

**Absolutely Positively  
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

# Ordinary Meeting of Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee Ngā Meneti | Minutes

9:30 am Rāapa, 19 Poutū-te-rangi 2025

9:30 am Wednesday, 19 March 2025

Ngake (16.09), Level 16, Tahiwī

113 The Terrace

Pōneke | Wellington



**PRESENT**

Deputy Mayor Foon  
Pouiwi Hohaia  
Councillor O'Neill  
Councillor Wi Neera  
Councillor Young

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Abdurahman

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## 1. Meeting Conduct

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### 1.1 Karakia

The Chairperson declared the meeting (hui) open at 9:31am and read the following karakia to open the hui.

**Whakataka te hau ki te uru,  
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga.  
Kia mākinakina ki uta,  
Kia mātaratara ki tai.  
E hī ake ana te atākura.  
He tio, he huka, he hauhū.  
Tihei Mauri Ora!**

Cease oh winds of the west  
and of the south  
Let the bracing breezes flow,  
over the land and the sea.  
Let the red-tipped dawn come  
with a sharpened edge, a touch of frost,  
a promise of a glorious day

### 1.2 Apologies

**Moved Councillor Wi Neera, seconded Councillor O'Neill**

#### **Resolved**

That the Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee:

1. Accept the apologies received from Mayor Whanau for absence, and from Councillor Young for lateness.

**Carried**

### 1.3 Conflict of Interest Declarations

No conflicts of interest were declared.

### 1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

**Moved Councillor Wi Neera, seconded Deputy Mayor Foon**

#### **Resolved**

That the Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee:

1. Approves the minutes of the Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee Meeting held on 4 December 2024, having been circulated, that they be taken as read and confirmed as an accurate record of that meeting.

**Carried**

### 1.5 Items not on the Agenda

There were no items not on the agenda.

## **1.6 Public Participation**

### **1.6.1 Danny Webster – E Tū Musicians Union**

Danny Webster addressed the hui on behalf of E Tū Musicians Union regarding item 2.4 Arts and Culture Fund review.

### **1.6.2 Sharon Lehany – The Queen’s Closet**

Sharon Lehany addressed the hui on behalf of the Queen’s Closet regarding item 2.4 Arts and Culture Fund review.

### **1.6.3 Liam Wright and Finn Cordwell – Living Wage Movement Wellington Steering Group**

Liam Wright and Finn Cordwell addressed the hui on behalf of Living Wage Movement Wellington Steering Group.

(Councillor Young joined the hui at 9:35am.)

## **2. General Business**

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### **2.1 Social and Recreation Fund- Safe City and Wellbeing March 2024**

**Moved Councillor O'Neill, seconded Deputy Mayor Foon**

#### **Resolved**

That the Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Agree to the allocation of Social and Recreation funding for Wellington Pasifika Patrols Incorporated \$20,000.

**Carried**

### **2.2 Arts and Culture Fund - Wellington Opera Trust March 2025**

**Moved Councillor Young, seconded Councillor Wi Neera**

#### **Resolved**

That the Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Agree to the allocation of \$20,000 from the Arts and Culture Fund for Wellington Opera Trust, subject to confirmation that the season will proceed and their fundraising targets have been met.

**Carried**

## 2.3 Social and Recreation Fund - Fund criteria and framework

**Moved Councillor O'Neill, seconded Deputy Mayor Foon**

### **Resolved**

That the Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Recommend that the Kōrau Mātinitini | Social, Cultural, and Economic Committee:
  - 2.1. Approve the funding framework for the Community Outcomes Fund as set out in Attachment #2
  - 2.2. Approve the funding allocation as 55% for Priority 1 (Safety and Wellbeing) and 45% for Priority 2 (Community resilience)
  - 2.3. Agree that delegated authority be given to the relevant Business Unit Manager to approve Grants under \$5,000 with grants over \$5,000 approved or recommended to the relevant committee of the whole by the Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee as per delegations.

The hui adjourned at 10:09am and returned at 10:15am with the following members present: Deputy Mayor Foon, Pouiwi Hohaia, Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Wi Neera and Councillor Young.

**Moved Councillor Wi Neera, seconded Pouiwi Hohaia the following amendment:**

### **Resolved**

- 2.3. Agree that delegated authority be given to the relevant Business Unit Manager **and Chair of the Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee** to approve Grants under \$5,000 with grants over \$5,000 approved or recommended to the relevant committee of the whole by the Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee as per delegations.

**Carried**

### **Moved Councillor O'Neill, seconded Deputy Mayor Foon**

That the Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Recommend that the Kōrau Mātinitini | Social, Cultural, and Economic Committee:
  - 2.1. Approve the funding framework for the Community Outcomes Fund as set out in Attachment #2
  - 2.2. Approve the funding allocation as 55% for Priority 1 (Safety and Wellbeing) and 45% for Priority 2 (Community resilience)
  - 2.3. Agree that delegated authority be given to the relevant Business Unit Manager **and Chair of the Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee** to approve Grants under \$5,000 with grants over \$5,000 approved or recommended to the relevant committee of the whole by the Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee as per delegations.

**Carried**

### **Attachments**

- 1 Tabled Document - Question and Answer Document

**Secretarial note:** In accordance with standing order 19.1, the chairperson accorded precedence to some items of business and announced that the agenda would be considered in the following order:

Item 2.5 Decision Register updates and upcoming reports

Item 2.4 Arts and Culture Fund Review

### **2.5 Decision register updates and upcoming reports**

#### **Moved Councillor Wi Neera, seconded Councillor Young**

#### **Resolved**

That the Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee:

1. Receive the information.

**Carried**

The hui adjourned at 10:19am and returned at 10:58am with the following members present: Deputy Mayor Foon, Pouiwi Hohaia, Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Wi Neera and Councillor Young.

## 2.4 Arts and Culture Fund Review

Moved Councillor Wi Neera, seconded Councillor O'Neill

### Resolved

That the Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee:

- ~~1. Receive the information in this paper and in the *Arts and Culture Grants Framework Review* report;~~
- ~~2. Recommend that the Kōrau Mātinitini | Social, Cultural, and Economic Committee approve the proposed framework and criteria for the Arts and Culture fund.~~

1. Approve in principle the new categories of the proposed Arts and Culture Fund Review.
2. Defer the Arts and Culture Fund Review until the next meeting of the Subcommittee, in which time the following actions are to be completed:

2.1 Request survey findings from the arts and community sector regarding the impact of the Arts and Culture Fund criteria changes.

3. Direct officers to present options as part of the Living Wage for Non-Council Events Review paper to continue the Fund, within the Arts and Culture Framework, at the next meeting of the Subcommittee.
4. Direct officers to Include as part of the Living Wage for Non-Council Events Review paper a statement regarding the difficulty of Living Wage-paying events to attain funding.
5. Agree the final decision on whether to continue with the Living Wage for Non-Council Events Fund will come to the Kōrau Mātinitini | Social, Cultural, and Economic Committee.

**Carried**

**Secretarial Note:** The motion moved differed from the recommendations in the officer's report, the changes are crossed out and marked in red.

The hui concluded at 11:09am with the reading of the following karakia:

Unuhia, unuhia, unuhia ki te uru tapu nui	Draw on, draw on
Kia wātea, kia mā mā, te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua	Draw on the supreme sacredness To clear, to free the heart, the body and the spirit of mankind
I te ara takatū	
Koia rā e Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga	Oh Rongo, above (symbol of peace)
Kia wātea, kia wātea	Let this all be done in unity
Āe rā, kua wātea!	

Authenticated: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair



# Questions & Answers

## Pītau Pūmanawa | Grants Subcommittee


### 19 Poutū-te-rangi 2025 (19 March 2025)

#### 2.4 Arts and Culture Fund Review

- 1. Councillors passed a resolution asking for the Living Wage Events Fund to be looked at in this review. But now the paper says it's in its final year, with no clear pathway for continuation. Why wasn't this work actually included in the grants review?**

##### Resolution for reference:

20.3.6. Retain ongoing commitment to support a Living Wage top up for events and artists and review options in the next 12 months for this to be achieved through existing fund criteria or continuation of specific top-up Living Wage funding.

 In progress

Updated on 21 October, 2024:

Proposal will come to Council next year. Analysis of this fund will be included in the overall grants framework review and update which is currently underway.

The review is proceeding within the 12-month timeframe indicated above. We will bring this back to Committee in May. This has been undertaken as a separate piece of work due to staff resourcing constraints, as work scheduled and delivered in the first three months of this calendar year has included the Arts and Culture Grants Review, Aho Tini Review years 1 – 3, a new draft Aho Tini Action Plan years 4 – 6, as well as the Summer Events and City Arts programmes and the new Toi Pōneke, Te Ngākau and Te Matapihi workstreams. We have also opened multi-year applications. Work is sequenced to match the resources available to undertake it.

- 2. There's been kōrero across different arts spaces lately about the grants review, and a lot of people assumed the Living Wage for Events fund was part of it. What engagement has there been with recipients to make sure they the sector knows this funding could disappear for at least another year?**

It will be discussed with creative sector organisations (primarily Arts and Culture grantees) later in March. It was discussed at the E Tū musicians group meeting held a few weeks ago. There will be a component of the review that involves talking to recipients.

- 3. Are there any alternative funding sources that could be used to keep this funding going in the meantime? Has anything been explored within existing grants or operational budgets? The report says Creative Capital will come back next year with recommendations on the Living Wage Fund and the annual uplift. What exactly is that review going to cover, and what options are being put on the table?**

The fund is in operation until the end of this financial year. Bridging and transition funding options for FY25/26 will be included in the review paper. The review will cover how the funds have been used and recipients' views, together with a look at the underpinning policy, criteria and fund design. Options will emerge from the review.

**4. If we wanted to keep the Living Wage Events Fund going until the review is complete, what would officer advice be on an amendment to make that happen?**

The fund is operational until the end of the financial year. The review findings will be considered by Elected Members in May. The review will contain options and recommendations. Bridging and transition funding options for FY25/26 will be included in the review paper.

**5. There's a \$600K uplift in arts funding in the LTP. Could some of that be used to keep the Living Wage Fund going, or was this funding designed without factoring in the \$300K cut to Living Wage events?**

The 2024-34 Long-term Plan noted we would review options for supporting a living wage for events and artists, and this would include reviewing whether this could be achieved through existing fund criteria or the continuation of specific top-up living wage funding. This funding could be applied to support living wage, but there would be trade-off decisions to be made in terms of what is not funded as a result.

**6. Grants are one of our biggest levers for delivering on Aho Tini. How is this fund helping achieve Aho Tini objectives? And if we're realigning arts funding to the LTP every three years, how do we actually make sure the funding is still delivering on Aho Tini in between those big reviews?**

The review has clarified how the proposed three streams of funding will sit under strategies to deliver Aho Tini. A second phase of the review, subject to the proposed framework being adopted, is to update the reporting framework to provide the Grants Committee with a richer set of information. The review should happen within three months of the framework approval.

**7. Council has had a long-standing policy of making sure multi-year arts contracts don't lose value over time by giving them a small uplift (2.4% in 23/24). But that uplift doesn't seem to have been included for 25/26. What's the reason for that? Will officers recommend putting it back?**

Officers continue to support this uplift policy to ensure grants keep pace over time. At the time of writing, we are still working to confirm the reason for that uplift not being included and will advise as soon as the information is available.

**8. The removal of the Living Wage Events Fund effectively cuts \$300K from arts organisations and projects from 25/26. Was this factored into the design of the LTP uplift, or does this mean the actual net increase is only \$300K rather than the full \$600K?**

The \$300k has not been factored into the LTP uplift; the extension of living wage funding for FY24/25 was to allow for the review to take place to determine next steps.

## 2.3 Social and Recreation Fund Criteria and Framework

### **9. Impact on Community Centres - How will the revised fund criteria support the operational and developmental needs of community centres, and are there any changes that could make it harder for them to access grants they've previously relied on?**

Community Centres are a core part of the new priorities for the Community Outcomes Fund and the level of investment to these partner-run centres will remain a priority within the fund. As part of the Te Awe Māpara Programme, the Community Centre Model Exploration Project has been undertaken to consider the most effective management, delivery and funding approach for achieving community centre outcomes.

A draft report has been developed outlining the current state and recommended responses. This has been shared with all community centres for feedback and will be finalised in the next month. It is intended that final recommendations, where relevant, will be incorporated into the funding framework during the 12-month contract extension that has been allowed for to enable the transition to the new funding framework.

Where there is activity that has been funded in the past that does not fit closely with LTP priorities, Officers will work through options with the organisation, consider service delivery and how that could potentially fit with the new funding framework, as well as consideration about longer transition arrangements.

The proposed framework alongside the Te Awe Māpara Programme will also provide clarity for centres on other options for funding. For those centres who support local groups under umbrella arrangements for smaller projects (i.e., under \$5,000), the proposal to have quicker approval through changes in delegations should make the process of getting project funding easier.

### **10. Impact on Existing Recipients - What measures are in place for transition & guidance or support to adapt to the new framework?**

For the 50 organisations who have ongoing multi-year funding, we are proposing that there be a 12-month contract as a transition year. This will give organisations time to work through if and how their services or activity contributes to Council's strategic LTP priorities.

We will also work with these organisations to agree on reporting milestones and funded activity. Our funding team will work closely with other funders and philanthropy to provide clear advice and support for potential applicants who do not meet the new funding criteria.

**11. What consultation was done with community centres and other stakeholders while developing the new funding framework, and how were their concerns addressed in the final version?**

Officers attended meetings with community organisations to discuss the scope of the framework. In addition, online webinar sessions were held which were attended by 40+ organisations, and we also met with the federation of Residents Associations to discuss the plan and gather specific feedback.

For the network of community centres, there has been extensive engagement on the Community Centre Model Exploration Project. Outside of this, Officers attended their regular networking meeting in late 2024 and have had face to face/ online meetings with the majority of the 50 organisations.

The changes proposed (from paragraph 64 onwards) are based on feedback we have had through engagement and directly from applicants.

**12. Has any assessment been done on the potential impact of funding shifts on long-standing recipients, and what contingency plans are in place to prevent level of service disruptions?**

While we have highlighted the potential impact of aligning the fund more closely with LTP priorities, we are yet to engage in detail with funded organisations on likely implications. We will initiate the discussions around reporting milestones for the 2025/2026 financial year in April. Where any organisations are identified as potentially impacted, Officers will work through options, discuss other funding options (with other funders), and consider longer transition arrangements.

**13. How will the success of this new framework be measured, and will there be flexibility to adjust if unintended negative impacts arise?**

Measures of success will include funding application and decision data, for example, the number of applications partially funded and declined. Measures also include the impact on LTP priority areas by funded organisations.

Within these priorities for the Community Outcomes Fund, there are a number of areas where impact will be measured:

- Community Centres- with reference to delivery models determined through the Community Centre Model Exploration Project
- City Safety and Wellbeing - programmes of work around sexual violence prevention, harm reduction and homelessness.

Officers are committed to having the flexibility to adjust the framework in line with the Grants subcommittee and Council LTP priorities.