

## **Council Information Session/Workshop**

### **NOTES**

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**Date:** **Tuesday 5 March 2024**  
**Time:** **10.30 am**  
**Venue:** **Council Chambers, Civic Offices,  
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch**  
**Zoom Link:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6439418430?omn=86418455067>  
**Meeting ID: 643 941 8430**

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**Present**

Chairperson	Mayor Phil Mauger
Deputy Chairperson	Deputy Mayor Pauline Cotter
Members	Councillor Kelly Barber
	Councillor Melanie Coker
	Councillor Celeste Donovan
	Councillor Tyrone Fields
	Councillor James Gough
	Councillor Tyla Harrison-Hunt
	Councillor Victoria Henstock
	Councillor Yani Johanson
	Councillor Aaron Keown
	Councillor Sam MacDonald
	Councillor Jake McLellan
	Councillor Andrei Moore
	Councillor Mark Peters
	Councillor Tim Scandrett
	Councillor Sara Templeton

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**Principal Advisor**  
Andrew Rutledge  
Acting General Manager Citizens &  
Community  
Tel: 941 8999

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**Please Note:**  
**This forum has no decision-making powers and is purely for information sharing.**

The agenda was dealt with in the following order.

## **1. Apologies Ngā Whakapāha**

Councillors Moore and Harrison-Hunt joined via zoom.

## **2. Community Funding - Metropolitan Strengthening Communities Priorities**

Presented by Josh Wharton – Team Leader Community Funding

- Gary Watson, Manager Community Partnerships, Introduced Josh Wharton.
- Josh provided an explanation of the fund, how it differs from other community funding, and the recent increase in both the number of applications as well as the size funding they're requesting.
- Note that increase of applicants is likely due to reduction in other funding amounts offered and/or the tightening of criteria.
- General feedback is that the current model is a lot of time spent for not a lot of reward.
- Councillor Scandrett noted that when central government withdrew funding our policy is that we do not intervene.
- Note that Councillors do not want Council funding to be seen as a last resort.
- Josh asked for an indication whether Council would prefer a focus on providing a large amount of groups with a small amount of funding, or a small amount of groups with a large amount of funding.
- Gary suggested that themes of priorities, e.g. 3 or 4 priorities which would make an impact as a city would be useful.
- Councillor Templeton asked if we would be making the prioritise clear on the website. Staff confirmed that this was the intention.
- Councillor Henstock acknowledged that there would be outliers and requested these still be considered. Staff confirmed all applications would be reported on and considered.
- Gary discussed timeframes and expectation of increased submissions.
- Councillor Fields asked about previous years submissions. Josh agreed that a spreadsheet of all requests over the last five years can be provided.
- Councillor Fields asked if amount requested changed time spent on each request.
- Councillor Fields requested effectiveness feedback of requests granted.
- Discussion on tightening of funding from Central Government and impact on Local Government funding.
- Discussion regarding prioritising economic resilience in communities, especially those in isolation, and want to stay away from sectors. Community development initiatives that support the above.
- Discussion regarding community good vs city good.

- Councillor Scandrett asked if staff were working with Ngai Tahu. Staff confirmed a working relationship. Note that there are very few applications which would apply.
- Discussion on whether staff have done any outreach work for Māori and Pasifika. Confirmed multi-cultural, no specific targeting.
- Discussion on cost of living crisis and its impact.
- Councillor Johanson raised option of separating the fund into support streams eg. Arts, sports, etc.
- Discussion regarding start ups vs emergency funding.
- Discussion that any form of ringfencing would need to be a later discussion and review of the fund.
- Councillor Henstock iterated preference for the fund to be a leg up rather than a hand out. Weary about the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff reputation.
- Discussion of organisations that have relied on the funding.
- Discussion of voluntarism and groups that focus on volunteering or safety.
- Councillor Scandrett stated that he'd like to understand more about the increasing issues with getting volunteers for these groups.
- Councillor Peters iterated his preference for a focus on community development and groups that deliver multiple services. Councillor Templeton agreed with multiple outcomes.
- Councillor Fields requested confirmation whether there was a minimum and maximum set. Staff confirmed that there wasn't. Maximum \$2000 if not a formal organisation, hesitant to place a minimum as there are groups that may only need as little as \$400 which can make a massive difference. Councillor Fields noted concern regarding amount of work for staff with small donations.
- Councillor Macdonald asked about delegation. Noted that if there was a resolution staff would bring to council later in the year.
- Mayor Mauger noted that staff are doing a good job.

**Meeting concluded at 11.30am.**