

Report 13.844
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Committee Council
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Engagement

Report on the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting 18 September 2013

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee that took place on 18 September 2013.

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3. Report

3.1 Grow Wellington Annual Report 2012/13

The Committee received the Grow Wellington Annual report 2012/13, the first under the refreshed Wellington Regional Strategy. The refreshed strategy led Grow Wellington to review its activities resulting in a deferral or redesign of some projects and this is reflected in the difference between some of the performance measures in the Statement of Intent for 2012/13 and actual results achieved in some areas.

Some of the highlights included in the Annual Report are: the relocation of a call centre to Wellington - with 150 jobs forecast this financial year, three deals secured in the screen and digital sector, the expansion of the Wellington on a Plate event and the founding by Creative HQ of the first Business Accelerator model in New Zealand. The Committee noted that it was important for Grow Wellington to present the 'good news stories' contained in the report to the media and public.

3.2 WRS Office Update

The Wellington Regional Strategy Office update report provided the Committee with an overview of areas of discussion raised at the previous Committee meeting. The Committee discussed the issue of immigration and the underutilisation of migrant skills. The Committee noted that the WRS

Office is currently undertaking a review of immigration policy and programmes and a draft report from consultants has been received by the WRS Office. Findings from the report will provide the Committee with evidence for any regional settlement activities.

The WRS Office has been undertaking a skills research project together with students from Victoria University of Wellington, in order to get an in-depth understanding of future skill needs and to establish stronger links between graduates and Wellington businesses to help retain both in the region. The Committee also noted that there are many internship programmes that are aiming to move graduates and trainees into Wellington business, including programmes delivered by Grow Wellington.

Full reports on the above subjects are to be presented to the Committee at its next meeting.

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