
OUR LIVING CITY FUND- APRIL 2014

1. Purpose of report

Provides recommendations for the distribution of the Council's Our Living City Fund.

2. Executive summary

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.

The 2013 review of the grant criteria proposed a move away from generic criteria in favour of specific criteria for each fund. The review highlighted the need to move away from generic criteria in favour of specific criteria for each grant fund.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Environment Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Agree to fund the applicants as listed in Appendix 2.*

4. Background

The Our Living City Fund is focussed on projects which serve to meet the "growing and enjoying our natural capital" and "reducing our environmental impact" goals of the Our Living City programme. The fund aims to support initiatives which provide opportunities for community enjoyment and kaitiakitanga of Wellington's natural environment.

Projects should strengthen connections with nature which is acknowledged as a contributor to our quality of life. The fund can also support activities such as green infrastructure (e.g. living walls and roofs), projects that serve to address resilience to natural events, and emissions reductions from stationary energy, transport, and waste.

5 Discussion

This fund provides grants to community organisations for projects that meet the criteria for the fund (Appendix 1). This is the third of the three funding rounds for 2013-14.

The next round for this fund will close on 31 July 2014 with applications considered by the Environment Committee in September 2014.

5.1 *Our Living City Fund*

There are ten applications to the Our Living City Fund requesting a total of \$56,414.

Funding available for allocation for the Our Living City Fund for the remainder of 2013/14 is \$22,595.

5.2 *Climate change impacts and considerations*

The Our Living City Fund contributes to the achievement of the Council's climate change outcomes, particularly in relation to supporting community activity.

5.3 *Application Assessment*

Officer's recommendations (Appendix 2) are based on evidence of need, alignment with the Council's strategic goals, the fund criteria (Appendix 1) and the likely effectiveness of funding the project.

Officers also take into account the management of previous funding (through accountability reports).

The assessment process may include consultation with; the applicant, persons or organisations referred to in the application, Council officers, and persons operating or knowledgeable about similar services to that of the applicant. Applicants are given five working days where possible to respond to a request for more information, so some recommendations may be subject to change depending on responses received after this report has been written.

To ensure funds are used appropriately, conditions may be suggested in certain circumstances should funding be approved. This is usually in cases where applicants need to use funds for a specific aspect of their budget or they are awaiting confirmation of sufficient funds from other sources to proceed with their project.

The original information provided through online application has been made available to members of the Committee.

The recommendations (Appendix 2) give each applicant's organisation name, a brief project description, the total project cost, amount requested and general comments from Council Officers.

6. Conclusion

The Environment Committee is asked to consider the applications received for the Our Living City Fund and decide whether or not it is appropriate to fund applicant organisations, and at what level.

Contact Officer: Mark Farrar, Senior Advisor- Funding and Relationships

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1) Strategic fit / Strategic outcome

Wellington City Council Grants support communities to deliver on Council's strategic outcomes.

2) LTP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

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 under project C652.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

Any grants application that could have implications for Maori are referred to WCC Treaty Relations Office for recommendations. For each of these grant funds there are specific criteria and questions relating to Maori, for the Our Living City Fund applicants are asked to describe how their project relates to concepts around the guardianship with mana whenua as kaitiaki of the natural environment.

4) Decision-making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General consultation

Council Officers engage and consult widely with a range of groups and organisations before funding applications are made and throughout the assessment process.

b) Consultation with Maori *N/a*

6) Legal implications

N/a

7) Consistency with existing policy

Council funds have been created to assist community initiatives in line with Council strategy.

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

Your 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