

14. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND GENERAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FUNDING

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Corporate Plan Output: Elected Member Representation	

The purpose of this report is to inform the board of issues surrounding the allocation of Community Development funding and to suggest that the Board set up a separate General Community Activities Fund to cater for requests that do not fit into the community development criteria.

BACKGROUND

There are a high number of requests to the Community Development Fund for activities that are not, strictly speaking, community development. This puts an enormous strain on the funding to community development projects as the committee struggles to acknowledge the needs of other requests.

There are several reasons for the high call on the Community Development Fund. Some of them may be -:

- Lack of understanding by applicants as to what the fund is actually for.
- Lack of access to funding on a whole community level.
- Grants that are refused at Board level are sometimes referred to the Community Development Fund as an alternative.
- General enquiries about funding are sometimes referred to the Community Development Fund inappropriately.

This has meant that over time the Community Development Fund has become a general fund for a very wide range of activities. This defeats the purpose of having specific funding to support community development as a means of strengthening communities as the Council policy commits us to do.

SUGGESTED SOLUTION

To overcome this and to make the funding distribution more transparent it is suggested that the Board creates a General Community Activities Fund.

The metropolitan funding that is received for the Community Development Fund should be set aside, with a contribution from the Board, for community development as is current practice.

A General Community Activities Fund could then be set up solely for the purpose of considering small grants that would otherwise have to go to the Board for allocation from its discretionary fund. The process for allocation would be the same as for the Community Development funding and considered by the same committee. Provision could also be made within the set up of this fund that some of the funding may be kept in reserve for small requests (up to say \$200) throughout the year at the discretion of designated people. This would give some consistency in the decision making, prevent doubling up, relieve stress on the Community Development Fund and better serve small requests

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Board continue its current practice of topping up the funding received from the Council's budget for the Community Development Fund.
 2. That the Board set up a separate General Community Activities Fund with an allocation of, say, \$15,000 from its discretionary funding.
 3. That delegated authority be given to the Community Development Funding Committee to allocate this General Community Activities Fund in the same manner as the Community Development Fund with ability to hold a small amount for funding throughout the year.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:** For discussion