

14. COMMUNITY FACILITIES - ALLOCATION OF 2003/04 UNSPECIFIED FUNDS

Officers responsible Community & Recreation and Facility Assets Managers	Author Tony Gemmill, DDI 941-6701
---	---

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 which have the day-to-day overview role of community facilities. The Boards' terms of reference provide for an ongoing obligation to identify community needs.

During the 1999/2000 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, and funding allocated by the Strategy and Resources Committee based on the outcome of the evaluation. A similar process has been used for the allocation of funding during more recent years.

This year, in general terms, attributes considered in this process included:

- Progress to date with the proposal;
- Extent of the proposed use of the facility;
- Risk assessment;
- Flexibility of design;
- Policy alignment; and
- City Plan requirements.

Over the past few months a number of requests have been received for the allocation of funding from the unspecified fund in the current Annual Plan.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Current funding available through the 2004 Financial Plan was \$300,000 (ref page 143). Over recent years the Council has provided the unspecified fund to cover requests for ongoing needs of this type. No further funding is provided beyond the present year.

In November 2003 the Council resolved to acquire and develop land adjacent to the St Albans Community Resource Centre with the unspecified fund being identified as the source for the funding of this particular project. The allocation of approximately \$180,000 for this project means that the sum remaining available for allocation is now \$120,000.

EVALUATION OF CURRENT PROJECTS

Fourteen projects were initially identified for evaluation. These projects varied widely in context, and in cost, and only four were later confirmed for recommendation for funding support.

The projects not recommended for support were either requests for projects not yet fully evaluated or for existing previously approved projects requiring top-up funding.

The detail of the four projects confirmed for evaluation is as follows:

FACILITY	WORK PROPOSED	ESTIMATED COST
Hei Hei Community Centre	Rebuild entranceway and modifications to the kitchen area. The project is aimed at an improved integration of the Centre with Wycola Park. The Park itself is programmed for enhancement works over the next five year period.	\$80,000

New Beginnings Pre-school	<p>(This project relates to modification work in the previously named Linwood Community Childcare Centre – a Council owned facility. A submission from the Preschool was before the Annual Plan subcommittee in 2003, with the outcome being that the “project” should be considered in line with other competing projects.)</p> <p>This Preschool is one of six throughout New Zealand (and the only one in the South Island) to be included within a Ministry of Education “Early Childhood Centres Innovation Programme” which is aimed at a Government commitment to “increasing participation, improving quality, and promoting collaborative relationships in early childhood education”.</p> <p>The Preschool has received \$47,000 from the Ministry toward the project work which is estimated to cost a total of \$115,000.</p>	\$50,000 (amount sought in 2003)
Worcester Street Public Toilets (adjacent to Linwood Community Arts Centre)	The removal of existing fittings (of 1950/60 style), and the building of two self contained toilet units within the existing shell of the building.	\$26,000
Phillipstown Public Toilets (Ferry Road)	Similar to that for the Worcester Street toilets.	\$26,000

DISCUSSION

Of the four projects selected for final evaluation it was considered, by the evaluation team, that the two toilet projects were a lower priority than those based on the upgrading of the two community facilities. It is also worthy of mention, in respect of the toilets, that the Council is currently in the process of developing an Asset Management Plan for the portfolio of 144 public toilets in the city. The future action which may be required for each of the toilets mentioned above should therefore await the outcome from the future business plan.

During the latter stages of the above evaluation process an approach was received from staff dealing with the matter of the Acheson Avenue Urban Renewal Action Plan for some funding support for initiatives related to this particular project. The evaluation team is supportive of a sum of \$20,000 being allocated from the unspecified fund. Further information relating to the use of this funding is included in the public excluded section of the Committee’s agenda.

The evaluation team supports the projects proposed for the Hei Hei Community Centre, and the New Beginnings Preschool. The availability of funding will mean that full support can not be given to each project, but it is understood that final supplementary funding will be pursued from other sources.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the allocation of \$60,000 and \$40,000 respectively be approved for the Hei Hei Community Centre and New Beginnings Preschool projects.
 2. That \$20,000 be approved for use associated with the Acheson Avenue Urban Renewal Action Plan, subject to endorsement of the initiative outlined in the public excluded clause.
 3. That the above funding be allocated from the 2003/04 Community Facilities (Unspecified) Fund.

Chair’s

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.