ara Tahi expressed a keen interest in GPI. Members indicated that there is already work going on in this space at the Wananga in Otaki. Ara Tahi would like to be involved in the selection of all indicators, not just cultural indicators. Councillor Wilde proposed a joint GPI workshop for Ara Tahi, the GW Sustainability Committee and the WRS Committee to bring them up to speed with GPI. This is to be held on 25 August 2008.

The GPI working group will continue to work with Ara Tahi to ensure that the Māori perspective has been recognised through the development of the GPI.

Murray Patterson (one of the key independent researchers developing a national-level GPI for New Zealand) spoke to the GPI working group about the indicators used for the national-level GPI. The GPI working group intends to work closely with Murray in the further development of the Wellington region GPI.

Ongoing updates will be provided to the Senior Officers Resource Team (SORT), through the monthly electronic newsletter updates, SORT meetings and a workshop with SORT on GPI on 23 September 2008.

A report will go to the Chief Executives Group on 10 October to endorse the draft GPI framework.

A report will be provided to the next WRS Committee meeting on 22 October 2008 to endorse the draft GPI framework developed by the GPI working group.

GPI Fora

The WRS office and GPI working group identified that GPI development in New Zealand is lacking any coordination of frameworks and approaches. The Wellington Regional Strategy office organised an officer-level GPI Forum in Wellington on Thursday 19 June to bring the regions, central government

agencies and technical experts together to discuss the different GPI approaches being undertaken in New Zealand. The GPI Forum was very successful with 45 people attending. Representatives came from both central and local government, there were also independent researchers and academics.

The WRS office is proposing to organise a further central and local government forum, and a meeting of those regions working on GPI in September 2008.

The WRS office has recently given two presentations about the development of a Wellington region GPI to the ECO (Environmental & Conservation Organisations of NZ) Conference and the NZ Geography Society annual conference.

3.2 New Zealand Urban Design Protocol

The WRS office continues to work with the two remaining councils in the region yet to sign up to the protocol. This has included the provision of resourcing material and working to set up a governance level workshop to help the councils understand the implications for signing. This is particularly relevant for smaller/rural councils.

A working group of key council staff has been set up in order to put forward recommendations to SORT on proposals for a regional urban design action plan. A paper on options for an urban design review panel for the Wellington region has been completed. This paper, along with options for a regional action plan, will be considered in a workshop with the SORT team on 19 August 2008.

The WRS office attended the Urban Design Symposium organised by MfE recently. MfE has just published a number of local government case studies on good urban design and several of these were presented at the symposium.

3.3 Regional Form

- **Industrial Land / Centre – Retail / Intensification**

A SORT workshop on Industrial Land, Centres and Intensification projects was held on Monday 14 July. The aim of the workshop was to provide briefings to planners and urban design experts within councils on each of the projects with a view to coming to common agreements for regional planning approaches to each of the projects or where appropriate, agreement on best practice.

- **Open Spaces**

Greater Wellington Regional Council is leading this project. A working group has been set up comprising representatives from the territorial authorities, Greater Wellington, Department of Conservation and QEII National Trust. The working group has been meeting since late May 2008.

The working group is looking at a number of areas including agreement on the definition for open space; work streams around open space e.g. recreation,

biodiversity; what constitutes 'adequate' provision of open space; and the identification and options to enhance the region's open space network. A workshop was held on 31 July to identify the opportunities and gaps for open spaces on a region-wide basis. It is envisaged that the open space work stream will be completed by the end of 2008.

- **Broadband**

The Broadband Operating Group is working towards submitting an Expression of Interest to the Broadband Investment Fund by the end of August for regional funding. See separate report to the Committee on Broadband.

- **Networking**

The WRS Office has initiated and continues to attend networking meetings with private sector, local and central government partners to ensure information-sharing that has relevance to WRS initiatives.

3.4 Grow Wellington

Below is a selection of highlighted activities that have been undertaken in the recent months.

- The Angel HQ network completed its first deal. Trinity Bioactives are doing exciting early work developing tests for medical diagnostic services and products. The next investor evening is 2 September.
- The first regional Activate course begins on Tuesday 5 August in Lower Hutt. Applications for both Wellington and Porirua continue to be of high quality. Notification to successful applicants will be sent out soon.
- Creative HQ is operating with 12 businesses. Creative HQ tenant, Gecko Press, has recently won publisher of the year in the 2008 Montana Awards and Oh! Group CEO Neil Fitzpatrick is a finalist in the Start-Up Entrepreneur of the Year category of the Gen-i New Zealand Incubator Awards 2008.
- The Migrant and Skills attraction programme has continued to support skilled migrants to the region and match them with employers in need. There were 135 migrants assisted into employment last year. Planning for the "Your Career Live Expo" to be held the last weekend in September in Auckland is underway.
- Education Wellington International has been working closely with the Ministry of Education and the Chilean Embassy around the new scholarship fund for Chilean students to study in New Zealand. A proposal has been prepared promoting Wellington as the perfect destination for Chilean students.
- Film Wellington's major upcoming project is the hosting of Cineposium 2008 in November 2008, a gathering of film offices from around the world.

- The Food and Beverage Sector programme is developing communication tools to tell the regional food story. Research is currently being undertaken to define regional opportunities to grow this sector.

Centres of Excellence

The Centres of Excellence (CoE) programme is gaining momentum with the employment of a project manager. Advisory Panels meetings will be in late August or early September. All members are enthusiastic and willing to continue their role as the centres are developed.

The Centres of Excellence Build Plan is being developed and will articulate how we will be supporting the development of potential CoEs over the next two years in gathering greater evidence of market, capability and impact values of interventions while informing any discussion with central government agencies of a logical and observable maturity pathway which will result in a case for substantive government support for 2001/12 year onwards.

The CoE programme is developing a framework which will support any future potential CoE when it comes to developing their industry or network. In the interim, we will support at least two CoEs to prove the framework and gain wide support for the approach. In doing so we should have created substantive industry growth potential for the selected areas.

Approval to seek funding from the Regional Strategy Fund will be sought from Wellington Regional Strategy Committee on 13 August. An application for further funding will be filed with NZTE the following week. This will be for \$375,000 p.a. over two years to implement the CoE. (See Report 08.566)

3.5 Wellington Regional Labour Market Strategy (WRLMS)

This project is being led by central government and private sector partners. One of the key actions is driving the productivity workstream in the Wellington region, which particularly involves the manufacturing sector. The Productivity Action Group as part of the WRLMS is led by Paul Winter from EMA Central. Three companies are involved in a project to deliver literacy and numeracy in the workplace.

The first stage of the project has been completed, the reports and recommendations delivered and the companies are implementing the interventions recommended in the report. The Department of Labour's Workplace Productivity Agenda team funded the project and a second phase of the project is underway. An evaluation of the project and the best practice manual will be available later in the year.

A SORT workshop on the WRLMS workstreams and their links to the WRS process was held on 29 July.

A report on governance arrangements between WRLMS and the WRS Committee has been provided in a separate report (Report 08.564).

4. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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Attachment 1: WRS Community Outcomes for the Wellington Region