

Report 06.438
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Committee Interim Wellington Regional Strategy Committee
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Consultation Plan for Wellington Regional Strategy and the Governance and Funding Statement of Proposal

1. Purpose

To seek the Committee's approval of a consultation plan for the Wellington Regional Strategy and the governance and funding Statement of Proposal, to be recommended to Greater Wellington as the basis for public consultation.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

In August 2005 the "Growth Framework" was launched. The purpose of Growth Framework was to seek feedback on initial Regional Strategy thinking - to ensure we were on the right track. A range of communication vehicles, similar to those detailed in the proposed plan, were used. 420 submissions were received as a result of this programme.

The submissions were consolidated and helped guide development of the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS). Alongside this, key stakeholders from the business, voluntary and government sectors have been continually engaged as the WRS has evolved. The WRS reflects the views received as a result of this engagement process.

Drawing on the experience of the first consultation a consultation plan for the next stage of the project has been developed. This is in **Attachment 1**.

4. Comment

To date, gaining public engagement in the WRS process has been challenging. This especially applies to the Growth Framework stage which did not encapsulate initiatives the public could easily grasp or understand (in contrast

to a subject like a street car race or wind farm). For the same reason gaining media coverage has been difficult.

This situation is expected to change when the WRS and the proposed implementation, governance and funding proposal is launched. The WRS contains tangible initiatives which are easier for people to understand. This will make it easier to generate media coverage – an important information conduit. Likewise, people are expected to be interested in the governance arrangements, especially the funding aspects.

The draft consultation plan has the following objectives:

- to engage key stakeholders in the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) and ensure their input, where valid, is accurately reflected in the final strategy.
- to facilitate awareness and understanding of the Strategy so interested parties have the opportunity to make submissions.
- to ensure the communications programme meets the requirements of the special consultative section of the Local Government Act 2002.

5. Communication

No communications are recommended regarding this decision.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives*** the report.
2. ***Notes*** the contents of the report.
3. ***Recommends*** to the Council that the consultation plan for the WRS and governance and funding Statement of Proposal consultation process, as shown in Attachment 1, be adopted.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Draft consultation plan