

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

7 AUGUST 2018

AGENDA ITEM C1

WELLINGTON REGIONAL INVESTMENT PLAN

Purpose of Report

To request Council to endorse the Wellington Regional Investment Plan (the Plan).

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the Wellington Regional Investment Plan Report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Endorses the Wellington Regional Investment Plan.*

1. Background

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Plan is to provide a long-range blueprint that details the investment required over the next 30 years to ensure the future success and improve the quality of life in the Wellington region.

A key purpose of the Plan is to enable the region to collectively have a conversation with central government about the regions long term growth opportunities and constraints and identify new partnership models to achieve our desired outcomes.

1.2 Process

The Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) Committee, proposed the development of an investment plan for the region in August 2017. The intent was to identify and bring together the opportunities and challenges across the region to support a joined up approach to regional economic growth.

The process for development of the Plan was agreed at the WRS Committee on 21 November 2017. The implementation of this was agreed with Chief Executives on 8 December 2017 and the approach endorsed by the Mayoral Forum at their meeting on the 20 April 2018.

A project plan was developed and a consultant (HenleyHutchings) appointed in March 2018 to develop the Plan.

The project was managed through the WRS Office with a steering group of senior managers from all councils, Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WREDA) and the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA). Council CEOs and Mayors (through the Mayoral Forum) also provided guidance to the project.

The Plan was developed through a series of facilitated workshops and action teams involving senior council officers, businesses, central government, iwi and other stakeholders, supported by an external consultant.

Action teams were set up in 4 areas and included councils, private sector and central government:

- Housing
- Resilience and transport
- Economic enablers
- Visitor Attraction

Individual meetings were held with iwi as well as discussions at Ara Tahi.

A number of workshops were undertaken with the Mayoral Forum and Chief Executives Forum.

Discussions with Ministers and the Mayoral Forum occurred in April 2018 and December 2018.

This year has focused on refining the Plan and development of a final document. Alongside this work we have been developing the relationships with central government and looking for opportunities to ensure that the identified transformational elements can be put into place.

The Mayoral Forum endorsed the draft Plan on 21 June 2019 (**Attachment 1**).

1.3 Scope

The scope of the Plan was to identify and assess the significant opportunities that would encourage economic growth and employment across the Wellington region as well as understand the constraints to growth and what actions need to be taken to realise that growth over the medium to long term.

The focus was broad in the sense that while the desire was around identifying economic growth opportunities and constraints, the reality was that this meant looking at housing, transport, resilience and economic conditions as they are all interrelated.

The Plan was to build on existing regional reports and economic data and knowledge, including investment proposed by councils through their long term plans and planned central government investments.

The Plan brings together existing prioritised programmes to look at these from an integrated perspective across the region, focussing on the potential to drive economic growth outcomes.

The content of the Plan includes:

- State of the Economy
- An economic analysis of the region identifying:
 - What is working well
 - Where we are underperforming
 - Cross cutting issues
 - An understanding of current and future local, regional, national & global trends
- Collective Investment Plans (Infrastructure, growth projects, skills etc)
 - When are they planned
 - By whom
 - What is the desired outcome
- Other Interventions that are planned - identification of other interventions across the region which may impact and/or support growth and investment opportunities.
- Gaps and Opportunities – identification of the gaps and opportunities across the region including understanding possible cross regional opportunities.

1.4 Engagement with Government

Mayors met with Ministers in April 2018 to have an initial discussion and to gather support for development of the Plan at a central government level.

Our key messages were:

- Wellington plays a unique role in the New Zealand
- The region has substantial population growth forecast
- The whole of New Zealand benefits – a vibrant Wellington contributes to a vibrant New Zealand
- We want to work in partnership with central government

Ministers stated that they want to see the development of successful, resilient, modern cities with thriving communities. Identifying that systems need to be responsive to change and that urban development, infrastructure and transport are better integrated and aligned.

For central government a successful Plan would:

- Set a clear vision, objectives and urban strategy, articulating what sort of urban form the region wants collectively and how Wellington can grow both up and out

- Integrate work across the plan
- Clearly prioritise initiatives within and across its action areas spatially
- Include a set of economic enablers alongside housing, urban development, transport and resilience
- Identify phasing/timeframes and delivery arrangements

Mayors had a further meeting with Ministers in December 2018 to discuss the first draft of the Plan and how as a region we plan to work together going forward.

The “ask” of central government was:

- Joint working to develop programmes and projects that can then be actioned
- Support to enable the successful delivery of the projects through:
 - A Senior Responsible Officer (SRO)
 - New tools
 - Co-funding
 - Legislative support.

2. Comment

The Plan identifies existing and potential opportunities for investment across the region. It is action oriented, builds on the strengths of the region, and identifies any limitations. It references supporting work programmes to enable partnerships to be developed and help unlock resources to enable implementation.

The work has identified where value can be added, integration achieved and opportunities already in train across the region leveraged – including local activity, central government actions and the private sector.

Wellington’s transformational focus areas are identified as:

1. Developing new housing supply and contemporary urban form – aligning housing and urban form with the future economy and lifestyle aspirations of people across the region
2. Accessing opportunities through transport – design of an efficient multi-modal transport system which supports the region and integrates the economy and urban form
3. Building a modern low-carbon high enterprise economy – further developing our active and innovative, knowledge-focused economy. Seeking to drive clean growth primarily, but not only, through the technology and creative sectors
4. Strengthening our resilience and reducing environmental impact – building regional infrastructure with the capacity to tackle climate change impacts and to better resist disruptive events and enhancing the ability to achieve a quick recovery. Promoting urban development guided by

the requirement to become a zero carbon region and supporting the replanting/planting of trees and sustainable water storage.

Regional commitment to the Plan as well as institutional arrangements that enable ongoing delivery will be necessary for the Plan to be successful. Discussions with Central Government have also reinforced the need for regional commitment and coordination.

3. Next Steps

Over the course of the development of the Plan, work has continued across the region. We have built on the two meetings that Mayors had with Ministers to strengthen our relationships with central government agencies. This has resulted in a partnership being developed between the nine councils and the Ministry for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) for the development of a Regional Growth Framework. This is an opportunity to expand further on the work completed in the Plan and supports the Urban Growth Agenda developed by Government and their desire to see strategic spatial thinking inform investment and decision-making.

Considerable progress has been made on large cross-agency programmes such as Let's Get Welly Moving (LGWM) and smaller-scale projects such as the Māori economic development plan, amongst others.

Our continued commitment to work together for the growth of the region will be an important focus for partnerships to continue to grow.

4. Communication

No communication is required.

5. Consideration of climate change

While individual projects within the Plan may have climate change considerations the matters requiring decision in this report are of a procedural nature and do not require consideration of climate change.

6. The decision-making process and significance

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

6.1 Significance of the decision

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.

6.2 Engagement

Engagement with stakeholders and councils has been undertaken through the development of this Plan. It is proposed that a joint press release be made once all councils have officially endorsed the Plan.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Wellington Regional Investment Plan

Contact Officer: Jennie Mitchell, Group Manager Corporate Support

Reviewed By: Harry Wilson, Chief Executive Officer

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