



Report 12.279
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File E/11/08/04

Committee Council
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Re-establishment of Wellington Regional Strategy Committee

1. Purpose

To re-establish the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee (the Committee) and to adopt terms of reference for the Committee.

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.

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. Due to the procedural nature of this decision officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

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

3. Background

The Committee was established by the Council on 22 February 2007. The Council resolved that the Committee would not be deemed to be discharged following each triennial election.

Prior to the establishment of the Committee a multi-party agreement was signed by all the region's councils. It was agreed, amongst other things, that a full and independent review of the Wellington Regional Strategy (the Strategy) be undertaken by 31 June 2011 and that the Wellington Regional Strategy arrangements be revisited in 2012.

Current Strategy activity ceases on 30 June 2012. Following the Council's decision on 13 June 2012 (Report 12.242) to continue the function of regional economic development as

part of the Long-Term Plan 2012-22, the Committee will need to be formally re-established.

At its meeting on 18 April 2012, the Committee considered revised terms of reference for the Committee. The Committee resolved to recommend to the Council a proposed terms of reference for the Committee in the event that the Committee is re-established by the Council (Report 12.138 refers).

4. Proposed terms of reference and membership of the WRS Committee

4.1 Changes to the membership of the Committee

The draft terms of reference reflect key changes to the membership of the Committee, including:

- The Committee being made up of nine local government representatives and five non-local government members.
- The non-local government members would be appointed on the basis that they are:
 - Individuals who have strong networks and are representative of sectors relevant to economic development and the aims of the Strategy;
 - Individuals who can assist in advocacy to central government or business;
 - Strong strategic thinkers who are able to present and think about issues on a regional (if not wider) basis.
- Non-local government members shall be eligible for appointment or re-appointment for a term up to five years. A non-local government member continues in office despite the expiry of his or her term of office until:
 - The member is reappointed; or
 - The member's successor is appointed
- The quorum for the Committee is eight members, of which one must be the regional council member of the Committee, and one must be the Chairperson or deputy Chairperson.

4.2 Changes to the role and responsibilities of the Committee

Changes to the role and responsibilities of the Committee have previously been discussed by the Committee (Report 12.8), and these have been included in the draft terms of reference. It is proposed the Committee's role will be to:

- Provide regional leadership, engage and establish partnerships with key government agencies and non-government agencies involved in economic development, acknowledging that constituent local authorities also have leadership roles within their cities and districts;

- Monitor the outcomes expected in the focus areas, and assess what further actions may be required as a result of monitoring;
- Ensure that the Strategy continues to be relevant by reviewing economic trends, investigating opportunities for promoting economic growth, and developing and overseeing a process of periodic review as circumstances change.

4.3 Key provisions retained

While a number of changes are being recommended to the terms of reference to reflect the results of the review of the Strategy, many of the current provisions are proposed to be retained. The following key provisions are unchanged in the draft terms of reference:

- Each of the territorial authorities is entitled to nominate an alternate member who may attend and vote at meetings of the Committee, but only in the event that the nominated and appointed member is unable to do so.
- One of the five non-local government members must be a suitable person to represent interests of Māori.
- The appointment of the Chairperson and deputy is to be determined by the full Committee when all 14 members have been appointed. The Chairperson must be a non-local government member.
- Greater Wellington will not act independently of the Committee, so any committee recommendations that the Council is not prepared to accept will be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.
- Each member of the Committee will have one equal vote and decisions will be made by simple majority with the exception of the following proposals which will require a three quarters majority vote:
 - i decisions on the recommended quantum of funding required for the Wellington Regional Strategy;
 - ii decisions on any recommended amendment to the Council's Revenue and Financing Policy;
 - iii decisions on the recommended targeted rate;
 - iv any decision resulting in a statutory consultation process under the Local Government Act 2002 (such as establishing a new CCO);
 - v recommendations to Council on the appointment of directors of Grow Wellington;

Decisions relating to any process of periodic review of the Strategy also require a three-quarters majority vote. This includes agreeing revised terms of reference and any significant amendments to the Strategy.

5. Next Steps

Subject to a Council decision to re-establish the Committee, the Council will need to appoint members to the Committee.

6. Communication

No communications are planned resulting from this report.

7. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Establishes the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee.*
4. *Adopts the Terms of Reference for the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee as set out in Attachment 1 to this report.*

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Attachment 1: Draft Terms of Reference for the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee