

NEW CONTRACT FUNDING- ENVIROSCHOOLS FOUNDATION WELLINGTON

1. Purpose of Report

To seek the Grants Subcommittee's approval for funds to be allocated through contracts to the Enviroschools Foundation.

2. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Subcommittee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Agree that from the 2011/12 financial year The Enviroschools Foundation be offered a three year funding contract.*

3. Background

Grants 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.

Organisations and projects are funded through contracts and contestable grants pools. The contestable pools provide grants that are discretionary, short term and project based in nature. The Council also enters into three year contracts when it has an interest in ensuring particular activities occur that contribute to Council's strategies or policies. For example, community centres are seen as an important part of community infrastructure and their activities are important in building strong communities (the overarching theme of the Social Strategy).

The Strategy and Policy Committee agreed to a re-configured grants framework (April 2005) in which organisations whose activities directly contribute to Council's

strategic or policy goals would be funded through a *detailed* contractual arrangement with 3 year reviews of the funding.

Three year funding support is of particular benefit for community organisations working towards building strong communities through strengthening capacity in Wellington's Social and Cultural sectors. There are some organisations that are critical to Wellington, contribute to Wellington's sense of place and are part of the city's infrastructure. These are organisations that are sustainable in the long term but need some financial support and some certainty. An example might be Zeal or the Wellington Free Ambulance.

Organisations funded by the Council through three year contracts need to meet the general grants criteria and also that:

- The organisation is well-established and with some Council funding is sustainable in the long-term.
- The organisation is generally regarded as a feature of Wellington's infrastructure or unique sense of place.
- The Council does not wish to influence its day to day activities but has a strong interest in the outcomes of the organisation.
- A partner relationship is beneficial.
- Activities that represent core business of the Council or directly contribute to Council's strategic or policy goals.

As part of the implementation of the grants framework contracts are fully reviewed every three years.

3.1 *The Enviroschools Foundation*

The Enviroschools Foundation has been supported by Council through the contestable grants process with grants of \$13,000 and Annual Plan funding of \$10,000.

The application from the Enviroschools Foundation whilst contributing to Council's environmental outcomes is also focussed on achieving social outcomes. By working with young people in schools the programme aims to encourage more actively engaged and connected communities. A copy of the Enviroschools Foundation application is attached as Appendix 3.

The Enviroschools Foundation work closely with Greater Wellington Regional Council who are a key funding partner- with a particular focus on two programmes; *Take Action on Water* and *Sustainable Transport*. Enviroschools have close working relationships with a range of Council business units, working in biodiversity and restoration, sustainable transport, waste minimisation and water conservation. Their work with young people in schools across the city and develop community based environmental projects through which students and their families learn about the environment, get involved in community restoration groups.

4. Discussion

4.1 Rationale for decision making

The following principles and criteria have been derived from the framework and its rationale. They have been developed as a guide for the recommendations contained in this paper, officers applied the following rationale in their decision making.

Health Check

The organisation completed a self-assessed health check as part of the application process. Officers ratified this self-assessment by reviewing the supporting documentation provided by the applicants and through asking questions at a meeting with staff from Enviroschools, where officers satisfied themselves that the organisation scored a rating of at least '3' in each assessment area.

Contract funding criteria

In November 2005, Council reviewed and made changes to the Grants Framework. One of those changes was to establish the provision to fund organisations on the basis of a three-year contract. A number of organisations that the Council had an existing funding relationship with were invited to enter into such a contract. A list of current three year contracts is attached as Appendix 4.

4.2 Application Assessment

Officers assessed whether the applicant qualified for contract funding using the above criteria. (Appendix 2)

Meeting strategic priorities

In the application form, organisations were asked to specify the activities that they would deliver with Council funding over the period of the three year contract. These activities were assessed against the Council's three-year priorities in its 2009-19 Long Term Council Community Plan.

Other criteria

In the application form, organisations were asked to demonstrate how they do or will work in partnership with other organisations and the Council, how they evaluate their activities and their commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi.

The Enviroschools Foundation is ideally placed to assist in delivery of these priorities. The Council wishes to work collaboratively with the organisation and will provide support to deliver on agreed outcomes through Officers within a number of Council business units.

It is proposed that the Grants subcommittee recommends funding the Enviroschools Foundation of \$20,000 P/A through a 3 year contract for services for facilitation of the Wellington programme.

5. Conclusion

The Subcommittee is asked to consider the applications and decide whether or not it is appropriate to fund the organisation and at what level.

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Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

WCC General grants are allocated to support outcomes from the Cultural, Social, Economic and Environmental strategic areas.

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

The Cultural grants come under project C661, the Environmental grants under project C652, the Social & Recreational grants under C678 and the Economic grants under project C647.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

Any grants application that could have implications for Maori are referred to WCC Treaty Relations Office for recommendations. The Treaty Relations Office is sent the full list of applicants and projects for comments.

4) Decision-Making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

The Grants Team sends the full list of applicants and projects for comment to appropriate Council officers prior to presentation to the Subcommittee. Applicants and persons or organisations referred to in the applications and others may be spoken to for comments where appropriate.

b) Consultation with Maori

The WCC Treaty Relations Office is sent the full list of applicants and projects for comment prior to presentation to committee.

6) Legal Implications

N/A

7) Consistency with existing policy

The grant pools have been created to assist community initiatives in line with Council strategy.

Appendix 1: Grants Criteria

Generic Grants Criteria:

1. Project makes a positive contribution to achieving the Council's Strategic Outcomes and Points of Difference as listed in the Council's current Annual Plan.
2. Project is Wellington based and primarily benefits the people of Wellington (exceptions may be made for projects based elsewhere in the region but which significantly benefit residents of Wellington City).
3. Applicant is a legally constituted community group or organisation, not an individual or individuals.
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 (e.g. 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 taurahere.

Specific criteria relating to Environmental Grants:

- Project has positive impacts upon Council's Strategic Outcomes in relation to the environment (e.g. bio-diversity, eco-systems, landscape and natural heritage, waste minimisation, water conservation, fuel use/alternative transportation, eco-design etc.)
- Project enhances, restores or protects the environment within Wellington City.
- Project promotes environmental sustainability or understanding of environmental values.

Specific criteria relating to Social grants:

Building Capability & Capacity:

- Project encourages growth of communities and participation in community life.
- Preference for projects that assist the development of economically or socially disadvantaged groups in the community.

Sport and Recreation:

- Priority will be given to:
 - Programmes targeting youth – 13 to 20 year age group
 - Spending that supports active participation by youth by providing essential items for the activity

- Projects that encourage volunteer involvement to support active participation by youth
- Projects that historically would have been eligible for Hillary Commission funding and have unsuccessfully sought funding from other sources

Safety:

- Projects that lead to a safer community environment.
- Projects that promote personal safety.
- Projects that help reduce crime in Wellington.

Youth:

- Programme targets youth in the 10-25 year age group.
- Programme emphasises youth involvement in planning, and learning to make constructive use of leisure time.
- Programme is unable to get sufficient funding from other sources.
- Project is aimed at keeping youth/rangatahi safe.
- Project encourages youth/rangatahi to develop their full potential as individuals and members of the community.
- Project encourages youth/rangatahi to participate in community networks and/or in the decision making and development of their city.

Appendix 2: Enviroschools Foundation 3 year contract funding application

Appendix 3: Current three year funding contracts

Social and Recreation

<i>Organisation Name</i>	<i>Annual Funding</i>
Catacombs	\$17,000
Changemakers Refugee Forum	\$17,000
Community Accounts Mentoring Service	\$27,000
Life Flight Trust	\$42,000
Multicultural Service Centre	\$11,000
Vincent's Art Workshop	\$23,000
Volunteer Wellington	\$32,000
Wellington Citizens Advice Bureau Inc	\$195,000
Wellington City Mission	\$12,000
Wellington City Mission- Mayoral Relief Fund	\$20,000
Wellington Community Law	\$32,000
Wellington Council of Social Services	\$32,000
Wellington Free Ambulance	\$64,847
Wellington Night Shelter Trust	\$35,000
Wellington Womens Refuge	\$20,000
Age Concern Wellington Inc	\$10,000
Challenge 2000	\$40,000
English Language Partners Wellington Incorporated	\$12,000
Mokai Kainga Maori Centre Charitable Trust	\$42,500
Wellington Activity Centre	\$30,000
Wellington Boys and Girls Institute Inc	\$90,000
ZEAL Education Trust	\$80,000

20/20 Communications Trust	\$35,000
Total:	\$919,347

Community centres

Organisation Name	Annual Funding
Aro Valley Community Centre	\$40,821
Brooklyn Community Association	\$38,464
Brooklyn Community Resource Centre	\$25,380
Hataitai Collective & Community House	\$37,000
Johnsonville Community Centre	\$45,000
Karori Community Centre	\$45,000
Khandallah- Cornerstone Resource Centre	\$35,579
Kilbirnie/Lyall Bay Community Centre	\$45,000
New Crossways Community Trust	\$36,308
Newtown Community & Cultural Centre (\$45,000)	\$173,041
Newtown Playground Hall (\$31,041)	
Smart Newtown (\$97,000)	
Northland Memorial Community Centre	\$31,871
Strathmore Park Community Base Inc (including Miramar Community Centre)	\$87,572
Thistle Hall	\$45,000
Total:	\$686,036

Cultural wellbeing

Organisation Name	Annual Funding
Arts Access Aotearoa	\$12,000
BATS Theatre	\$33,000

Circa Theatre	\$33,000
Downstage Theatre	\$33,000
NBR New Zealand Opera	\$48,500
Randell Cottage Writers Trust	\$8,628
Royal New Zealand Ballet	\$17,500
Taki Rua Productions	\$33,000
Vector Wellington Orchestra	\$71,500
Fringe Arts Trust	\$85,000
Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Society	\$68,000
Newtown Festival	\$40,000
Total:	\$483,128

Environmental

Organisation Name	Annual Funding
The Sustainability Trust	\$45,000
Total:	\$45,000