

6. SISTER CITY COMMITTEE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS 2002/03

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The purpose of this report is to present the recommendations of the International Relations and Sister Cities Subcommittee on the funding allocations to the six Sister City Committees. \$86,000 has been provided in the current year to support the activities of the Sister City Committees.

CONTEXT OF REPORT

Prior to 1999 the Sister City Committees each received a set annual grant plus, on a six yearly basis, a special larger grant to assist them with a special project. During the 1999/2000 annual plan round, elected members agreed that the annual special grant should be divided each year among all sister cities, based on their proposed activities across the forthcoming year. To enable the process of dividing the funds fairly, each committee has been asked to provide an annual plan of proposed activities.

The Sister City Strategy requires that the Sister City Committees comply with the Council annual plan process and provide an annual report in September each year and a draft annual plan for the year ahead.

Over the last two years, in the absence of an International Relations Subcommittee, staff have reviewed the proposed annual plans and the funding requests and divided the available funds amongst the Sister City Committees. However, it was considered more appropriate for the decisions relating to funding allocation to be approved by elected members. Accordingly, the funding requests were submitted to the International Relations and Sister City Committee at its meeting on 10 June 2002.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The annual grants sought by the Sister City Committees to meet their annual plans far exceeded the funds available. It was necessary therefore to consider the proposed activities of each Committee to determine what projects best met the Council's strategic objectives and the objectives outlined within the Strategy for Sister Cities. This does not preclude committees carrying out all activities within their plan, but does give them guidance as to the priority the Council places on their activities and encourages them to seek alternative funding for other projects they wish to be involved in.

RELEVANT CURRENT POLICY

The Strategy for Sister Cities provides the following vision and objectives:

Vision

Christchurch will continually enhance the quality of life of its citizens and understanding of diverse cultures from around the world through proactive (citizen) Sister City relationships.

Objectives

- To promote relationships between the people of Christchurch and the people of its Sister Cities.
- To continue to increase international understanding and opportunities for wider reaching relationships through the promotion of our Sister Cities in Christchurch.
- To involve a range of community groups including (but not limited to) schools and other focus interest groups, and where appropriate local business under the auspices of key business facilitators.
- To promote Christchurch as a city welcoming tourism and visitation, and international economic development.

FUNDING

The strategy determines that the Council will provide a minimum of \$3,000 to each Sister City Committee each year to ensure they are able to maintain the relationship.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

2002/03 annual plans for each of the committees and the 2000/01 reports reporting against key performance indicators were presented to the Subcommittee. The history of grant funds provided for the individual committees over the last three years was also before the Subcommittee.

In past years all of the available funds have been divided among the committees at the beginning of each financial year. When unidentified projects or opportunities have arisen within the financial year, usually committees have not been able to respond because their funds have been committed. In some situations it has been possible to leverage sponsorship but more often than not such opportunities have failed for the lack of financial support. To manage this situation it is suggested that this year a process is trialled whereby \$6,000 is held back for such situations. Should these funds not need to be accessed prior to the six monthly reporting period then the money could be distributed.

Funding Requests Against Strategy

The 2002/03 Annual Plans provided by each of the committees were assessed in relation to the objectives for Sister Cities within the strategy. The performance of each committee against the key performance indicators within the 2001/02 annual plans of each committee were also assessed. Some committees have identified funds on hand that are unallocated. The existence of these funds has been taken into consideration in regard to requests for funding for the 2002/03 year.

The funds being recommended for allocation total \$66,950 (inclusive of \$6,000 being held back for unidentified projects). This leaves a total of \$19,050 unallocated out of the available 2002/03 funds of \$86,000. This is the first year committees have identified unallocated funds on hand. Next year all funds on hand will be allocated against projects and it will be logical to allocate the full \$86,000.

Sister City Committee	\$'s requested	Recommended programme funding	Unallocated Funds on Hand	Required funds to meet recommendations
Adelaide	\$44,000	\$23,600	\$15,000	\$8,600
Christchurch	\$6,500	\$4,100	0	\$4,100
Gansu	\$39,000	\$12,000	\$5,000	\$7,000
Kurashiki	\$45,000	\$25,000	0	\$25,000
Seattle	\$20,000	\$15,500	\$9,000	\$6,000
Songpa-Gu	\$39,600	\$31,250	\$21,000	\$10,250

Subcommittee's

Recommendation:

1. That the 2002/03 grants funding for Sister Cities be allocated as follows:

Adelaide Sister City Committee	\$8,600
Christchurch Sister City Committee	\$4,100
Gansu Friendly Relations Committee	\$7,000
Kurashiki Sister City Committee	\$25,000
Seattle Sister City Committee	\$6,000
Songpa-Gu Sister City Committee	\$10,250

	\$60,950
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2. That \$6,000 of the 2002/03 Sister Cities grant funds be held back from distribution specifically for unidentified sister city projects that arise in the first half of the financial year.
3. That the balance be allocated at the six monthly review.