
ORDINARY MEETING

OF

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Time: 09:15 am
Date: Thursday, 1 September 2016
Venue: Committee Room 1
Ground Floor, Council Offices
101 Wakefield Street
Wellington

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2. Operational

OUR LIVING CITY FUND- AUGUST 2016

Purpose

1. To provide recommendations for allocation of funding through the August 2016 Our Living City Fund

Summary

2. The Council provides grants to assist community groups to undertake projects that meet community needs. Grants are also a mechanism for achieving the Council's objectives and strategic priorities, especially those priorities that rely on community organisations carrying out specific activities.
3. The 2013 review of the grant criteria proposed a move away from generic criteria in favour of specific criteria for each fund. While each pool may share a number of criteria, others would be tailored to suit the particular demands of that community of interest and relevant Council outcomes

Recommendations

That the Environment Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Agree to fund applicants as listed below:

	Organisation	Project/ Event Title	Total Project Cost	Amount requested	Recomm- ended	Comments
1	Conservation Volunteers New Zealand	Community Conservation	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$4,000	Support for volunteer groups, practical conservation projects across the city.
2	EcoGecko Consultants	Tawa Bush Reserves Lizard Survey	\$3,475	\$2,000	\$2,000	Work with community volunteers to undertake a lizard survey in three reserves, good partnerships with groups and iwi.

3	Karori Community Garden	Karori community Garden - Extension	\$650	\$650	\$650	Support for expansion of community garden in Karori. Subject to confirmation of legal status or umbrella organisation.
4	Northern Community Gardens Inc	Northern Community Gardens	\$1,780	\$1,780	\$1,320	Contribution to ongoing work at Jay St Reserve and Community Garden and Nursery.
5	Sustainable Coastlines Charitable Trust	Love Your Coast Wellington 2016	\$36,440	\$8,000	\$5,000	Coastal clean-ups, workshops and projects with students in years 11 to 13.
6	Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association	Student Community Garden launch	\$2,074	\$2,034	\$700	Support for new community garden, contribution to seeds and tools, group can apply for compost through Council.
7	Wellington Underwater Club	Engaging public with the marine environment	\$1,108	\$1,108	\$828	Support for volunteer project to film videos, promote and collect data about the marine environment.
8	Woodridge Planters Inc.	Keep Johnsonville Beautiful	\$1,550	\$1,550	\$0	Local clean up and volunteer project will be supported through operational funding alongside Blank It Out programme.
9	World Wide Fund for Nature New Zealand	Kereru Discovery project	\$27,280	\$5,000	\$0	Support through operational funding given pressure on available funding and ongoing partnership with WWF.
		Total:	\$80,357	\$28,122	\$14,498	

Background

4. Grants and funding are included in the Annual Plan to provide an appropriate mechanism for the Council to respond to community groups that are undertaking projects that:
 - Meet a need identified by the community.
 - Align with council's strategic goals and community outcomes.
 - Rely to some extent on participation and engagement by community organisations
5. Organisations and projects are funded through both contracts and contestable grants pools. The contestable pools provide grants that are discretionary, short term and generally project based in nature. The Council also enters into multi- year contracts when it has an interest in ensuring particular activities occur that contribute to Council's strategies or policies.
6. Criteria for the Our Living City Fund are included as Attachment 1.
7. The assessment process funding may include consultation with; the applicant, persons or organisations referred to in the application and Council officers, these would be across a range of activity areas, in the case of these applications across Parks, Sports and Recreation (Biodiversity and Environmental Partnerships) and Community Services (Urban Agriculture).
8. To ensure funds are used appropriately, conditions may be suggested should funding be approved. This is usually in cases where applicants need to use funds for a specific aspect of their budget or where landowner approval or the approval of plans/designs.
9. The original information provided through online application has been made available to Councillors via the hub.

Discussion

10. The Our Living City Fund supports community organisations for projects that meet the criteria for the fund. Funding is allocated to The Sustainability Trust through a multi-year contract which serves to support the work this organisation do from their Eco Centre on Forrester's Lane and with community and environmental groups in the wider city and CBD with a focus on Urban Agriculture (\$30,300). In the 2016/17 Annual Plan, Council also made a commitment to support the Warm Up Wellington programme in 2016/17 (with \$20,000) from this budget.
11. \$29,261 is available to allocate through this fund during 2016/17.
12. This is first of two funding rounds for 2016-17 which had a closing date of 4 August 2016. The next funding round will close in February/March 2017 (closing date to be confirmed). Nine organisations have requested over \$28,000 in this funding round.
13. Officers are recommending the Environment Committee support seven projects with grants totalling \$14,498.

Contact Officers

Mark Farrar, Senior Advisor- Funding and Relationships

Myfanwy Emeny, T/L Biodiversity and Urban Ecology, Parks, Sport and Recreation

Sarah Adams, Community Advisor- Urban Agriculture

Tim Park, Environmental Partnership Leader

Attachments

Attachment 1. Our Living City Fund Criteria

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Author	Mark Farrar, Team Leader Funding and Relationships
Authoriser	Jenny Rains, Community Services Manager Greg Orchard, Chief Operating Officer

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultation and Engagement

The assessment process funding includes consultation with; the applicant, persons or organisations referred to in the application and other Council officers, across a range of activity areas, in the case of these applications across Parks, Sports and Recreation and Community Services business units.

Treaty of Waitangi considerations

For the Our Living City Fund there are specific criteria and questions relating to Maori, for the Our Living City Fund applicants are asked to describe how their project serves to support kaitiaki of the environment.

Financial implications

The Long Term Plan makes provision for community grants in several places - 2.1.6 - Community environmental initiatives, 3.1.4 - Grants and creative workforce, 4.1.4 – (Arts and) Cultural grants, and 5.2.4 - Grants (Social and Recreation). The Our Living City Fund comes under project C652. The Social and Recreation and neighbours Day Funds under C678 and the Arts and Culture Fund under C661.

Policy and legislative implications

Council funds have been created to assist community initiatives in line with Council strategy. Council Officers engage and consult widely with a range of groups and organisations before funding applications are made and throughout the assessment process.

Risks / legal

There are no legal risks.

Climate Change impact and considerations

There are no impacts on climate change to consider.

Communications Plan

N/A

Health and Safety Impact considered

Organisations delivering the projects will be responsible for the Health and Safety of their staff and volunteers.

Attachment 1

Criteria- Our Living City Fund

This fund aims to improve Wellington's quality of life by strengthening urban-nature connections and building economic opportunities from a healthy environment

About the fund

The fund will support projects and activities like community conservation projects, community gardens, green infrastructure (living walls and roofs), and resilience to natural events, reducing emissions, reductions from stationary energy, transport, water and waste

Fund objectives

- To support community initiatives and projects those grows Wellington's natural capital and reduce our environmental impact.
- To support initiatives which provide opportunities for community enjoyment and kaitiakitanga of Wellington's natural environment.
- To strengthen Wellington's connections with nature to safeguard and develop one of our greatest strengths – our quality of life.

Criteria

The project makes a positive contribution to achieving the Council's Strategic outcomes:

Towards 2040: Smart Capital strategy

- People Centred City: Contributes to healthy, vibrant, affordable and resilient communities, with a strong sense of identity and 'place' expressed through urban form, openness and accessibility.
- Connected City: Supports a city with easy physical and virtual access to regional, national and global networks.
- Eco-City: Allows the city to proactively respond to environmental challenges and seize opportunities to grow the green economy.
- Dynamic Central City: Supports a central city of creativity, exploration and innovation, helping Wellington to offer the lifestyle, entertainment and amenity of a much bigger city.

Long Term Plan 2012-22 priorities:

- An inclusive place where talent wants to live
- A resilient city
- A well managed city
- Annual Plan priorities for the relevant year.

The project is Wellington-based and mainly benefits the people of Wellington. (Exceptions may be made for projects based elsewhere in the region, but which significantly benefit Wellington City residents).

The applicant is a legally constituted community group or organisation.

The applicant provides evidence of sound financial management, good employment practice, clear and detailed planning, clear performance measures, and reporting processes.

The applicant outlines how physical accessibility has been built into project development.

The applicant outlines how pricing has been set to ensure access by a wide range of people or by the intended users.

The project should show evidence of community support, collaboration, and building partnerships with other organisations (e.g. social media interest, letters of support from other organisations/leaders).

The applicant must show that the project discernibly improves community wellbeing and adds value to the range of similar types of services in the community.

The Council respects mana whenua values and aspirations for the environment. Demonstrate how your project reflects an understanding of Wellington's history, how to care for the land and resources and an understanding of wāhi tapu.

Focus Areas

- Green infrastructure and green urban networks
- Biodiversity and pest management, including beach, stream, and harbour cleanup
- Resilience to natural events
- Healthy communities, including community gardens.
- Reducing emissions from stationary energy, transport, and waste and facilitating renewable energy development.
- Water; conservation, efficiency and quality