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Committee Council
Author Jane Davis, Divisional Manager, Wellington Regional Strategy

Report on the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting held on 4 June 2008

1. Purpose

To update the Council on the meeting of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee held on 4 June 2008.

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. Report

Long Haul Project

Tim Cossar and Sarah Meikle from Positively Wellington Tourism updated the committee on the Long Haul (One Stop to Asia) project. They noted that the investigations have revealed more potential for high-value freight movement using one-stop flights than originally anticipated.

No timeframe for the start of any long haul flights from Wellington Airport can be given. It is likely to be still at least a couple of years away.

Grow Wellington Quarterly Update

The report from Grow Wellington on its activities for the January – March 2008 quarter were discussed. Nigel Kirkpatrick, Chief Executive of Grow Wellington, gave a presentation on the *Activate* programme. This is currently being rolled out around the region. Nigel told the committee that there had been a very positive response from companies to the programme.

Industrial Employment Locations

Kim Kelly, General Manager Development Services at Hutt City Council, updated the committee on the WRS project to explore industrial land supply issues in the region. The project will map the land currently available/used for industrial purposes and assess future demands and needs. To assist with this a survey of businesses will be undertaken.

Kim is leading the project for the Senior Officers Resource Team (SORT).

Broadband Update

Paul Desborough, Manager Strategy Wellington City Council, gave the committee an update on the development of broadband in the region. Paul is leading the broadband workstream for SORT. He provided the committee with the strategy context for broadband, the different elements of broadband (from infrastructure through to services), and outlined the role of local authorities.

The Government's Budget 2008 has provided funds for the continued development of broadband infrastructure. This is through a Broadband Investment Fund. Paul outlined the approach the region was taking to access this funding. This includes the preparation of the Regional Broadband Plan and a funding strategy. An officers' Broadband Operating Group has been established to progress this work, as well as prepare some draft policies that could be rolled out around the region to assist with infrastructure development.

Regional Migrant and Refugee Recruitment Programme

Joy Sipeli presented a report on the one year programme aimed at assisting refugees and migrants into Council jobs and into self-employment. The programme is being hosted by the WRS Office and is funded by the Ministry of Social Development.

WRS Office Activities Update

Melanie Thornton spoke briefly on the activities of the office. She outlined to the committee the work currently underway with the development of a Genuine Progress Index (GPI) for the Region. The WRS Office/Greater Wellington is this month hosting a forum of central government and regional council officers. The aim of the forum is to co-ordinate and integrate the various GPI development projects happening around New Zealand and within various central government departments.

Rugby World Cup

Martin Snedden, CEO of Rugby New Zealand 2011 Ltd, and Paul Collins, Chairman of the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust, briefed the committee on the Rugby World Cup 2011. They talked about the upcoming bidding process regions are involved with to host the quarter finals. Bids are due to be lodged in July. Later in 2008 there will be another bidding process for the right to host the pool rounds of the tournament.

The committee agreed that the Mayoral Forum should consider the Wellington Region's quarter final bid as a matter of urgency. Mayor Guppy, as chair of the Forum, undertook to set up a meeting.

Regional Wine and Food Strategy Update

In anticipation of the committee's consideration of the Public Excluded report on the Regional Wine and Food Strategy, Dr Linda Sissons, CEO of the Wellington Institute of Technology (WelTec), made a presentation to the committee on the activities of her organisation in the area of food. She talked in particular about her School of Hospitality and Tourism.

In Public Excluded Nigel Kirkpatrick and Murray McCaw talked to the committee about the regional wine and food strategy and the issues associated with the Wairarapa Cuisine and Fine Wine project. The committee was told that work was being undertaken to progress the project following the announcement by UCOL that it was no longer pursuing establishing the school of cuisine.

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:

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Jane Davis
Divisional Manager,
Wellington Regional Strategy

Fran Wilde
Deputy Chair,
Wellington Regional Strategy Committee