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Sponsor/Group:	Strategy and Environment



# COMMUNITY FUNDING POLICY 2024

## PURPOSE

1. Taupō District Council (the Council) has a vision to be **“a district of connected communities who thrive and embrace opportunities”** and have set community outcomes to improve the social, economic, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of our community.
2. Council recognises the important role community groups or organisations and individuals play in helping to promote the social, economic, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of Taupō District residents. Council provides funding for these activities, to improve community wellbeing and to support our vision and community outcomes.
3. Community funds are aimed at further developing strategic relationships, helping to build upon and support community-led initiatives, creating positive change in the community and developing community capability and capacity.
4. This Community Funding Policy (the policy) affirms Taupō District Council's commitment to the disbursement of funds as a local public service.
5. The policy sets out:
  - a) the principles underpinning the community funding programme.
  - b) the support provided to community groups or organisations, strategic partners, and individuals through the community funding programme.
  - c) the process Council will follow:
    - when distributing funding to ensure the allocation and distribution of funding occurs in a transparent, fair, equitable, efficient, and consistent manner.
    - when receiving, processing and vetting funding applications

## SCOPE

6. This policy applies to community funding provided by Taupō District Council through the following funds (*definitions below*):
  - a) Community Grant Fund
  - b) Accelerator Fund
  - c) Strategic Partnership Fund

## DEFINITIONS

7. For the purpose of this policy, the following terms and definitions apply:

Accelerator Fund	A contestable, multi-year fund that can be accessed by eligible community groups or organisations who support community aspirations and contribute to community wellbeing.
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	Agreements under this fund are for three years and the organisation cannot reapply under this fund.
Community Funding Eligibility and Assessment Framework	A document accompanying this policy that sets out Council's priorities when determining the eligibility of funding applications and the assessment framework to use to consider applications and disburse funds to prospective applicants.
Community grant fund	<p>A contestable fund that can be accessed by an individual or community group. Funding is provided for community events, projects, and initiatives that benefit the community.</p> <p>Funding for these grants is allocated by Committees of Council under three main areas of the district, namely Taupō township and East Rural areas, Mangakino Pouakani, and Tūrangi Tongariro.</p> <p>Funding for these grants is allocated twice per year.</p>
Community groups or organisations	A not-for-profit, charitable organisation that is established with the primary purpose of providing a benefit to communities in the Taupō district. For the purposes of the community funding programme, local schools meet this definition.
Strategic Partnership Fund	<p>A contestable, multi-year fund accessed by eligible community groups or organisations who deliver a service that supports Council to achieve core strategic outcomes and provide advice on business – as – usual activities and projects.</p> <p>Agreements under this fund are for three years and eligible for renewal following the long-term planning process.</p>

## REVOCATIONS

- The Grants and Partnership Policy 2021 is revoked when this policy comes into force on 1 August 2024.

## DELEGATIONS

- The implementation of this policy is delegated to the chief executive and their sub-delegates.

## PRINCIPLES

- The following principles underpin the design, implementation, and disbursement of community funds and Council's decision-making process.

**Transparency** – Council will operate in a transparent manner when distributing community funding. This includes raising awareness and promoting funding opportunities, provide clear information on what funding is for and how it can be accessed, and the process to assess funding applications.

**Fair and Equitable** – Council will disburse funds towards events, activities or projects that contribute the most to our vision and community outcomes.

**Efficient and Consistent** – Council will ensure that administrative and operational processes are cost-effective, and adequate resources are provided to support the policy framework and funding processes.

## FUNDING DETERMINATION

11. Council will set the overall budget allocated to the community funding programme through the Long-term Plan (LTP) and following consultation with the community.
12. Council will determine the share of the overall budget to be allocated to each of the three funds (Community Grant Fund, Accelerator Fund, Strategic Partnership Fund), and the maximum funds that can be granted to a community group, organisation or individual.
13. Council will determine the share of the Community Grant Fund allocated to each of the three geographic areas Taupō township and east rural areas, Mangakino Pouakani, and Tūrangi Tongariro.
14. Disbursement of funds to individuals or community groups or organisations is directed by the Community Funding Eligibility and Assessment Framework (*see definitions*) which will be adopted separately by Council. The Community Funding Eligibility and Assessment Framework may be amended via resolution at any time.
15. Council will prepare an annual report, by no later than 30 September of the following financial year, accounting for the distribution and utilisation of funds disbursed through the community grants programme.
16. Council will audit the community grants programme, as necessary.

## FUNDING PROCESS

17. Council will call for applications for the strategic partnership and accelerator funds following the adoption of the LTP.
18. Council will call for applications for the community grant funds twice per financial year.
19. Council officers will assess funding applications according to the Community Funding Eligibility and Assessment Framework:
  - The eligibility criteria establishes whether a prospective applicant is eligible to apply for funding.
  - If eligible, the assessment framework guides the priority of the applicants.
20. Following assessment, Council officers will provide a recommendation on the eligible and prioritised applications.
21. For the strategic partnership fund and accelerator fund, Council will assess the recommendation and determine the fund allocation to each applicant via resolution.
22. For the community grant funds, committees of council will assess the recommendation and determine the fund allocation to each applicant via resolution.

23. Should any committee cease to exist, the decision-making on the allocation of funds will revert to Council.
24. Council will not accept late applications.
25. Council will approve up to two grants per year to the same community group or individual across all funds.
26. Council will direct any requests for funding made through the LTP and/or Annual Plan to the community funding programme.
27. All funding decisions will be made publicly available.
28. Successful applicants will be required to enter into an agreement with Council setting out the terms that the applicants will need to comply with including the use of funds and reporting requirements.
29. Failure to comply with the terms of the agreement may result in funding being discontinued and all granted funds are to be returned to Council.

## **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

30. Implementation of this policy will be monitored by a General Manager appointed by the Chief Executive.
31. This policy will be reviewed every six years or as deemed appropriate by Council.