

30. CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE MAYORAL RELIEF FUND: APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Community Services, DDI 941-8607
Officer responsible:	Unit Manger, Community Support Manager, Carolyn Gallagher DDI 941 8859
Author:	Lincoln Papali'i, Strategic Initiatives Manager and John Filsell, Unit Manager Recreation and Sports

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to request the Council to approve the allocation of a grant from the Christchurch Earthquake Mayoral Relief Fund as follows:
 - (a) \$ 45,000 to Athletics Canterbury for the establishment of a new athletics facility at Rawhiti Domain.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The purpose of the Mayoral Earthquake Relief Fund as adopted by the Council on 12 May 2011 is set out in paragraph 5 below. As trustee for the Fund, the Council is bound to apply the monies only for the purposes specified in the Council resolution of 12 May 2011.
3. The athletics facilities at QEII Park are no longer available after the earthquake on 22 February 2011. Athletics Canterbury wants to set up an interim athletics facility at Rawhiti Domain. This would provide for all-weather field events (jumping and throwing) and a grass track for running events. The Track and Field Committee has raised the majority of the \$110,000 costs from Sport Canterbury/SPARC; other sports administrative bodies, and a supplier of all-weather surfaces, but there is a shortfall of \$45,000. The Committee is therefore applying to the Fund to meet this shortfall.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. The financial details for the project are outlined in the background section of this report. As at 11 November 2011 there was \$3,533,176.17 in uncommitted funds held by the Christchurch Earthquake Mayoral Relief Fund.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

5. At the Council meeting of 12 May 2011 it was resolved:
 - ...(b) *That the Christchurch Earthquake Mayoral Relief Fund was established, and will continue to be maintained, by the Council as a "public fund" (as described in section LD 3(2)(d) of the Income Tax Act 2007) exclusively for the purpose of providing money for any one or more charitable, benevolent, philanthropic or cultural purposes related to and in particular to provide relief to the people of Christchurch from the adverse effects of the 4 September 2010 and 22 February 2011 earthquakes, and associated aftershocks, by providing money for the any activity or work required as a result of those events that:*
 - (i) *contributes to the rebuilding of the social and physical infrastructure of Christchurch, and*
 - (ii) *assists in:*
 - *Remedying hardship suffered by individuals, groups, community organisations and business, and/or*
 - *Protecting, repairing damage to or enhancing the physical fabric of the city.*
6. The Mayoral Earthquake Relief Fund essentially operates as a trust with the Council acting as the trustee. As trustee, the Council is bound to apply the monies only for the purposes specified in the Council resolution above.

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7. In terms of the activities that can be funded by the Mayoral Earthquake Relief Fund, the first requirement is that any grant be used to contribute to the rebuilding of the social and physical infrastructure of Christchurch. The Oxford Dictionary defines the word "infrastructure" generally as "the foundation or basic structure of an undertaking", and specifically as "the installations and services (power stations, sewers, roads, housing etc) regarded as the economic foundation of a country". The word "infrastructure" therefore implies the undertaking of physical works.
8. However, paragraph (b)(i) of the resolution refers to "...any activity or work required as a result of those events that...(i) contributes to the rebuilding of the social and physical infrastructure of Christchurch..." It is therefore not necessary that the Mayoral Earthquake Relief Fund's monies be applied solely to rebuilding actual physical infrastructure, but it is necessary that the monies be applied to any work or activity that contributes to such rebuilding. Therefore, whilst the focus of the Mayoral Earthquake Relief Fund is the rebuilding of the social and physical infrastructure ("bricks and mortar"), it can also be used for any activity which contributes to that outcome.
9. In addition, any grant from the Mayoral Earthquake Relief Fund must also assist in either remedying hardship or protecting, repairing ... or enhancing the physical fabric of the city.

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?

10. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

11. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

12. Discussions with the individual applicants have been carried out.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council approve a grant allocation from the Christchurch Earthquake Mayoral Relief Fund:

- (a) \$ 45,000 to Athletics Canterbury for the establishment of a new athletics facility at Rawhiti Domain, on the condition that Council's Recreation and Sport Manager approves a business plan that demonstrates:
 1. How the facility will be laid out to meet community need
 2. How the facility will be financially sustainable
 3. That Athletics Canterbury have raised all funding and acquired all permissions for the development to go ahead as envisaged in the funding application and accompanying documents.

MAYORAL RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted.

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BACKGROUND (THE ISSUES)

Request for Grant by Athletics Canterbury

13. Athletics Canterbury moved from Rugby Park to QEII in 1973 and has used the park as its all-weather site since then. Most recently, QEII Park was the venue for the IPC Athletics World Championship in January 2011. Following extensive damage to the grounds in the 22 February earthquake, the facility is out of action.
14. Rawhiti Domain has been identified as the best location for an interim facility because:
 - It is an existing athletics venue as the home of the New Brighton Athletic Club;
 - The area was virtually undamaged by the series of earthquakes and aftershocks, and
 - It would provide a facility in the hard-hit eastern part of the City.
15. The total project cost is \$109,756 plus GST and funds have been committed from Sport Canterbury/SPARC; Calliope Athletic Club (Auckland), Canterbury Children's athletic Association and Canterbury Masters Athletics. In addition, the Athletics Canterbury Track and Field Committee had committed \$20,000 of its own funds. However, this leaves a shortfall of \$49,756 to be filled.
16. The Recreation and Sport unit has reviewed the application. They have engaged with Canterbury Athletics and Athletics New Zealand, and they have consulted Council's Greenspace Asset Planning team and Community recreation advisors. They have also discussed the application with Sport Canterbury and SPARC and reviewed the costings.
17. The application has considerable merit and if successful will make a meaningful contribution to the wider Heathcote community. It would provide a considerable legacy value to the East of the City and when a primary facility is agreed) a permanent secondary athletics facility. The facility will be used extensively by schools, employing specialist ground and sports equipment from QE II while the future of QEII is determined. In addition, Council staff will continue to provide expert support to maintain the facilities, within existing budgets. Athletics Canterbury has also shown considerable enterprise, dedication and commitment in securing alternative funding and support in kind.