

Community Facilities: Community Facility Partnerships

1. The Proposal

The draft Community Facilities Policy outlines Council’s approach to community facility provision. The thrust of the draft policy is for Council to take a partnership approach to the delivery of community spaces where it does not already directly provide facilities.

A mechanism to support Council’s partnership approach is to provide financial assistance to increase public access to non-Council community space where it can be demonstrated that increasing public access to an existing facility is unaffordable or increases costs for the facility owner or leasee.

2. Proposal Costs

Outline project costs per year										
Project Component	Operating expenses \$000									
	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Extension to grants pool	55	57	58	60	62	64	66	68	70	72
Total	55	57	58	60	62	64	66	68	70	72

3. Project Outline

The Council supports or provides community facilities through existing partnerships with schools, community groups and other organisations. Partnerships may take a variety of forms including working with existing community groups, facilitating access to existing community spaces, advocating on behalf of the community, providing information on facilities to the public, jointly owning a facility or working on specific collaborative goals over a defined period.

The draft Community Facilities Policy anticipates the Council will facilitate increased access to existing non Council community spaces through a variety of mechanisms including providing information on venues and potentially supporting venue owners where it can be demonstrated that there are financial barriers to increasing public access to their facility.

Draft amendments to the grants framework are proposed through the draft Community Facilities Policy to add criteria to enable funding of organisations to support increased public access to community space where it can be

demonstrated that allowing public access to an existing facility is unaffordable or increases costs for the facility owner. In addition, the Council may wish to support a community group to provide community space where they may not be the facility owner.

Consistent with the principle for grants to be for short term projects, the proposed amendments include a criterion for funding to be limited to a maximum of 2 years. Subsequent to this period of time, the organisation may apply for longer term contractual funding.

The proposal is to increase the annual social grants funding pool for allocation according to the grants criteria. Applications for funding will be called for alongside the social grants pool. There are no additional operating costs associated with the proposal above the additional funding in the grants pool.

Whilst this project may be postponed, a number of local community groups have approached the Council to request support for increasing community access to existing spaces.

4. Recommendation

The extension of the current social grants pool to facilitate access to existing community facilities is consistent with the partnership approach in the draft Community Facilities Policy. It forms part of a suite of Council initiatives to increase community access to community facilities in the city. It is recommended that the project proceed.