

WELLINGTON REGIONAL AMENITIES FUND JOINT COMMITTEE

26 July 2013

REPORT NO 1

Update to Priorities for the Wellington Regional Amenities Fund

1. Purpose of report

This paper seeks the Joint Committee's decision on updating the criteria and priorities for the Fund. At the 24 April 2013 meeting the Joint Committee agreed that the criteria and priorities for the Fund would be reviewed before the next round of the Fund opens on 1 August 2013.

Feedback on the priorities has been received from external organisations and some minor changes are suggested.

2. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Joint Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Agree that the priorities for the 2013/2014 round of the Fund will be as follows:*
 - a. *Demonstrate a need for financial assistance to maintain its current operations or extend the reach of its operations across the Wellington region.*
 - b. *Increase the entity's long-term contribution to the economy of the Wellington region.*
 - c. *Address gaps in, or extend, the current calendar of activities and events **or** the arts, culture and environmental ecosystems in the Wellington Region.*
 - d. *Display regional partnerships with Councils and other organisations in order to leverage mutual benefits*
 - e. *Build, maintain and retain organisations that contribute to Wellington's status as an internationally competitive region.*

3. Background

3.1 Review of the Criteria and Priorities for the Fund:

The Joint Committee, at its 24 April meeting, agreed to review the criteria and priorities of the Fund. The recommended changes take into account feedback from organisations and also feedback from local communities as part of annual plan consultations.

No feedback has been received regarding the criteria of the Fund and officer advice is that this is not updated for the 2013/2014 round.

Some feedback has been received regarding the five priorities for the Fund and one change is recommended.

The five priorities for the first round were as follows:

- a. Demonstrate a need for financial assistance to maintain its current operations or extend the reach of its operations across the Wellington region.*
- b. Increase the entity's long-term contribution to the economy of the Wellington region.*
- c. Address gaps in, or extend, the current calendar of activities and events in the Wellington Region.*
- d. Display regional partnerships with Councils and other organisations in order to leverage mutual benefits*
- e. Build, maintain and retain organisations that contribute to Wellington's status as an internationally competitive region.*

While there has been acceptance of the priorities as appropriate for this Fund, feedback from the theatre sector is that the priority addressing the calendar of events and activities in the Wellington region is expanded to address the interconnected nature of the arts sector.

They spoke of the need to have strong organisations at all levels in order to sustain their industry, and maintain and grow their contribution to the region. This need for a healthy ecosystem will also apply to other arts, cultural and environmental sectors.

The suggested change to priority (c) is as follows:

Address gaps in, or extend, the current calendar of activities and events **or** the arts, culture and environmental ecosystems in the Wellington Region.

4. Conclusion

The Councils of Hutt City, Kāpiti Coast District, Masterton District, Upper Hutt City and Wellington City have agreed to jointly fund the Wellington Regional Amenities Fund for a second year.

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