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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee
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Endorsement of Wellington Regional Strategy Project Plan and Joint Committee

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is for the Council to endorse the proposed Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) Project and to appoint its members on the proposed Joint Committee.

2. Background

Councillors will be aware that work that previously commenced on the Regional Sustainable Urban Development Strategy has been expanded to become the WRS, a strategy that looks wider than urban form requirements.

Work has been completed by officers from all participating Councils on the Project Plan for the WRS. This Project Plan has been discussed by the Wellington region Chief Executives Forum and the Mayoral Forum and is now ready for endorsement by each participating Council.

Information in this report has been taken from the completed Project Plan. Two copies of the Plan have been placed in the Councillors' lounge.

3. Comment

3.1 WRS Overview

3.1.1 The Project Goals as identified in the Project Plan are:

- (a) The Wellington Regional Strategy is a project of Greater Wellington Regional Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Kapiti Coast District Council, Porirua City Council, Hutt City Council and Wellington City Council, working together with the goal of building and internationally competitive Wellington by developing and implementing a vision and an

integrated framework to achieve sustainable growth of the Wellington region

- (b) The project will have a long-term outlook – to the year 2050 with a more detailed focus of action and priority for the next ten to twenty years.

3.1.2 It is proposed that the project will formally commence on 1 July 2004 with progressive completion and implementation of the Strategy from 1 July 2005.

3.1.3 The WRS is primarily a growth strategy – to achieve sustainable and desirable growth for the long-term benefit of the region’s citizens, businesses and institutions. The Strategy provides the opportunity for the region to work together to develop agreed directions for the region, and then make that common and agreed future happen. It will recognise and reflect the uniqueness of the Wellington region, which should be protected and enhanced as the region grows.

3.2 Key WRS Components – Project Scope

3.2.1. The Strategy will include the following elements, developed through the two years of the project. It will:

- (a) Set out an agreed vision and outcomes for the region reflecting the differing values and attributes of the regions’ communities based on community outcomes already developed by the councils
- (b) Set the national and international context of the region, setting out key facts and projections, drivers of growth, constraints to growth and major regional issues that need to be addressed, and opportunities to accommodate and deliver growth
- (c) Describe the kind of growth and benefits the region seeks from an agreed strategy, and the principles that should underlie the development of alternative solutions and options. This will include measurable indicators of the kind of growth the region is seeking and targets (such as growth in GDP, growth in average household income, population and household growth, growth in natural and cultural capital)
- (d) Provide a framework for growth that identifies the key action areas that must be addressed (and proposals to do so) to enable and facilitate heightened levels of sustainable growth for the region – these are likely to focus around long term urban form and a mutually

reinforcing relationship with transport investment, investment of effort and resource in other infrastructure and places, people (including education), knowledge and enterprise, marketing and promotion

- (e) Give a description of the options and alternative solutions, including the analysis of costs, benefits and implications explored as part of the development of the Strategy.
- (f) Include a spatial concept and action plan which identifies how, when and where urban growth including redevelopment will be directed, along with the mutually reinforcing transport investment and other key infrastructure development needed to support and enable growth
- (g) Encompass economic development strategies aimed at providing a platform for improved growth prospects for the region
- (h) Include an implementation plan which sets out roles, responsibilities, timing, funding requirements, linkages to other plans such as the Regional Land Transport Strategy, Regional Policy Statement and Long Term Council Community Plans, further collaborative work programmes, and the ongoing role of the Joint Committee (if any), reporting to and from the councils.

3.3 Key WRS Components – Project Assumptions and Milestones

3.3.1 The development of the Strategy will recognise the following assumptions:

- (a) The need to avoid duplication of activities already underway and to link with those activities
- (b) That growth and development must reflect the principle of sustainability with its four dimensions of economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being
- (c) The need to fundamentally link environmental protection, urban development, transport choices and economic development as underpinning mutually supportive strands in the Strategy (sustainable development for sustainable cities)
- (d) That while there is a focus on the metropolitan Wellington region there is a need for clear linkage to

and involvement of the three Wairarapa councils – Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa districts

- (e) The need to reflect and support the community values that define each city or district of the region
- (f) That the project needs to be undertaken in a focused and concentrated timeframe so that its benefits are available as soon as possible
- (g) The need to link with the Councils' statutory obligations under the Local Government Act and other Acts, in particular the development and adoption of Long Term Council Community Plans, the Regional Land Transport Strategy and the Regional Policy Statement.

3.3.2 The key milestones for the project are:

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| 1 July 2004 | Project plan signed off by all councils. Joint committee established. Funding in place. |
| 1 July 2005 | Regional framework for growth adopted as a working draft by all councils. |
| 1 July 2006 | Wellington Regional Strategy adopted by all Councils including first implementation stage included in 2006/2016 Long Term Council Community Plans. |

3.4 Key WRS Components – Governance and Management Structure

3.4.1 The project will be governed on behalf of the councils by a Joint Committee established under the Local Government Act. The Joint Committee will be called the Wellington Regional Strategy Forum or WRS Forum for short. The functions of the WRS Forum are:

- (a) Leading and advocating the Strategy process
- (b) Approval of Strategy development process and timeframe
- (c) Facilitating consultation with the community
- (d) Establishing a Tangata Whenua Forum
- (e) Establishing a Strategic Partners Forum
- (f) Recommending a final strategy to the Councils

- 3.4.2 The individual participating councils will have approval and signoff responsibilities on the recommendation of the WRS Forum for the Regional Growth Framework to be adopted as a working draft in June 2005 and the Strategy in June 2006.
- 3.4.3 Each participating Council is required to appoint two members of their Council and one alternate to the WRS Forum.
- 3.4.4 The existing Wellington councils' Chief Executive Forum will manage the project mainly through a group it establishes called the Project Executive Group. The functions of the Forum are:
- (a) Appoint project director and staff on Project Executive Group
 - (b) Approve the budget
 - (c) Approve the project plan
 - (d) Manage cross organisation issues
 - (e) Monitor progress on the project
 - (f) Approve all papers to the Joint Committee and ensure decisions are signed off at critical times
- 3.4.5 The Project Executive Group chaired by a formally appointed Project Director will comprise senior staff representatives from each of the participating Councils plus representatives of Positively Wellington Business and an officer with a relationship to Ara Tahi
- 3.4.6 Other entities that will provide advisory roles are the Strategic Partners Forum who will include representatives from central government, business and the community and Ara Tahi the iwi committee of Greater Wellington.

3.5 Key WRS Components – Project Linkages with Other Processes

- 3.5.1 Careful consideration will also be given to the need for linkages to the following processes:
- (a) Community Outcomes process
 - (b) Review of the Regional Policy Statement
 - (c) Review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy

4. Financial Considerations

This Council's share of the costs has been recommended to be 30%. That will amount to \$174,000 in 2004/05 and \$157,000 in 2005/06. These sums will be covered by explicit provision in the Annual Plan, (e.g. for community outcomes development), plus provision in the Chief Executive's budget, including expenditure re-budgetted from 2003/2004 and associated reserve transfers. The total cost is estimated to be \$581,500 in 2004/05 and \$523,000 in 2005/06. See Appendix 1 of the Project Plan for more information.

5. Legal Considerations

The Joint Committee (named the WRS Forum) is a joint standing committee under clause 30(1)(b) Part 1 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

6. Communications

At this stage no joint publicity activities are planned. Once all Councils have considered and endorsed the recommendations then a joint statement will be undertaken.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee recommend to Council:

- 1. That a Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) be developed and overseen by a WRS Forum, a Joint Committee established under section 30 (1)(b) of Part 1, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.*
- 2. That it be noted that the WRS Forum will have the functions as identified in section 3.4 of this paper.*
- 3. That the WRS Forum comprise:*
 - 3.1 Two elected persons from each of Hutt City, Upper Hutt City, Kapiti Coast District, Porirua City, Wellington City and Greater Wellington Regional Councils (twelve in total)*
 - 3.2 A non-voting appointee to represent the three Wairarapa councils*
 - 3.3 An appointee to act as chair of the Forum, not being an elected person or officer of any of the Councils of the region.*
- 4. That it agree to the Terms of Reference for the WRS Forum as attached.*
- 5. That it agree that two members of Council be appointed to the WRS Forum and that another member of Council be nominated as an alternate. That these nominees be x, y, and z, respectively.*
- 6. That it note that the Forum will be serviced by the existing Wellington councils' Chief Executives' Forum, which will manage the project through*

a Project Director and a Project Executive Group of senior representatives from each of the participating Councils.

7. *That it note that the Chief Executives' Forum will have the functions as identified in section 3.4.4 of this report*
8. *That it note that there will be two Strategic Partners groups to act in an advisory role to the WRS Forum:*
 - 8.1 *Ara Tahi, the iwi advisory group of Greater Wellington will be invited to act as advisory on matters of significance to tangata whenua to the WRS Forum*
 - 8.2 *A general strategic partners' forum comprising representatives from the community and people in sectors such as business, transport providers, Central Government and the community will be established initially to assist in the preparation of the Growth Framework*
9. *That it note the Project Goals, Project Assumptions and Projects Scope as identified in this report in Section 3.1.1.*
10. *That it note that the Greater Wellington contribution of \$174,000 for 2004/05 will be covered by a combination of allocations in the Annual Plan and expenditure re-budgetted from 2003/2004 and associated reserve transfers, to be constituted as a specific allocation for accountability purposes.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment: Terms of Reference for Joint Committee