

## **Carterton District Council Financial Grants Funds Policy**

This policy provides the framework for allocating grants to groups and organisations that are delivering projects, activities and services that benefit the citizens of the Carterton District.

### **1. The Grants Funds**

#### **1.1. The Grants Funds and their purpose**

There are two categories of grants funds:

1. Local Community Grants Fund
2. Wairarapa Wide Regional Grants Fund.

The Local Community Grants Fund is to support local Carterton groups and organisations where their activities will benefit the Carterton community. The Wairarapa Wide Regional Grants Fund supports groups or organisations where their activities have wider benefits than just the Carterton community. When allocating this fund support must also be provided by at least one other Wairarapa Council.

There are a number of activities and projects carried out by organisations and agencies that Carterton District Council supports financially or in-kind that fall outside the grants funding process. These are essentially activities that assist the Council to meet its own obligations or implement a Council strategy or plan. They include, for example, Destination Wairarapa and Neighbourhood Support. Such organisations will not have access to the grants funds but if appropriate will be funded from Council's operational budgets, and their relationships with the Council will be recorded in an MOU or contract.

#### **1.2. Setting the value of the grants funds**

The quantum of funding available through the two grants funds are set in the Long Term Plan and subsequently renewed at each Annual Plan. The value of these grants may vary according to Council's priorities each year.

#### **1.3. Allocation decisions to be made by the Grants Committee**

Allocation decisions from the two grants funds will be made by a Grants Committee. The Council will set up a Grants Committee at the beginning of each Triennium, with terms of reference that will include the following:

- Delegations to meet and make decisions on the distribution of the Local Community and Wairarapa Regional Grants Funds.
- Elect a chairperson and a deputy chairperson.
- Decisions by the committee to be made by consensus; a vote only being taken if required confirming the consensus view. If votes are tied the chairperson will have a casting vote.
- A requirement that all conflicts of interest to be declared by elected members, who then cannot take any part in deliberations related to the conflict.

The Committee will meet once a year to make allocation decisions, generally in July. It may meet again if funds are available and applications have been lodged seeking grants support.

## **2. Local Community Grants Fund**

### **2.1. Purpose of the Local Community Grants Fund**

The purpose of this fund is to support local community groups undertake charitable, cultural, philanthropic, recreation and other activities that are beneficial to the wider Carterton community.

### **2.2. Eligibility of Applicants**

Any community organisation or formally constituted group as described below is eligible to apply for a grant:

- An incorporated society with non-profit making objectives
- A charitable trust
- Other not for profit body that can demonstrate its legal status
- A club or other legally constituted body that can demonstrate a formal constitution or rules.

General funding requests from organisations such as service clubs or school fundraising associations do not usually qualify for grants, but these organisations can apply for grants for specific projects.

### **2.3. Eligible projects, activities and services**

Grants may be made for projects, activities and services that contribute to the following outcomes:

#### **2.3.1. Social**

- Improve health, social and cultural outcomes for Carterton residents
- Promote communication and collaboration between agencies in the health and social services sector
- Effectively meet a demonstrated need in the health and social services sector
- Support and empower vulnerable people in the Carterton community
- Strengthen the ability of organisations to operate well in the health and social services sector.

### 2.3.2. Environmental

- Protect, preserve and restore Carterton's environment
- Enable and encourage people to appreciate the environment
- Promote awareness of environmental issues and concepts of sustainability.

### 2.3.3. Sport and recreation

- Encourage participation in sport and active recreation
- Encourage community engagement in sport and recreation
- Provide appropriate and self-supporting facilities and infrastructure
- Support Carterton residents to achieve their sporting potential
- Reduce barriers to ensure reasonable access for all in the community.

## 2.4. Grant Criteria

The following criteria will be used to guide decisions on the allocation of the Local Grants Fund.

- i. The project is Carterton-based and primarily benefits the people of Carterton District.
- ii. There is evidence of (or, if a new group, systems for): the applicant's sound financial management, good employment practice (where applicable), clear and detailed planning, clear performance measures, and demonstrated ability to report back on past funding as appropriate.
- iii. The project is accessible to a range of people or to the intended users.
- iv. There is evidence of community support, collaboration and building partnerships with other organisations (such as letters of support from other organisations/leaders).
- v. The project or activity expands the capacity, range or level of similar types of services in the community and that it has involved users in identifying the need for the project.
- vi. The intent of the project or activity is not for private or commercial financial gain, though such gains may occur as a side effect of the project.
- vii. The applicant can demonstrate an awareness of the Treaty of Waitangi, if it involves mana whenua and taura here in Carterton District.
- viii. The applicant does not have excess reserve funds unless the group can demonstrate that funds are being held for another specified project or purpose.
- ix. Priority or preference will be given to:
  - projects completed within 12 months
  - new or expanded activities
  - assisting the development of economically or socially disadvantaged groups
  - projects that will give the greatest benefit to the people of Carterton.

## **2.5. Applications that will not be funded**

Applications to the Local Grants Fund for the following will not be considered:

- Retrospective requests to cover projects, events or programmes that have been completed
- The same projects, events or programmes will not be funded more than once in any financial year
- Rent and debt repayments, unless special circumstances can be demonstrated
- Commercial or profit making organisations
- Sponsorships or endowments
- Political organisations and lobby groups
- Individuals
- Overruns in projects, events or programmes costs
- Religious or faith based instruction, lobbying or education; church organisations may apply for grants towards the provision of non-sectarian social services
- Sports team accommodation, travel or uniforms.

## **2.6. The Process**

- 2.6.1. All completed grant applications will be submitted to the Council by a date set to enable allocation decisions to be made in July. Where the grants fund is not fully allocated in July, applications may be received through the financial year, until the funds are fully allocated.
- 2.6.2. The Grants Committee will meet and consider applications. The meeting will be in public, unless there are reasons under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act that justify conducting the meeting with the exclusion of the public.
- 2.6.3. The Committee may invite applicants to speak to their application.
- 2.6.4. A report from officers will be provided to the Committee detailing:
  - The total amount for allocation
  - The organisations requesting a grant
  - A brief analysis of the projects, events or programmes; including
    - How the application benefits the Carterton community
    - How the application relates to the criteria
    - The amount requested
    - Any conditions considered appropriate to place on the grant.
  - The applications not meeting the policy, with the reasons why
  - Any other information required that will assist the Grants Committee in their deliberation

- 2.6.5. Where the Committee decides to make a grant it may include conditions. A standard condition should be included requiring reports back to the Council on the success, or otherwise, of the project or activity, as well as information on how the funds were spent.
- 2.6.6. Where the Committee decides to decline an application, or to grant less funding than applied, it will specify its reasons.
- 2.6.7. Decisions of the Committee will be reported to applicants as soon as possible following the Committee's decisions.
- 2.6.8. No appeals on the decision of the Committee will be considered.

### **2.7. Successful Applicants' Responsibilities**

- 2.7.1. A completed accountability form must be returned to the Council within 12 months of the date of the grant being paid.

## **3. Wairarapa Wide Regional Grants Fund**

### **3.1. Purpose of the Wairarapa Wide Regional Grants Fund**

- 3.1.1. The purpose of this fund is to support groups and organisations that may not be based in Carterton but undertake an activity or project that has regional benefits, including to the Carterton District.
- 3.1.2. Normally the activity or project offered by these organisations would not be available to the Wairarapa as a region without the Wairarapa Councils' support.

### **3.2. Eligibility of Applicants**

- 3.2.1. Any group, organisation or company may make application for a grant from this fund.
- 3.2.2. The application must be for an activity or project that supports, enhances or advances the Council's community outcomes as defined in the Long Term Plan and Annual Plans, or in other ways benefits Carterton.
- 3.2.3. The organisation requesting the grant must have the support of at least South Wairarapa District Council or Masterton District Council, or provide evidence that it is seeking that support concurrently with the application to the Carterton District Council.

### **3.3. Grant Criteria**

The following criteria will be used to guide decisions on the allocation of the Wairarapa Wide Regional Grants Fund:

- i. The project benefits the people of Carterton District either directly or indirectly, with sound evidence to demonstrate those benefits.
- ii. There is evidence of (or, if a new group, systems for): the applicant's sound financial management, good employment practice (where applicable), clear and detailed planning, clear performance measures, and demonstrated ability to report back on past funding as appropriate.

- iii. There is evidence of community support, collaboration, and building partnerships with other organisations (such as letters of support from other organisations/leaders).
- iv. The project or activity expands the capacity, range or level of similar types of services in the community and that it has involved users in identifying the need for the project.
- v. The intent of the project or activity is not for private or commercial financial gain, though such gains may occur as a side effect of the project.
- vi. The applicant can demonstrate an awareness of the Treaty of Waitangi, if it involves mana whenua and taura here of Wairarapa.
- vii. The applicant does not have excess reserve funds; unless the group can demonstrate that funds are being held for another specified project or purpose.

### **3.4. Applications that will not be funded**

Applications to the Wairarapa Wide Regional Grants Fund for the following activities will not be considered:

- Commercial profit making activities where the profit is not used to grow the activity or mitigate future operations
- Retrospective requests to cover projects, events or programmes that have been completed
- Rent and debt repayments
- Sponsorships or endowments
- Political organisations and lobby groups
- Overruns in projects, events or programmes costs
- Religious or faith based instruction, lobbying or education; church organisations may apply for grants towards the provision of non-sectarian social services
- Sports team accommodation, travel or uniforms
- Activities already provided by another organisation
- An activity not supported by at least one other Wairarapa Council. Support from the other Wairarapa Council(s) need not be financial, but could be the provision of infrastructure or in kind support; this must be quantified in the application.

### **3.5. The Process**

- 3.5.1. All completed grant applications will be submitted to the Council by a date set to enable allocation decisions to be made in July. Where the grants fund is not fully allocated in July, applications may be received through the financial year, until the funds are fully allocated.
- 3.5.2. The Grants Committee will meet and consider applications. The meeting will be in public, unless there are reasons under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act that justify conducting the meeting with the exclusion of the public.
- 3.5.3. The Committee may invite applicants to speak to their application.

- 3.5.4. A report from officers will be provided to the Grants Committee detailing:
- The total amount for allocation
  - The organisations requesting a grant
  - A brief analysis of the projects, events or programmes; including
    - How the application will benefit the Carterton community
    - How the application relates to the criteria, including the support from other Councils, or likelihood of support
    - The amount requested
    - Any conditions considered appropriate to place on the grant.
  - The applications not meeting the policy, with the reasons why
  - Any other information required that will assist the Grants Committee in their deliberation.
- 3.5.5. The Committee may consult with other councils prior to finalising its decisions, or may consider applications jointly with the other Wairarapa Councils, as it sees fit.
- 3.5.6. Where the Committee decides to make a grant it may include conditions. A standard condition should be included requiring reports back to the Council on the success, or otherwise, of the project or activity, as well as information on how the funds were spent.
- 3.5.7. Where the Committee decides to decline an application, or to grant less funding than applied, it will specify its reasons.
- 3.5.8. Decisions of the Committee will be reported to applicants as soon as possible following the Committee's decisions.
- 3.5.9. No appeals on the decision of the Committee will be considered.

### **3.6. Successful Applicants' Responsibilities**

- 3.6.1. A completed accountability form must be returned to the Council within 12 months of the date of the grant being paid.

## **4. Review**

The Financial Grants Funds Policy will be reviewed at least every three years.