

16. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES GRANTS FUNDING PROGRAMME OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES (2007)

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services, DDI 941-8534
Officer responsible:	Community Development Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To recommend the adoption of the Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme Operational Procedures (2007). (Appendix A)
2. To recommend the revocation of the following policies:
 - (a) Community Funding Policy (1990-2003) (Appendix B),
 - (b) Discretionary Funding Policy (1990 and 2000) (Appendix C)
 - (c) Metropolitan Funding Committee: Funding of Council Projects (1990). (Appendix D).
3. To provide further detail on information provided at the September 4, 2007 Council Seminar.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4. The Council adopted the Strengthening Communities Strategy on 12 July 2007. The strategy incorporated the Community Group Grants Review which provided the framework, principles and funding outcomes for the new Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme.
5. The Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme comprises four new funding schemes, which supersede all previous community group grant schemes, sub-schemes and categories. The new schemes are:
 - (a) Strengthening Communities Fund
 - (b) Small Projects Fund
 - (c) Discretionary Response Fund
 - (d) Community Organisations Loan Scheme
6. The Council resolved at its 12 July 2007 meeting that staff review the Community Funding Policy (1990-2003), Discretionary Funding Policy (1990 and 2000) and the Metropolitan Funding Committee: Funding of Council Projects (1990) and report back on their revocation or modification.
7. Draft Operational Procedures (2007) are attached as Appendix A. These procedures will replace the Community Funding Policy (1990-2003), Discretionary Funding Policy (1990 and 2000) and the Metropolitan Funding Committee Resolution: Funding of Council Projects (1990). These procedures continue the current Community Board delegated powers and provide the machinery to ensure that grants can be made with funding rounds approaching in the new year.
8. A search of the Register of Delegations was undertaken to identify existing delegations that would require amendment to ensure legal alignment for the new Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme.
9. The current delegations show that the Council has delegated its full powers of decision-making for metropolitan grant funding to the Metropolitan Funding Subcommittee. In addition, the Council has also added community representatives to the Metropolitan Funding Subcommittee to determine and make final allocation decisions for the Metropolitan Community Development Scheme.
10. At the local level, the Council has delegated full discretion to the community boards only for the discretionary fund allocation of \$60,000 (city-based boards), subject to the boards being consistent with any policies or standards adopted by the Council. For all other grant funding determined at the local level, the Council has retained the financial delegated authority with boards required to provide their decisions as a "Part A" report to Council.

11. There is no recommendation to change any of the financial and decision-making delegations, apart from the delegations register being amended to accurately reflect the replacement of the superseded grants schemes by the new grant funding schemes.
12. In making the amendments to the Delegations Register, it is acknowledged that it is the practice of the Council that delegations made to community boards, committees and subcommittees will continue for the term of the Council in which they are made. Each new Council at the commencement of its term reconsiders the delegations to be made to community boards, committees and subcommittees.
13. It should be noted that there is an inconsistency between current delegations to all Community Boards and the Community Funding policy in so much as the Policy provides for delegated authority for local committees to make funding decisions. Current delegations (and practice) is that, apart from the \$60,000 discretionary fund, all other funding decisions require confirmation by the Council through a Part A report. It is recommended that delegations for Community Boards, in respect to the Community Grants programme, be addressed as part of a delegations review for Community Boards post election.
14. A draft amendment for page 3 and page 18 of the Delegations Register is attached as Appendix E.
15. Further information was requested for the new Strengthening Communities Grants Funding schemes to enable a comparative view of the new funding schemes. This information is provided in a matrix format as Appendix F.
16. Further information was also sought on the process for the Key Local Organisations (KLO), which is a component of the Metropolitan Strengthening Communities Fund. The process to determine if a "local" funding application should be processed as a KLO is as follows:
 - (a) Staff will assess the application as a possible KLO based on:
 - Strengthening Communities Strategy Principles and Goals
 - Funding outcomes and priorities as set out in Strengthening Communities Strategy
 - Alignment to local Community Board objectivesand
 - Projects deliver benefits to the city outside of the local Board area
 - Key community issues contemplated under Goal 2 of the Strengthening Communities Strategy
 - (b) Community Board decides whether the application is for a KLO and prioritise applications if more than one. Community Board may decide against putting application forward as a KLO.
 - (c) The Metropolitan Funding Subcommittee will make decisions based on affordability and priorities as above. Good communication between the Metropolitan Funding Subcommittee and Boards will be essential to ensure a good understanding of recommendations and decisions.
17. Following the decision of the Metropolitan Funding Subcommittee, any unsuccessful KLO applications are returned to the respective Community Boards for their consideration at the local level. There is no pre-determined amount of funding in the Metropolitan Strengthening Communities for the KLO applicants.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

18. The Council has approved the funding envelope of \$8.312m per annum for the Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme in the LTCCP. No amendments to this are being sought.
19. There are no recommendations in this report to change the financial delegation of the Metropolitan Funding Subcommittee or the Community Boards. The amendments sought are to delete all obsolete references to the superseded grants schemes contained in current policies and delegations.

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

20. This report and the proposed amendments to Council Policy and Delegated Authorities are consistent with the budgets provided in the LTCCP.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

21. The amendments sought for Council Policy and Delegated Authorities are to provide accuracy and up-to-date documentation and is not inconsistent with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002. Advice from Legal Services and Democracy Services has been sought for guidance on issues.

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

22. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

23. The amendments sought for Council Policy and Delegated Authorities are to provide accuracy and up-to-date documentation and is not inconsistent with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002. Advice from Legal Services and Democracy Services has been sought.

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

24. The recommendations of this report support the level of service in the Community Support Group of Activities in relation to the percentage satisfaction with the quality of support provided to target community groups.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

25. This report recommends the adoption of Council Policy and amendment of Delegated Authorities. This is in alignment with Council's Strategic Directions, most notably the following in the Strong Communities area:
26. *Help communities to meet their needs, by:*
 - *Targeting those who are most disadvantaged;*
 - *Funding and supporting community organisations, initiatives and festivals that help to achieve the city's Community Outcomes;*
 - *Initiating and supporting community development projects;*
 - *Helping public, private and community agencies work together to address key areas of social need;*
 - *Encouraging people to take part in community groups and voluntary activities;*
 - *Encouraging people to take responsibility for themselves and their families.*

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

27. The consultation process for the grants review included engagement with an external reference group that comprising people from community and voluntary organisations and relevant government agencies.
28. The public consultation process for the grants review took place between 7 November 2006 and 31 January 2007.
29. A hearings panel also heard oral submissions on 26 February 2007, with 43 submitters making oral submissions.
30. The Hearings Panel met on 23 April 2007 to consider the feedback and it was decided that further dialogue would be undertaken with selected submitters. These meetings took place on 18 and 25 May 2007.
31. Two further seminars were held on 5 June 2007 and 4 September 2007.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

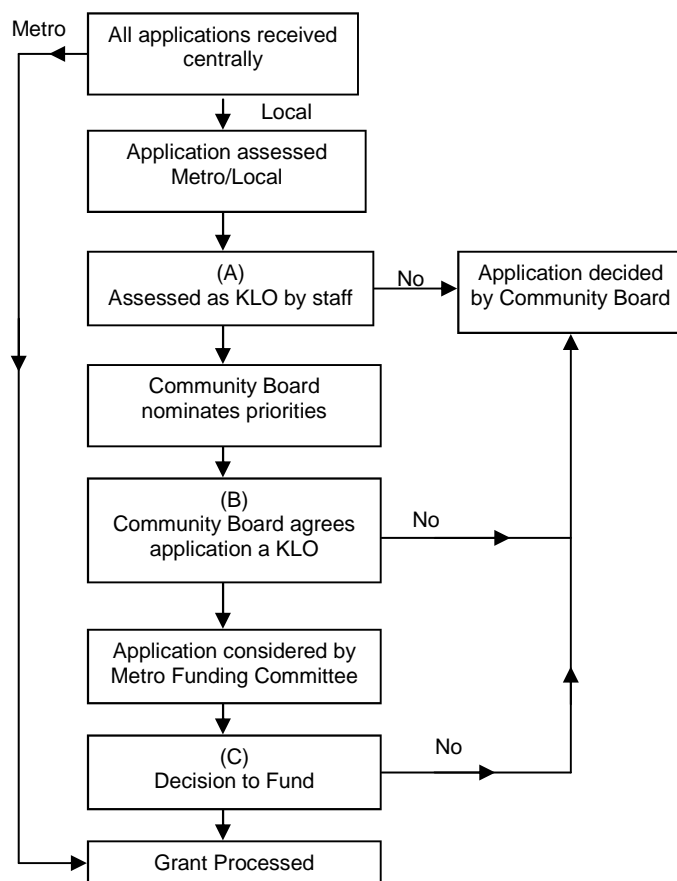
It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Approve the Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme Procedures (2007) (Appendix A).
- (b) Revoke the following policies:
 - Community Funding Policy (1990-2003) (Appendix B),
 - Discretionary Funding Policy (1990 and 2000) (Appendix C)
 - Metropolitan Funding Committee: Funding of Council Projects (1990). (Appendix D).
- (c) Agree to review the delegations for Community Boards, in respect to the Community Grants programme, following the 2007 elections.
- (d) Approve the amendments to the Delegations Register attached as Appendix E.
- (e) Approve the Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Criteria as set out in Appendix F.

BACKGROUND (THE ISSUES)

32. Council adopted the Strengthening Communities Strategy on 12 July 2007.
33. The Strengthening Communities Strategy incorporated the Community Group Grants Review which provided the framework, principles and funding outcomes for the new Community Grants Funding Programme.
34. The Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme, as adopted, comprises four new funding schemes:
 - (a) Strengthening Communities Fund
 - (b) Small Projects Fund
 - (c) Discretionary Response Fund
 - (d) Community Organisations Loan Scheme
35. The new funding schemes enable Council to support and provide leverage opportunities for not-for-profit, community focused groups seeking funding in support of their community endeavours.
36. The new funding schemes, with the exception of the Community Organisations Loan Scheme, are available at the metropolitan level and the local ward area level.
37. The new grant funding schemes supersede all previous community group grants schemes, sub-schemes and categories.
38. The superseded grants schemes had been in place for a number of years and had grown and evolved since that time. As the number of schemes, sub-schemes and categories have developed over the years, so too has the level of confusion around the various schemes, both within Council and in the community.
39. Council resolved at its 12 July, 2007 meeting that staff review the Community Funding Policy (1990-2003), Discretionary Funding Policy (1990 and 2000) and the Metropolitan Funding Committee: Funding of Council Projects (1990) and report back on their revocation or modification.
40. The Community Funding Policy (1990-2003) is substantially obsolete as it refers to the previous schemes that have been superseded.
41. The Discretionary Funding Policy (1990 and 2000) is substantially obsolete as it also refers to previous schemes that have been superseded.
42. The Metropolitan Funding Subcommittee: Funding of Council Projects (1990) is still applicable and will be retained in any new metropolitan policy.
43. Relevant and appropriate policy is now required for the new Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme due to the existing policy being obsolete.
44. A draft Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme Procedures(2007) is attached as Appendix A. This policy will replace the Community Funding Policy (1990-2003), Discretionary Funding Policy (1990 and 2000) and the Metropolitan Funding Subcommittee Resolution: Funding of Council Projects (1990).

45. A search of the Register of Delegations was undertaken to identify existing delegations that would require amendment to ensure legal alignment for the new Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme, particularly with respect to the decision-making committees suggested for the grants schemes.
46. The current delegations show that Council has delegated its full powers of decision-making for metropolitan grant funding to the Metropolitan Funding Subcommittee. The Metropolitan Funding Subcommittee has full decision-making powers for the: Annual Grants to community organisations: Social Initiatives and Development Fund, (incorporating the Metropolitan Discretionary Community Discretionary Fund, the Metropolitan/City-Wide Projects Fund and the Metropolitan Strengthening Communities Action Plan (SCAP) Fund) Community Loans Scheme.
47. In addition, in the current delegations, Council has also added community representatives to the Metropolitan Funding Subcommittee to determine and make final allocation decisions for the Metropolitan Community Development Scheme.
48. At the local grants level, Council has delegated full discretion to the community boards only for the Discretionary Fund allocation of \$60,000 (city-based Boards), subject to the boards being consistent with any policies or standards adopted by the Council. For all other grant funding determined at the local level, Council has retained the financial delegated authority with boards required to provide their decisions as a Part A report to Council.
49. There is no recommendation to change any of the financial and decision-making delegations for either the Metropolitan Funding Committee or the Community Boards. However, it is recommended that the delegations register be amended to accurately reflect the replacement of the superseded grants schemes by the new grant funding schemes.
50. In making the amendments to the Delegations Register, it is acknowledged that it is the practice of Christchurch City Council that delegations made to community boards, committees and subcommittees will continue for the term of the Council in which they are made. Each new Council at the commencement of its term reconsiders the delegations to be made to community boards, committees and subcommittees
51. A draft amendment for page 3 and page 18 of the Delegations Register is attached as Appendix E.
52. At a Council seminar on 4 September 2007, further information was requested for the new Strengthening Communities Grants Funding schemes to enable a comparative view of the new funding schemes. This information is provided in a matrix format as Appendix F.
53. Further information was also sought on the process for the Key Local Organisations (KLO), which is a component of the Metropolitan Strengthening Communities Fund.
54. Following the decision of the Metropolitan Funding Subcommittee, any unsuccessful KLO applications are returned to the respective Community Boards for their consideration at the local level. There is no pre-determined amount of funding in the Metropolitan Strengthening Communities for the KLO applicants.



THE OBJECTIVES

55. To provide clear direction for the Strengthening Communities Grant Funding Programme, incorporating the four new grant funding schemes.
56. To have new procedures adopted that are relevant and appropriate for the new Strengthening Communities Grant Funding Programme.