

8. CHARACTER HOUSING MAINTENANCE GRANTS

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Strategy and Planning, DDI 941-8281
Officer responsible:	Programme Manager Liveable City
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To report to the Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Community Board the Character Housing Maintenance Grant applications that have been received for funding in the 2009/10 financial year for properties located within the Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Ward.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. At its meeting on 4 May 2006, the Council adopted guidelines and associated procedures for the processing and administration of applications for Character Housing Maintenance Grants.
3. Under the policy and guidelines approved by the Council, applications for grants are to be reported back to the relevant Community Board, who will then make recommendations to the Character Housing Grants Panel who will make the final decision on grant applications.
4. The Character Housing Grants Panel comprises a representative from each Community Board. Staff will provide specific heritage, urban design and neighbourhood planning advice to assist the panel in its decision making.
5. This report informs the Board of those eligible applications received for Character Housing Maintenance Grants within the Board's area and which are for consideration at this meeting. Given the time frame available between the application deadline and the Board meeting date, full details are not available for circulation with this agenda. Details and photographs as submitted in each application will be displayed at the Board meeting to assist discussion. A summary though of each application has been **separately circulated** to enable members, should they so wish, to view the application properties prior to the Board meeting.
6. The Board is asked to assess applications with regard to their local knowledge and the criteria set out in the Character Housing Maintenance Grants Policy (**attached** as Appendix A) and recommend those applications they consider suitable for a grant to be forwarded to the Character Housing Grants Panel. To assist in the decision making process for each application, a list of criteria together with a weighting process is **attached** as Appendix B. The Boards are asked to consider the merits of each application whilst the Character Grants Panel will consider the level of funding for each application.
7. The Character Housing Grants Panel will meet in October 2009. The Boards current appointee to the Panel is Jeremy Agar, who was appointed for this triennial term.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The funding for the Character Housing Maintenance Grants has been approved by the Council and the funds set aside for this year in the 2009-2019 LTCCP.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

9. Yes, \$50,000 is included in the 2009-19 LTCCP (page 182, Community Grants) for the Character Housing Maintenance Grants Scheme.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

10. The Character Housing Maintenance Grant Policy requires that applicants agree in writing not to demolish or remove the property within 10 years of the awarding of the grant and to repay the grant should the property be sold within 5 years of receipt of the grant. This is provided for in the form of a Property Information Note placed upon the Land Information Memorandum.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

11. The Land Information Memorandum will provide the required form of protection against demolition or removal within 10 years and for the repayment of the grant should the property be sold within 5 years of receipt of the grant.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

12. Yes, the Character Housing Maintenance Grants scheme is aligned to the Community Outcome "*An attractive and well-designed city*" (LTCCP 2009-19, page 50), 'Community Outcome 9. Development provides for, among other things, ensuring "*our lifestyles and heritage are enhanced by our urban environment*" (page 54.) One of the success measures is that "*Christchurch is attractive and well maintained*" (page 54). Progress will be measured using headline indicators including "*perceptions of look and feel of the city*" (page 54). Character Housing Maintenance Grants contribute towards the external upgrading and maintenance of individual family homes which have a distinctive visual character and make a key contribution to the quality and identity of local streets.
13. Within the 'Activities and Services' section of the LTCCP, is "Community Support" which aims to provide project funding and operate community grant schemes at a local level that achieve heritage and environment outcomes (page 176). The Character Housing Maintenance Grants are decided upon at Community Board level with an aim to upgrade and maintain individual family homes which have a distinctive visual character and make a key contribution to the quality and identity of local streets.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

14. Yes, paragraphs 9, 12 and 13 above refer.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

15. The Character Housing Maintenance Grants Scheme aligns with the Character Housing Maintenance Grant Policy. It also aligns with the Strong Communities Strategic Direction by protecting and promoting the heritage character and history of the city and the Liveable City Strategic Direction in protecting Christchurch's heritage buildings and neighbourhood character.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

16. Yes, paragraph 15 above refers

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

17. Not applicable

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

- (a) Receive this information.
- (b) Consider the Character Housing Maintenance Grant applications received.
- (c) Recommend those applications they wish the Character Housing Grants Panel to consider for a grant.
- (d) Confirm that Jeremy Agar is the Board member appointed to represent the Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Community Board at the Character Housing Grants Panel meeting in October 2009.