

9. COMMUNITY FACILITIES - ALLOCATION OF UNSPECIFIED FUNDS 2002/03

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The purpose of this report is to advise of progress in the consideration of a number of community facility projects, and to recommend the approval of funding for some of these works, from the Council's Community Facilities (Unspecified) capital fund.

BACKGROUND

In recent years the Council has been faced with a number of requests for allocation of funding towards community facility projects. These requests have either originated from community groups, or from Community Boards who have the day-to-day overview role of community facilities. The Boards' terms of reference provide for an ongoing obligation to identify community needs.

During the 1999/2000 Annual Plan deliberations the Annual Plan Working Party sought a process to enable relative priorities to be established for all bids for new/upgraded facilities in order that funding could be fairly allocated on a priority basis. A resulting weighted attributes evaluation process was used for the first time in 2000, and funding allocated by the Strategy and Resources Committee based on the outcome of the evaluation. A similar process was used for the allocation of funding during 2001.

This year, in general terms, attributes considered in this process included:

- Progress to date with the project;
- Extent of the proposed use of the facility;
- Risk assessment;
- Flexibility of design;
- Policy alignment; and
- City Plan requirements.

Over the past two months seven bids have been received with a request for allocation of funding from the unspecified fund in the current Annual Plan.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Current funding available through the 2003 Financial Plan is \$321,500 (ref. Corporate Plan page 8.9.33). Over recent years the Council has provided the unspecified fund to cover requests for ongoing needs of this type. No further funding is provided beyond the present year.

EVALUATION OF CURRENT PROJECTS

Seven current projects were evaluated. These projects varied widely in context, and in cost, and only three were deemed appropriate for recommendation for funding support.

The remaining projects not recommended for support were either requests for projects not yet fully evaluated; for projects not meeting the priority ranking of the top three; or for existing previously approved projects requiring top-up funding.

The detail of the three recommended projects follows:

Facility	Work Proposed	Estimated Cost
Bromley Community Centre	An upgrade of the Community Centre including the addition of two meeting rooms with new accessible entry. This project was the highest ranked of those which did not qualify for funding last year.	\$165,000
Linwood Community Arts Centre – Storage	The addition of storage area to the existing facility.	\$11,500
Upper Riccarton Community Centre	The provision of a new building on Hansons Reserve in recognition of community needs identified initially in 1998.	\$145,000

DISCUSSION

Of the bids received the above three have received the highest priority (in the order given) and are recommended for support by the Committee.

Staff

Recommendation: That approval be granted for the allocation of funding, for the three projects listed, from the 2002/03 Community Facilities (Unspecified) Fund.

Chair's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.