



Report 07.634
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File WRS/14/02

Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy
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Wellington Regional Strategy Multilateral Agreement

1. Purpose

To seek the Committee's agreement to Greater Wellington signing the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) Multiparty Agreement.

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

A multiparty agreement between the Councils in the Greater Wellington region has been developed as part of the governance arrangements for the WRS. A multiparty agreement was signalled as part of the Section 16 proposals taken through the special consultative procedure to establish Greater Wellington's role as "keeper" of the WRS. The purpose of the agreement is to set out the framework for the ongoing relationships and obligations of the Councils associated with the WRS. This agreement will flow through to appropriate amendments to the Triennial Agreement that are an obligation under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).

4. Multiparty Agreement

4.1 Agreement Provisions

The multiparty agreement provides for the matters agreed through the special consultative procedure undertaken by Greater Wellington, including the outcomes of the agreement that arose from Upper Hutt and Hutt City Council's referral of the WRS proposal to mediation under Section 16 of the LGA. They are consistent with the Terms of Reference for the WRS Committee and all previous decisions taken by Greater Wellington.

A copy of the Multiparty Agreement is in **Attachment 1**. The document has been prepared by the Chief Executives Group.

The agreement is a non-statutory document that provides a strong statement of regional co-operation on the WRS. It sets out:

- Guiding principles
- The role and functions of the WRS Committee and the role of Greater Wellington
- Funding protocols
- Review provisions
- Dispute resolution.

4.2 Status of the Agreement

There is no compulsion for any Council in the region to sign the agreement. In addition, should one or more of the region's council not sign this will not impact on Greater Wellington's authority to continue its WRS Committee and fund and operate Regional EDA Ltd. However, in order to consolidate regional co-operation on the WRS the agreement is an important mechanism.

To date the following Councils have agreed to sign the WRS Multiparty Agreement:

- Hutt City Council
- Kapiti Coast District Council
- Masterton District Council
- Porirua City Council
- South Wairarapa District Council

The region's other councils will be considering the agreement as follows:

- Carterton District Council – 18th September
- Upper Hutt District Council - 19th September
- Wellington City Council – 20th September

An update will be provided to the Committee on the outcome of those meetings.

4.3 Process for Signing the Agreement

All Councils in the region have been asked to consider the Multilateral Agreement. If they agree to sign they have been asked to establish a delegation to enable this to happen once all other Councils have made their decisions. There may be some changes requested as the Councils consider the document. If these changes are minor and do not change the intent of the agreement these will be made and a final version of the agreement distributed to the Councils for their delegated person to sign.

If the changes are more significant then the Chief Executives Group will make a decision about whether it is appropriate to put the agreement on hold until after the Local Body Elections and have the matters dealt with through the development of the Triennial Agreement. Alternatively those who wish to sign it in its current form may be invited to do so, with some Councils then sitting outside the agreement. Again, the Triennial Agreement process will need to address any relevant matters in response to those Councils that are not signatories.

5. Communication

The decision of the Committee will be communicated to the other Councils in the Region.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the contents of the report.***
3. ***Agrees to sign the Multilateral Agreement in Attachment 1, including any minor alterations that may be sought by any other Council.***
4. ***Authorises the Chairman to sign the agreement.***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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David Benham
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment 1: Multiparty Agreement