

Report 08.765
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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy
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Grow Wellington and WRS Office Annual Reports 2007/08

1. Purpose

To present to the Committee the Annual Reports of Grow Wellington and the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) Office for the year 2007/08.

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. 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 Committee on its activities at the end of each financial year. The report in **Attachment 1** is Grow Wellington's first annual report and covers the financial year 2007/08. This report was approved by the Grow Wellington Board in August 2008.

The WRS Office was established within Greater Wellington to support the implementation of the strategy. The office has a reporting role for all the Good Regional Form activities and the economic growth projects that are being undertaken by the region's councils. **Attachment 2** contains the report from the office for the 2007/08 financial year.

4. Comment

4.1 Grow Wellington Annual Report

Grow Wellington's Annual Report includes a commentary on the various areas of activity undertaken over the year. An assessment of its performance against a series of measures (contained in the company's Statement of Intent) shows

that it has met, or nearly met, most of the targets. In some instances the targets have been exceeded.

The Chief Executives considered the Annual Report at their meeting on the 10th October. They confirmed that they were very pleased with the quality of the report and agreed that the report shows good progress in promoting economic growth.

4.2 WRS Office Annual Report

The WRS Office was established during the 2007/08 year, with the appointment of two officers. Melanie Thornton was appointed in early 2008 as the WRS Project Leader. In late 2007 Victoria McGregor was appointed as the WRS policy advisor. Melanie and Victoria work alongside the Senior Officers Resource Team (SORT) to advance the various WRS projects.

The Annual Report shows significant progress being made on two high priority projects - Regional Broadband and the Genuine Progress Index. Other projects are also progressing and these are outlined in the attached report. Each project is lead by a member of SORT or the WRS Office.

5. Communication

Grow Wellington is responsible for communicating its activities. Other projects undertaken by SORT are communicated as they are progressed.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Accepts the Grow Wellington Annual Report and authorises the Committee Chair to send a letter to the Grow Wellington Board acknowledging the progress made by the company.***
4. ***Adopts the Wellington Regional Strategy Office Annual Report.***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Jane Davis
Divisional Manager, Regional Strategy

David Benham
Chief Executive

Attachment 1: Grow Wellington Annual Report 2007/08

Attachment 2: Wellington Regional Strategy Office Annual Report 2007/08