

Informal Workshop Notes

Komiti Māori and Strategy & Policy Committee Joint Workshop

Held: 9:35AM, Thursday 3 October 2024, Council Chambers, Regional House, 1 Elizabeth Street, Tauranga and via Zoom (Audio Visual meeting)

Co-Chairpersons: Cr Matemoana McDonald
Cr Paula Thompson

Deputy Chairpersons: Cr Toi Kai Rākau Iti
Cr Kat Macmillan

Present: Cr Malcolm Campbell
Cr Stuart Crosby
Cr Jane Nees
Cr Ron Scott
Cr Lyall Thurston (Via Zoom)
Cr Te Taru White (Via Zoom)
Cr Kevin Winters (Via Zoom)

In Attendance: Staff presenters: as listed in the workshop notes, Kataraina O'Brien - General Manager Strategic Engagement, Stephen Lamb - Acting General Manager Strategy & Science, Fiona McTavish - Chief Executive, Reuben Fraser - General Manager Regulatory Services, Chris Ingle - General Manager Integrated Catchments, Steph Macdonald - Community Engagement Team Leader, Laura Boucher - Communications Partner, Tone Nerdrum Smith - Acting Governance Manager, Shari Kameta - Committee Advisor

Apologies: Chairman Doug Leeder
Cr Ken Shirley
Cr Andrew von Dadelszen
Cr Kat Macmillan - early departure

1. Karakia Whakatuwhera

Provided by Kataraina O'Brien.

2. Introduction

The purpose of the workshop was to seek direction on:

1. Funding Review and Integration - opportunities for improvements
2. Scope and applicant eligibility of:
 - o Regional Co-Governance Secretariat Fund Draft Policy
 - o Māori Initiatives Fund Draft Policy
3. Guidance on Summerhill Charitable Trust Funding request.

3. Overview

3.1 Community Funding Review and Integration

*Presentation - Review of Community Funding Integration and Draft Policies:
Objective ID A4783712*

Presented by: Graeme Howard – Corporate Planning Lead
Herewini Simpson – Kaihautu (Te Amorangi Lead)

Key Points:

- Recap of key dates and decisions
- Community funding, types and benefits/value of return on investment.

9:45 am – Cr Thompson **entered** the workshop.

- Council used an integrated approach to manage community funding
- Recognised there was a need to develop better monitoring/reporting for Council's oversight.

10:02 am – Cr Te Taru White **entered** the workshop (via Zoom).

- Staff used an integrated approach to assess and manage community funding that included staged and risk management processes
- Cross-organisation eligibility and delegated panel assessments ensured:
 - Projects were appropriately funded and scoped to succeed
 - Applications did not receive duplicate funds (as referred under bullet points 3 and 4 of the common fund design principles)
 - Staged approval chain and delegation process
- Sought councillors' feedback on common fund design/operation principles.

Key Points - Members:

- Wanted to ensure funding principles/eligibility was fair and equitable
- Queried whether assessing Māori Initiatives Fund applications on a 'first in-first served' basis was fair and appropriate
- Community funding streams were relatively small in proportion to Council's operating expenditure, a good investment on the value of return, i.e. connection to the taiao, long lasting benefit to the regional community
- Raised the issue of funded projects lapsing and/or not being maintained due to insufficient funding/timeframes/risk management/forethought
- Noted potential overlap of the Community Initiatives Fund, Volunteer Initiative Fund and Environmental Enhancement Fund.

Direction Provided:

- Supported the funding design and operational principles
- Wanted an integrated picture of all community funding/grant programmes to determine any disconnections, if they were all needed and/or could be streamlined
- Needed to tell a better story and provide clarity around community capital on environmental enhancement, i.e. clear and visible monitoring and reporting of all funding, i.e. who, what, how, alignment with outcomes, value on return

- Requested clarification and overlay analysis for the Strategy & Policy Committee funding review workshop on 30 October 2024 on how funding streams support Council's community outcomes.

Key Points – Chief Executive:

- Provided insight on the extent to which Council had increased its community funding streams over subsequent Ten Year Plans
- The range/level of applicants had expanded and funding eligibility criteria refined to provide more equity and alignment to Council's outcomes
- Financial controls/measures were in place around funding, which included reporting to Council when it was outside eligibility/delegation
- Staff could develop monitoring and reporting to provide further clarity and visibility, i.e. by applicant, fund and community outcome.

10:36 am – The workshop **adjourned**.

10:53 am – The workshop **reconvened**.

In Response to Questions – Staff:

- Te Hāpai Ora/Regional Fund was open to the community at large and promoted on Council's website, Facebook page, and advertised online and in some newspapers at different times of the year
- The Māori Initiatives Fund did not have a cap set on maximum grant. Financial delegations would be used to approve applications, relevant to the scale of the project.

4. Discussion

4.1 Draft Regional Co-Governance Secretariat Fund Policy (Aronga Ngātahi)

Presented by: Herewini Simpson – Kaihautu (Te Amorangi Lead)
Merehine Waiari – Senior Policy Advisor (Te Amorangi)
Graeme Howard – Corporate Planning Lead

Key Points:

- Recap on LTP direction, purpose, administration and technical support
- Following feedback received at Komiti Māori on 27 August 2024, staff had amended/narrowed the policy's eligibility
- Provided two options to support settled and pre-settlement Treaty based co-governance forums
- Noted the potential for additional pre-settlement forums to be established
- Staff were keeping a watching brief of Treaty settlement developments and would take this into consideration when assessing funding applications.

Key Points - Members:

- Questioned whether the term 'co-governance' was appropriate
- Changing the term 'co-governance' would require discussion with the co-governance partners
- Queried what funding avenues other joint committees/partnerships could access if they were to be excluded from the policy (e.g. Te Uepu)

- Option 2 would enable pre-settlement forums to progress preliminary stages of work and not be impeded by a lack of funding
- Questioned if allocating funds on a first-approved basis was fair/equitable
- Noted for consideration funding challenges regarding potential underspend and/or reduced funding pool depending on the chosen option
- Considered it would be useful for Councillors to have further discussion on the makeup of good governance principles and co-governance.

Direction Provided:

- Favoured Option 2, however emphasised the need to continue pursuing Crown funding as part of Treaty settlement negotiations
- Councillors were comfortable with not changing the policy's name at this time.

Key Points - Staff:

- Staff were across all co-governance committee work plans and would defer to the policy's eligibility criteria and consider any existing funding that a committee had already been allocated (i.e. Crown seed funding)
- The Crown had agreed to a quantum of funding as part of Tauranga Moana Treaty negotiations
- Te Whānau-a-Apanui had sought a different arrangement from a co-governance structure, which excluded them from the draft policy eligibility
- The term co-governance was a reference used by local government (and the Crown) for treaty entities that were established as joint committees for the purposes of the Local Government Act 2002
- Would revise the draft policy and provide further clarification regarding funding allocation in Years 1, 2 and 3.

4.1 Draft Māori Initiatives Fund Policy (He Ara Taituarā)

Presented by: Merehine Waiari – Senior Policy Advisor (Te Amorangi)
Graeme Howard – Corporate Planning Lead
Herewini Simpson – Kaihautu (Te Amorangi Lead)

Key Points - Staff:

- Background of the policy's inception and purpose
- The policy was sufficiently robust to respond to the community's needs and to maximise on funding distribution
- Developed with cross-organisation collaboration to ensure alignment with other funding streams
- Proposed eligibility had been extended to Māori land trusts.

11:34 am – Cr Kat Macmillan **left** the workshop.

- Proposed funding distribution for Year 1 and Year 2/3 was fair/equitable, comparable to the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) and provided for a broad spectrum of initiatives
- Committee projects that were not eligible to apply to the Secretariat Fund had potential to apply to this fund
- The final proposal would be reported to Council on 23 October 2024.

In Response to Questions:

- Staff would seek funding applications for Year 1 funding from respective submitters to Council's Long Term Plan 2024-2034
- Applications would need to meet the funding eligibility criteria
- A pragmatic approach would be taken to assess applications to ensure value on return and best outcome for the taiao
- Staff had a good understanding and strong networks within the community to support funding assessment processes, and would seek the advice of the Māori councillors who were well-connected with their communities
- Staff would offer advice and support to applicants, including in kind support outside of the funding streams, where possible and appropriate.

Key Points - Members:

- The fund was not extensive and would not meet all funding requests
- Removing eligibility to fund dedicated iwi resources in responding to resource consent applications (when costs were on-charged to consent applicants) would reduce some of the pressure placed on the fund
- Recognised the relationships that staff and constituent councillors had across the rohe and staff's acumen to ensure accountability in the process
- MIF applicants should not be excluded from applying to other funds.

Direction Provided:

- Supported the proposed policy and mixed model approach.

4.2 Summerhill Charitable Trust Funding Request

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Slides 27 - 30.

Presented by: Graeme Howard – Corporate Planning Lead

Key Points:

- Sought guidance on taking a report to Council meeting on 23 October 2024 regarding the Summerhill Charitable Trust's (SCT) funding request
- \$50K funding in Years 1-3 for the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) had become available as a result of the hiatus of Sustainable Bay of Plenty however, CIF criteria excluded funding for infrastructure
- During Council's Long Term Plan 2024-34 (LTP) deliberations, Council had decided not to fund any external infrastructure requests and declined SCT's submission, however Council had made exceptions during deliberations
- Council did not have any other options/funding sources to support SCT's request, other than to reallocate funding from the regional park budget.

Key Points - Members:

- Recognised the benefits, added value and synergy that the Summerhill proposal had for the Papamoa Hills Cultural Heritage Regional Park
- Discussed Council's use of discretion to make decisions on matters under special/exceptional circumstance:
 - Queried whether further discussion was needed to ensure Council's use of discretion was equitable across other funding proposals
 - Similar to other funding agencies, use of discretion was warranted for considering matters outside of scope and that were brought to Council's attention by staff

Direction Provided:

- Supported a report to be taken to Council for decision
- Requested that the report provide information on CIF criteria, benefits of the proposal, and any other innovative funding options/sources that were available, i.e. leasing of carpark, funding grant provision
- Considered a more robust relationship agreement would be required, as a condition of any funding approval.

5. Conclusion**Next Steps:**

Staff would report to Council on 23 October 2024 to seek the adoption of the draft policies and Summerhill Charitable Trust funding request.

Key Points - Members:

Implored councillors to progress the Regional Co-Governance Secretariat Fund and Māori Initiatives Fund policies at Council's meeting on 23 October 2024 to enable iwi/hapū initiatives that had been submitted under Council's LTP to be supported and progressed.

6. Karakia Whakakapi

Provided by Cr Te Taru White.

12:10pm - the workshop concluded.