

# Business Support

We work to promote the city's interests to central government, other agencies, businesses and our sister cities. We provide grants for one-off projects that bring economic benefits to the city and wider community. We are exploring ways to improve the accessibility of information technology, and we are working with partners to attract a daily long-haul air service between Wellington and Asia.

## 3.4.1 Information and Communications Infrastructure

### WHAT WE DID / HOW WE PERFORMED

While waiting for the Government's announcement on the \$1.5b fibre fund, we have been developing policy around road opening and RMA rules. In particular, we have been working on how they can be modernised and made more consistent across the councils in the region with respect to ICT infrastructure.

### ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

On 31 March, the Government released a proposal for its \$1.5b Broadband Investment Initiative (BII), with an invitation to make submissions by 27 April 2009. If this proceeds as planned, an RFP would be released in mid August with proposals due mid October.

Responding to this process will be a major focus for the next quarter.

## 3.4.2 Transport Gateway Connections

### WHAT WE DID / HOW WE PERFORMED

PWT continued to work with Wellington International Airport Limited (WIAL) on the advancement of the Long Haul programme. Current economic conditions have significantly altered the demand for long haul travel. As a consequence of this, PWT has recently updated the region's councils on the status of the long haul programme, including reduced long haul capacity.

A major familiarisation visit of Australian travel writers was hosted in a joint venture with Pacific Blue, which coincided with Cuba Street Carnival.

Due to the current economic climate, Australian leisure travellers are considering close-to-home alternative to long haul travel. In response to this change in consumer travel patterns, PWT, along with Tourism New Zealand, are focusing their energies toward attracting the Australian market to Wellington.

### ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

Meetings are to be held with the Mayors and Chief Executives of all our regional and district council partners to discuss the future developments of the Long Haul Strategy. This includes the development of a growth marketing fund.

The next market development work overseas will take place in the first quarter of 2009/2010. Planning for this activity will take place in the final quarter of 2008/2009.

## Financials

### WHAT IT COST

| Operational projects \$000                 | Actual YTD | Budget YTD | Variance YTD | Full Year Budget |
|--|------------|------------|--------------|------------------|
| <b>3.4.2 Transport Gateway Connections</b> |            |            |              |                  |
| Expenditure                                | 150        | 150        | 0            | 200              |
| Revenue                                    | 0          | 0          | 0            | 0                |
| Net Operating Expenditure                  | 150        | 150        | 0            | 200              |
| Capital projects \$000                     | Actual YTD | Budget YTD | Variance YTD | Full Year Budget |
| <b>3.4.2 Transport Gateway Connections</b> |            |            |              |                  |
| Expenditure                                | 0          | 0          | 0            | 0                |

### Operating Expenditure

**3.4.1:** There is no budget for this activity in 2008/09. Work is funded through policy and strategy budgets.

**3.4.2:** Operating expenditure is in line with budget.

### How It Was Funded

These activities are targeted to be 100% rates funded.

## 3.5.2 Economic Grants

### WHAT WE DID

There were no grant rounds this quarter.

### HOW WE PERFORMED

| Economic Grants                        | September Round (Quarter 1) | December Round (Quarter 2) | May Round (Quarter 4) |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total number of grant applicants       | 3                           | 7                          | 4                     |
| Number of applicants receiving grants  | 2                           | 3                          | Pending               |
| Total budget distributed to applicants | \$55,000                    | \$60,000                   | Pending               |
| Total budget available to applicants   | \$55,000                    | \$60,000                   | Pending               |

### ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

Applications will be received and considered for the next general grant round which closed on 31 March with a Grants Subcommittee meeting on 11 May.

### 3.7.1 Regional and External Relations

#### WHAT WE DID

We hosted a Beijing cultural group at the end of January and a group from Shanghai in early February to help us celebrate the Chinese New Year.

The Deputy Governor of Hunan Province visited in early February. In addition, a group visited Wellington to discuss the final design for the Chinese Garden on the waterfront at Frank Kitts Park.

#### HOW WE PERFORMED

| Events/activities held in association with international cities |                    |                    |                    |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|   | Sep<br>(Quarter 1) | Dec<br>(Quarter 2) | Mar<br>(Quarter 3) |
| In Wellington   | 8                  | 2                  | 12                 |
| Overseas  | 2                  | 2                  | 2                  |

Note: We do not have targets for the above measures. We support events and activities where appropriate.

#### ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

The President of Xiamen University and an education delegation will visit Wellington in April. Mayor Prendergast will travel to Europe and Japan in late April-early May. A Beijing Civic delegation will visit Wellington in June.

Officers will attend the annual Sister City Conference at Cambridge in April.

Six Wellington artists will visit Xiamen in May.

### Financials

#### WHAT IT COST

| Operational projects \$000                   | Actual YTD | Budget YTD | Variance YTD | Full Year Budget |
|--|------------|------------|--------------|------------------|
| <b>3.5.2 Economic Grants</b>                 |            |            |              |                  |
| Expenditure                                  | 115        | 132        | 17           | 165              |
| Revenue                                      | 0          | 0          | 0            | 0                |
| Net Operating Expenditure                    | 115        | 132        | 17           | 165              |
| <b>3.7.1 Regional and External Relations</b> |            |            |              |                  |
| Expenditure                                  | 226        | 201        | (25)         | 269              |
| Revenue                                      | (2)        | 0          | 2            | 0                |
| Net Operating Expenditure                    | 224        | 201        | (23)         | 269              |
| Capital projects \$000                       | Actual YTD | Budget YTD | Variance YTD | Full Year Budget |
| <b>3.5.2 Economic Grants</b>                 |            |            |              |                  |
| Expenditure                                  | 0          | 0          | 0            | 0                |
| <b>3.7.1 Regional and External Relations</b> |            |            |              |                  |
| Expenditure                                  | 0          | 0          | 0            | 0                |

#### Operating Expenditure

**3.5.2:** The Operating expenditure variance is due to timing of economic grants payments.

**3.7.1:** Operating expenditure is slightly ahead of budget, but expected to be back in line by year end.

#### How It Was Funded

These activities are targeted to be 100% rates funded.