

## 2023/24 COMMUNITY LOAN DECISION MATRIX – SOFTBALL

Organisation: Canterbury Softball Association (Softball)	Project Details	Project Funding (Ex GST)	Staff Recommendation
<p><b>Lead Unit: Recreation Sport &amp; Events</b></p> <p><b>Project Name: Canterbury Softball completion of new artificial softball diamonds</b></p> <p><b>Project Brief</b></p> <p>In February 2023 Canterbury Softball installed two new artificial diamonds at Cuthberts Green to replace their 30 year old lime surfaces. The National softball community were very complimentary of the NZ first brick red surfaces which were used to host a NZ U19 tournament in March 2023.</p> <p>This loan is to go towards the completion of landscaping, bargeboard installation, fencing and specialised grooming equipment.</p>	<p>Canterbury Softball have recently upgraded two softball diamonds at Cuthberts Green to replace their 30 year old lime diamonds.</p> <p>The new diamonds will provide the following community outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community-based holiday and community (Special Needs) programs on dry, lit, all-weather surfaces.</li> <li>A dry, all-weather surface to local schools.</li> <li>Expand Canterbury Softballs events capability, regionally, nationally and internationally.</li> <li>More national camps and clinics with an all-weather surface.</li> <li>Return Christchurch as an international venue option.</li> <li>Create a NZ industry first of brick/rust covered infields for better TV viewing.</li> <li>Substantially reduce daily dressing/marking/filling of lime infields and associated costs.</li> <li>Substantially reduce long term maintenance costs.</li> <li>Substantially reduce irrigation requirements.</li> <li>Substantially reduce lime dust dispersal through facility and surrounds.</li> <li>Increase game capacity with all-weather surface.</li> </ul> <p>Unfortunately, two funding commitments were reduced which has left Canterbury Softball unable to complete the finishing touches of landscaping, fencing, bargeboards and specialized grooming equipment.</p> <p>Canterbury Softball is in a good position to service a loan to Christchurch City Council as they have annual savings in maintenance costs which were required to maintain the old lime surfaces. They have requested a short-term loan which they intend to repay over 3 years. Once the loan is repaid these savings will so towards future replacement of high traffic areas of the turf.</p>	<p><b>Total Project Cost</b> \$45,000.00 to complete</p> <p><b>Total Amount Requested from Council</b> \$45,000 over 3 years</p> <p><b>Amount Requested</b></p> <p><b>Other sources of revenue</b></p> <p><b>Existing Council Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital Endowment Funding towards the installation of the turfs \$100,000.</li> <li>Strengthening Communities Funding to contribute to the operational expenses of shared community outcomes \$15,000 (yet to be confirmed).</li> <li>Small Sports Events Fund towards the hosting of National softball tournaments in Ōtautahi \$2,000 (yet to be confirmed).</li> </ul> <p><b>Ongoing operational expenses</b> Canterbury Softball is in the enviable position of having reduced operational expenses now that they have upgraded the diamonds. These savings will be used to service the loan and then fund future turf replacements.</p>	<p>That the Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve a Community Organisation Loan Scheme loan facility to the Canterbury Softball Association of up to \$45,000 to complete the installation of artificial softball surfaces at Cuthberts Green Wainoni; with a loan term of three years at an interest rate of 5.4% per annum.</li> <li>Resolves that the loan is conditional upon: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council taking general security on the current and fixed assets of the Canterbury Softball Association.</li> <li>Canterbury Softball Association demonstrating that they have sufficient funding for the project to proceed.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Delegate authority to the Head of Community Support, Governance &amp; Partnerships to make the necessary arrangements to implement this resolution noting that all loan documentation will be reviewed by Council's Legal Services Unit.</li> </ol>

Project Alignment	Staff Comments
<p><b>Alignment with Council Strategies</b> Te Haumako; Te Whitingia Strengthening Communities Together Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Te Pou Tua Rua: Te Whenua “We support and help build connections between communities and their places and spaces to foster a sense of local identity, shared experience and stewardship.”</li> <li>Te PouTua Tah: Te Tāngata 1.6 “Support groups involved in providing access to arts, culture, heritage, recreation and those who care for the environment”.</li> </ul> <p><b>Significance - Low</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The loan is a relatively low amount and Canterbury Softball have identifiable savings to fund the repayment over 3 years.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alignment with Community Organisation Loan Fund Criteria</b> This is a project that will encourage community led activities that increase volunteering in local neighbourhoods, supporting the activation of public spaces and places to include inclusion and a sense of belonging.</p> <p><b>Advantages/Benefits?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enable active and connected communities to own their future.</li> <li>Promotes collaboration with the Third Sector and the Voluntary Sector.</li> <li>Demonstrates our support of community-led development, co-design and co-governance principles.</li> </ul> <p><b>Disadvantages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The funds directed to this project will not be available for others.</li> <li>Council has already committed funds to the installation of the artificial diamonds.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Risks</b> Potential risks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The risk that Canterbury Softball will take longer than expected to repay the underwritten funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canterbury Softball have annual cost savings from the maintenance of the old lime surfaces. These savings will be used to repay the loan and then fund future turf replacements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Rationale for Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canterbury Softball deliver all competitions, community leagues and programmes within the greater Canterbury region for the softball community.</li> <li>In addition to competition leagues Canterbury Softball also deliver school and community Kiwisox, Base5, Fun at Bat (FaB) and Slowpitch programmes as well as a programme for the special needs community.</li> <li>Canterbury Softball support their Red Sox and Red Hawkes premier teams and four youth teams to participate in NZ tournaments.</li> <li>Canterbury Softball showcase the facilities at Cuthberts Green through the live streaming of all premier games which attracts a high engagement both nationally and internationally.</li> <li>Canterbury Softball have recently finalised their strategic plan “One Vision” which will be achieved by creating an environment that has core values of integrity, leadership, respect and teamwork To tātou iwi, To tātou whānau – Our People, Our Family.</li> <li>The artificial surfaces at Cuthberts Green will provide multiuse dry spaces for other community sport activation during the winter.</li> <li>The recent development of artificial diamonds in the industry first brick/rust colour will expand Canterbury Softball’s event capability and attract regional, national and international events back to the city, providing significant economic benefit.</li> </ul>