

Memorandum

Date: 30 June 2010
From: Michael Aitken (General Manager Community Services)
To: Metropolitan Funding Committee
Subject: 2010/11 Metropolitan Strengthening Communities Fund -
Changes to the Decision Matrix

1. The purpose of the memo is to provide Councillors with information pertaining to two changes to the Decision Matrix. The changes are due to new information being received and due to a new application being received.

New Information

2. Staff have received new information regarding the application from the Christchurch Zhonghua Chinese Society and their request for a part-time community co-ordinator (pg 60).
3. The original staff recommendation was for \$8,000 to the Christchurch Zhonghua Chinese Society toward the wages of the Coordinator, however new information has come to the attention of staff, specifically that:
 - o There are lower than expected numbers accessing the service;
 - o Changes that are required to their constitution will not be made in time for this Decision Meeting;
 - o Further work is required to strengthen the organisation's governance and management.
5. As such, staff have changed their recommendation from a Priority 2 project to a Priority 3 project and, consequently, are not recommending it for funding as this project is now deemed less of a priority for funding.

New Application

6. On 25 June, staff received a call from Southern Opera asking for an update on their funding application. Until this point, staff were of the belief that Southern Opera had not applied to the Strengthening Communities Fund for the 2010-11 year.
7. It would seem that an application was made but never received by Council, Southern Opera confirmed that they are not in receipt of an application acknowledgement letter. Staff left messages with Southern Opera in early April questioning why an application was not made, however a response was not received until 25 June.
8. The application from Southern Opera is for \$100,000 towards production costs and venue hire to stage Puccini's opera "Tosca" (in October 2010) and "The Barber of Seville" (in 2011). At the time of writing, staff are still awaiting a budget for these productions, as such there is no staff recommendation.
9. New Matrix pages, detailing these changes are attached.