

Report 15.610
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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy
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Messages for the Letter of Expectation

Purpose

1. To consider and approve the areas of interest the Committee want the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WREDA) to consider in their draft Statement of Intent for 2016/17.

Background

2. The two shareholding councils have had discussions on the areas of interest noted below and it is now for the Committee to consider them and make such changes that they wish.
3. Following the agreement of the Committee, the Letter of Expectation will be drafted and sent to WREDA for consideration in their planning process. It is expected that all the matters raised will be addressed in their draft Statement of Intent.
4. The draft Statement of Intent is due by 1 March 2016. From here the Committee has two months to consider the draft and send their comments back to WREDA. The final Statement of Intent is due by 30 June 2016.

Areas of Interest

General

5. Having completed the first full year we expect to see a significant move towards specific actions and measurable outcomes.

Specific

6. Outline specific actions and measures to attract and retain increased numbers of international students to the Region
7. Specific actions and measures that support, facilitate and strongly contribute to a step change growth in migration, the creative and tech sectors.
8. Establish a process of business support from incubator to exports for growth companies in the target sectors.
9. Identify and assess what economic opportunities are there arising from the major infrastructure projects which are planned.
10. What actions need to be taken to put in place for a major programme of targeted inward investment for the Region, including tourism.

11. With WREDA being one organisation are there opportunities to leverage off the Major Events portfolio with other business events. There will also be a need to continue to develop the Major Events portfolio
12. Constraints on business growth in the region are well understood and where practical WREDA will play a role in addressing such constraints. Of particular note is the need to help address skills shortages and develop a workforce that better reflects regional needs.
13. In addition to the above, it is expected that WREDA will ensure that the business as usual activities, namely tourist attraction, venues operations and major events will continue at a high standard.
14. Collaboration with business, the tertiary sector, government agencies, councils and the investment community is a regular theme in discussions on step changes for the Wellington regional economy. We expect that WREDA will play a primary facilitation role in driving collective action as appropriate in the action areas above.
15. The KPIs in the 2016/17 SOI to be reviewed to ensure that the most appropriate measures are used. We also expect that, where possible, the measures will have clear targets, define what success looks like, including specificity on job numbers. We note that some of the targets in the 2015/16 are low and need some additional stretch in them.

Communications

16. No communications are necessary.

The decision making process and significance

17. The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines. Due to the procedural nature of this decision officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance. Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

Engagement

In accordance with the significance and engagement policy, no engagement on the matters for decision is required.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives and notes*** the contents of this report.
2. ***Confirms*** the areas of interest (subject to such changes as the Committee may require) to be included in the draft Letter of Expectation.

3. *Authorises the Chair of the Committee to approve and sign the Letter of Expectation on behalf of the Committee.*

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