

LTCCP 2006-16 Submission - Received by Email

Name: Ross Banbury [rossb@papbap.org.nz]

CC:

Sent: Fri 5/05/2006 16:56

Your Submission:

Thank you for the chance to submit to the "Our Community Plan" document and process.

I am a Community based youth worker in Papanui, and have been for the last five years. Previous to this I was employed in the same type of work in New Brighton for six and a half years.

I would like to highlight some thoughts from my point of view;

- * On page 101 of the Draft Plan the cost of proposed services has Community Grants as being \$4,245,000. To my understanding, the amount previously for Community Grants was \$8,200,000. Can you please enlighten as to why there is a reduction?
- * There was talk recently within the Council of reducing the \$8.2m of Community grants by \$2.0m. Can the Council give an assurance that this full amount of funding is secure, both now and in the future?
- * On page 97 under the Prosperity heading it reads "By helping communities stand on their own feet, so they are better able to prosper." While I understand the broad meaning of this statement, it can also be used as a euphemism, by which a funding group will stop support to a group, project, or community, and tell them to 'stand on their own feet'. Some community groups will be able to become self supporting due to the strength they develop and also if they can keep costs down or spread their funding base. There are also groups who do wonderful work in the community who will always be reliant on funding, not because of a lack of ability, but because they work with a target market with no ability to pay the true costs of the services they absorb. Please don't make the mistake of making these groups become full time fundraisers rather than service providers to the community, or risking their existence completely by reducing or cutting funding. They are the heart of our community.
- * On Page 9 of the Summary Draft it reads "The Council has identified where it can save money." Can the staff and Council give an assurance that any money saved will not be a cost to the community later on as the effects of the withdrawal of services ripples down through the years? I fear for the children and families who need an active Council with heart and action to be the strong voice for them the way the Council once was.
- * I would like to see the Community Board Funded Projects be increased from \$390,000 per year to \$500,000. The dollar value in terms of product power from this funding is incredibly significant. I believe it would have the best value per dollar of any money spent by the Council. What some groups do with grants of \$500 - \$1000 is truly inspiring. The Press recently reported that the Community Boards nearly had their funding cut to \$300,000 per year (25%), the proposal being narrowly defeated in a vote of 7 to 6 by the Councillors. That a vote was even taken on this is of real concern. I struggle to see the logic or sense in this kind of thinking. It is out of step with reality. On page 12 of the Summary Draft it defines success as "Satisfaction with the way the Council involves the public in decision-making." Was the public consulted in the option of reducing Community Board Funding by 25%? Were Council staff consulted?

**Your Submission
(Cont'd):**

- * I would support an increase in the Community Development Funding allowance to each Funding Assessment Committee. To maintain this valuable community initiative, this amount needs to be increased.
- * I would like to thank the Council for their heart for the community in the past and hope this continues.
- * The proposed Papanui Aquatic Centre (Page 15 of the Summary Draft) is a great project and we are waiting with our togs and towel ready! This has widespread support.
- * Those who prepared the booklets for the Community Plans need to be congratulated on delivering fine presentations that are clear, concise and easy for someone like myself to read. Thanks.

Thank you for the chance to present these submissions.
I wish to present my submissions in person as well.

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