

11. SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Board Project/Discretionary 6.1.9	

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with options for funding community development within Burwood/Pegasus, including possible structures and funding criteria for the Strengthening Communities Action Plan (SCAP).

BACKGROUND

At the Community Board's 13 February 2001 Project and Discretionary meeting, discussion took place on the various funding options available for community development projects. This discussion included the SCAP Fund and the need/benefit of a separate SCAP Committee.

At the SCAP Committee meeting on 20 February 2001 it was suggested/agreed that a much wider discussion on the whole range of funding options for community development projects be part of the Community Board's 13 March 2001 Seminar. SCAP Committee members were invited to the Seminar.

Following the Council's adoption of the Community Policy and the Social Well-Being Policy in 2000, there has been a strong direction that the allocation of City Council/Community Board funding support for community projects be more aligned to the goals, principles, outcomes and priorities of these two policies.

Such a direction begins to raise a number of questions, including:

- The benefits/limitations of having numerous funding schemes/committees compared to the one fund and committee.
- Instant response/quick decision making on projects one by one compared to pre-set closing dates where projects can be ranked against each other.
- Separate funding schemes with specific project/outcome criteria compared to a more general community project wide single fund.
- Separate funding schemes with specific "community interest" areas; for example youth, culture, employment, etc compared to one general fund with a percentage of the total allocated to the specific "community interest" areas.
- Would/does a number of funding schemes provide greater community participation in accessing Council/Board funding support or would/does it create the confusion of what scheme for what project?
- Does/would one funding scheme with one application and decision-making process create better or lesser opportunities for community access to and Council/Board funding of community projects?

Currently the Community Board can provide funding support for community development projects through:

- The annual February meeting for Project allocations.
- Discretionary allocations at the Board's monthly meeting.
- Community Development Workers funding scheme.
- Strengthening Communities Action Plan.
- Community Response Assistance Fund.
- Community Development Scheme.
- Community Sports Fund (Hillary Commission).

Also, local Burwood/Pegasus community groups have access to City Council community development funds through:

- Community Organisation Loans Scheme.
- Metropolitan Community Development Discretionary Fund.
- Social Initiatives Fund.
- The Annual Plan process.
- Discretionary grants/community contracts with the various Business Units of the City Council.

All these funding streams have priorities based on community development principles though they have different "application" and decision-making processes.

A full discussion on these various funding streams took place at the Community Board's seminar on 13 March 2001. A majority at the meeting indicated a wish to stay with the present allocation system of supporting community development projects and specifically that the SCAP Fund remain with its own decision making committee and a 2001/02 allocation budget of \$20,000.

The proposals for continuing with a separate SCAP Fund/Committee included:

- Increasing the number of their community representatives.
- Increasing community awareness of the Fund.
- Meeting more regularly so as to provide a quicker response to applications.
- Prioritising its funding towards new projects.

Recommendation: That opportunity be given for further discussion on the overall funding of community development projects at the Board meeting.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the SCAP Fund for 2001/02 of \$20,000 be allocated to the Community Development Fund allocated by the Funding Assessment Committee.