

STAFF REPORT

TO: Creative Communities Subcommittee

FROM: Community and Recreation Advisor

DATE: 6 April 2010

SUBJECT: **Changes to the Creative Communities Scheme – Report CS-10-04-01tcc**

The new contract for Tasman District Council to administer the Creative Communities Scheme has been issued for the July 2010 to June 2011 year. The new contract includes the following main changes:

- The total number of funding rounds in a Territorial Authority's (TA's) area will be limited to a **minimum of two** and a **maximum of four** each financial year. In other words no third party grants.
- The upper funding cap will be removed. With consideration to the funding resources that are available, projects can be supported to the level that allows them to be successful.
- Local Administrators will forward their assessment committee's funding decisions to Creative New Zealand after each meeting. Additional administrative support for this reporting process will be provided and we will be in touch with you soon about how this will work.
- Enhance the way assessment committees are established and meet their responsibilities effectively. There are four main changes to operation of the assessment committees:

Composition of assessment committees: an assessment committee needs to reflect the diversity in your local community (eg local iwi, local Pasifika peoples, Asian residents, recent immigrants, youth etc) and should also include key local arts practitioners. We will be providing local administrators with clear guidelines for ensuring a transparent nomination, election and appointment process. This will also include provisions relating to the duration of members' service on committees.

Conflicts of interest: Your new contract will include protocols that are to be followed by the committee whenever a conflict of interest arises. We will also provide improved guidelines for issues of confidentiality and for electing the chair of an assessment committee.

Generic assessment sheet: To improve consistency and objectivity in assessing applications we will be providing a generic marking sheet. The use of this marking sheet will guide and facilitate decision-making.

Duration on committee: Committee members will be able to sit for a maximum of three years.

These changes will be integrated over the next calendar year. The first decision I would like some guidance from the committee on is the number and dates of funding rounds.

I suggest the options are:

1. Status quo – two rounds per annum.
2. Increase by one to three rounds to close March, July and November.
3. Increase by two to four rounds to close February, May, August and November.

DISCUSSION

The removal of the Arts Councils monthly or six weekly discretionary rounds is a major change for applicants particularly for smaller projects. The current flexibility is valuable for small projects with limited lead in time. To ensure we don't lose these we need to consider an increase in the number of funding rounds throughout the year. I accept that the demands on the Creative Communities Committee will be greater if we increase the number of rounds that committee members consider applications for and attend.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Option Three is trialed for the 2010/2011 year. I suggest that closing dates be the 20th of the following months February, May, August and November. The early closing date will enable the committee to sit in early December to avoid a mid December meeting.

Mike Tasman-Jones
Community and Recreation Advisor

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