

37. 2010/11 METROPOLITAN DISCRETIONARY RESPONSE FUND – SEPTEMBER APPLICATIONS

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services DDI 941 8607
Officer responsible:	Community Support Manager
Author:	Courtenay Mackie, Community Grants Adviser

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is for the Metropolitan Funding Committee to consider three applications to the 2010/11 Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund.
2. Applications have been received, in the following order, from:
 - Port Hills Park Trust Board, Cashmere Forest Park – Plan Change Development, \$60,000.
 - Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, Building Community Capacity to Enhance Banks Peninsula Biodiversity, \$55,302.
 - Christchurch Migrants Centre Trust - Te Whare Ta Wahi, Establishment of a Christchurch Migrants Centre, \$55,000.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3. In 2010/11, the total pool available for allocation for the Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund is \$145,057. At the time of writing, there is \$107,557 remaining in the Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund for 2010/11.
4. The purpose of the Fund is to assist community groups where the project and funding request falls outside other council funding criteria and/or closing dates. This fund is also for emergency funding for unforeseen situations.
5. Applications requesting over \$15,000 require consideration by the Metropolitan Funding Committee. Staff have delegated authority to consider applications for less than \$15,000.

BACKGROUND

Discretionary Response Fund

6. The Council adopted the Strengthening Communities Strategy on 12 July 2007. The Strengthening Communities Grants Funding Programme comprises four funding schemes:
 - (a) Strengthening Communities Fund
 - (b) Small Grants Fund
 - (c) Discretionary Response Fund
 - (d) Community Organisations Loan Scheme.
7. The Discretionary Response Fund opens each year on 1 July and closes on 30 June the following year, or when all funds are expended.
8. For detailed information on the Strengthening Communities Strategy's Outcomes and Priorities please see **Attachment 1**. For detailed information on the specific criteria of the Discretionary Response Fund see **Attachment 2**.

Application from Port Hills Park Trust Board

9. During the 2009-19 LTCCP process, on 25 June 2009, Council resolved:
 1. *That the Council commit \$3 million from its parks reserves account for a period of five years as a contribution to the purchase of 350 hectares of land to form the Cashmere Forest Park. This commitment is conditional on:*

- (i) *The Port Hills Park Trust Board securing the balance of the funding required to purchase the property within five years.*
 - (ii) *That upon purchase the land being vested in the Council.*
2. *That the Council work with the Port Hills Trust Board to determine and recommend to Council the ideal structure for management of the land once vested in Council.*
10. The Trust intends to raise the remaining \$6 million that it anticipates will be required to secure the purchase of the land through a variety of means, including: donations from the public, commercial sponsorship, and grants from other (non-council) organisations over the next three years.
11. An application from Port Hills Park Trust Board for a Cashmere Forest Park Project Co-ordinator was made to the Metropolitan Strengthening Communities Fund and considered in July 2010. At the Metropolitan Strengthening Communities decision-meeting, the Metropolitan Funding Committee resolved:
- That the Metropolitan Funding Committee declines the application from the Port Hills Trust Board for Cashmere Forest Park Campaign Project Coordinator; and*
- That staff discuss with the Port Hills Park Trust Board the possibility of funding for the Plan Change from the Discretionary [Response] Fund.*
12. Please see page one of **Attachment 3** for further detailed information on this application.
13. Staff have recommended that the application from Port Hills Park Trust Board as Priority Two and for a grant of \$20,000. This recommendation is consistent in the approach taken with other Priority 2 organisations that applied to the 2010/11 Strengthening Communities Fund.

Application from Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust

14. An application from the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust (BPCT) for \$100,000 was made to the Metropolitan Strengthening Communities Fund 2010/11. This application received a grant of \$50,000. The Trust was notified of this decision in July.
15. The Trust has subsequently submitted a new application to the Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund. This application contains nine separate sub-projects that were not part of the original Strengthening Communities Fund application. No application was made to the Small Grants Fund for any of these projects.
16. Staff have recommended the application from Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust as Priority Three.

Application from Christchurch Migrants Centre Trust - Te Whare Ta Wahi

17. The Christchurch Migrants Centre Trust is a new trust, formalised as an Incorporated Society on 23 August 2010, established to:
- (a) Facilitate the integration of new migrants into the social, economic and cultural fabric of Christchurch.
 - (b) Enhance the service provision of government agencies, NGO's and Charitable Trusts involved locally in the settlement process for new migrants.
 - (c) Establish and operate a central city office and "Centre" for referrals and links between service delivery agencies and new migrants;
 - (d) Allow new migrant community groups access to community building skills and opportunities; and
 - (e) Work towards the provision of a "One-Stop-Shop" facility for new migrant services in association with, or adjacent to the city's new bus exchange.
18. The manager of the Centre, Rex Gibson, was formerly the manager of the Refugee and Migrant Centre, which has subsequently ceased to operate.

19. The Ministry of Social Development has provided some interim funding to support the transition period while a new service is established. However, this funding is only short term and the Trust must secure other funding sources in order to establish the Christchurch Migrants Centre.
20. At the time of writing, no other funding sources had been secured by the Trust, although a number of grant applications, including to the Canterbury Community Trust and Lotteries, are currently pending.
21. Additionally, the Trust does not have a bank account and staff have not been able to see provisional budgets for the Trust's first year of operation. While Trustees are in place, the composition of the Board has not been confirmed.
22. Members of the Trust have met with the Mayor, Councillor Button and Council staff to discuss their plans. Council staff have undertaken to assist the group to find suitable premises.
23. Staff have recommended the application from Christchurch Migrants Centre Trust - Te Whare Ta Wahi as Priority Three.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

24. Staff recommendations would reduce the Metropolitan Discretionary Response Fund from \$107,557 to \$87,557. This is within the budget as set out in the LTCCP/Annual Plan.

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

25. Yes, see LTCCP pages 176 and 177 regarding community grants schemes including Board funding.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

26. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

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

27. Yes. Strengthening Communities Funding and Community Board Funding, see LTCCP pages 176 and 177 regarding community grants schemes, including Board funding.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

28. Yes. The funding allocation process is covered in the Council's Strengthening Communities Strategy.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

29. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Make a grant of \$20,000 to the Port Hills Park Trust Board towards the Cashmere Forest Park – Plan Change Development.
- (b) Decline the application from the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust.
- (c) Decline the application from the Christchurch Migrants Centre Trust - Te Whare Ta Wahi.