

#### 4. CASEBROOK INTERMEDIATE EDIBLE GARDENS

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager, Community Services Group, DDI 941-8534
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Manager, Community Support Unit
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##### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present an application for funding from Casebrook Intermediate for their Edible Gardens project.

##### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Casebrook Intermediate is located in Veitches Road in the Papanui Ward. It is a decile 5 school.
3. This current application is submitted as a follow-up to a deputation to the Board on 15 August 2007.
4. The Edible Garden provides students with an opportunity to engage in a practical activity promoting life-skills, investigation, self-sufficiency, work ethos and healthy nutrition.
5. The application notes that the programme meets the curricula objectives of a number of school subjects, including: Science, Mathematics, English, Art and Technology. The application further notes that the activity helps to meet the Government's "Initiative Mission On" which requires schools to promote a healthy life-style.
6. Between 16 and 20 students are involved in this programme during the year.
7. The School contracts Organic Garden City Trust to undertake this programme at a cost of \$2,112.50 (plus GST). For this fee the school obtains teaching from this Trust during Term 1, the first three weeks of Term 2, the last three weeks of Term 3 and all of Term 4 – a total of 26 weeks during the year, 3.25 hours per week.
8. The programme helps to meet a number of the outcomes of the Council's LTCCP, namely:
  - A City of Lifelong Learning.
  - A City of People who value and protect the natural environment.
  - A City for recreation, fun and creativity.
  - A Healthy City.
9. The Shirley/Papanui Community Board has a policy with respect to funding requests from schools. This is considered below:

**1. Does the proposal fit with the Community Board's strategic plan/vision?**

Yes. It meets the Board's objective of "Encourage participation of children, youth, aged, Maori, other ethnic groups, people with disabilities, by promoting and supporting community based recreation and education and support programmes."

**2. Are there other sources of funding available to the school?**

Yes, there is a fund available which specifically funds organic gardens in schools. The "WWF Organic Gardens in Schools Fund" has two closing dates per year and an upper limit of \$3,000 per application. The item requested in this application is eligible under this fund. The Co-ordinator of this project has been made aware of this fund and has made an application to the fund.

**3. What is the community benefit?**

The benefit is mainly via students obtaining a knowledge of organic gardening processes as well as an appreciation of a healthy life-style and self-sufficiency.

**4. Can assistance be given through ways other than funding, i.e. advocating on behalf of the school to other agencies and Government, providing advice?**

Yes, assistance can be given through information about other funding available – this has been done.

**5. Is it an isolated request from one school or likely to be a need from all schools? The impact would need to be considered if it was likely to attract other requests.**

There are a number of edible gardens in schools throughout Christchurch and indications are that this is likely to increase. Hence, a grant in this case could lead to further requests from other schools.

**6. Is the funding to help fund a core educational/school programme?**

Yes, the project helps to meet the objectives in the Science, Mathematics, English, Art and Technology curricula. It also helps to meet the “Mission On” programme of the Government which aims to reverse the declining level of physical activity and improve nutrition for children and young people. “Mission On” has a budget of \$67 million over four years.

**7. Do the benefits of the activity pertain primarily to students and/or their immediate families?**

The students and their families are the primary beneficiaries of this programme. Wider, secondary, benefits do accrue to the community in the long-term via students having a greater understanding of healthy lifestyles and hence a lesser burden on society’s health system.

**8. How does this funding request meet the schools objectives to the wider community?**

As noted in 7. above, the long-term society-wide benefit of these programmes is a lessening of a burden on the health system of this country.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. The application did not include a copy of Casebrook Intermediate’s Annual audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2006. These accounts have now been sighted by the author and show that the school had a deficit of \$49,395.

11. The Board has \$50,000 available in its Discretionary budget.

**Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?**

12. Yes.

**LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

13. There are no legal considerations.

**ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

14. Yes.

**Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?**

15. Yes.

## **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

**Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

16. Yes.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

In light of the Board's policy with respect to funding applications from schools and noting in particular points 2, 5 and 6, the staff recommendation is that the Board decline the application due to the following reasons:

- (a) Other funding is available.
- (b) This programme helps to meet core educational curricula as well as the "Mission On" programme.
- (c) Requests from other schools could be stimulated by a decision to fund this project.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION**

That a grant of \$2,500 be made to Casebrook Intermediate towards their edible gardens project, on the proviso that other sources of funding applied for are not granted.