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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy Committee
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WRS office update

1. Purpose of report

To update the WRS Committee on activities of the WRS office between March and July 2009, and report on progress with regional council-led projects.

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. Work programme

Since March 2009 the WRS Office has had its major focus on:

- facilitating the regional open space providers' working group and leading the development of the regional open space strategy and action plan
- organising the regional information-sharing forum on centres, intensification and subdivision design, and undertaking research and analysis
- assisting with progressing the regional industrial land project
- finalising the regional urban design stocktake and action plan 2009 (see separate report on the agenda)
- assisting Wairarapa councils with urban design approaches and principles and the process to sign up to the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol
- collecting and analysing data, and commencing reporting on the Wellington region Genuine Progress Index (see discussion below)

- hosting and participating in the regional Broadband Operating Group meetings
- preparing plans for the WRS Summit on 29 October 2009.

3.1 Regional open space project

As reported at the March 2009 WRS Committee meeting, the regional open spaces working group is developing a regional open space strategy and action plan which aims to help guide collaborative planning for the public open space network in the Wellington region. The strategy will be implemented through voluntary participation of open space provider organisations across the region. The WRS Committee will oversee the implementation of the action plan, which will be coordinated through the regional open space working group. It is anticipated that the strategy and action plan will be presented for approval at the 14 October 2009 WRS Committee meeting.

A number of challenges for open space providers have been identified as part of this work. A three year action plan is being developed to identify actions that open space providers in the Wellington region intend to take over the period 2009-2012 to address the challenges. It is anticipated that the action plan will be reviewed every three years following the commencement date of the strategy.

3.2 Centres, intensification and sub-division design

These three projects are some of the “good regional form” projects identified in the WRS as being important for successful and sustainable economic growth of the Wellington region. They are being led by Wellington City Council and Kapiti Coast District Council.

For each project a stocktake was undertaken across the region to identify the strategic context, any variations in planning and policy provisions (statutory and non-statutory), research undertaken in the three areas, and their fit with WRS principles.

An information-sharing forum was held on 2 June 2009 to identify trends, recognise and share examples of good practice, and determine whether there are any key recommendations that have emerged from the projects. Information on each project will be put on the WRS website to encourage the wider sharing of information and best practice across these three areas. Each project will be presented to the WRS Committee as it progresses.

3.3 Regional industrial land project

This project is being led by Hutt City Council. Work continues on the identification of factors affecting supply and demand of industrial land across the region. This includes determining the amount of land currently zoned industrial, how much land is currently being utilised as industrial land, the impacts of current district plan rules, and current council initiatives across the region on industrial land supply and demand. It is anticipated that the region

will be able to map and promote industrial-based employment locations with good strategic fit to the WRS. Workshops with SORT will be undertaken on this project as it progresses.

3.5 Wellington region Genuine Progress Index (GPI)

Data has now been collected and analysis has commenced on the indicators which make up the GPI for the Wellington region. It is too early to determine any of the trends at this stage but work is underway on writing the draft GPI report. A workshop for the WRS Committee is being proposed for 2nd September to discuss the draft report. It is anticipated the final GPI report will be presented at the 14th October 2009 WRS Committee meeting.

3.6 Regional broadband

A separate report on regional broadband is on the agenda.

4. Communication

Projects and other activities will continue to be communicated as the opportunity arises.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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