

The Mayor, Chair and Members of the WRS Forum Partners

Summary Report from WRS Forum – 14 July 2004

Purpose of Report

The Terms of Reference for the WRS Forum state that:

“Following each meeting of the WRS Joint Committee, the Project Director shall prepare a summary report of the business of the meeting and submit that report, for information to each Member authority following each meeting. Such report will be in addition to any formal minutes prepared by the Administering Authority.”

This is the first such report. The purpose of the report is to provide a high level summary of progress in implementing the project plan, to identify in summary form key findings and information which have been communicated and discussed at the WRS Forum, and outline the forward work programme for the following six months (on a rolling basis). It also notes matters for the general attention of the Council in relation to the Wellington Strategy Project.

Summary of matters covered at the WRS Forum

The first WRS Forum met on the 14th of July. As the initial meeting it dealt largely with procedural matters and preliminary matters. These were:

- The appointment of Murray McCaw as the independent chair of the WRS Forum (such appointment being identified in the Terms of Reference)
- The adoption of certain procedural matters
- An update on progress of the project plan (further summarised below)
- An initial scan of issues and opportunities (further summarised below).

Further detail on some matters discussed at WRS Forum

The project goal was discussed and accepted as follows:

“Work together to build an internationally competitive Wellington by developing and implementing a vision and an integrated framework to achieve sustainable growth of the Wellington region.”

It was noted that considerable time and effort had gone into the development of the Project Plan by the Members’ officers. The governance and management mechanisms are

THE WELLINGTON REGIONAL STRATEGY

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A JOINT PROJECT OF GREATER WELLINGTON – THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, UPPER HUTT CITY COUNCIL, HUTT CITY COUNCIL, KAPITAI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL, PORIRUA CITY COUNCIL AND WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL WORKING TOGETHER BUILDING AN INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE WELLINGTON

now established and meeting on a planned basis. These include the WRS Forum for governance and the Chief Executives' Group for the execution of the project. A project director (Adrienne Young Cooper) has been appointed. The project plan sets out a staged progressive process, moving from research and investigation to the development of options, adopting a growth framework, and then moving to more detail and implementation. The project plan identifies a large number of workstreams that will provide information and thinking to guide the Strategy development. The establishment of cross-organisational working parties to commence work on the Strategy is now underway.

Members' officers met on Monday the 12th of July in an initiation workshop to discuss a wide range of issues and opportunities facing the region. This workshop partly guided the presentation made by Stephen Rainbow, of Wellington City Council on behalf of the officers. This presentation is attached to the formal minutes of the meeting.

There was some discussion about the nature of growth being sought for the region. One of the challenges for the region is that some parts of the region are growing quickly and others are or are projected by Statistics New Zealand to experience negative growth. This debate will be informed by some of the early workstreams.

The project plan envisages that the early part of the project will be focused on analysis and investigation of existing and new information. Consultation with the region's communities is planned to commence in the first half of 2005.

Forward work (next six months)

Over the next six months the following work will be completed (process and content)

1. Cross organisational working parties will be established led by officers from around the region. These working parties will cover:
 - Information and techniques
 - Infrastructure
 - Economy, business and employment
 - Social issues, housing, migration and health
 - Environment, spatial and landuse, urban design, hazards
 - Vision outcomes, Wairarapa, tangata whenua
 - Communication with partners including central government
2. Meetings with strategic partners including business, community representatives, central government and iwi
3. Three meetings of the WRS Forum
4. Completion of several workstreams including a regional stocktake, economic futures, social capital, regional vision, demographic projections, growth tools, and lessons from successful cities, and transport issues.

The planning phase for the Wellington Regional Strategy project is now over. Significant Council officers' time must now be directed at the work of the project to ensure the heavy workload can be completed in a timely way.

A major regional assembly of newly elected Members is planned for December to enable new and re-elected Councillors to be informed by the work now underway and to debate regional directions.

Adrienne Young Cooper
Project Director
Wellington Regional Strategy