

## 38. GRANTS WORKING PARTY CRITERIA CHANGES



<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager Community Services, DDI 941 8607
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to make recommendations with regard to criteria and process changes to the Strengthening Communities Grants Funding.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Council-established Grants Funding Working Party was tasked with reviewing the criteria of the various Funds that make up the Communities Grants Funding Programme.
3. The Council adopted the Strengthening Communities Strategy on 12 July 2007. The Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme comprises four funding schemes:
  - Strengthening Communities Fund
  - Small Grants Fund
  - Discretionary Response Fund
  - Community Organisations Loan Scheme.
4. The Grants Funding Working Party has reviewed, line-by-line, all of the criteria for the Council's Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme. The Working Party's recommendations are summarised below, Appendix A summarises the issues that the Grants Funding Working Party have considered and their recommendations in regard to each issue.
5. The Grants Working Party recommend that Council adopt the changes as proposed.

### Summary of Recommendations

6. **Recommendation A:** Strengthening Communities Fund - Capital items.
7. To change the Strengthening Communities criteria to reflect the decision for capital costs up to \$25,000 are to be limited to just public artworks.
8. **Recommendation B:** Strengthening Communities Fund - Clarification of 'Council responsibility'
9. Clear top-ups of government contracts should remain ineligible.
10. There is a difference, however, between funding a top-up to a government funded project (i.e. more bed nights at a homeless shelter, more budget advice sessions) and funding an enhancement to a government funded project (providing budget advice at a homeless shelter or providing wrap-around support for clients of an existing project). Therefore, enhancements to government funded projects or separate projects should remain eligible if criteria are met.
11. **Recommendation C:** Strengthening Communities Fund - Events during school time
12. It is acceptable to fund activities that occur during school time if they have community involvement and direct community benefit.
13. Curriculum based activities (i.e. French lessons, reading recovery) are to be considered ineligible.
14. **Recommendation D:** Strengthening Communities Fund - Internal bids from staff
15. Elected Member bids only at Board level, no bids from staff. Staff initiatives to be progressed through the Annual Plan/LTCCP.

16. Community Board Advisors to educate elected members around the process.
17. Staff to work with Community Boards early in the year to determine what Board bids will be progressed.
18. **Recommendation E:** Strengthening Communities & Discretionary Response Fund - Youth Development Fund Creation
19. To allow applications from the Community Board for the creation of a Youth Development Fund to become eligible through the Strengthening Communities Fund (as well as the Discretionary Response Fund).
20. **Recommendation F:** Strengthening Communities & Discretionary Response Fund - Youth Development Fund Cap
21. Remove the “cap” of \$10,000 placed on the Youth Development Fund.
22. **Recommendation G:** All funds - Legal entities
23. Change criteria to include all legal entities that are registered for a Charitable purpose.
24. **Recommendation H:** Small Grants Fund - Community Representation on Small Grants Funding Committees
25. No community representatives on Small Grants Fund Metropolitan decision making body.
26. Individual Community Boards to decide if they wish to retain community representatives.
27. **Recommendation I:** Small Grants Fund - Metropolitan Small Grants Funding Committee
28. Metropolitan Small Grants Subcommittee be comprised of a maximum of five Councillors, with full delegated authority.
29. As per the Recommendation H , the Committee would not include any Community Representatives.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

30. None.

#### **Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?**

31. Yes.

#### **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

32. Not applicable.

#### **Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?**

33. Not applicable.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

34. Yes.

**Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?**

35. Yes, Community Grants.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

36. Yes. Strengthening Communities Strategy.

**Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

37. Yes, Strengthening Communities Strategy.

#### **CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

38. Not applicable.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council adopt the changes as proposed.

1. Amend the Strengthening Communities criteria by clarifying that capital costs up to \$25,000 are to be limited to just public artworks.
2. Note that the Strengthening Communities Fund will not be used to fund projects that are clear top-ups of government contracts and these should remain ineligible.

However, enhancements to government funded projects or separate projects should remain eligible if criteria are met.

3. Note that it is acceptable to fund activities that occur during school time if they have community involvement and direct community benefit. Curriculum based activities (ie French lessons, reading recovery) are to be considered ineligible.
4. Amend the Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme Operational Procedures for the Strengthening Communities Fund, Small Grants Fund and Discretionary Response Fund Local by adding the following:

*“That the Council officers be instructed that as a matter of future policy they are not to apply for funding from this source for Council projects.”*

5. Amend the Strengthening Communities Strategy and the criteria for the Strengthening Communities Fund - Local to allow Community Boards to create a Youth Development Fund to allocate funding for Youth Development Grants.
6. Amend the Strengthening Communities Strategy and the criteria by removing the “cap” of up to \$10,000 for the Youth Development Fund.
7. Amend the criteria for all funds to allow applications from all legal entities that are registered for a charitable purpose.
8. Disestablish the Metropolitan Small Grants Funding Subcommittee comprising both Councillors and community representatives from 31 May 2010.
9. Establish a Metropolitan Small Grants Fund Subcommittee of five Councillors comprising.... to take effect from 1 June 2010 to allocate the Small Grants Fund – Metropolitan, to eligible applicants whose projects are consistent with the Council's Strengthening Communities Strategy and LTCCP.