

Officer responsible Community Relations Manager	Author Julie Macdonald
Corporate Plan Output: Social Initiatives Funding and Monitoring	

The purpose of this report is to put forward a proposal to advance the Employees in the Community initiative as discussed recently by David Halley in a Committee Seminar. This follows reports in September 1998 and February 1999 (available on Council's website www.ccc.govt.nz/Council/).

BACKGROUND

In August David Halley from 'Business in the Community' in the United Kingdom visited Christchurch and spoke to Councillors in a seminar. He was accompanied by Bill Buxton from the Volunteer Centre in Wellington and Ruth Gardner and Katherine Peet from the Canterbury Volunteer Centre. The purpose of David Halley's presentation was to provide Councillors with some background to the philosophy and structure of the well established project in the UK and to promote links between the New Zealand project based in Wellington and the Christchurch initiative (minutes from this meeting have been circulated and a UK document is attached to this report as Appendix One).

Prior to this visit Council had been approached by the Canterbury Volunteer Centre requesting \$15,000 towards employing a local co-ordinator to develop a Christchurch programme. The Committee declined that request as it wanted to wait to see what sort of national commitment there would be by the Government.

DEVELOPMENTS

Since the Canterbury Volunteer Centre made the initial request the Wellington Volunteer Centre has received funding from the Government to develop a proposal for a nationally co-ordinated project. (This is separate from the local Wellington Employees in the Community project to which the Wellington City Council has contributed \$50,000). The Canterbury Volunteer Centre is still interested in developing an employee volunteer programme in Christchurch but now recognises that, before a co-ordinator is appointed, there will need to be a scoping exercise undertaken. Details of this proposal are attached as appendix two. City Council staff, Brigid Lenihan from the Canterbury Development Corporation and the Canterbury Volunteer Centre all agree that a scoping exercise would be the best way to progress this project. It will enable the experience offered by David Halley and others, as well as the Wellington project, to be incorporated into the model proposed for Christchurch. As Councillors pointed out at the seminar, it would be useful to build on the significant work already being done internationally.

PROPOSAL

The Canterbury Volunteer Centre requests that Council provides \$13,000 to enable the three month scoping exercise to take place. This amount is broken down as follows:

Wages	\$11,000
Accommodation	\$500
Mileage and parking	\$1,000
Phone and incidentals	\$500
Total	\$13,000

The cost of the project has already been reduced by the contribution of office space and some resources, leaving the wages component as the main resource required. Bill Buxton has emphasised that the person employed to do this work will need to have significant experience and credibility in both community and business sectors.

CONCLUSION

Given the work currently being done on this project at a national level the proposal to carry out a scoping exercise in Christchurch seems a sensible one. This will allow initial networking, information gathering and planning to be done which will both benefit the eventual implementation of the project and enable the local project to benefit from international and national work.

This application has been assessed against the outcomes of the Community Development and Social Well-being Policy (as are all applications for funding through the metropolitan Community Development Team). Staff consider that this project indirectly contributes to several of the outcomes identified by the Policy. A record of this assessment is attached as appendix three.

Councillors' enthusiasm for the presentations by David Halley and Bill Buxton seems to indicate that the Council may be interested in supporting this project. Providing funding for the scoping project would enable the project to be properly developed before any further commitment is sought.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Canterbury Volunteer Centre be granted \$13,000 from Community Initiatives Discretionary Funding to undertake a three month scoping project on employees in the community.
 2. That (if the first recommendation is passed) the Canterbury Volunteer Centre be asked to report back to the Community Services Committee once this research is complete to discuss ways of implementing a Christchurch project.

Chairman's Recommendation: For discussion.