


19. METROPOLITAN DISCRETIONARY RESPONSE FUND APPLICATIONS



General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services, DDI 941-8607
Officer responsible:	Community Support Manager
Author:	Matthew Pratt, Community Grants Team Leader

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is for the Council to consider 16 applications, requesting a total of \$263,104, to the December round of the 2008/09 Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund consists of \$170,000. The purpose of the fund is to assist community groups where the project and funding request falls outside other Council funding criteria and/or closing dates. This fund is also for emergency funding for unforeseen situations.
3. Applications requesting over \$15,000 require consideration by the Metropolitan Funding Committee.
4. For the December round of the fund, two applications have been received requesting over \$15,000 and therefore requiring a decision from the Council.
5. These applications are from:
 - Dance and Physical Theatre Trust
 - Ka Wahine Ki Otautahi Trust
6. An additional 14 applications have also been received requesting under \$15,000. These applications are from:
 - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Society (Canterbury)
 - Birthright Christchurch Inc
 - Brain Injury Association (Canterbury/West Coast) Inc
 - Canterbury Neighbourhood Support
 - Canterbury Upp Club
 - Christchurch Resettlement Services
 - DARE Canterbury Inc.
 - New Zealand Spinal Trust
 - Olympia Gymnastic Sports
 - Otamahua/Quail Island Ecological Restoration Trust
 - Positive Directions Trust
 - Project Port Lyttelton
 - SEEDS (Young 1s and Shuffle Bumz)
 - Step Ahead Trust
7. In order for the assessment process to be seen as fair and transparent, all applications for the December round should be considered against each other, on a project by project basis. As a result, the Council will be required to make recommendations for all 16 applications to the December round of the Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund.
8. A Decision Matrix is **attached** as Appendix A to assist the Council in its deliberations. The Decision Matrix details the funding request from each applicant organisation and provides information, commentary and recommendations from staff.
9. There is currently \$87,200 available to allocate in the Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund. Staff recommend the Council approve funding for 10 of the applicants totalling \$87,200. This would leave \$0 available for the remainder of the 2008/09 funding year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. Accepting staff recommendations would grant \$87,200 to 10 applicants, leaving \$0 available in the Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund for the remainder of the 2008/09 funding year.

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

11. Yes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

12. None.

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

13. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

14. Yes, Community Support.

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

15. Yes, Community Grants.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

16. Strengthening Communities Strategy.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

17. Yes, Strengthening Communities Strategy.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

18. N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council consider and approve the recommendations contained in the **attached** Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund Decision Matrix (December Round 2008/09).

BACKGROUND

20. The Council adopted the Strengthening Communities Strategy on 12 July 2007.
21. The strategy incorporated the Community Group Grants Review which provided the framework, principles and funding outcomes for the new Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme.
22. The Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme comprises four funding schemes. The schemes are:
 - I. Strengthening Communities Fund
 - II. Small Projects Fund
 - III. Discretionary Response Fund
 - IV. Community Organisations Loan Scheme
23. The Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund consists of \$170,000.
24. The purpose of the fund is to assist community groups where the project and funding request falls outside other Council funding criteria and/or closing dates. This fund is also for emergency funding for unforeseen situations.
25. Applications to the fund for \$15,000 or under are assessed by staff and discussed by a cross-unit Council staff team. The cross-unit team meet on a monthly basis to discuss applications.
26. After discussions, recommendations are made to the Community Support Manager. The Community Support Manager currently has delegation to approve applications to the fund up to the amount of \$15,000.
27. Applications requesting over \$15,000 go before the Metropolitan Funding Committee for consideration.
28. As a result of findings in the Strengthening Communities Grants Programme Evaluation 2008/09, staff have been tasked with investigating options that will make the process more robust and include elected member input for all decisions. Staff will report back with a number of options to the Council. The new process will be in place for the 2009/10 funding year.
29. As of 1 November 2008, 26 applications to the fund, requesting a total of \$174,670, have been made and assessed by staff.
30. \$82,800 has been granted to date. A total of \$87,200 remains in the fund.
31. A summary of the 2008/09 Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund is **attached** for information as Appendix B.
32. For the December round of the Fund, two applications have been received requesting over \$15,000 and therefore requiring a decision from the Council.
33. These applications are from:
 - Dance and Physical Theatre Trust
 - Ka Wahine Ki Otautahi Trust
34. An additional 14 applications have also been received requesting under \$15,000. These applications are from:
 - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Society (Canterbury)
 - Birthright Christchurch Inc
 - Brain Injury Association (Canterbury/West Coast) Inc

- Canterbury Neighbourhood Support
 - Canterbury Upp Club
 - Christchurch Resettlement Services
 - DARE Canterbury Inc.
 - New Zealand Spinal Trust
 - Olympia Gymnastic Sports
 - Otamahua/Quail Island Ecological Restoration Trust
 - Positive Directions Trust
 - Project Port Lyttelton
 - SEEDS (Young 1s and Shuffle Bumz)
 - Step Ahead Trust
35. In order for the assessment process to be seen as fair and transparent, all applications for the December round should be considered against each other, on a project by project basis. As a result, the Council will be required to make recommendations for all 16 applications to the December round of the Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund.
36. A Decision Matrix is **attached** as Appendix A to assist the Council in its deliberations. The Decision Matrix details the funding request from each applicant organisation and provides information, commentary and recommendations from staff.
37. Staff recommend the Council approve funding for 10 of the applicants totalling \$87,200. This would leave \$0 available for the remainder of the 2008/09 funding year.
38. \$7,932 remains unallocated from the 2008/09 Metropolitan Small Projects Fund. At the Decision meeting, staff were given discretion to allocate this funding with the approval of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Small Projects Assessment Committee.
39. Four of the applications received for the Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund have been recommended 2.2 due to insufficient funding. However, for three of the four applications, staff are recommending that grants be made to these organisations using the unallocated funds that currently exist in the Metropolitan Small Projects Fund.
40. These recommendation are as follows and can be seen on the Decision Matrix:
- Canterbury Upp Club \$3,000
 - Birthright Christchurch Inc \$2,000
 - DARE Canterbury Inc. \$2,932
41. All applications appearing on the Decision Matrix have been assigned a Priority Rating. The Priorities Ratings are as follows:
- P1** Meets all eligibility and criteria and contributes **significantly** to Funding Outcomes and Priorities.
- Highly recommended for funding.
- P2.1** Meets all eligibility and criteria and contributes to Funding Outcomes and Priorities.
- Recommended for funding
- P2.1** Meets all eligibility and criteria and contributes to Funding Outcomes and Priorities.
- Not recommended for funding due to insufficient funding being available.
- P3** Meets all eligibility and criteria and has **minimum** contribution to Funding Outcomes and Priorities and/or other funding sources are more appropriate.
- Not recommended for funding.

42. Priority 1 recommendations generally meet the following criteria:

- Impact the project has on the city
- Reach of the project
- Depth of the project
- Political sensitivity
- Value for Money
- Best Practice
- Innovation
- Strong alignment to Council Outcomes and Priorities
- Noteworthy leverage or partnership/match funding from other organisations or government departments.

43. Priority 2.1 recommendations generally meet the following criteria:

- Value for money
- Impact of the project (both reach and depth of project)
- Best Practise
- Innovation
- Alignment to Council Outcomes and Priorities
- Noteworthy leverage or partnership/match funding from other organisations or government departments.