

8. 2008/09 STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES FUND, SMALL GRANTS FUND AND DISCRETIONARY RESPONSE FUND – END OF PROJECT ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services , DDI 941-8607
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with an end of year accountability report for projects that received funding from the 2008/09 Strengthening Communities Fund (SCF), Small Grants Fund (SGF) and Discretionary Response Fund (DRF).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The amount of the Council's SCF allocated by the Board for the 2008/09 financial year was \$280,000.
3. Successful applicants of the SCF are required to submit a six month accountability report and an end of project accountability report. Attached to this report, (**attachment 1**), is a matrix detailing the information received on the end of project accountability reports.
4. In 2008/09 a new reporting system using a Results Based Accountability framework was introduced. This system uses three key questions to measure the impact and efficacy of projects.
 - How much did you do?
 - How well did you do it?
 - Is anyone better off?
5. The amount of the Council's SGF allocated by the Board for the 2008/09 financial year was \$85,000.
6. Successful applicants of the SGF are only required to submit an end of project accountability report. Attached to this report (**attachment 2**) is a matrix detailing which projects have returned an accountability report and includes staff comments where necessary.
7. The amount of the Community Board's DRF for the 2008/09 financial year was \$60,000.
8. Successful applicants of the DRF are also only required to submit an end of project accountability report. Attached to this report, (**attachment 3**), is a matrix detailing the information received on the end of project accountability reports.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. On 4 July 2008, the Board allocated its Strengthening Communities Funding (\$280,000) across 23 projects.
10. On 13 August, the Board allocated its Small Grants Funding (\$85,000) across 38 projects.
11. During the period of 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, the Board allocated a total of \$53,966 from its Discretionary Response Fund across 10 projects.

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

12. Yes, see LTCCP pages 99 and 100 regarding community grants schemes including Board funding.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

13. There are no direct legal issues involved in this review process.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

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

14. Yes, see LTCCP pages 99 and 100 regarding community grants schemes including Board funding.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

15. The funding allocation process carried out by Christchurch community boards is covered in the Council's Strengthening Communities Strategy.
16. Funding allocations made contributed to fulfilling the Council's 2006-16 Strategic Objectives (Strong Communities) and Community Outcomes (Governance and Community), are aligned with the Strengthening Communities Strategy 2007 and contribute to meeting the Board's Objectives for the 2006-09 period.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

17. Yes, as per paragraph 15 above.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

18. Not required.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board receive the information.

BACKGROUND

End of Project Accountability Reports

19. In total, 71 projects received a grant in 2008/09 from the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board's Strengthening Communities Fund, Small Grants Fund, or the Discretionary Response Fund.
20. Staff are following up with any group that has not completed their end of project accountability report. It should be noted that groups who were allocated funding for the 2009/10 year did not have their funding released until an accountability report for 2008/09 had been received.

New accountability measures – Results Based Accountability

21. In 2008/09, a new accountability system, based on a Results Based Accountability framework developed by Mark Friedman, was implemented to better measure the impact and efficacy of the projects funded.
22. Results Based Accountability starts with the desired 'ends' and works backward, step by step, to the 'means'. For example – for communities, the ends are conditions of well-being for children, adults, families and the community as a whole such as residents with good jobs, a safe neighbourhood, or a clean environment.
23. The system uses three basic questions:
 - How much did you do?
 - How well did you do it?
 - Is anyone better off?
24. Mark Friedman is a speaker, consultant and author of the book '*Trying Hard Is Not Good Enough: How to Produce Measurable Improvements for Customers and Communities*'. Mr Friedman directs the Fiscal Policy Studies Institute (FPSI) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. His work has been used in over 40 states in America and countries around the world, including Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, the Netherlands and Norway.

25. Mark Freidman gave a presentation on the Results Based Accountability System for Elected Members on 10 June 2009 at Civic Chambers.
26. All groups that received funding in the 2008/09 year were invited to attend a seminar with Mark Friedman on 5 December 2008. The seminar explained the reasoning behind Results Based Accountability and showed groups how to measure their project's outcomes in this way.
27. Staff have also been trained on the Results Based Accountability System and have been available to groups to help them to complete their accountability reports