

## 5. BELFAST COMMUNITY NETWORK

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager, Community Services
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Community Support Unit Manager
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present a request for funding from the Belfast Community Network for research costs (\$3,000).

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Belfast Community Network Inc. has been an integral and important organisation in Belfast since 2001. It arose out of a desire by a variety of community groups in Belfast to provide better co-ordination of community services, activities and programmes.
3. The Belfast Community Trust has offered the Belfast Community Network the opportunity to determine the best use of funds being raised for community facilities in Belfast.
4. To responsibly undertake this role the Network is employing an independent researcher to research the community facility needs of Belfast.

### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. The budget for the proposed research is \$8,943.75 (GST inclusive) which includes 120 hours research fees, mileage and consultation costs. Belfast Community Network is seeking a contribution of \$3,000 towards this cost from the Community Board. The Network presently has a contribution of \$1,000 from Belfast School and hopes to raise a further \$4,000 from sponsorship plus committing \$1,000 of its own funds to the project.
6. The Belfast Community Network has an operating budget of \$133,000 and in the year to March 2005 had a surplus of \$10,000. The balance sheet shows net assets of almost \$29,000 with almost \$17,000 of this being fixed assets.
7. The Network has recently obtained funding from the Community Board of \$1,200 towards the replacement costs of a heat pump.
8. In the latest three financial years, the Belfast Network has received the following grants from the Board via Project funding:

2003/04	\$15,000	towards salary costs
	\$15,000	towards costs of OSCAR
2004/05	\$20,000	towards salary costs (Community Worker and Youth Worker)
	\$10,000	towards costs of OSCAR
2005/06	\$8,000	towards salary costs
	\$5,000	towards costs of OSCAR

9. In the last three financial years the Network has had the following grants from the Community Development Scheme:

2003/04	\$2,000	for power and telephone costs
2004/05	\$2,880	for venue overhead costs
2005/06	\$1,000	for operating costs of community van
	\$1,000	for Administration and overhead costs

10. The Belfast Trust has been established to raise funds for community services and facilities in the Belfast area. A large developer in the area has offered to contribute towards the fundraising. The Belfast Trust intends raising funds for the establishment and ongoing maintenance of a community facility.
11. There are no legal considerations.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board agree to allocate \$3,000 to the funding of the research for the Belfast Community Network.

**CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION**

For discussion.

## **BACKGROUND**

12. The Belfast Community Network was incorporated in 2001 after a series of meetings of local community groups, schools, doctors and members of the Shirley/Papanui Community Board. The Community Network employs a Community Co-ordinator to promote co-ordination amongst the Network's membership and to undertake programmes and activities in the Belfast area that enhance the well-being of Belfast residents and the community.
13. Some of the activities of the Network include:
  - A youth café and associated youth programmes
  - Information and resources
  - Shopping trips for the elderly
  - OSCAR programme
  - Craft group
  - Community Newsletter
  - Running a community facility
  - Community events (including the highly successful Waitangi Day festival in conjunction with Willowbank and Ko Tane).

### **Research Request**

14. The Belfast Trust has been established to raise funds for community services and facilities in the Belfast area. A developer in the area has offered to contribute towards this fundraising. The Belfast Trust intends raising funds for the establishment and ongoing maintenance of a community facility.
15. The Belfast Community Network Inc. has been given the opportunity to provide input to the Belfast Trust on how these funds might best meet the needs of the Belfast community. The Belfast Network's Chairperson is also a member of the Belfast Trust.
16. In order to determine this in a responsible way, the Belfast Network Inc. has contracted an independent researcher to undertake research into the community facility needs of Belfast. The outcomes of this research have the potential to provide the Belfast community with a significant local facility with only a small financial input from the Council and Community Board.

### **Previous Research**

17. The Shirley/Papanui Community Board commissioned a Needs Analysis for the Belfast area in 1996. In terms of community facilities in Belfast, this research made the following observations:
  - (a) Many parents would like a crèche/childcare facility.
  - (b) Noted the possibility of investigating the viability and need for a community cottage.
  - (c) A community centre located on Main North Road would improve Belfast.

However, no detail regarding community facilities was obtained in this research.

18. In 2003 Anglican Care undertook a limited survey of residents in three parts of Belfast. This research was primarily aimed at discovering the role that churches could play in the future of Belfast. The research did show that a community centre would enhance life in the area, although the response was small (4/128 respondents).
19. The draft Belfast Area Plan (November 2004) includes a technical paper on community facilities. This paper notes that "Belfast is...socially fragmented, has little to offer the youth of the area, and does not contain a strong community heart." It also reiterates the "fundamental importance to a community's well-being" of community facilities.

20. The technical paper outlines short (0-5 years), medium (5-10 years) and long-term (over 10 years) actions on the part of Christchurch City Council in relation to community facilities (including schools, places of worship, halls, meeting places, library, visitor centre, museum etc). The short-term actions revolve around the Council communicating with affected groups and agencies to ensure co-ordination of planning and to develop strategies that arise from an ageing population and the deficit of youth activities in the area. Medium-term actions look at library services in the area and providing for a strong community focal point (Sheldon Park and the Supa Centa being core to this approach). The long-term actions investigate a public transport interchange (rail and bus) and the potential of removing heavy traffic from central Belfast.
21. The 1996 research is now ten years old and many of the recommendations from that research have been implemented. The 2003 Anglican Care research is too limited in scope and response to provide any significant information relating to community facilities in the area. The draft Belfast Area Plan community facilities technical paper provides significant information relating to demographics, gaps and the existence of present facilities in the Belfast area. It does not, however, provide detail relating to possible use, type of facility, location and management structure. The research undertaken by Belfast Community Network will supplement the Council's own work. It will play a significant and useful part in the short and medium-term actions described above.

#### **OPTIONS**

22. The Community Board has four options available:
  - (a) To allocate a grant of the full amount requested (i.e. \$3,000).
  - (b) To allocate a partial grant.
  - (c) To decline the application for funding.