
REPORT 1
(1215/11/IM)

WELLINGTON REGIONAL STRATEGY MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT

1. Purpose of Report

To approve a Multilateral Agreement that sets out the governance protocols around the Wellington Regional Strategy. The Agreement will become part of the Triennial Agreement between Councils.

2. Executive Summary

Over the past couple of years a comprehensive and robust Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) has been developed for economic growth and urban development. To give effect to the strategy a new WRS Committee has been set up under the auspices of Greater Wellington Regional Council. Funding for the regional economic development activity, previously delivered by Positively Wellington Business is now generated through a regional rate.

The agreement between the Councils on how this will operate is set out in a Multilateral Agreement, which now needs to be formally approved by all participants.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Agree to delegate authority to the Mayor to sign the Multilateral Agreement attached as Appendix 1 on behalf of Council, including any minor changes.*

4. Discussion

4.1 Wellington Regional Strategy

The Wellington Regional Strategy is a growth and development strategy for the region covering two broad areas – economic and urban development. It was developed using an extensive process of research, analysis and debate.

4.2 Governance arrangements

To allow a stronger regional focus Greater Wellington Regional Council has become the “Keeper of the Strategy”, with the WRS Committee established as a standing committee of the Council. Some key protocols guide the operation of this Committee:

- Membership of the Committee, which comprises Mayors, the Chair of the Regional Council, and five non-local government members. The Chair is a non-local government member.
- A 75% majority is required for major decisions, and the Regional Council will not overturn WRS Committee decisions.
- There are some limitations on total funding for economic development projects and their nature, i.e. they must not be community based events or facilities.
- A review clause means that the economic development activity must cease and be formally reinstated.

The full agreement, which includes the Terms of Reference for the WRS Committee, is attached as an Appendix. The region’s Chief Executives and Mayors have discussed earlier drafts of the agreement, and are now all putting it forward to their respective councils for approval.

Some of the details in the agreement were resolved using a formal mediation process initiated under s16 of the Local Government Act 2002. The mediation agreement is also attached as an appendix.

The Multilateral Agreement will form part of the Triennial Agreement between Councils that sets out the general principles of collaboration.

5. Conclusion

The Wellington Regional Strategy represents a watershed in terms of collaboration and planning across the region. A new set of governance arrangements have been developed to give effect to the strategy. This paper recommends that the Multilateral Agreement that sets out these arrangements be formally approved by Council.

Contact Officer: *Paul Desborough, Manager Strategy*

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

The paper presents a multilateral agreement which sets out basis for specific activities to be delivered on a regional basis. These activities have a strong fit with the Wellington City Council strategic direction..

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

The establishment of a new regional economic development agency funded through a regional rate means that the funding previously allocated to Positively Wellington Business by Council has been discontinued.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

The regional forum, Ara Tahi, was consulted during development of the Wellington Regional Strategy.

4) Decision-Making

This paper does not deal with significant decisions in terms of the Local Government Act 2002.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

A full consultative process was used during development of the Wellington Regional Strategy.

b) Consultation with Maori

See above.

6) Legal Implications

None.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report is consistent with Council policy.

APPENDIX 1

WELLINGTON REGIONAL STRATEGY MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT