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## **OUR LIVING CITY UPDATE – ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS**

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### **1. Purpose of report**

To seek Councillors' agreement to implement the Our Living City work programme's partnerships and community engagement strategy.

### **2. Executive summary**

Our Living City is Council's work programme that celebrates and strengthens Wellington's natural capital – recognising that the City's urban-nature connections are a key point of difference for the City and provide a competitive advantage.

Our Living City is gaining momentum and recognition with our stakeholders and the community. The principles of Our Living City are acknowledged as being a significant part of the Wellington story. Our Living City is building an implementation plan which is integral to our brand credibility and our reputation. The partnership and engagement strategy is an important and outward facing part of this programme, and so Councillors are invited to agree to and support the approaches being taken.

The programme has already delivered research partnerships (Victoria University, Auckland University, Otago University, UN-Habitat City Resilience), Smart Energy initiatives, partners to create healthy homes (Beacon Pathway, Hikurangi Foundation, EECA, KiwiBank, Certified Builders, WelTec, UCol, Fletcher Building, and Sustainability Trust), green building partners (EECA and NZ Green Building Council), partners in biodiversity restoration and education (Victoria University, The Dive Guys, Zealandia, Zoo), sustainable business partners (Sustainable Business Network), and integration across the CCO statement of intents.

These runs on the board have proven that there is an appetite and a need for our proposed partnership and engagement approach. We want to raise the awareness of the fantastic opportunities Wellington provides through an enduring and authentic programme of engagement and story telling. As a brand and attraction, these form a valuable part of the work of Destination Wellington and Positively Wellington Tourism. As a framework for our services and community support, these are valuable to Our Capital Spaces, Volunteering Strategy, and Climate Change Action Plan.

Collaboration and partnership are fundamental to the future of Wellington, and to the success of Our Living City. Most recently officers have received feedback on Destination Wellington which has identified and acknowledged the key part Our Living City will play in attracting talent to Wellington.

Implementation of our partnership and engagement approach will raise expectations and require ongoing commitment to Our Living City as a Council priority. Before commencing implementation officers seek to confirm your agreement to proceed.

### **3. Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Strategy and Policy Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Agree to a communication and engagement strategy for Our Living City based on dialogue and partnerships, and building Wellington's credentials.*
3. *Note that officers will continue to work collaboratively with Positively Wellington Tourism through Destination Wellington to support them to create new economic opportunities, and to ensure Wellington's story is underpinned by strong credentials that deliver a place where talent wants to live.*
4. *Agree to commence the Our Living City partnership strategy by inviting external organisations, businesses and corporations to partner with the Council through the proposed Our Living City prospectus.*
5. *Note that Council Officers will report back to Strategy and Policy Committee in May on:*
  - *The open spaces and recreation framework (Our Capital Spaces)*
  - *A refreshed climate change action plan*
  - *Our Smart Energy Capital*
6. *Note that Council Officers will report back to Strategy and Policy Committee in June prior to adoption of the annual plan and outline the next phase of implementation of Our Living City.*

### **4. Background**

Our Living City identifies and implements actions to strengthen the City's urban-nature connections and help realise the vision of *Wellington Towards 2040: Smart Capital*. The programme has three goals: (1) growing and enjoying our natural capital, (2) transforming our economy and reducing our environmental impact and (3) showing leadership. We are carrying out a range of activities, including: telling our story, dialogue and education, partnership,

making strong connections with and informing other work programmes. showcase projects, and developing measures of success.

This report focuses on two of these activities: partnerships and engagement.

## **5. Discussion**

### **5.1 Value of partnerships**

*Wellington Towards 2040: Smart Capital* sets a vision for building Wellington's resilience in the face of future challenges. Delivering this whole-of-City solution cannot and should not be done by Council alone and requires city-wide investment in time, resource and passion. Our Living City identifies Wellington's natural capital as one of our competitive advantages, and invites others to join us in celebrating and growing this differential.

We have had many conversations with existing and potential partners, and it is clear that there is a willingness to invest in 'Our Living City' to make a real difference to the city, now and for the future. One example which is gathering momentum is piloting a Smart Energy Grid and integrating technologies such as electric vehicles into home energy storage.

We have developed an Our Living City prospectus to invite partners to join us. We are using it to suggest ways in which organisations and individuals can get involved but also inviting ideas. The prospectus can have different projects and proposals inserted, are tailored for each situation, and will be adapted as new opportunities arise. Key stakeholders have been identified in *Appendix 1*.

### **5.4 Research partnerships**

Our Living City is creating a Centre of Excellence for urban planning, resilience and ecological sustainability. Through partnering with research institutions we are accessing future-focussed and applied research. This research is needed to inform our policy decisions, help ensure the future resilience and liveability of Wellington, and ensure our credibility and commitment to ensure positive urban futures.

We view Victoria University as a strategic partner. We are working with them on research around resilience, ecology and the urban environment. Over the summer Council has been providing data and support to Victoria University's Institute for the Study of Competition and Regulation. With Wellington city data the Institute has been able to make a model of the city which helps us understand why homes are priced as they are, and what the relationship of this pricing is to transportation choice, land use and other factors. With further collaboration we will be able to develop this model to answer questions on the value of aspects such as transport and green space, their effect on housing affordability and the distribution of development in the city. We are looking to expand our involvement with Victoria and aid geospatial research and develop new scientific techniques for analysing our city challenges and displaying them to the public over the coming year.

In addition we have agreed to a jointly funded three-year research collaboration which includes an agreement to jointly fund summer interns as well as a post-doctoral research fellow. A summary of research projects from 2012/13 summer interns is attached as *Appendix 2*. We are currently recruiting for the research fellow to focus on the theme of *Cities and Urban Nature*. The successful candidate will coordinate our joint research programme, develop a research plan focussed on the role of Zealandia and its contribution to the urban ecology and natural environment of Wellington, and conduct applied research relating to urban nature in Wellington.

Council have also been working with the Centre for Transforming Cities, a multidisciplinary centre focussing on providing research insights and technology to make our cities more liveable, sustainable, productive and efficient. Auckland University is leading a consortium of New Zealand and international universities, researchers and government bodies to achieve these goals. Officers have been working on bringing the best of these research programmes to Wellington using the approaches that have made our other data initiatives, such as our partnership with the National Library, so successful. At present we are working to bring solar energy research, housing affordability work and other urban analysis skills to Wellington to help underpin Our Living City, spatial planning and the development of an integrated transport strategy.

We are working with the Otago University Centre for Sustainable Cities on their Resilient Urban Futures project. This four-year work programme looks at what development path New Zealand's cities should take to ensure that maximum environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits can be gained. It includes projects related to future urban scenarios (such as compact vs. greenfields development), social cohesion, productivity, land-use, transport and energy modelling, water and air quality modelling, and implications of treaty of Waitangi settlements for urban areas.

The UN-Habitat City Resilience Profiling Programme is another significant partnership. The purpose of this programme is to develop tools that will assist local governments to measure and increase their resilience to multi-hazard impacts including those associated with climate change and natural hazards such as earthquakes. Wellington is one of ten partner cities that have been invited to participate in this global research programme, and our participation will include the global show case of our work, and an opportunity for experts to come to Wellington to work with us.

### **5.5 Consultation and engagement**

The communications and engagement approach for Our Living City gives the community the opportunity to help set the direction, create content and tell the story.

What people have already told us, through the development of *Wellington 2040* and the LTP 2012-22, is that Wellingtonians value the natural environment, in particular the harbour, streams, and Wellington’s natural attractions.

The community has told us that the following issues are priorities for Council:

- making the most of green technology and renewable energy
- resilient three waters with reduced pollution
- planning and preparing for the impacts of natural hazards and climate change
- importance of public spaces for attracting people to work and play in Wellington.

To provide detail around these priority issues and create a clear pathway ‘towards 2040’, Our Living City is applying a strategic combination of communication, multi-stakeholder dialogue, involvement, partnerships and empowerment. This work will both feed into and benefit from Destination Wellington’s efforts to help shape Wellington’s story in ways that attract and retain talent.

So far, our focus has been on traditional media and meetings with stakeholder groups and specialist forum. Ongoing dialogue with these groups continues to help shape Our Living City and its priorities.

Our communication and engagement strategy is designed to deliver the outcomes in the below table and we are using dialogue initiatives, partnerships, story-telling, special events, written content, social media tools and traditional media coverage.

Outcome	Timing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leverage external resources: early partnerships in place</li> <li>• Begin a record of the story of Wellington’s evolution as a ‘living city’</li> </ul>	<i>By June 2013</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catalyse and facilitate community action</li> <li>• Build civic pride, identify and sense of place</li> <li>• Attract new economic development and innovation</li> </ul>	<i>Create groundwork for ongoing conversations and action</i>

### **5.6 Financial considerations**

The Smart Energy Capital initiative is being consulted on as part of the Draft Annual Plan. Otherwise the initial phase of the communications and engagement programme is being delivered within existing resources.

### **5.7 Climate change impacts and considerations**

The Living City Programme incorporates work on climate change mitigation (e.g. projects to reduce energy use), as well as on preparing and adapting for the inevitable consequences of a changing climate (e.g. the impacts of sea level rise

for a coastal city). A refresh of the Climate Change Action Plan will come to Committee for agreement in May.

### **5.8 Long-term plan considerations**

Our Living City is focussed on activities to enable Council to realise the strategic priorities and vision of *Wellington Towards 2040: Smart Capital*.

## **6. Conclusion**

Wellington's natural capital provides us with a clear competitive advantage. Our Living City is working to ensure we can live up to our claims and reputation, and to understand what 'big shifts' are required.

A significant component of the programme is internally focussed on aligning Council work programmes and funding, and identifying and addressing policy gaps. We are taking every opportunity – for example, through our key performance indicators, through the Statements of Intent of our CCOs – to drive home Our Living City as our competitive advantage. Organisationally we will have some important decisions to make in future to ensure our credibility, and this will need to be in the context of sound business modelling. Council officers will present initial work on this in June on a framework for the future implementation of Our Living City.

In addition to this, building partnerships and engaging with the community is fundamental to achieving our city-wide vision for Wellington Towards 2040: Smart Capital, and the Strategy and Policy Committee are invited to endorse this approach.

Contact Officer: Amber Bill, Programme Manager - Our Living City, Policy

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 1) Strategic fit / Strategic outcome

*The report supports Council's overall vision of Wellington Towards 2040: Smart Capital. Our Living City delivers across the pillars of 2040.*

### 2) LTP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

*Our Living City is introduced in the 2013 Draft Annual Plan, where the focus is largely on aligning existing work programmes and seeking partnerships.*

### 3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

*Our Living City is consistent with existing Council strategies.*

### 4) Decision-making

*This is not a significant decision, but seeks endorsement on a continued strategic direction.*

### 5) Consultation

#### a) General consultation

*Council is not required under legislation to consult on this matter.*

#### b) Consultation with Maori

*Mana whenua are important stakeholders and we are seeking to discuss this with them.*

### 6) Legal implications

*No legal implications*

### 7) Consistency with existing policy

*This report recommends measures which are consistent with existing WCC policy, including the Economic Development Strategy, Capital Spaces and the Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plans.*

## APPENDIX 1

### Initial list of partners and stakeholders for *Our Living City*

The following table lists existing and potential partners and stakeholders of the Wellington City Council that we believe will be instrumental in advancing the Council's *Our Living City* objectives. The organisations are categorised as follows:

- Government
- CCOs
- Businesses that have significant investments in the city
- Other business
- Iwi
- Universities and other research
- Schools
- NGOs, volunteer groups and industry associations
- Research.

<b>Partner/Stakeholder</b>	<b>Area of interest</b>
<b>Government</b>	
GWRC	Transport; biodiversity/conservation; harbour quality; SLR and adaptation; ICM
Porirua City Council	Porirua Harbour Strategy; waste minimisation; Spicer Landfill and waste water
Hutt City Council	Waste minimisation; biodiversity
Upper Hutt City Council	Waste minimisation; biodiversity
Kapiti Coast District Council	Waste minimisation; Home Energy Saver programme; Otaki Clean Tech
NZTA	Transport; environmental stewardship infrastructure
EECA	Solar project; Warm Up Wellington; green homes; NABERS; EV
DOC	Biodiversity/conservation; marine reserve; storm water
MPI	PFSI and ETS
MfE	Emissions trading scheme; waste funding; NPS
MBIE	Housing; science; research; Marine Testing Centre
Government Property Group	Smart investment in the city; green building; energy efficiency; NABERS
National Infrastructure Unit	Investment
Wellington Hospital	Energy efficiency; NABERS; environmental education; health benefits
Auckland Council	Research collaboration; joint projects
Te Papa	Energy efficiency; NABERS; environmental



<b>Partner/Stakeholder</b>	<b>Area of interest</b>
	education; biodiversity
British High Commission	Project collaboration; research
Other international embassies	TBD
<b>CCOs</b>	
[Zealandia]	Biodiversity objectives, urban nature
Grow Wellington	Marine Energy Testing Centre; business growth
Positively Wellington Tourism	Branding; visitors
Waterfront	Great Harbour Way; urban design
Wellington Zoo	Biodiversity/conservation; sustainable behaviour education
Wellington Stadium	Energy efficiency; waste minimisation; environmental education
Positively Wellington Venues	Green conferences; energy efficiency
Museum of Wellington	Special exhibitions
<b>Business (major investments)</b>	
Meridian Energy	Brooklyn Turbine; Mill Creek; Westwind; sustainability; corporate social responsibility
Capacity	Water management and infrastructure
CentrePort	Master Plan; SLR issues; great harbour way
Wellington Airport	Long-term planning
Large local landowners	Goat eradication programme; conservation
Kiwi Rail	Public transport
NZ Bus	Public transport
Wellington Company	Green building; green walls/roofs; Corporate Social Responsibility
Wellington Electricity	Smart grid
Transpower	Smart grid
Green buildings (BNZ, etc)	Stories; Corporate Social Responsibility
Mark McGuinness	Green building; green walls/roofs; Corporate Social Responsibility
<b>Other business</b>	
KiwiBank	Solar project; green lending; Corporate Social Responsibility
Other banks	Green lending; Corporate Social Responsibility
Wellington Combined Taxis	EV's and hybrid
Green cabs	EV's and hybrid
Z Energy	EV charging; biofuels; Corporate Social Responsibility
Contact Energy	On-bill products; Corporate Social Responsibility
Deloitte	Corporate Social Responsibility
PWC	Corporate Social Responsibility
Weta and Peter Jackson	Greening the film industry

<b>Partner/Stakeholder</b>	<b>Area of interest</b>
Boffa Miskall	Corporate Social Responsibility
URS	Corporate Social Responsibility
Beca	Corporate Social Responsibility
Aecom	Corporate Social Responsibility
Tonkin & Taylor	Corporate Social Responsibility
Woods Waste (Mike Wild)	Waste minimisation
Moore Wilson	Stories; solar; Corporate Social Responsibility
legal firms	Corporate Social Responsibility
Trade Me	Corporate Social Responsibility
Sam and Gareth Morgan	Investment; philanthropy
Les Mills	Corporate Social Responsibility
Laptop Company	Green building
NZ Super Fund	Investment
NZ Community Trust	Investment
Guardian Trust	Investment
OMV	Philanthropy
The Dive Guys	Environmental education and ecological protection
<b>Iwi</b>	
Port Nicholson Settlement Trust	Conservation; urban development; social development
Ngati Toa	Conservation; urban development; social development
<b>Universities and research</b>	
Victoria University	Research partnership; SLR and adaptation; School of Design
Massey University	Research partnership; pop-up gardens; green roofs
Auckland University	Research
Otago University	Research
NIWA	Sea level rise research/planning; research projects
GNS	Risk analysis; earthquake resilience
Landcare Research	Low impact urban design; GHG inventory; sea level rise
BRANZ	Green homes
Beacon	Green homes
Royal Society	Sea level rise
WelTec	EV training; engineering; clean tech
<b>Schools</b>	
Primary; Intermediate; Secondary	Environment education, recreation, volunteering
<b>NGOs, volunteer groups and business associations</b>	
Sustainability Trust	3-year contract; Warm Up Wellington
Volunteer Groups	Volunteer hours; \$ and resource support; restoration projects

<b>Partner/Stakeholder</b>	<b>Area of interest</b>
Hikurangi Foundation	Community wind project;
Berhampore Community Orchard	Land supply; volunteer hours; \$ grants
World Wildlife Fund	Biodiversity/conservation
Forest & Bird	Biodiversity/conservation; stormwater steering group
Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve	Biodiversity/conservation
Project Crimson	Biodiversity/conservation
Conservation volunteers	Biodiversity/conservation
Enviro Schools	Environmental education
APEV - Association for the Promotion of Electric Vehicles	Member
NZ Green Building Council	NABERS
SEANZ	Conference
Sustainable Business Network	Membership
The Lion Foundation	Grants
Pure Advantage	Business engagement
Business NZ	Business engagement
Sustainable Business Council	Business engagement; Corporate Social Responsibility; Vision 2050

## APPENDIX 2

### VUW/WCC Summer Intern Research Summaries

<b>Research area</b>	<b>Research abstracts/summaries</b>
<p>Public policy student Tom Pettit looked at the economic benefits green spaces offer Wellington as well as developing a model to help predict how transport use will shift with policy and infrastructure change.</p>	<p>The research explores two important aspects of life in Wellington to provide information to policymakers. Firstly, we use regression analysis to develop economic valuations for public transport and green spaces in Wellington. Secondly, we use discrete choice modelling to develop a predictive model to explain how different shocks to the transport network affect use of the three main commute modes in Wellington: active transport, public transport and driving. Our results show that the public transport network is highly valued, and households exhibit preferences for proximity to both built up areas and high density greenspace. Significant changes in commute mode can be effected by changes in times taken by various modes, which provides hints at policy levers that may be available to the council.</p>
<p>Maree Martinussen, completing a Master's in Social Science, trialled different ways to increase voluntary participation in our Community Greening programmes – where volunteers plant native trees on reserve land.</p>	<p>The results and subsequent analysis of the trial suggests that offering free plants to householders living near common land is an effective way of increasing initial engagement in community greening programs. However, this model is more likely to be successful in neighbourhoods where a high level of engagement in community activities already exists. Participants did use social networking sites for promoting community greening, but not primarily through the means suggested to participants as part of the research. Individuals' alternative use of social networking sites highlights an additional benefit of the 'free-plant' model trialled here – it served as a good public relations opportunity to promote the community groups and WCC's Community Greening programme.</p>
<p>Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Studies student Hester Neate carried out a study into the development of a strong network of green spaces and links through the city that will encourage the movement of wildlife, pedestrians, cyclists and stormwater.</p>	<p>Maps have been prepared showing the potential council contribution to the ecological network, and where human access to open space is greatest and weakest. In areas where council land is lacking it may be important to investigate the options of partnerships with landowners. There may be potential to join smaller patches together to form medium patches which may provide more ecological value, then use street trees as corridors to connect patches.</p>
<p>Economics and Finance student Cameron Hobbs quantified the economic benefits derived from</p>	<p>The purpose of this research was to find and asses the areas of value for Makara Peak Mountain Bike. A field survey was completed at the park which gathered close to 400 responses over a 5 day period. The survey provided a lot of qualitative</p>

<p><b>Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park</b></p>	<p>data on the park such as the parks most appreciated attribute (track variety) along with visiting habits (average visits per person per annum were around 30). Combining the habits discovered with information found in a literature review allowed the valuation of benefit areas. Some of the key figures were around \$380,000pa in health benefits and \$450,000pa spending in Karori attributable to the park. Interviews of local businesses and bike shops helped to enhance these figures and give more qualitative data. Other areas of value were also assessed within the research such as the tourism and conservation value, along with the demand of the park.</p>
<p><b>Landscape Architecture Master's student Myren Burnett is helping to complete the mapping of Wellington's streams.</b></p>	<p>Central Wellington's un piped streams have been accurately mapped. For the purposes of this project, streams are defined as those permanently flowing, 1st and 2nd-order, which means those flowing directly to the sea and their major direct tributary streams. The total number of un piped streams confirmed within the study are 65, and the total distance of un piped streams is 16.7 km.</p>
<p><b>Design and Innovation student Chris Callus created a series of video promoting cycling in Wellington.</b></p>	<p>The cycle commuter video series can be found on <a href="http://www.bikeeverywhere.co.nz">http://www.bikeeverywhere.co.nz</a></p>
<p><b>Architecture graduate researcher Henrik Prins assessed how Green Star-rated buildings perform and how the recent green building trend is impacting on Wellington's office market.</b></p>	<p>The project is the first phase in growing knowledge and awareness of the sustainable, Green Star rated offices in Wellington, currently consisting of nine office buildings and three office interior fit-outs. These twelve projects in Wellington include New Zealand's first Green Star rated building (Meridian Building), its first Green Star rated refurbishment (Aorangi House), its first 6 star rated interior fit out (BNZ Harbour Quays) and the first 6 star rated interior refurbishment of an historical building (Stephenson &amp; Turner Design Studios). The project itself has involved the collection of information available on each of the twelve buildings and then summarising it, outlining key details about the project and its sustainable features. Also involved has been the analysis of trends in Wellington's green building scene, focusing on the market share of quality office space which is Green Star rated and the sustainable trends. Since 2007 when the Green Star rating tool came into effect, 95% of Wellington's newly constructed high grade office space has been sustainably developed, with trends revolving around recycling large amounts construction waste, using healthy and sustainable materials, providing cyclist facilities and using both water and electricity efficient technologies in an attempt to reduce operational costs.</p>