

STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

SECTION: FINANCIAL	
<u>POLICY: COMMUNITY GRANTS</u>	
RESPONSIBILITY: Community Team	REVIEW DATE: March 2008
VERSION: 1	APPROVED DATE: March 2005
FILE NUMBER: 16043	
DELEGATIONS REGISTER NO: [Click here]	

Purpose

The Stratford District Council recognises that community groups exist and that, through their activities, help develop the community and provide a direct social benefit that assists in delivering community outcomes. This policy provides a mechanism to provide financial support to projects that are aligned with the purpose.

Policy Statement

1. The Stratford District Council will, through its budget process, provide funding to a Community Grants Pool. The level of funding each year will be subject to the consultation process as part of the Long Term Council Community Plan/Annual Plan. This fund shall be funded from general rates.
2. The Stratford District Council shall in July of each year call for applications to the Community Grants Pool, with a closing date of 31 August.
3. Council will consider applications and make a decision on any funding allocations by 31 October.

Supporting Information to the Policy

Funding Guidelines

- Funding will be provided to community groups (not individuals) who demonstrate that their activity contributes to the community outcomes.
- Funding will not be provided for retrospective costs, debt servicing costs, or philanthropic organisations whose primary purpose is to give funds to other groups.
- Groups should not regard grants as assistance in perpetuity.

Applications

Groups wishing to apply for funding will need to provide details of their organisation and the intended project using the application form.

The application form will request details of:

- Applicant Name;
- Group's ability and effort to raise funds;
- Brief description of project;
- Group's financial information, latest audited accounts, income and expenditure statement with balance sheet, annual report and investment details.

Definition of a community group

A non-profit organisation or association of persons with the primary aim of working to provide services and benefits to the community. A community group may take part in profit making activities, but the surplus is reinvested in pursuit of the group's goals.

Membership or participation in activities is available to everyone who wishes to join in. Community groups may be special interest or advocacy groups for a particular section of the community, eg. women, people with disabilities, or campaign specific issues, like the environment.

Community groups do not impose restrictions such as requiring new members to be recommended by existing members, or setting fees at a level that effectively exclude most people who might want to participate.