

Report 11.475
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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy Committee
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Grow Wellington and WRS Office Annual Reports 2010/2011

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to the Committee the Annual Reports of Grow Wellington and the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) Office for the year 2010/2011.

2. The decision-making process and significance

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act).

2.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

The Local Government Act (2002) sets the requirement for Grow Wellington to provide its shareholder with an Annual Report.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

3. Background

Grow Wellington was established in 2007 to deliver economic growth initiatives under the Wellington Regional Strategy. The company is required to report to the Committee on its activities at the end of each financial year. The report in **Attachment 1** is Grow Wellington's Annual Report and covers the financial year 2010/2011. Please note that the auditors have not yet completed their assessment of Grow Wellington's Annual Report. The report attached does therefore not include auditor comments.

The WRS Office was established within Greater Wellington to support the implementation of the Strategy. The Office has a reporting role for all the Good Regional Form activities and the economic growth projects that are being undertaken by the region's councils. The Annual Report for the 2010/2011 financial year has been sent out with this agenda.

4. Comment

4.1 Grow Wellington Annual Report

Grow Wellington's Annual Report includes commentary on the various areas of activity over the year. An assessment of its performance against a series of measures (contained in the company's Statement of Intent) shows that it has met, or nearly met most of its targets.

Areas where targets are being met include Business Growth, Film Wellington, the Food and Beverage sector, and the Education and Primary sectors.

Areas where the targets have only been partially met include the Centres of Excellence programme, particularly in the Health Education and Research Collaboration. The lack of commercialisation and business partners is the most significant area for not meeting the agreed measure.

The new strategy for the Digital Innovation Hub appears to be succeeding well and the establishment of the Computer Graphics course and the implementation of the BizDojo have exceeded expectations.

We note that, as Greater Wellington has responsibility for the role of project managing the irrigation project in Wairarapa, the confirmation of funding in its Annual Plan and the responsibility for progressing central government funding is a result of this role. Grow Wellington's role is to facilitate commercial opportunities for the project i.e. project ownership, funding scenarios and identifying potential investors.

4.2 WRS Office Annual Report

The WRS Office Annual Report shows progress being made on the five priority projects (Broadband, Genuine Progress Index, Urban Design, Open Spaces and Industrial Land).

The report also outlines the work undertaken on the WRS review.

5. Communication

Grow Wellington's Annual Report will be publicly available on their website. Any other communications will be the responsibility of Grow Wellington.

The WRS Office Annual Report will be made available on the WRS website. The WRS Office uses opportunities during the year to promote and publicise projects.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Accepts the Grow Wellington Annual Report 2010/2011.*
4. *Adopts the Wellington Regional Strategy Office Annual Report 2010/2011.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Grow Wellington Annual Report 2010/2011

Attachment 2: Wellington Regional Strategy Office Annual Report 2010/2011
(enclosed separately)