

Taupō District Council

Notes of Council Workshop

Group	Council
Date	Thursday 5 September 2024, 10am – 10.37am
Venue	Council Chamber, 107 te Heuheu Street, Taupō
Topic	Community Funding Distribution and Limits
Facilitated by	Senior Funding and Partnerships Advisor (B Forlong)
Elected Members present	Cr Sandra Greenslade (via MS Teams), Cr Kylie Leonard, Cr Rachel Shepherd, Cr Yvonne Westerman, Cr John Williamson
Officers present	Chief Executive (J Gardyne), Community Engagement and Development Manager (H Tattle), Communications Manager (L McMichael), Executive Manager Mayor's Office (J Later), Community Development Advisor (A Hendricks), Community Development and Emergency Management Advisor (P Lawson), Funding and Partnerships Advisor (E Godwin), Acting District Events Manager (S Ashton), District Venues Manager (B Green), District Aquatics Manager (P Ramsay), Project Manager – Stakeholder Specialist (T Perry), Senior Committee Advisor (K Watts)
Public / media present	No public or media present
Documents either pre-circulated or tabled	Distribution and Limits information (A3623255) added in Diligent in advance of the workshop. PowerPoint presentation (A3625416)
Public or closed¹	Public

Notes²

The purpose of the workshop was to update members on the key changes to the Community Funding Policy and Eligibility Assessment Framework, including the introduction of the Strategic Partner fund. Officers also sought direction about how the \$700k budget per annum would be split across Council's community funding programme.

The Senior Funding and Partnerships Advisor talked through the PowerPoint presentation (A3625416).

Following discussion, the following was noted:

- Groups such as the Wairakei Village group and the River Road community group would be eligible to apply for the Accelerator fund which provided funding for three years. They

¹ Workshops are public (and are always advertised whether public or closed), unless there is a good reason(s) for information to be withheld and there is no overriding public interest in holding the workshop in public. Withholding grounds set out in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) are a guide. If closed, cite relevant LGOIMA section.

² Workshops are not decision-making forums, therefore this document contains notes of key points discussed only, not decisions.

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would also be eligible for one-off community grant funds via the Taupō / Taupō East Rural Community Grant Distribution Committee but could not apply for both.

- It was important to note that the multi-year Accelerator fund provided additional benefits such as in-kind support from Council and connections to different opportunities outside of Council.
- Council had already received expressions of interest from a number of groups who were interested in applying for the Strategic Partnership fund.
- The difference between the Strategic Partnership fund and the Accelerator fund was that the Strategic Partnership fund was intended for groups that worked across the entire Taupō district and supported or advised on Council operations, whereas the Accelerator fund could be for an organisation based in one of the district's towns who were directly supporting communities.
- The Strategic Partnership fund agreements would be set for three years and allowed for different agreements to be arranged after the three years was up should Council's priorities change.
- Messaging to groups would be a recommendation to apply for both the Strategic Partnership fund and Accelerator fund. Officers would assess the applications and recommend to Council which funding would be more appropriate as the Community Funding Eligibility and Assessment Framework (which has been adopted by Council) outlined.
- Officers were meeting with the Sculpture Trust the following week to explain the process to apply to council's contestable funds and what types of funds it had available.
- A maximum of 8 Accelerator fund agreements was recommended to Elected Members. This is because the community engagement and development team would work closely with these groups.
- A decision on the funding split and number of Accelerator fund agreements would be sought from Council at the October 2024 meeting.
- A focus of Council officers was to advertise the funding limits and manage expectations to stop groups requesting more than was realistically available.
- Should there be funds left over, Council officers would come to Council for decisions on how these could be redistributed in one-off community grant funds. These decisions would be made for the next three years.
- Retrospective funding was not permitted under the Policy that had been adopted by Council.
- Groups had been communicated to about the changes via a newsletter and would continue to be updated.
- Members were supportive of the funding limits of each fund provided in option 1 which was as follows:

Option 1

	Distribution of budget	Maximum no. of agreements	Limit per application
Strategic Partnership	Up to \$300k	5	Up to \$60k
Accelerator	Up to \$160k	8	Up to \$20k
Community Grants *	Overall: Minimum of \$240k TTER: Minimum of \$120k MP: minimum of \$40k TT: minimum of \$80k	N/A	Up to \$5k

Option 2

	Distribution of budget	Maximum no. of agreements	Limit per application
Strategic Partnership	Up to \$250k	5	Up to \$50k
Accelerator	Up to \$150k	6	Up to \$25k
Community Grants *	Overall: Minimum of \$300k TTER: Minimum of \$170k MP: minimum of \$45k TT: minimum of \$85k	N/A	Up to \$3k

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Members were keen for this change to happen and were pleased that it was acknowledging the needs of the community.

The Senior Funding and Partnerships Advisor advised that a report would come to the September Council meeting which sought approval to change the Terms of Reference of the Taupō / Taupō East Rural Community Grant Distribution Committee to include two community representatives. A second report would then come to the October Council meeting seeking approval for the distribution and limits of the budget across Council's community funds.

The workshop closed at 10.37am.