

8. \$15,000 SEEDING GRANT FOR BEACH BASED PROGRAMMES

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services
Officer responsible:	Acting Community and Recreation Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Board consideration of options for the \$15,000 allocated as a 'Seeding Grant' for Beach Based programmes in the 2005/06 Project funding round.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In March 2005 the Board considered project funding applications for the 2005/06 financial year. The North Wai Boardriders Club submitted an application requesting funding to cover the wages of a full-time club executive officer position. The Board declined the application, however, and expressed a desire to see beach based programmes and health and safety programmes provided for young people in the area. At this meeting the Board agreed to provide a \$15,000 seeding grant for the Community Recreation Adviser to allocate to such programmes.
3. In June 2005 the Community Recreation Adviser circulated a memorandum to the Board outlining the intention to distribute information regarding the \$15,000 seeding grant to relevant local groups and community organisations. This memorandum raised discussion amongst Board members about how the proposal for this funding had come about, and whether the funding had been tagged to a specific community group or whether it had been intended to be advertised as an 'open tender' as is normal Council process.
4. Minutes from the Project Funding Allocation meeting were checked and it was confirmed that the decision made by the Board had been confirmed as a true and correct record at a subsequent meeting. It is noted that some Board members feel their intentions for the funding were slightly different to what was recorded and confirmed in the official minutes.
5. At the Board meeting on 6 July 2005, staff sought clarification of this issue and it was agreed that this fund would not be publicly advertised. The groups already aware of the fund would be given the opportunity to direct a funding application to the Community Recreation Adviser who would then prepare a report for the Board for approval.
6. Two groups indicated an intention to apply for funding; Canterbury Scholastics Surfing Association and North Wai Boardriders Club. Both groups consulted the Community Recreation Adviser about the projects they were seeking funding for.
7. A cut-off date for applications was communicated to both groups to allow enough time for a report to go to the Board. This was to enable funding decisions to be made prior to the Christmas break given that Summer/early 2006 would be the most appropriate time for programmes to run.
8. On 3 October 2005 Canterbury Scholastics Surfing stated they would not be proceeding with their funding application due to a lack of time and energy to devote to providing the level of information required to support their application. This left one group contesting the funding pool of \$15,000.
9. The remaining group (North Wai) did not submit an application prior to the cut-off date. An application was received after the cut-off date, however the programme information that was submitted did not contain enough detail or scope about the proposed project.
10. In late October, after receiving further information, a report was drafted for the Board outlining the proposed programme to be run by North Wai. The proposal submitted by North Wai involved developing and implementing a beach education programme that targeted primary school aged children. Components of the programme included education about how waves, rips and currents are formed, a basic introduction to surfing and body boarding, education about the importance of warm-ups and stretching and the development of teacher resource packs. A key component of the proposed programme was for North Wai to work with local primary schools and have their programme included in the school science curriculum.

11. Canterbury Surf Lifesaving Association runs a number of beach education programmes at various venues throughout the region and their programmes are regarded as being of high quality. The programme proposed by North Wai was similar to these programmes but not as detailed. With any programme provision it is important not to duplicate services that are already provided unless a need for such additional programmes has been established.
12. This application submitted by North Wai also raised a key question regarding the purpose of the seeding grant. When this money was set aside it was not stated whether the purpose of the funding was for programme development or purely for programme delivery. The request for funding to develop resources as opposed to being used solely for the implementation of programmes raises an interesting point that requires further consideration by the Board.
13. In December 2005 a seminar meeting was held with the Board and a number of Council staff regarding the North Wai Boardriders Club and a range of issues surrounding this group, its lease of clubrooms space and its operations. One of the outcomes from this meeting was an indication from the Board that no further funding would be approved for this group until such a time that the identified issues had been satisfactorily resolved.
14. Given this indication from the Board, staff have not further progressed the application from North Wai. Therefore, there are effectively no applications for the \$15,000 seeding grant and there are only five months remaining in the current financial year.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

15. In March 2005 it was confirmed that \$15,000 be allocated as a seeding grant for Beach Based programmes for the 2005/06 financial year.
16. No applications have been formally processed for this fund and no money has been allocated from the total available funds of \$15,000. Under Council policy, the funding will not be carried forward to the new financial year and the Board will therefore need to either spend the current funding for its intended purpose or reallocate the funding to other projects in the ward area.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board agree to return the money to the Board's Discretionary Fund for reallocation to other projects and consider increasing the amount of money allocated to the Physical Sport and Recreation Fund in the 2006/07 financial year.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted.

OPTIONS

17. The Board may wish to consider the following options in regards to the money allocated as a seeding grant for Beach Based funding.

- (A) \$15,000 be returned to the Board's Discretionary Fund for reallocation to other projects in the 2005/06 financial year.

If the funding is returned to the Board's Discretionary Fund the money can be made available for other projects. The balance of the Board's Discretionary Fund as at 31 January 2006 is \$14,854.

- (B) \$15,000 be returned to the Board Discretionary Fund for reallocation to other projects in the 2005/06 financial year.

In the 2006/07 financial year, instead of allocating funds for this specific project, the Board may consider increasing the amount of money allocated to the Physical Sport and Recreation Fund and tag a specific amount to surfing groups/clubs for relevant projects. A number of surfing organisations applied in the 2005/06 financial year, none of these groups received the maximum funding allocation of \$2,000 due to the total number of applications received.

- (C) \$15,000 be returned to the Board's Discretionary Fund for reallocation to other projects in the 2005/06 financial year.

Allocate project funding in the 2006/07 financial year for the same purpose. If the Board wishes to fund this type of project in the 2006/07 financial year, specific criteria for this fund would need to be developed, along with application timeframes and examples of the types of programmes that would and would not be successful.

- (D) Inform relevant community groups about the existence of this fund and encourage them to make an application.

There are a number of issues that need to be considered when assessing this option:

- Only five months remain in the current financial year and by the time funding is distributed the autumn months would be approaching with a subsequent decrease in demand for programmes.
- Accountability for 2005/06 financial spending is due in July 2006 and because of seasonal timing some groups may not have run their programmes.
- Given the short notice, the experience of the two previous applications for the fund and the possibility of lack of interest from providers, it would be difficult to ensure that programmes are confirmed and the funding allocated before the end of the financial year, by which time it may be too late for the Board to reallocate the funding.

If this is the preferred option of the Board, staff would encourage specific criteria to be developed so that the application and approval process is clear and concise.

PREFERRED OPTION

- (B) \$15,000 be returned to the Board's Discretionary Fund for reallocation to other projects in the 2005/06 financial year.

In the 2006/07 financial year, instead of allocating funds for this specific project the Board may consider increasing the amount of money allocated to the Physical Sport and Recreation Fund and tag a specific amount to surfing groups/clubs for relevant projects.

ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS

The Preferred Option

(B) \$15,000 returned to Board's Discretionary Fund for reallocation to other projects in 2005/06.

In the 2006/07 financial year allocate additional funding to the Physical Sport and Recreation Fund and tag a set amount of this funding specifically to beach/surf programmes and projects.

	Benefits (current and future)	Costs (current and future)
Social	<p>Reallocating the funding to Discretionary allows the money to go towards other suitable projects in the ward rather than be spent simply because the funding has been allocated.</p> <p>Setting aside additional 2006/07 funding ensures viable programmes can be supported to a greater extent and can be clearly focused on meeting the Board's objectives for the funding.</p>	
Cultural		
Environmental		
Economic		
<p>Extent to which community outcomes are achieved: Primary alignment with community outcome a city of healthy and active people. Also contributes to a cultural and fun city.</p> <p>Impact on Council's capacity and responsibilities: An increase in funding provision means there will be an increase in the number of projects contributing to the Council's Community Outcomes. An increase in Council support for grass roots sports club projects will be seen as positive by the local community.</p> <p>Effects on Maori:</p> <p>Consistency with existing Council policies:</p> <p>Views and preferences of persons affected or likely to have an interest:</p> <p>Other relevant matters:</p>		

Maintain the Status Quo (Not Preferred Option)

- (D) Inform relevant community groups about the existence of this fund and encourage them to make an application.

There are a number of issues that need to be considered when assessing this option:

- Only five months remain in the current financial year and by the time funding is distributed the autumn months would be approaching with a subsequent decrease in demand for programmes;
- Accountability for 2005/06 financial spending is due in July and because of seasonal timing some groups may not have run their programmes;
- Given the short notice and experience of the two previous applications for the fund, it could be difficult to ensure that programmes are confirmed and the funding allocated before the end of the financial year, by which time it may be too late for the Board to reallocate funding.

If this is the preferred option of the Board staff would encourage specific criteria to be developed so that the application and approval process is clear and concise.

	Benefits (current and future)	Costs (current and future)
Social	Increased community education about beach safety and participation/appreciation of local resources. Increased participation in community-run programmes.	A lack of clear criteria and robust process for assessing applications could affect people's perception of Council operations. Board funds should not be spent unless it can be clearly shown to meet the objectives for which it was intended. If this option cannot be implemented successfully within this financial year it should not be supported.
Cultural		
Environmental	Increased awareness about the natural beach environment, increased appreciation of the beach environment.	
Economic		
<p>Extent to which community outcomes are achieved: Primary alignment with community outcome a city of healthy and active people. Also contributes to a cultural and fun city.</p> <p>Impact on Council's capacity and responsibilities:</p> <p>Effects on Maori:</p> <p>Consistency with existing Council policies:</p> <p>Views and preferences of persons affected or likely to have an interest:</p> <p>Other relevant matters:</p>		

Option 3

- (C) \$15,000 be returned to the Board's Discretionary Fund for reallocation to other projects in the 2005/06 financial year.

Allocate project funding in the 2006/07 financial year for the same purpose. If the Board wishes to fund this type of project in the 2006/07 financial year, specific criteria for this fund would need to be developed along with application timeframes and examples of the types of programmes that would and would not be successful.

	Benefits (current and future)	Costs (current and future)
Social	Board's initial objectives for the fund still achievable under more clear criteria and process, but delayed until 2006/07.	
Cultural		
Environmental		
Economic		
Extent to which community outcomes are achieved: Primary alignment with community outcome a city of healthy and active people. Also contributes to a cultural and fun city.		
Impact on Council's capacity and responsibilities:		
Effects on Maori:		
Consistency with existing Council policies:		
Views and preferences of persons affected or likely to have an interest:		
Other relevant matters:		