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Committee Council  
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## Report on the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting 23 June 2015

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee (the Committee) that took place on 23 June 2015.

### 2. Reports

#### 2.1 Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WREDA) proposed final Statement of Intent (SOI) for 2015/ 2016

Peter Biggs, the Chair of WREDA, presented the proposed final SOI for 2015/2016 to the Committee.

Mr Biggs explained why WREDA was established last year and how it combined the previous separate business entities of Tourism, Venues, Economic Development and Major Events for better cohesion. The Committee was informed of WREDA's progress to date and its purpose.

Peter Biggs advised that WREDA intended to be a cohesive, integrated and effective organisation, which will gain considerable influence so that it could take the Wellington Region forward. WREDA planned to do this by enabling strong and sustainable growth in the region through increasing work opportunities, attracting more students, migrants and visitors, boosting investment and export opportunities, encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation, and strengthening Wellington's position as the arts and culture capital.

WREDA is looking to successful overseas models for guidance, to review and improve current business activities and enhance the region's reputation.

While the Committee was generally accepting of the focus of the proposed final SOI, it considered that there should be more detail on the key

performance indicators (KPIs) listed in the SOI as well as more emphasis on business growth, and requested growth sector plans be investigated in more depth. The Committee was also of the view that a more explicit link between iwi and central government was required.

## **2.2 Update on Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) Office projects**

The Committee was given a presentation by Colin Drew, Wellington Regional Strategy Project Leader, on current WRS activities.

The WRS Office is currently working with central government to attract new migrants to the region, and with the Callaghan Institute and Victoria University on the sector and knowledge economy projects. In addition, the WRS is working on a resilient infrastructures project, as well as business case studies and their use of technology

## **3. Communication**

No external communication is required.

## **4. The decision-making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report.

## **5. Engagement**

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

## **6. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

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

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