

2. COMMUNITY FACILITIES – ALLOCATION OF UNSPECIFIED FUNDS

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The purpose of this report is to advise of progress in the consideration of a number of community facility projects, and to recommend the approval of funding for some of these works from the Council's Community Facilities (Unspecified) capital fund.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, the Council has been faced with a number of requests for allocation of funding towards community facility projects. These requests have either originated from community groups or from Community Boards. Community Boards have the day-to-day overview role of community facilities, and their terms of reference provide for an ongoing obligation to identify community needs. Two tools have recently been developed to assist the Council in better addressing these requests.

During the 1999/00 Annual Plan deliberations the Annual Plan Working Party sought a process to enable relative priorities to be established for all bids for new/upgraded facilities in order that funding could be fairly allocated on a priority basis. A resulting weighted attributes evaluation process was used for the first time in 2000. Funding was allocated by the Strategy and Resources Committee to the project accorded the highest priority.

During 2000 the Council reviewed its outputs and standards and, in considering the community facilities output, it was agreed that there should be a strategic review of all Council provided community facilities against a background of the overall supply of facilities i.e. Council, and private.

As a result of this exercise, an extensive database of over 500 facilities (including some 40 Council facilities) has been prepared, together with six community maps which identify the sites of these facilities. The database and other relevant information relating to community facilities was presented to a Committee seminar on 19 April 2000.

A key point identified through the seminar was the ongoing need for compliance with the Council's Management Guidelines, by Community Boards, in the annual review of community facilities, and also the need for due process to be followed where the need was identified for the creation of a new facility. The extensive database now available for each community was considered to be a most useful tool to assist Boards as they evaluated the options for catering for such needs.

UNSPECIFIED COMMUNITY FACILITIES FUNDING

Current funding available through the 2002 Financial Plan is \$341,840. This sum includes a figure of \$137,840 which has been carried forward from the 2000/01 financial year, and \$204,000 from the present financial year.

EVALUATION OF CURRENT PROJECTS

A list of current projects has recently been evaluated. These projects vary widely in context and in cost, and only three at this stage, are deemed appropriate for recommendation for funding support. The detail of these projects follows:

FACILITY	WORK PROPOSED	ESTIMATED COST
Avice Hill Arts and Craft Centre	Internal modification of previously tenanted area, for expanded community use.	\$30,000
South New Brighton Community Centre	Heating upgrade and internal modification.	\$50,000
Fendalton Hall/Community Centre	Modification of former Fendalton Library, attached to existing Hall, to provide for enhanced community use. Work includes the provision of new resource rooms, stores, disabled toilet, stair alteration, and new entry lobby. Fire protection and heating upgrading is also required. (A final report on this alternative use is the subject of a report to the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board and the Property and Major Projects Committee.)	\$218,500 (subject to Council's final approval for this proposal – via the November/December Committee/Council meeting round.)

DISCUSSION

Of the projects considered the only ones which fully qualify in terms of completed processes are those listed. They should therefore be supported for funding this year.

While none of the other proposals have, as yet, completed the process of needs analysis/building-site selection/concept planning/costing some may eventually be worthy proposals in their own right.

Recommendation: That approval be granted for the allocation of funding for the three projects listed, from the 2001/02 Community Facilities (Unspecified) Fund.