

Report 14.632
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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy
Author Barry Turfrey, Wellington City Council

Update on the creation of Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WREDA)

1. Purpose

To provide an update on the establishment of WREDA to the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee (the Committee).

2. Background

The nine councils in the region approved the establishment of WREDA at their meetings in September and October. WREDA combines the following activities and organisations of Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council as follows:

Wellington City Council (WCC)

- Positively Wellington Tourism
- Positively Wellington Venues
- Major Events (excluding Community Events)
- Destination Wellington
- The business relationship with Westpac Stadium.

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC)

- Grow Wellington (and its subsidiary, Creative HQ)
- The business relationship with Westpac Stadium.

Since approval was given the legal documentation to create the new organisation has been completed. In addition the search for directors has been undertaken with the Chair and directors now selected.

3. Comment

3.1 3.1 Directors

An Appointments Panel was established to assist in the selection of directors; the Panel comprised:

- Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive for WCC
- Chair and Chief Executive from GWRC
- Mayor and Chief Executive from Upper Hutt City Council.

Following the selection of Peter Biggs as Chair, the Panel and Peter Biggs undertook the process to select the remaining directors. Due to the high calibre of candidates the Panel decided to recommend the appointment of 9 directors to the WREDA board with one still to be added with film experience. The shareholding councils have agreed with this recommendation.

The directors elect have received an extensive induction pack including Statements of Intent, WRS Strategy, strategy overview, council reports and so forth. It is intended that the directors will be appointed during the week ending 5 December.

3.2 Legal

There are a number of resolutions to be passed by the shareholders and directors. They include the appointment of directors, adopting a new constitution, changing the name of Wellington Venues Limited to WREDA, the resolutions required to transfer Grow Wellington and Positively Wellington Tourism into WREDA.

None of the resolutions or agreements has been signed at the date of this report. It is intended that they will be approved in the next few days.

A number of current contracts will be assigned as part of this transaction, consents from the other parties are being sought. It is not envisaged there will be any problems with the contract assignments.

The various agreements between WREDA and WCC/GWRC will be discussed and agreed with the Chair of WREDA over the next few weeks.

3.3 Multilateral Agreement

The Multilateral Agreement has been agreed by all councils, it is intended to be signed by all councils prior to Christmas.

3.4 WREDA Chief Executive

The search for the Chief Executive has commenced with ICHOR (the firm used to search for the directors) being appointed to undertake the search.

It is planned to have advertising for the role prior to Christmas with an appointment to be made around March 2015.

3.5 Timing

The timetable is to have Grow Wellington, Creative HQ and the undertakings of Positively Wellington Tourism owned or incorporated into WREDA by mid December. Following this the business of bringing the three entities together will commence. The final structure of WREDA will not be finalised until the arrival of the Chief Executive.

In the meantime the three entities will operate from their existing premises, staff and systems.

3.6 Communication Plan

A communication plan for the next 6 months is being developed to ensure that staff and stakeholders are kept fully informed with a consistent message.

3.7 Other matters

As noted in previous reports the Major Events' activities and staff which are currently within WCC will not be transferred to WREDA until the arrival of the new Chief Executive. However, until then there will be close liaison between Major Events and WREDA.

4. Communications

No communications are necessary.

5. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

6. Recommendations

That the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Barry Turfrey
Wellington City Council

Report approved by:

Kevin Lavery
Chief Executive
Wellington City Council