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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy Committee
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Wellington Regional Labour Market Strategy progress report

1. Purpose

This report provides an update to the Committee on the status and governance arrangements for the Wellington Regional Labour Market 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

On 13 August 2008 the Committee received a report entitled “Wellington Regional Labour Market Strategy – Next Steps” suggesting the need for clear governance arrangements to be established for the Labour Market Strategy. Since then a number of steps have been taken to provide a governance and reporting structure on the work of the Strategy.

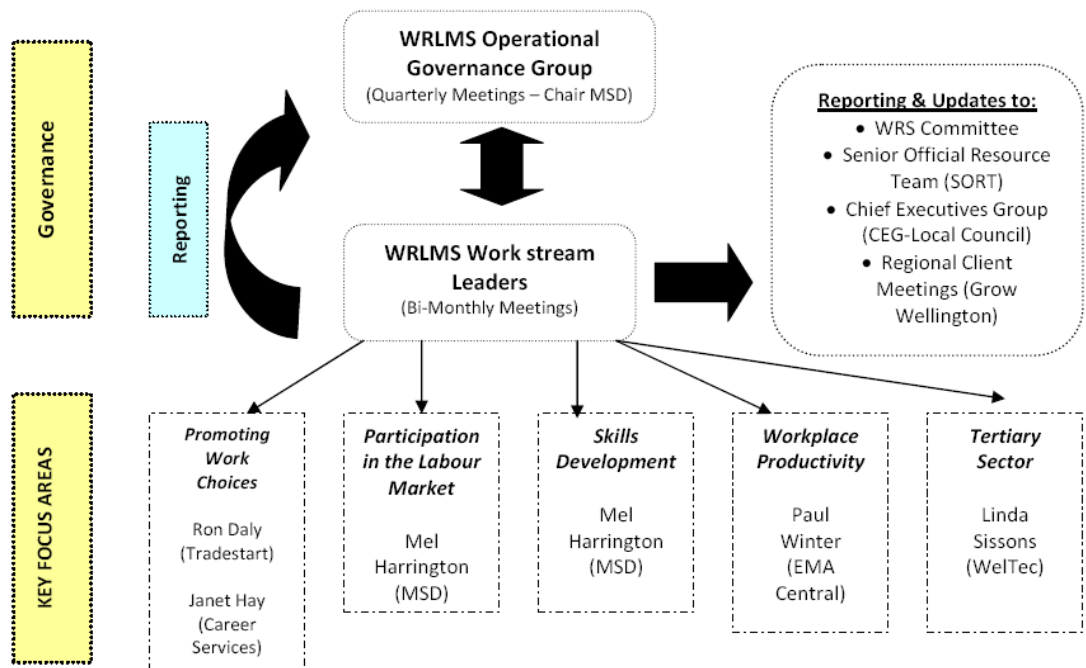
4. Governance structure

The WRLMS Advisory Group has been replaced with WRLMS Operational Governance Group (WRLMSOGG). The WRLMSOGG comprises representation from the wide range of central and local government private sector organisations that have contributed to the development of the WRLMS. The WRLMSOGG will have the mandate for promoting an agenda for action pertaining to regional labour market activity. The WRLMSOGG will be chaired by the Regional Commissioner for the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and will meet four times per annum.

The governance arrangements recognise both the implications for individual organisational accountability as well as the need for inter-sectoral collaboration. The principles guiding these arrangements are:

1. **Leadership** – strong leadership will provide the organisational and regional commitment to achieve the strategic goals through actions which deliver results;
2. **Integrity** – all dealings will be conducted professionally, in good faith and recognise the collective interest as well as the interests and responsibilities of individual organisations and stakeholders;
3. **Stewardship** – there will be prudent use of public resources to advance actions, outcomes and decisions that will recognise the public interest and build on the stakeholder trust invested to date;
4. **Efficiency** – adequate resources and capabilities will support the governance arrangements and be applied to best effect in advancing the implementation of the WRLMS; and
5. **Responsiveness** – decision-making will be informed by meaningful engagement with key stakeholders where appropriate and particularly as the Strategy is reviewed and updated.

5. Diagram of governance structure



6. Membership

Membership of the WRLMSOGG includes representatives from local, central government and the private sector. It has been agreed that membership of the group may change to be reflective of the changing environment and strategic priorities.

Current membership includes:

- Ministry of Social Development – Regional Commissioner (Chair)
- Employers and Manufacturers Association (Central)
- Grow Wellington
- Department of Labour
- WRS Programme Office (Greater Wellington Regional Council)
- Regional Chamber of Commerce Wellington
- Pacific Business Trust
- Whitireia Polytechnic
- WelTec
- Ministry of Education
- Career Services
- Te Puni Kokiri
- Inland Revenue Department
- Wairarapa Workforce Development Trust.

All participating agencies are expected to meet the cost of staff time for participation in the WRLMSOGG and workstream development teams. They may also be invited to consider contributing to cost-sharing for programmes and projects to implement the Strategy, and their evaluation, by lead agencies where this is appropriate.

7. Reporting

Indirect reporting and updates on progress pertaining to the WRLMS will occur via the following forums:

- Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) Committee (quarterly)
- Senior Officials Resource Team (SORT – Convened by WRS Programme Office) (monthly)
- Chief Executives Group
- Regional Client Meetings (convened by Grow Wellington – 6 weekly).

8. Alignment with related activities

The governance arrangements identify the importance of integrating the Wellington Regional Labour Market Strategy with other key regional strategies such as the Wellington Regional Strategy, Wellington Regional Settlement Strategy and the Wellington Regional Action Plan for Refugee Health and Wellbeing. Opportunities to enhance these linkages will be addressed as the governance structure is implemented and to avoid duplication of effort across agencies.

9. Workstream development teams

The five workstream development teams will meet quarterly, review the goal areas and progress contained as part of the WRLMS to ensure milestones are on track.

Lead agencies are expected to meet the cost of developing and implementing identified actions in the Plan of Action for the WRLMS and associated activities (such as stakeholder consultation and evaluation) either:

- as part of their core business activities where this can be achieved by new ways of working or reprioritisation of existing activities; or
- through brokering cost-sharing arrangements with participating agencies, where this is appropriate; or
- through new investment by linking into appropriate local government and central government budget cycles.

Note: The Regional Labour Market Manager (MSD) will provide co-ordination and support to the work stream development teams to ensure maximum participation through the agreed governance structure, and provide reports on progress to the WRLMSOGG and WRS Committee.

10. Who is involved?

Five work streams have been established and each one is being led by the following individuals:

- Labour force participation, Mel Harrington (Ministry of Social Development)
- Skills development, Mel Harrington (Ministry of Social Development)
- Promoting Work Choices, Ron Daly (Trade Start, Hutt City Council) and David Bradbury/Janet Hay (Career Services)
- Business Performance — Productivity, Paul Winter (EMA Central)
- Integrated labour market responses by the tertiary sector - Dr Linda Sissons (WelTec).

Whilst the WRLMS identifies five strategic responses areas around productivity, participation, business productivity and skills development, there are common underlying themes throughout these work streams. The sub groups will meet every quarter to ensure there is no duplication with labour market activities and that the development of action plans are complimentary to the collective strategic focus of the region.

11. **Communication**

MSD, as project coordinator, will be responsible for communications regarding the WRLMS and its governance.

12. **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

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

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