



greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Pane Matua Taiao

If calling please ask for: Democratic Services

22 August 2018

Wellington Regional Strategy Committee

Order Paper for meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington on:

Tuesday, 28 August 2018 at 1.00pm

Membership of Committee

Mayor Lester (Chair)	Wellington City Council
Councillor Blakeley (Deputy Chair)	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Deputy Mayor Day	Wellington City Council
Councillor Calvert	Wellington City Council
Mayor Guppy	Upper Hutt City Council
Mayor Gurunathan	Kapiti Coast District Council
Councillor Marsh	Wellington City Council
Mayor Patterson	Masterton District Council
Mayor Tana	Porirua City Council
Mayor Wallace	Hutt City Council

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council

Wellington Regional Strategy Committee

Order Paper for meeting to be held on Tuesday, 28 August 2018 in the Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 1.00pm

Public Business

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Please note that these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting on 28 August 2018

Report 18.259

19/06/2018

File: CCAB-15-246

Minutes of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 19 June 2018, in the Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 1:03pm

Present

Mayor Lester (Chair)	(Wellington City Council)
Councillor Blakeley (Deputy Chair)	(Greater Wellington Regional Council)
Councillor Calvert (from 1:54pm)	(Wellington City Council)
Deputy Mayor Day (from 1:06pm)	(Wellington City Council)
Mayor Guppy	(Upper Hutt City Council)
Mayor Gurnathan	(Kapiti Coast District Council)
Councillor Marsh (from 1:24pm)	(Wellington City Council)
Mayor Patterson	(Masterton District Council)
Mayor Tana	(Porirua City Council)
Mayor Wallace	(Hutt City Council)

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved

(Mayor Lester/ Cr Laidlaw)

That the Committee accepts the apologies for lateness from Deputy Mayor Day, and Councillors Calvert and Marsh.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

There were no apologies.

2 **Conflict of interest declarations**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3 **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

4 **Confirmation of the minutes of 24 April 2018**

Moved

(Mayor Lester/ Mayor Patterson)

That the Committee confirms the minutes of the meeting of 24 April 2018, Report 18.155.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

5 **WREDA Third Quarter Report 2017/18**

Peter Biggs, Chair, introduced Lance Walker, Chief Executive, Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WREDA), who gave a presentation to update the Committee regarding the Region's growth, past and future events, venues, and highlights.

Report 18.240

File: CCAB-15-239

Moved

(Mayor Lester/ Mayor Guppy)

That the Committee:

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

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Deputy Mayor Day arrived during discussion of item 5 at 1:06pm.

Cr Marsh arrived during discussion of item 5 at 1:24pm.

6 **WREDA Final Statement of Intent 2018-21**

Lance Walker, Chief Executive, WREDA, spoke to the report.

The Committee noted that climate change could be addressed as both a risk and an opportunity in the final Statement of Intent.

Report 18.241

File: CCAB-15-236

Moved

(Mayor Lester/ Mayor Guppy)

That the Committee:

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

3. *Notes that WREDA has constructively addressed the requested changes to their final Statement of Intent.*

4. *Receives WREDA's final Statement of Intent.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

7 **Māori Economy Report**

Dr Ganesh Nana, Chief Economist, Business and Economic Research Limited (BERL), gave a presentation to the Committee, demonstrating a snapshot of the Māori economy.

Report 18.242

File: CCAB-15-242

Moved

(Mayor Lester/ Cr Marsh)

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*

2. *Notes the content of the report.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Mayor Guppy left the meeting during discussion of item 7 at 1:44pm and returned at 1:55pm.

Cr Calvert arrived during discussion of item 7 at 1:54pm.

8 **Wellington Regional Investment Plan**

Oral report

Luke Troy, General Manager, Strategy, introduced Geoff Henley, Partner, Henley Hutchings, to the Committee.

Geoff Henley gave a presentation to the Committee regarding the Wellington Regional Investment Plan, the story of the Region, and gave an update on where the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment advise that the Provincial Growth Fund applies, and of upcoming meetings and workshops with stakeholders.

Geoff Henley gave overviews of Wairarapa, Wellington, transport and growth infrastructure, housing and lifestyle, economic enablers, visitor attraction, sector growth, and the One Billion Trees region-wide project. An outline of the Plan was set out for the Committee.

Noted: Officers agreed to provide a written report on the Wellington Regional Investment Plan to the Committee at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 2:51pm.

Mayor Lester
(Chair)

Date:



Report	18.282
Date	20 August 2018
File	CCAB-15-250
Committee	Wellington Regional Strategy Committee
Author	Luke Troy, General Manager, Strategy

Action items from previous meetings

Attachment 1 lists items raised at Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meetings that require actions or follow-ups from officers. All action items include an outline of current status and a brief comment. Once the items have been completed and reported to the Committee they will be removed from the list.

No decision is being sought in this report. This report is for the Committee's information only.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Luke Troy
General Manager, Strategy

Attachment 1: Action items from previous meetings

Attachment 1 to Report 18.282

Action points from previous Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meetings

Meeting date	Action point	Status and comment
19 June 2018	<p>Noted</p> <p><i>Officers agreed to provide a written report on the Wellington Regional Investment Plan to the Committee at the next meeting.</i></p>	<p>Status: <i>Completed</i></p> <p>Comments: <i>Written report on the Wellington Regional Investment Plan is being presented at this meeting (28 August 2018.)</i></p> <p>...</p>



Report 18.364
Date 20 August 2018
File CCAB-15-255

Committee Wellington Regional Strategy Committee
Author Samantha Seath, Wellington Regional Strategy Office, and Barry Turfrey, Wellington City Council

WREDA Report on the year 2017/18

1. Purpose

To provide summary comment on the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency's (WREDA) performance for the year ending 30 June 2018

2. Background

WREDA's 2017/18 Annual Report is not due until September, however WREDA have produced a summary of their year in review which is in [Attachment 1](#). Representatives from WREDA and Creative HQ will present to the Committee at the meeting.

3. Summary of Activity for the year

3.1 Tourism and marketing

Visitors spend exceeded \$2.5billion for the first time this year. Along with an excellent summer, a strong cruise ship season and a number of events (as noted below), this contributed to a very successful year for tourism in the region.

Wellington was again voted the most liveable city in the world by Deutsche Bank.

Local and international tourism campaigns, included *Your Alternative Summer*, *Discover Wellington*, *NZ's Creative Heart*, joint campaign with TourismNZ and Marlborough all contributed to the strong tourism showing. Visitors from Christchurch and Auckland increased by 48% over the previous year and WellingtonNZ hosted 2.7m unique visits.

Wellington Airport, WREDA and others have joined together to promote Wellington with focus on China with \$2.5m in funding from a variety of sources.

3.2 Economic Development

The Regional Business Partner Program actively supported 451 businesses, of which one third were from the wider region. A number of Pop-Up business schools were held or are planned in Porirua, Upper Hutt and Kapiti.

283 interns were placed through Summer of Tech/Biz which is a significant increase from the previous year (221).

Funding of \$5.3m secured for businesses and there were 515 facilitated film productions worth \$93m.

Shopify, which is a Canadian company that provides e-commerce platforms for online stores announced it was opening its first Oceania base in Wellington with upwards of 100 jobs created.

3.3 Creative HQ

Creative HQ had its most successful year in terms of overall revenue. Highlights included successful Fin Tech Lighting Lab, ICT Gradschool collaboration with Victoria and polytechnics. There were 52 ventures in the incubators.

Creative HQ receives small shareholdings in start-up companies involved in the incubation programme; these shareholdings are valued each year under the accounting standards. This year resulted in a gain of \$770,000, which is far in excess of their usual movement. Gains and losses can be volatile and for most start-ups there is often no regular market for the shares.

3.4 Venues

Despite the St James Theatre being closed from the end of March, Venues had a solid year. There were 594 events held with an out of region spend of \$68m.

As reported in previous quarters there were a number of successful events including, NZ Festival, Jimmy Carr, Macklemore, Lorde, WOW, NZ Ballet plus a number of other major events and conferences.

Venues hosted 41 conferences with at least 150 attendees, estimated out of town expenditure was \$68m.

3.5 Major Events

Major Events had another successful year, as previously reported these included a Lion's test, WOW, NZ Festival, Cupa Dupa, All Whites World Cup qualifier (largest crowd at a football match in NZ), cricket tours by Pakistan and England.

In the 4th quarter there were a number of events, in particular;

- Jim Beam Homegrown, sold out, 70% of tickets were from outside the region
- Muppet's Retrospectacle resulted in a lot of publicity for the region.
- LUX Light Festival
- Hurricanes season continued

- All Blacks test against France, sold out, 30% of attendees were from out of region.
- Jazz Festival

Major Events achieved a 21:1 economic return for every dollar invested, a return of \$119m, this compares with the budget of 20:1.

4. Looking Forward

There are a number initiatives looking forward, including

- Expansion of the Creative HQ program including GovTech Lighting Lab in August
- Identifying WREDA's ongoing role in the delivery of projects from the Wellington Regional Investment Plan
- Regional Tourism Projects including Dark Sky and Porirua Adventure Park
- Maori tourism, events and tech projects arising from Wellington hosting of Te Matatini.
- Big cruise season expected.
- A number of major conferences to held over the next year.

The closure of the St James for earthquake strengthening in March along with the Town Hall will impact on Wellington's capacity for events and conferences until these projects are completed.

5. Summary Financial Information

SUMMARY FINANCIALS					
* Variance (Actual minus Budget). ✓ Favourable variance to budget ✗ Unfavourable variance to budget					
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (\$000)	Actual 2015/16	Actual 2016/17	Actual 2017/18	Budget 2017/18	Variance
Total Revenue	24,542	31,781	31,052	29,088	1,965 ✓
Employment costs	13,015	12,901	13,472	12,446	1,026 ✗
Other	11,521	18,003	17,920	16,542	2,279 ✗
Total expenditure	24,536	30,904	31,392	28,988	2,405 ✗
Movement in investment valuation	(20)	(56)	770		770 ✓
Net Surplus (Loss)	(14)	821	430	100	330 ✓
FINANCIAL POSITION					
Total Assets	5,072	6,096	6,230	5,115	1,115 ✓
Total Liabilities	3,557	3,682	3,386	3,500	114 ✗
Equity	1,515	2,414	2,844	1,615	1,229 ✓
CASH FLOWS					
Total Net Cash Flows	308	(252)	204	(260)	464 ✓
Opening Cash	1,651	1,959	1,707	2,100	393 ✗
Closing Cash	1,959	1,707	1,911	1,840	71 ✓
COMMENTARY					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue is ahead of budget due to additional programmes being undertaken by Creative HQ for both government and corporate clients along with the Ticketmaster contract. • Expenditure increased over budget due to the additional programmes noted above. • Creative HQ has a number of small shareholdings in start-up companies received in return for providing mentoring services, advice etc. These are revalued yearly, this year the investments increased by \$770,000, a much larger movement than in past years. This increase is shown in revenue and accordingly the net surplus. 					

6. Summary Performance Results

KPI DASHBOARD <i>(The table contains a selection of KPIs and is not a complete list)</i>				
<i>The trend on year on year performance → Steady ↗ Improving ↘ Declining</i>				
MEASURE		Year 2016/17	Year 2017 18	Trend
International student enrolments <i>Source: Education NZ</i>	Actual	8,179	8,504	↗
	Target^	8,500	9,200	
Share of International students <i>Source: Education NZ</i>	Actual	6.2%	6.8%	↗
	Target^	6.5%	7.0%	
Permanent arrivals <i>Source Statistics New Zealand</i>	Actual	3,787	3,409	→
	Target^	2,000	3,600	
Commercial guest nights <i>Source Statistics New Zealand</i>	Actual	3.11m	3.15m	↗
	Target^	3.15m	3.2m	
Visitor spend <i>Source: MBIE</i>	Actual	n/a	\$2.600m	↗
	Target^		\$2,600m	
Value of facilitated screen production <i>Source Screen Wellington</i>	Actual	n/a	\$93m	↗
	Target^		\$100m	
Number of Wellingtonian's attending a performance event	Actual	n/a	294,158	↗
	Target^		290,720	
Number of events <i>Source Supplied by the relevant venue</i>	Actual	624	594	→
	Target^	n/a	624	
NZ market share of multi day conferences <i>Source Supplied by the relevant venue</i>	Actual	22%	TBC	
	Target^	16%	18%	
Return on investment – Major Events <i>Source Supplied by the relevant venue</i>	Actual	21:1	21:1	↗
	Target^	20:1	20:1	
Total event attendance	Actual	657,700	733,962	↗
	Target^	600,000	700,000	

n/a Not a KPI previously

WREDA achieved or nearly achieved the majority of its KPIs, a number are showing improving trends particularly in international students and tourism statistics. Permanent arrivals have plateaued due to uncertainty with the new government policy.

The decrease in Venue events is due to the closure of the St James in March.

7. Communication

No communication is required.

8. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is required

9. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Report prepared by:

Barry Turfrey
Wellington City Council

Samantha Seath
Wellington Regional Strategy
Office

Attachment 1: WREDA Summary Year in Review

WELLINGTON REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY LIMITED**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2018****(consolidated with Creative HQ, excludes Venues Project)****Unaudited and Subject to Change****STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	YTD Actual 30-Jun-18	YTD Budget 30-Jun-18	YTD Actual 30-Jun-17
Revenue			
Shareholder grants	23,432,926	23,546,635	23,432,948
Government grants	2,903,492	654,800	2,473,301
Partner revenue	1,496,243	1,460,500	3,173,588
Visitor Centre	439,041	2,300,000	2,108,798
Sub lease and carpark revenue	96,251	24,000	101,318
Interest income	67,718	64,092	66,690
Other income	2,617,606	1,037,868	1,828,955
Total Revenue	31,053,277	29,087,895	31,780,832
Direct Costs			
Cost of sales	333,420	1,900,000	1,729,292
Wages (events etc.)	0	0	
Other direct costs	0	0	
Total Direct Costs	333,420	1,900,000	1,729,292
Operating Expenses (overheads)			
Salaries and wages	12,768,582	12,675,197	12,494,614
Other employment costs	703,022	670,879	406,858
Occupancy costs	649,749	624,860	601,886
Marketing & activity expenses	14,904,228	11,530,674	13,617,215
Utilities	36,842	17,600	36,950
IT and communications	437,611	420,411	409,138
Insurance	12,004	16,000	14,000
Administration costs	561,903	637,489	717,034
Vehicle expenses	49,350	47,712	45,237
Travel costs	137,156	133,592	159,818
Professional fees	120,479	30,000	90,000
Director fees	256,065	150,000	274,450
Other operating expenses	0	0	
Total Operating Expenditure	30,636,991	26,954,414	28,867,200
Total Expenditure	30,970,411	28,854,414	30,596,492
Net Surplus/(Deficit) before Depreciation and Tax	82,866	233,481	1,184,340
Interest expense	0	0	0
Depreciation	170,138	133,481	134,333
Movement in investment valuation	(770,353)	0	56,089
Taxation expense	253,287	0	172,541
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	429,794	100,000	821,377

WREDA's draft result has a surplus of \$430k, which is higher than the budgeted \$100k

Income of \$31m, was higher than the \$29.3m budgeted. This was the result of:

- Additional government and corporate work undertaken by Creative HQ ;
- Increase in other revenue through leveraging commercial arrangements with Ticketmaster;
- A return to pre-earthquake charging for cruise shuttles (note due to expenditure here as well, the result is nil on the bottom line);
- Offset by a change in accounting treatment of our i-SITE sales, which has been adjusted, at request from our auditors, from treating as principal arrangement to agency arrangement. Note this was after discussions with our auditors which are still ongoing, and therefore the treatment may change back

Cost of sales reduction from budget is purely the result of the way we are now treating i-SITE sales, in only recording the profit in most of our transactions. For our statutory accounts we will be making a prior period adjustment for a like-for-like comparison.

Expenditure of \$30.9m, compare to a budgeted \$29.1m

- Salaries, wages and general administrative expenditure contained within budget;
- An increase in marketing, delivery of programmes of work and activity expenditure as income rose;
- An increase in directors fees as the result of additional members of the Board in both organisations and an increase in Creative HQ Board fees;

An upwards lift in the valuation of Investments in incubator and accelerator companies held of \$770k by Creative HQ due to method of valuation referring to investment funding into those organisations by external parties. Note that these investments are only placed on our balance sheet due to accounting standards and are extremely volatile. Management consider that these investments have minimal opportunity to be turned into cash. Any sales are considered an unexpected bonus.

WREDA was in a provisional tax paying position this year due to a larger surplus recorded for the 2017 financial year. As 2018's surplus is lower it is likely once our tax advisors have reviewed our position that our tax liability will be lower than what currently recorded.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION – AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	As at 30-Jun-18	As at 30 June 17
Shareholders' Equity		
Paid up capital		
Retained earnings	2,844,450	2,414,056
Total Shareholder/Trust Funds	<u>2,844,450</u>	<u>2,414,056</u>
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,911,315	1,706,958
Other current assets	1,764,960	2,467,447
Total Current Assets	<u>3,676,275</u>	<u>4,174,405</u>
Investments		
Non-current Assets		
Fixed assets	460,343	356,129
Other non-current assets	2,093,822	1,565,496
Total Non-current Assets	<u>2,554,165</u>	<u>1,921,625</u>
Total Assets	<u>6,230,440</u>	<u>6,096,030</u>
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	1,740,035	1,421,214
Other current liabilities	1,621,738	2,260,760
Total Current Liabilities	<u>3,361,773</u>	<u>3,681,974</u>
Non-current Liabilities	24,216	-
Total Liabilities	<u>3,385,989</u>	<u>3,681,974</u>
Net Assets	<u>2,844,451</u>	<u>2,414,056</u>

WREDA is in a positive cash holding position and has no issues with the aging of receivables.

WREDA has had to incur earlier than anticipated technology replacements during the year which has assisted in higher than budgeted holdings of fixed assets. This higher balance is also reflective of the subsidiaries asset purchase programme with increasing delivery of programmes of work. Additionally, WREDA finished the previous financial year with higher than anticipated fixed assets, which resulted in the financial year starting with higher assets than budgeted.



Report	18.363
Date	20 August 2018
File	CCAB-15-253
Committee	Wellington Regional Strategy Committee
Authors	Samantha Seath, WRS Office

Wellington Regional Investment Plan

1. Purpose

To provide an update to the Committee on the Wellington Regional Investment Plan (WRIP) Project and the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy.

2. Comment

WRIP

Outcome

The outcome of the WRIP project will be a plan that identifies existing and new opportunities for investment across the region to drive economic development outcomes. The Regional Investment Plan (the Plan) will be action oriented, build on the strengths of the region as well as address any limitations. It will include a supporting chronological work programme to enable partnerships and help unlock resources which are potentially available to assist with implementation.

The work will identify where value can be added, integration achieved and opportunities already in train across the region leveraged – including local activity, Government actions and private sector.

The Plan will be the blueprint for what we intend to do, when we intend to do it and how we intend to pay for it. It is envisaged that it will be a live document and updated over time as new information becomes available.

Process

The Plan is being developed through a series of facilitated workshops involving senior council officers, businesses and investors and other stakeholders.

The process builds on existing regional reports and economic data and knowledge and includes investment proposed by Central Government and by councils through their Long Term Plans and Government.

It brings together existing prioritised programmes and looks at these from an integrated perspective across the region, focussing on the potential to drive economic development outcomes.

The project is being managed through the WRS Office and supported by an external consultant. There is a steering group of senior managers from all councils, the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WREDA) and the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), and council CEOs are providing guidance to the project.

Timeframe

It is intended that a draft Plan will be completed during September 2018. This will provide a foundation document for further discussions with Ministers and others.

Progress to date

The Regional Investment Plan is in the process of being drafted.

Since our last report in April (report 18.146) and verbal update in June meetings/workshops have been held with:

- Chief Executives (3 August)
- Mayoral Forum (24 August)
- Central Government
- Individual Councils
- Businesses/education

Central Government

Ministers have stated that they want to see the development of successful, resilient, modern cities with thriving communities. This means systems need to be responsive to change and that urban development, infrastructure and transport are better integrated and aligned.

Therefore for Government a successful WRIP would:

- set a clear vision, objectives and urban strategy, articulating what sort of urban form the region wants collectively and how Wellington can grow both up and out
- integrate work across the plan
- clearly prioritise initiatives within and across its action areas spatially
- include a set of economic enablers alongside housing, urban development, transport and resilience.
- Identify phasing/timeframes and delivery arrangements

For the region there is a partnership “ask” of central government focusing on:

- Working together
- New funding tools
- Regulation changes
- Programme partnerships
- Funding

Focus Areas

Throughout the research and workshop process we have identified Wellington's transformational elements as:

1. Development of a multi-modal transport system that connects the region now and into the future.
2. Linking together housing development with economic development and transport – precinct based thinking, link to the social dimensions of housing.
3. Build substantially on the skills and capabilities that will support growth sectors into the future.
4. Wellington region as a concentrated economy based around key growth sectors with a substantial Government element.
5. Ensuring resilience and liveability across the region.

Work is now continuing to confirm what the projects will be and how they will be integrated and prioritised within the draft plan.

The focus will be on identifying a small number of regional scale actions that will be time prioritised (within the next ten years). There will be other actions that are more local (but still transformational to the local area) as well as actions that are on a longer timeframe, however while they will be identified within the Plan the focus will not be on these in the first instance.

Regional commitment to the WRIP as well as institutional arrangements that enable ongoing delivery will be necessary for the Plan to be successful. Discussions with Central Government have also reinforced the need for regional commitment and coordination.

Next Steps

The focus over the next couple of weeks will be on writing of the draft Plan to enable further and more focused discussions with councils and central government.

Following this period of discussion the Plan will be finalised, institutional arrangements put in place and delivery mechanisms agreed.

Moving into 2019 with a fully formed, agreed plan that has buy in from the region and central government.

Māori Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan

After agreement at the last Ara Tahi meeting in July work is starting on the development of a Māori economic development strategy and action plan. This will be on a longer timeframe than the WRIP.

Wairarapa

A similar process has been undertaken in Wairarapa to develop a Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan (Wairarapa Plan). The

process is slightly ahead of the regional project and more emphasis has been placed on economic enablement.

Outcome

The outcome of the Wairarapa Plan will be to provide a “vision” and direction to the Wairarapa along with a framework within which to achieve results.

Process

The work programme was broken into two stages:

(i) Research

The focus of the research was to understand the sub-regional economy of the Wairarapa through economic analysis and stakeholder engagement.

Extensive interviews and focus groups were held with businesses and other key stakeholders from across the Wairarapa. This included workshops with iwi as well as smaller meetings with each iwi group.

The steering group (the four Council CEs) has met on a regular basis and Mayors have been kept informed through their CE's.

(ii) Writing of the strategy and plan

Focus Areas

Sectors

- Added-value food and beverage
- Tourism and the visitor market
- Knowledge intensive industries

People

- Knowledge & Skills
- Housing
- Business Development

Infrastructure

- Water – resilience for the future, especially as an enabler for food growth
- Transport – ability to access the region both for the working population commuting into Wellington but also for the potential growth in tourism (includes Rail and Air)

Environment

- Billion trees

Going forward

Whilst the preparation of the strategy and plan has been important in bringing the Wairarapa thinking together, the implementation of the plan will be crucial to making change. It is also important that the Wairarapa work is integrated into the Regional Investment plan.

The Strategy will include some institutional arrangements.

Provincial Growth Fund

Wairarapa and Kapiti are able to access the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) and it is envisaged that the Wairarapa Strategy and the WRIP coupled with Kapiti's existing economic development plan will provide the groundwork for project business cases that will enable applications to the fund.

There are three tiers to the fund:

- Tier 1: Regional proposals, capability building and feasibility studies (there is a strong expectation that proposals will form part of the region's agreed action plan)
- Tier 2: Sectors – with a focus on exporting, food and beverage, forestry (including the One Billion Tress, which is accessible to the whole region) and Tourism
- Tier 3: Infrastructure – with a focus on transport (projects will need to be in the RLTP) and digital enablement (including connectivity).

The primary objective of the PGF is to accelerate regional development and the following focus areas:

- Jobs and sustainable economic development – with a focus on high quality jobs
- Social inclusion and participation
- Māori development
- Climate change and environmental sustainability
- Resilience.

3. Communication

Following completion of a draft Plan, further discussions will be held with central Government on the opportunities and the region's priorities.

The strength of this Plan will be the collective voice that it brings advocating the region's priorities and bringing resources to enable implementation. As such, careful consideration will need to be given as to how local projects and opportunities are advanced in the interim period. In particular it is important that the collective discussion with Central Government on potential partnership opportunities continues.

4. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

4.1 Engagement

In accordance with the significance and engagement policy, no engagement on the matters for decision is required. However, we have engaged with a range of industry, iwi and other organisations including central government as set out in the report.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Samantha Seath
WRS Office
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Strategic and
Corporate Planning,
Greater Wellington Regional
Council

Luke Troy
GM Strategy
Greater Wellington Regional
Council