
REPORT 7
(1215/52 IM)

REVISED FOCUS AREAS FOR GENERAL GRANTS AND CRITERIA FOR THE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

1. Purpose of Report

To seek the Strategy and Policy Committee's approval of the focus areas and associated criteria for the general grants pools as well as the proposed criteria for the Community Preparedness Grant.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Agree to the revised priorities and associated criteria for the general grants pools.*
3. *Agree to the criteria for the Community Preparedness Grants, subject to the Draft Annual Plan deliberations.*

3. Background

Grants are a mechanism for achieving the Council's objectives and strategic priorities, especially those priorities that rely on community organisations carrying out specific activities.

Grants are included in the Annual Plan to provide

- A flexible, reactive mechanism for the Council to support community groups that are undertaking projects that meet a need identified by the community.

- The Council with the ability to encourage innovation, diversity and creativity.
- A mechanism to support the city's social, cultural, economic and environmental infrastructure.
- A mechanism that enables the Council to ensure particular activities occur without directly providing a service.
- Funding through contracts as a mechanism to support organisations that represent core business of the Council or directly contribute to Council's strategic or policy goals.

To ensure a more flexible approach in determining funding priorities the Grants Framework recommended priority (focus) areas be reviewed on an annual basis to align with annual plan priorities.

4. Discussion

There are common grants criteria that apply across all grant pools such as the Cultural, Social, economic and Environmental grants. Each grant type has specific criteria that relate to council's current focus (priority) areas.

Current focus areas and criteria specific for each pool come from a mixture of historical drivers and were developed to align with strategic priorities identified by Councillors in the 2006/09 period, as well as acknowledging historic areas of funding (prior to the current grants framework).

The current and proposed focus areas and specific criteria for the four general pools are outlined in the tables below.

4.1 Social Grants

The proposed focus areas and associated criteria for the social pool continue to recognise the importance of strong, sustainable communities and the need for building capacity in the community. Focus areas recognising youth, city safety and participation in recreational (passive and active) activities are also retained.

Social pool			
Current		Proposed	
Focus area	Specific Criteria for Social	Focus area	Specific criteria
Capability and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage growth of communities and participation in community life. ▪ Assist the development of economically or socially disadvantaged groups in the 	Capability and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage growth of communities and participation in community life ▪ Strengthen the local community, address local issues, strengthen and contribute to social wellbeing ▪ Encourage and support

	community.		volunteers and foster skill development and training for the community
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lead to a safer community environment ▪ Promote personal safety ▪ Help reduce crime in Wellington 	Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build a safe community and/or environment ▪ Promote personal safety
Participation in sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Target youth- 13 to 20 year age group ▪ Support active participation by youth by providing essential items for the activity ▪ Encourage volunteer involvement to support active participation by youth 	Physically active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage and support health and wellbeing ▪ Target communities of interest, including youth and seniors
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Target youth in the 10-25 year age group ▪ Emphasise youth involvement in planning, and learning to make constructive use of leisure time ▪ Programme is unable to get sufficient funding from other sources ▪ Aimed at keeping youth/rangatahi safe ▪ Encourage youth/rangatahi to develop their full potential as individuals and members of the community. ▪ Encourages youth/rangatahi to participate in community networks and/or in the decision making and development of their city 	Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involve young people in the development and delivery of the project ▪ Encourage constructive use of leisure time ▪ Help young people gain a better understanding of community, an increased sense of belonging as active citizens and positive contributors to society ▪ Promote volunteer opportunities for young people

4.2 Cultural Grants

Current focus areas and associated criteria recognise the importance of sense of place, diversity, partnerships with arts organisations, festival groups and youth participation in arts and cultural activities and remain unchanged.

Cultural pool			
Current		Proposed	
Focus areas	Specific criteria for cultural	Focus areas	Specific criteria
Grassroots organisations (particularly those with a focus on youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage or increases youth participation in the arts ▪ Acknowledge community diversity and civic pride 	No change	No change
For specific projects, exhibitions or other groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserve and enhance Wellington's role as arts and cultural capital of New Zealand ▪ Attract visitors to Wellington and has a positive economic benefit for the city ▪ Be a specific project for an exhibition or event 	No change	No change
Maori art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrate an emphasis on traditional or contemporary Maori cultural influences 	No change	No change
Significant community festivals and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group is based in a geographic community (such as a suburb) or a community of interest (such as an ethnicity) and proposes a festival 	No change	No change

	or event that reflects a community need		
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4.3 Economic Grants

Focus areas are to support the development projects of economic benefit to Wellington. The projects must benefit the wider community (local or city wide) not individuals or businesses. Applicants should not be government agencies

Economic pool			
Current		Proposed	
Focus areas	Specific criteria	Focus areas	Specific criteria
Broadband	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contribute to the implementation of the Wellington Regional Strategy ▪ Strengthen the city's status as a centre of creativity and innovation ▪ Encourage the deployment of open access broadband infrastructure ▪ Should benefit the wider community rather than individuals or particular sectors ▪ Applicants should not be government agencies or limited liability companies 	Retain core economic activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support local economic development activity and capacity building ▪ Feature strong partnerships with tertiary education institutions ▪ Attract and retain skilled migrants ▪ Strengthen the city's status as a centre of creativity, ideas and innovation
Migrants and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase Wellington's international linkages ▪ Attract and retaining skilled migrants ▪ Benefit the wider community rather than individuals or particular sectors 	Growth of local emerging business and local economic activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote new ideas, businesses, products or partnerships – including creative/digital, clean technologies, innovative design and tourism

4.4 Environmental Grants

Focus areas and criteria have been updated to reflect the current priorities which include delivering on the Climate Change Action Plan and promoting opportunities for initiatives that promote the city's natural environment.

Environmental Pool			
Current		Proposed	
Focus areas	Specific criteria	Focus areas	Specific criteria
Positive impacts on Council's Strategic Outcomes in relation to the environment (eg biodiversity, eco-systems, landscape and natural heritage, waste minimisation, water conservation, fuel use/alternative transportation, eco-design, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote water and energy efficiency and conservation, energy security and the use of renewable energy resources ▪ Improve stream protection 	Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage composting of organic waste ▪ Facilitate and support recycling, composting and waste reduction
Project promotes environmental sustainability or understanding of environmental values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen partnerships with stakeholders and to increase community projects that support participation and environmental education ▪ Promote biodiversity and waste minimisation 	Energy and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support reduced energy consumption and/or promotion of renewable energy ▪ Encourage change in travel behaviour ▪ Improve energy efficiency and conservation
		Biodiversity and stream protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restore and protect natural biodiversity ▪ Increase awareness of biodiversity stream protection ▪ Support clean ups

			that have a direct impact on biodiversity value
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4.5 Community Preparedness Grants

The Council promotes social wellbeing by providing a wide range of opportunities, facilities and initiatives which includes supporting projects that encourage community resilience and local sustainability.

Community Preparedness Grants are intended to help build strong communities by supporting local initiatives that promote and enhance resilience.

Community resilience is the sustained ability for communities to respond and recover from a crisis or emergency and a resilient community is one that has:

- Good infrastructure: secure homes and community facilities.
- Resources: personal and household emergency resources including water supplies and emergency kits.
- Knowledge and information: access to information about what to do in an emergency; household plans, tsunami evacuation routes, Civil Defence Centres, First aid.
- Neighbourhood connections: connections between households so that people are checked on – especially if they are vulnerable and information will be shared.

Community Preparedness Grants are intended to help build strong communities by supporting projects that promote connectedness at a neighbourhood level, enhance local resilience, emergency preparedness and sustainability. The activities and projects funded will contribute to the following outcomes:

- An increase in personal and household preparedness for an emergency.
- An increase in collective preparedness for an emergency.
- An increase in connectedness in the case of an emergency.

Projects must meet the general grants criteria (Appendix one) as well as the additional criteria specific for this fund. The additional criteria are:

Additional criteria

The project must:

- be a local neighbourhood initiative that impacts upon at least 15 homes or a defined geographic community such as walkways or apartment buildings
- strengthen local connectedness in a way that is sustainable and has an ongoing benefit to the neighbourhood
- increase emergency preparedness locally
- be open to the whole neighbourhood
- improve the wellbeing of people in the community
- improve how safe people feel within the community.

6. Conclusion

Officers recommend the revised focus areas for the four general grant pools (Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural) and the proposed criteria for the Community Preparedness Grants.

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Supporting Information
<p>1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome <i>General grants are allocated to support outcomes from the Social and Recreation, Economic and Environmental strategic areas</i></p>
<p>2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact <i>The Cultural grants come under project C661, the Environmental grants under project C652, the Social and Recreational grants under C678 and the Economic grants under project C647. There are no impacts on current funding</i></p>
<p>3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations</p>
<p>4) Decision-Making <i>This is not a significant decision.</i></p>
<p>5) Consultation</p> <p>a) General Consultation</p> <p>b) Consultation with Maori</p>
<p>6) Legal Implications <i>none</i></p>
<p>7) Consistency with existing policy <i>The grants pools have been created to assist community initiatives in line with Council strategy.</i></p>

Appendix One

General Grants Criteria:

- 1.** Project makes a positive contribution to achieving the Council's Strategic Outcomes as listed in the Council's current Annual Plan.
- 2.** Project is Wellington based and primarily benefits the people of Wellington
- 3.** Applicant is a legally constituted community group or organisation, not an individual (may apply under an umbrella organisation)
- 4.** Applicant group provides evidence of (or, if a new group, systems for): sound financial management, good employment practice (where applicable), clear and detailed planning, clear performance measures, demonstrated ability to report back on past funding as appropriate.
- 5.** Projects will not be funded for the same purpose more than once in any financial year.
- 6.** Failure to report adequately on past Council funding can result in a group being considered ineligible for future funding.
- 7.** Project is physically and financially accessible either by a wide range of persons or by the intended users.
- 8.** Project shows evidence of community support, collaboration and building partnerships with other organisations (eg letters of support from other organisations/leaders).
- 9.** Applicant must demonstrate that the project expands the capacity, range or level of similar types of services in the community and that there was user input into identifying the need for the project.
- 10.** The principal intent of the project is not for private or commercial pecuniary gain, though it may be that such gains occur as a side effect of the project.
- 11.** Application demonstrates an awareness of the Treaty of Waitangi, in particular when involving Mana whenua and Taura Here.