

10. CHARACTER HOUSING MAINTENANCE GRANTS

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Strategy and Planning, DDI 941-8177
Officer responsible:	Programme Manager Liveable City
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To obtain delegated authority for the Character Housing Grants Panel to award individual grants of up to \$5,000 for external maintenance works to owners of character residential properties located within Christchurch City (including Banks Peninsula) within a total budget allocation of \$100,000.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. At its meeting on 4 May 2006 the Council considered a report setting out recommended guidelines, and associated procedures for the processing and administration of applications for character housing maintenance grants. The Council adopted the guidelines and policies set out in the report and also resolved that, should a property which has been the subject of a grant be sold within five years of the maintenance grant being made, the grant be returned to the Council's funding pool for subsequent "character home" reallocation.
3. Under the policy and guidelines approved by the Council on 4 May 2006, applications for grants are to be reported back to the relevant Community Board, who will then make recommendations to the Character Housing Grants Panel.
4. The Character Housing Grants Panel will consist of a representative from each Community Board, and Strategy and Planning Group Staff to provide specific heritage, urban design and neighbourhood planning advice to assist the panel.
5. Although the earlier report to the 4 May Council meeting intended that the Character Housing Grants Panel be delegated power to finally approve grant applications, the report omitted any specific recommendation to this effect.
6. Therefore, this report seeks approval for the panel to be delegated power to make final decisions on the awarding of grants, and the quantum of such grants.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. There are no financial implications as the financing of the Character Housing Maintenance Grants has already been approved by the Council and the funds set aside in the 2006-2016 LTCCP for this year and the following three years. The policy and grant provisions are to be reviewed after four years from commencement of this programme. The Character Housing Grants Panel shall meet at the end of each year of the programme to review the achievements and effectiveness of the Character Housing Maintenance Grants programme.
8. Under Clause 32 of the 7th Schedule of the Local Government Act 2002 the Council has the ability to grant the subcommittee delegated power to approve such grants.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that pursuant to Clause 32 of the 7th Schedule of the Local Government Act 2002 the Council delegate power to the Character Housing Grants Panel to approve individual grants of up to \$5,000 for external maintenance works to owners of character residential properties located within Christchurch City (including Banks Peninsula) within the guidelines previously approved by the Council on 4 May 2006.