

Report 12.41  
Date 8 February 2012  
File E/11/08/04

Committee Wellington Regional Strategy Committee  
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## Report on the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting 8 February 2012

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee that took place on 8 February 2012.

### 2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

### 3. Report

#### 3.1 The Wellington Regional Strategy Committee role and membership

The Committee discussed the future role of the Committee and whether it should have independent members. They then discussed the potential criteria for selecting independent members. It was agreed that independent members provide important knowledge and skills. It was suggested that independent members should be selected based on their links into networks relevant to the Wellington Regional Strategy. The Committee agreed to ask the Chief Executives Forum to facilitate a process to identify potential candidates for appointment to the Committee. Candidates will be considered at the June meeting of the Committee.

The issue of equal voting rights for the independent members was also discussed. Whether or not the Committee functions as an advisory body or a decision making body will influence a decision on voting rights. This will be further explored prior to the confirmation of the committee's Terms of Reference, which will need to be confirmed in June 2012.

The issue of the chair of the Committee was delayed until June, to be discussed once the candidates for appointment to the Committee are known.

### **3.2 Draft proposal to continue the Wellington Regional Strategy Activity**

A formal proposal for the continuation of the Wellington Regional Strategy is required to be included in Greater Wellington's Long Term Plan 2012-22 in order for Greater Wellington to continue to carry out economic development functions. The Committee agreed to the draft proposal provided by the Chief Executives Forum. The Committee requested three changes. The first is that the concept of "sustainability" be included in the wording in the proposal.

The second was a review of the performance measurement targets as they were considered to be too ambitious in the current economic climate. The Committee would like targets that are realistically be able to be reached "at a stretch".

Finally, the Committee would like to have reference to the GPI in the proposal, although recognising that the GPI is measuring wellbeings that are a lot broader than the strategy will be addressing.

### **3.3 Wellington Regional Strategy Refresh process**

The refresh of the Wellington Regional Strategy is intended to refine the Strategy by developing six key focus areas of the Strategy. The six focus areas are:

1. Commercialisation of innovation
2. Investment mechanisms for growth
3. Building world class economic infrastructure
4. Attracting business, investment and talent to the region
5. Education and workforce development to service regional economy needs
6. Open for business.

As part of the refresh process, the Committee will engage with key stakeholders, including the Board of Grow Wellington. The decision was made not to undertake a formal consultation process. It is expected the refreshed Strategy will adopted by the Committee in June 2012.

### **3.4 Feedback to Grow Wellington and Letter of Expectation**

The Committee approved a letter to be sent to Grow Wellington setting out the Committee's expectations regarding Grow Wellington activities over the next twelve months. The letter sets out:

- The six new focus areas already agreed by the Committee as forming the basis of the renewed Strategy.
- The expectation of the Committee for Grow Wellington to deliver value for the ratepayers' investment.
- The expectation of the Committee for communication and collaboration.

The Committee letter also states that it is expecting to work closely with the Board during the refresh of the Strategy, and it is expected that Grow Wellington will review its existing activities in the light of the refreshed Strategy. The letter identifies the opportunity for an amended SOI to be prepared part way through the financial year.

The Committee also agreed to provide feedback to the Board in response to a letter the Board sent to the Committee members prior to Christmas. It was agreed that the detailed matters raised by the Board would be discussed further at a joint session currently being organised in later February with the Committee and Board.

### **3.5 Grow Wellington activities update**

The Committee received an update by the Chair, Paul Mersi, on the recent activities of Grow Wellington. The Board has been focussing on:

- improving the governance relationship between itself and Creative HQ by developing a charter to establish focus areas and to avoid overlap between the two entities
- improving stakeholder (i.e. Council) engagement was also identified by the Board as an area of importance
- reviewing the company's management performance and reporting
- strategic thinking about the activities of the company, including how it should be responding to the changes in the Strategy.

Paul Mersi talked to a letter the Board wrote to the Committee outlining its current thinking about its future activities. The letter also signalled it would like to have a direct and meaningful input in to the Strategy refresh process.

Mr Mersi stressed the Board's need for clear guidance on the objectives of the Strategy and any constraints on the Board as it implements the Strategy.

## **4. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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**Fran Wilde**  
Chair