

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Dennis Bush-King, Environment & Planning Manager

REFERENCE: C552

SUBJECT: **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND APPLICATIONS – RCN11-02-09**

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper seeks to inform Council of four prospective applications for Community Development Funding assistance and requests a mandate to be involved in supporting three as a co-sponsor, and supporting the fourth as an interested stakeholder.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEME

The Community Development Scheme (CDS) is run through the Department of Internal Affairs and was established to support community, hapū / iwi / Māori, Pacific and ethnic groups in areas of identified need to work together in new ways, to generate their own solutions to local issues, and to become more self-reliant and resilient. For 2010 Tasman has been identified as one of 9 priority areas.

The scheme funds communities to employ community development project workers who work on community-driven projects over three years, enabling local people to come together, build trust, and work together to find solutions to the issues they face. Up to \$80,000 is available annually over the three year project cycle.

Applications for this round of funding close 21 March 2011.

3. THE PROPOSALS

d) Way2Go Proposed Project.

Way2Go is a Nelson Tasman Active Communities Project. Its original focus was on providing community based physical activity opportunities targeted at those not currently active. The project uses existing infrastructure and organisations to deliver programmes and to maximise the use of council and community facilities. The Tasman 'Hubs' are in Golden Bay, Motueka, Tapawera, Wakefield, Murchison, Richmond and Te Awhina Marae.

The benefit of participation in the activities of these Hubs is not limited to positive personal health outcomes; the Hubs are providing significant social opportunities and opportunities to strengthen community cohesion.

As the 'Hubs' are developing they are becoming key contact points for communities. Developing this contact point role alongside developing sustainability plans for each Hub would be the primary focus of the application. In addition, the organisational capacity of each Hub varies greatly. A secondary focus will be to build this capacity and share learnings between the Hubs.

b) Wakefield and Brightwater Community Development Initiative

The Wakefield Community Council and Brightwater Community Association are currently exploring the concept of a joint bid with Council assistance to engage a project worker to encourage the communities to address several community issues and to get the communities involved in the Strategic Development Project which Council will be promoting towards the end of 2011. It is considered a project worker located in the communities will be able to harness the energy and ideas so the communities are engaged in the process and can influence, change, and shape their own future.

c) Tiakina Te Tiao

Tiakina Te Tiao would like to use the funding assistance available to develop the capacity of iwi to engage with Council processes and services and to improve Council responsiveness to Iwi and Māori issues. They would propose to engage a person to provide a facilitator role between TDC and Iwi. Iwi see that this resource would cover all areas of iwi/TDC engagement and projects.

d) Golden Bay Work Centre Trust.

The Golden Bay Work Centre Trust is promoting its own application but has worked with groups in Takaka including the Golden Bay Community Board.

4. COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT

Clearly not all proposals will attract the available funding. In part this paper seeks Council direction on whether Council itself should be involved in sponsoring any or all of the projects, especially since the Golden Bay Workplace Trust is applying on its own.

On balance however it is considered that if the involvement is cost neutral to any existing council project, that support should be forthcoming. While there are some costs in putting the application together it is considered these would be offset by the ability to attract the funding available and the assistance that the funding would give.

5. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Tasman District Council agrees to support, where requested by Community Groups, applications for 2011 Community Development Scheme funding from the Department of Internal Affairs, provided any direct Council involvement is cost neutral and provided any staff effort can be met from within existing budgets.



**Dennis Bush-King
Environment and Planning Manager**