

8. PROJECT TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR BEST PRACTICE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING WITH VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS RR 9209

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Corporate Plan Output: Policy Advice	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of participation in a proposed project to improve practice for local government contracting with voluntary organisations.

INTRODUCTION

MacKinlay Douglas (MDL), a Wellington based public policy consultancy firm, is developing a project on best practise guidelines for local government contracting with voluntary community agencies. The project will be developed with and funded by a group of TLAs and Community Trusts.

PROJECT

The project has two objectives:

1. To provide a practical best practices guide to contracting,
2. To improve co-ordination of contracting/funding principles and practice across sector, (including putting local authority policy development more centre-stage with central government).

Best Practice Guide for Contracting with Voluntary Organisations

This would involve developing a best practice guide for local authorities to be used when contracting with voluntary organisations. It would provide a practical framework for the active and effective management of contract-based funding of voluntary services and activity. The emphasis would be on *relationship contracting* based on outcomes, investment, capability, capacity, trust, longer term planning, and risk sharing.

Co-ordination of Contracting/Funding Principles and Practice Across Sectors

This objective involves developing a concrete set of proposals for local government to present to central government about the expectations and practices both sectors could follow in their approaches to and practices for contracting with voluntary organisations.

The project will be developed with and funded by a group of TLAs and Community Trusts. Auckland City has confirmed it is 'on board' with the proposed project, Waitakere, Manukau, Wanganui (possibly in conjunction with the Trustbank Wanganui Community Trust), Hutt, Wellington and Hamilton Council are in the process of seriously considering their participation.

BENEFITS TO CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

The main advantage of this project is that is a joint TLA project. The collaboration between TLAs will allow sharing of knowledge and experience and therefore the identification of current best practice. It will also ensure there is consistency between local authorities. The success of the project will largely depend on the number of TLAs that participate.

MDL has a reputation for producing quality work. I have no doubts that it will provide an excellent document which meets the first objective of the project. MDL is at the 'cutting edge' of central government policy development. It is aware of political and policy trends. Its knowledge and networks will mean that the Council will be kept informed of direction of central government policy.

By being involved in the project the Council will be involved in the Steering Group and therefore will be able to influence the direction of the project.

COSTS AND RISKS TO THE COUNCIL

The project fee is \$10,000.00 (which could be spread over two financial years).

There is a great deal of work currently being undertaken in the field of contracting with the voluntary sector. Central government has an Inter-agency Working Group investigating best practises. Sections of the voluntary sector are currently investigating self regulation. These other projects make it all the more important the local government as the other key sector has developed its own understanding of best practice.

It is proposed that Christchurch City's involvement be subject to the participation of other major Councils and that its contribution be negotiable depending on the number of TLAs contributing. Funding for this project is available within existing budget.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.