

Report 14.446  
Date 26 August 2014  
File E/12/01/04

Committee Council  
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## Report on the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting 26 August 2014

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee that took place on 26 August 2014.

### 2. Report

#### 2.1 Draft Grow Wellington Annual Report 2013/14

The Committee discussed the highlights of the draft Grow Wellington Annual Report 2013/14. These included working with New Zealand Trade and Enterprise to create a regional investment profile, the creation of the wellingtonNZ.com portal – a gathering point to distribute information - in partnership with Positively Wellington Tourism and the Wellington City Council and reversing the trend in international student attraction with an increase of 3% compared with a national decrease of 1.8%.

Creative HQ's app4IR challenge provided local start-ups the opportunity to work with a large government client, something that start-ups traditionally struggle to do, due to the resource requirements of the procurement process. Creative HQ's Lightning Lab digital start-up accelerator programme is to be developed and expanded nationally as part of the national Accelerator Programme run by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

#### 2.2 Wellington Regional Strategy Office activities update

The Committee received an update on the recent activities undertaken by the Wellington Regional Strategy Office. The WRS Office has been working on providing an evidence base for a formal partnership between the region and Government for migrant attraction. This is an opportunity for the region to identify skills shortage areas in the Wellington region which will become a priority list. It is also an opportunity to identify what migrant support is needed in the region beyond a business focus.

Business attraction and management practises are the focus of this year's Victoria University of Wellington business survey project. The information gained from the project will help to inform the sector and talent attraction activities of Grow Wellington as well as strengthening the ties between the University and businesses in the region.

### **2.3 Wellington Genuine Progress Index 2014**

The Wellington Region Genuine Progress Index (GPI) is an alternative method to GDP for measuring progress. The GPI assesses the relationships between economic, environmental, social and cultural outcomes and examines the effects of policies, behaviours and activities occurring in and affecting well-being in the region. The Wellington Region GPI was originally published in 2011, and the Committee received the early results from the 2014 GPI update based on the 2013 census. It is expected that the updated GPI will be published in September.

The Committee discussed the practical application of the GPI. Workshops with the GPI Working Group which includes all the territorial authorities, District Health Boards, and other community stakeholders are planned to determine how the results of the GPI can inform initiatives being delivered by Working Group members. Greater 'harmonisation' of wellbeing indicators between regions and Statistics New Zealand is currently being negotiated, which will allow the Wellington region GPI to be meaningfully compared to other regions.

## **3. The decision-making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report.

## **4. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

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Report approved by:

**Fran Wilde**  
Chair