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Committee Council
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Regional Strategy Committee

Establishment of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee

1. Purpose

To seek the approval of the Council to establish a standing committee to be called the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee. The Committee's purpose is to be the "keeper" of the Wellington Regional Strategy.

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

3.1 Wellington Regional Strategy Consultation Process

The Interim WRS Committee (Interim Committee), on behalf of Greater Wellington, has been progressing the WRS and its governance and funding proposal through a special consultative process. The Interim Committee was established in August 2006 specifically for this purpose, and this is reflected in its Terms of Reference.

The Interim Committee has completed this work and is recommending that the WRS be confirmed (with amendments) and that Greater Wellington establishes a standing committee to be the "keeper" of the strategy. These recommendations are in a report to be considered by the Council at its meeting on the 22 February, prior to consideration of this report.

The matters discussed in this report only have relevance if the Council agrees with the recommendations of the Interim Committee.

3.2 Terms of Reference and Membership of the Interim WRS Committee

Greater Wellington established the Interim Committee in response to a request by the WRS Forum. Its Terms of Reference reflected some key principles agreed to by the Forum for the operation of the Committee, including:

- The Committee would include seven local government representatives and five non-local government representatives.
- Greater Wellington would not act independently of the Keeper Committee, so that any Committee recommendations that Greater Wellington cannot accept will be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.
- The Committee would have full delegations, except the delegations that cannot be made under the LGA (setting rate and funding policy).
- The Committee would recommend for ratification by Greater Wellington Regional Council the five non-local government members of the Committee.
- The multi party agreement to be developed and completed at the conclusion of the consultation process and subject to the final outcome would reflect a general intent to avoid as far as practicable duplication of economic development services or economic development agencies.
- Each member of the Committee would have one equal vote, and decisions would be made by simple majority, except decisions on the recommended quantum of funding and the funding policy which would require a two thirds majority vote.
- The Chief Executives Group (CEG) would be the adviser to the Committee.

Following nominations from the territorial local authorities, seven local authority members (and alternates) were appointed to the Interim Committee, representing:

- Greater Wellington
- Wellington City Council
- Hutt City Council
- Upper Hutt City Council
- Porirua City Council
- Kapiti Coast District Council
- One person representing the Wairarapa Councils.

Contrary to usual Greater Wellington practice the Chair of the Council was not appointed as an *ex-officio* member, at the request of the WRS Forum.

The Interim Committee recommended the appointment of five non-local government members. These were:

- Sir John Anderson
- Professor Paul Callaghan
- Ms Diana Crossan
- Professor Nagata Love
- Ms Catherine Savage.

Their appointments were made by Greater Wellington in August 2006.

The Interim Committee is recommending to the Council that the makeup of the proposed WRS Committee be the same as the current Interim Committee, i.e. seven local government members and five non-local government members.

4. Comment

4.1 Establishment of the WRS Committee

The establishment of a WRS Committee is contingent on Greater Wellington confirming the governance and funding proposal. This decision will be guided by the recommendations of the Interim Committee, and will be made on the 22 February. Should the need for a WRS Committee be confirmed, the Interim Committee's Terms of Reference will need to be changed to enable the Committee to carry out the WRS keeper role. The membership of the WRS Committee will also need to be addressed. The membership could be reviewed, or existing members could continue until the end of the Triennium.

4.1.1 Membership of the Committee

The Local Authority members are on the Interim Committee through a nomination by their Councils. Under the existing Terms of Reference each of territorial authorities could, at any time, advise Greater Wellington of their desire to nominate a different member and they would be duly appointed in place of the previous nominated member. The Interim Committee believes this provision should be retained in the permanent committee's Terms of Reference. As such there will not need to be any specific process for reviewing Local Authority members of the Committee at this time.

Under the current Terms of Reference the Non-Local Authority members' appointment to the Interim Committee is through a recommendation of the Interim Committee to Greater Wellington. The current Non-Local Authority members' appointments to the Interim Committee are not tied to any particular timeframe, and therefore could be either extended or terminated.

The Interim Committee is recommending that the current membership be continued until the end of the Triennium. The Interim Committee members have, through the special consultative process, gained a depth of understanding and familiarity with the WRS and its aims. They have also gained an understanding of community expectations and issues which should help guide

decisions as the regional economic development agency (EDA) is established and actions under the WRS are initiated.

In addition, the Interim Committee has recognised that continuing their appointments would enable the work of the WRS Committee, especially in the establishment of the regional EDA, to begin immediately. This is a significant consideration, given the work required to be undertaken over the next 6 months with setting up the EDA and the timelines for progressing the Regional Policy Statement (which has direct relevance to the WRS and therefore the Committee). While a delay to find alternative members would not be fatal to the implementation of the WRS, it would place additional pressure on the process.

It is proposed that the initial Committee members be appointed until the end of the current Triennium. At the beginning of the new Triennium Greater Wellington will be reviewing the membership of all its committees, as required by the Local Government Act.

4.1.2 The Terms of Reference

Recommended Terms of Reference are in **Attachment 1**. The Terms of Reference reflect the principles contained in the Interim Committee's Terms of Reference, agreed by the WRS Forum. They also reflect issues that were highlighted through the consultation process, including:

- submissions made by a number of Councils requesting that the voting majority for the Committee's funding decisions be changed from two thirds quarters to three quarters.
- a need to strengthen the WRS review provisions.

The Interim Committee agreed to change the voting majority to 75%, although Mayor Prendergast did not support the change. The Interim Committee spent some time debating the review provisions, especially the timing of the reviews. It concluded that, while it may have been preferable to initiate the first review prior to 5 years, a 5 year period will be necessary to align the reviews to LTCCP processes. It was also noted in debate that a 5 year period would enable sufficient time for the WRS initiatives to be making a measurable difference.

Some clarity on the term of appointment of members has been added. It is recommended that the Local Government members' appointments will expire on the date of each Local Government triennial election. Replacement members are to be appointed as soon as possible following the elections, via nominations from the Councils. The Non-Local Government appointments are proposed initially until the 2007 Local Government elections, with new or re-appointments to be made following the appointment of the Local Government members. Following that, retirements on a staggered basis are proposed. This involves one member retiring each year.

The final change of significance is to provide for the Chair of the Committee to be a Non-Local Authority member. This reflects the decision of the Interim Committee at its meeting on the 11 September 2006 to elect a Non-Local Authority Chair. A consequential effect of this change is the provision in the Terms of Reference for the quorum to include a Greater Wellington representative. The Interim Committee is recommending that this be removed. The Chair of the Committee will be the member reporting to Greater Wellington on any Committee matters.

A Multi Party Agreement is to be signed by the region's councils. It will set out how the councils will work together and how they expect the WRS Committee to operate. The proposed Terms of Reference have been developed to reflect the likely provisions in the Multiparty Agreement. Some changes to the Terms of Reference may be required when the Multi Party Agreement is signed.

4.2 Term of WRS Committee

Under Clause 30(7) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act all committees are deemed to be discharged at the beginning of each Triennium, unless a Council resolves otherwise. The WRS Forum signalled that they wished to have the WRS Committee continue following each Triennium and this was confirmed by the Interim Committee. It is therefore recommended that Greater Wellington resolves to continue the WRS Committee in accordance with Clause 30(7).

5. Communication

A press statement will be prepared following the conclusion of the meeting.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Renames the Interim Wellington Regional Strategy Committee as the "Wellington Regional Strategy Committee" on the basis that it is now a permanent committee.***
4. ***Amends the terms of reference for the Interim Wellington Regional Strategy Committee, as set out in Attachment 1.***
5. ***Confirms the current membership of the Committee for a term ending on the day of the Local Body elections in 2007.***
6. ***Confirms the existing remuneration of members of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee.***

7. **Amends** the Greater Wellington Regional Council Standing Orders 2005 as follows:

Clauses 4.1 and 32.1 (“Decisions to be by Majority Voting”) are amended by adding the following text: except that in the case of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee decisions on recommended quantum of funding and the funding policy will require a three quarter majority.

Clauses 4.2 and 32.2 (“Chairperson’s Voting”) are amended by adding the following text: except that in the case of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee where the Chair does not have a casting vote.

8. **Resolves** that, in accordance with clause 30(7) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee is not deemed to be discharged following each triennial election.

Report prepared by:

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Chairman of the Interim Wellington
Regional Strategy Committee

Attachment 1: Terms of Reference and delegations