

10. METROPOLITAN STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES EARLY LEARNING CENTRE FUND 2010-11

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with the information necessary to consider the applications received from the ten Early Learning Centres that operate from the Council owned buildings that have applied to the Strengthening Communities Fund for a grant.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Council currently owns 11 facilities that are operated by community organisations as Early Learning Centres (ELCs), these are:
 - **Bishopdale Community Pre-school Association Inc.**
129 Farrington Ave, Bishopdale
 - **Hoon Hay Community Preschool**
113 Mathers Road, Hoon Hay
 - **Kidsfirst Early Learning Centre**
284 Breezes Road, Aranui
 - **New Beginnings Preschool Inc.**
136 Aldwins Road, Linwood
 - **New Brighton Community Preschool**
109 Beresford Street, New Brighton
 - **North Beach Community CC Centre Inc.**
102 Marriotts Road, North Beach
 - **Redwood Early Childhood Centre**
339 Main North Road, Redwood
 - **Springs Community Early Learning Centre Inc.**
10 Weaver Place, Sockburn (Affinity Trust)
 - **St Albans Edu-care Centre**
3 Thames Place, St Albans
 - **The Sydenham Community Preschool Inc.**
113 Huxley Street, Sydenham
 - **Woolston Preschool Inc.**
52 Glenroy Street, Woolston
3. The Council's role in regard to these ELCs is limited to being the landlord.
4. In 2002, the Council adopted a recommendation that each building be assessed at market rental in accordance with Council policy. As a result, the Council commissioned independent market rent appraisals which it is using to set the revised lease rentals agreements.
5. The new proposed rents are based on independent current market valuations. For some centres, the level of rent will increase (seven centres ranging from eight per cent to 102 per cent increase) and in others it will decrease (four centres ranging from one per cent to 19 per cent decrease). These new rental charges will take effect on 1 July 2010, as the existing agreements expire on 30 June 2010.
6. In previous years, the Council, as landlord, has made a rental charge to the ELCs. Council has then paid, via a line item grant, a grant to the ELCs to offset that rent.
7. In 2009, during LTCCP discussions, the Council reaffirmed its support of early childhood education and it was communicated to the ELCs that currently lease the facilities that they could apply for grants funding through the Strengthening Communities Fund process. The wording from the Council minute is, **"Council may make a grant to those that are in areas of high need on a case by case basis to help offset some or all of their rent. Grants are contestable through the Strengthening Communities Fund."**

8. Council staff have worked with the ELCs over the past year to ensure that all of the centres have been contacted and are fully informed of the change, as well as the process for applying for Council grant funding through the Strengthening Communities Fund.
9. Of the 11 ELCs, 10 have applied for a grant, requesting a total of \$335,323. These applications have been assessed by the appropriate staff in their respective ward areas.
10. One ELC, the New Brighton Community Preschool, decided not to apply for funding assistance at this time as the committee felt that they would not require additional funding to cover their lease costs this year.
11. Below is a table of the Centres that have applied, please note that the figures showing how much has been recommended exclude GST.

<i>Name of Applicant</i>	<i>Market Rent (exc. GST)</i>	<i>\$ Req.</i>	<i>\$ Rec.</i>	<i>Previous Grant (exc. GST)</i>
<i>Bishopdale Community Pre-school Association Inc.</i> 129 Farrington Ave, Bishopdale	<i>\$45,000</i>	<i>\$40,000</i>	<i>\$40,000</i>	<i>\$28,500</i>
<i>Hoon Hay Community Preschool</i> 113 Mathers Road, Hoon Hay	<i>\$17,000</i>	<i>\$17,000</i>	<i>\$17,000</i>	<i>\$16,800</i>
<i>Kidsfirst Early Learning Centre</i> 284 Breezes Road, Aranui	<i>\$30,000</i>	<i>\$33,750</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>	<i>\$26,400</i>
<i>New Beginnings Preschool Inc.</i> 136 Aldwins Road, Linwood	<i>\$36,000</i>	<i>\$42,000</i>	<i>\$36,000</i>	<i>\$40,800</i>
<i>New Brighton Community Preschool</i> 109 Beresford Street, New Brighton	<i>\$14,600</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$18,000</i>
<i>North Beach Community CC Centre Inc.</i> 102 Marriotts Road, North Beach	<i>\$27,200</i>	<i>\$27,200</i>	<i>\$27,200</i>	<i>\$27,600</i>
<i>Redwood Early Childhood Centre</i> 339 Main North Road, Redwood	<i>\$34,000</i>	<i>\$34,000</i>	<i>\$34,000</i>	<i>\$28,800</i>
<i>Springs Community Early Learning Centre Inc.</i> 10 Weaver Place, Sockburn (Affinity Trust)	<i>\$33,250</i>	<i>\$37,406</i>	<i>\$33,250</i>	<i>\$20,400</i>
<i>St Albans Edu-care Centre</i> 3 Thames Place, St Albans	<i>\$31,500</i>	<i>\$31,500</i>	<i>\$31,500</i>	<i>\$15,600</i>
<i>The Sydenham Community Preschool Inc.</i> 113 Huxley Street, Sydenham	<i>\$28,500</i>	<i>\$31,667</i>	<i>\$28,500</i>	<i>\$26,400</i>
<i>Woolston Preschool Inc.</i> 52 Glenroy Street, Woolston	<i>\$39,000</i>	<i>\$40,800</i>	<i>\$39,000</i>	<i>\$40,800</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$336,050</i>	<i>\$335,323</i>	<i>\$316,450</i>	<i>\$290,100</i>

12. Individual assessment and staff comments for each application are attached as part of a Decision Matrix (in **Appendix A** – Community Grants Metropolitan Strengthening Communities ELC Fund 2010-11 Decision Matrix)
13. The total request from the ten applicants is for \$335,323. Any grants made to the applicants will come from the Metropolitan Strengthening Communities Fund 2010-11.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

14. Yes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

15. Not applicable.

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

16. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

17. Yes.

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

18. Yes.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

19. Yes.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

20. Yes, Strengthening Communities Strategy, Early Childhood Education Policy and Children's Policy.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

21. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- (a) Makes a grant of \$40,000 to the Bishopdale Community Preschool towards rental costs of their Council-owned premises.
- (b) Makes a grant of \$17,000 to the Hoon Hay Community Pre-school towards the rent cost of their Council-owned premises.
- (c) Makes a grant of \$30,000 to Kidsfirst Early Learning Centre Aranui towards rental costs of their Council-owned premises.
- (d) Makes a grant of \$36,000 to New Beginnings Preschool Inc towards rental costs of their Council-owned premises.
- (e) Makes a grant of \$27,200 to the North Beach Community Childcare Centre Inc towards rental costs of their Council-owned premises.
- (f) Makes a grant of \$34,000 to the Redwood Early Learning Centre towards rental costs of their Council-owned premises.
- (g) Makes a grant of \$33,250 to the Springs Community Early Learning Centre Incorporated towards rental costs of their Council-owned premises

- (h) Makes a grant of \$31,500 to St Albans Edu-care towards rental costs of their Council-owned premises.
- (i) Makes a grant of \$28,500 to the Sydenham Community Pre-School towards rental costs of the Council-owned premises.
- (j) Makes a grant of \$39,000 to Woolston Preschool Inc. towards rental costs of their Council -owned premises.