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**Victoria University – funding request for upgrade of Kelburn Parade**

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**The Proposal**

Victoria University has made a funding request to upgrade Kelburn Parade. The University notes that Kelburn Parade is the University's front door and the streetscape has remained much as it was in the 1970's with plain tar seal paving and little in the way of design elements.

The university would like to see Council allocate funding of \$75,000 (2009/10) to initiate a design phase with a view to complete the upgrade the subsequent year.

They state that a more aesthetically pleasing streetscape will enhance the University's appeal both to prospective students and postgraduate students and agreement of funding for the project would demonstrate the Council's support for a healthy and vibrant Victoria University.

**Proposal Costs**

Project Component	Operating expenses \$000									
	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
<i>Revenue</i>	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total</i>	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Capital funding to be determined through the design phase.

**Discussion**

While it is recognised that Victoria University is a significant contributor to Wellington in economic, cultural and social terms, in the current economic environment Council's focus for new funding over the next three years is on those projects that have commenced, sustain Wellington's points of difference or where it is considered strategically important to invest. In recognition of this, there has been a general deferral of non urgent capital upgrades for the next three years as well as some service level reductions, and any new funding bids are reviewed in terms of this general approach and the need to take a balanced approach to investment in the city while containing rates increases.

While any upgrade along Kelburn Parade would benefit the University precinct area and be appreciated by prospective and postgraduate students as outlined by Victoria University in their submission, such work would not likely be a significant driver in attracting greater student numbers to Victoria University and can therefore not be supported as a high priority project by Council for the next three years.

**Officer recommendation**

It is recommended that the funding bid be declined.

**Contact officer:**

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