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## **ALLOCATION OF THE MAYOR'S RELIEF FUND**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

This report considers the allocation of the \$20,000 Mayor's Relief Fund for the current 2005/06 financial year.

### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Subcommittee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Agree that the full \$20,000 Mayor's Relief Fund should be allocated to one organisation, to maximise the benefits of the fund.*
- 3. Recommend to the Strategy and Policy Committee that the Mayor's Relief Fund be allocated to the Wellington City Mission for 2005/06.*

### **3. Background**

The Mayor's Relief Fund was established in the 1930's to provide relief to individuals and families in need. Since 1935 the fund was given annually to the New Zealand Smith Family to distribute on Council's behalf. In the past the bulk of the assistance has been targeted to the needs of women and children for emergency assistance with food, shelter or clothing.

On 16 September 2003, the Subcommittee considered a report regarding options it could take in reallocating the Mayor's Relief Fund for 2003/04. This was required as the New Zealand Smith Family Inc. (NZSF), which was previously responsible for distributing the fund, wound up in June 2003.

At the September meeting, the Subcommittee agreed that:

- for 2003/04 the Mayor's Relief Fund should continue to be allocated to a community organisation that provides emergency assistance to individuals and families on low incomes (that is, which replicates the way it was distributed by the NZSF)
- the Council should approach selected community organisations for expressions of interest for distributing the fund, and determine:

- if they are able to use the money for providing relief to low income individuals and families (in particular, women and children, and refugees and migrants)
- if the money would be directed towards the provision of food parcels, clothing and payment of bills (to meet basic needs)
- if any of the money would be directed towards administration costs, and if yes, how much
- if the organisation has a budgetary service available.

The Subcommittee also agreed that the following groups would be approached to provide expressions of interest:

- Wellington City Mission
- Downtown Community Ministry
- Salvation Army
- St Vincent de Paul
- Lender of Last Resort
- People's Resource Centre
- Women's Centre
- Refugee and Migrants Service
- Bishop's Assist Fund

The Planning and Performance Committee (the parent committee of the Grants Subcommittee in the 2001-04 triennium) allocated the fund to the Wellington City Mission for one year only in 2003/04, as a report on the reconfiguration of the overall grants pool was to be presented to the Subcommittee in February 2004. The committee rolled the funding over for a further year (2004/05) when the Grants Effectiveness Review was delayed until 2005.

#### **4. Discussion**

The Mayor's relief Fund exists to assist those who require emergency assistance with food, shelter or clothing. In the past the bulk of the assistance has been targeted to the needs of women and children.

Officers recommended that the Fund was given to one organisation to:

- maximise the benefits of the fund
- enable officers (including the Mayor's Office) to direct people in need towards one organisation when they request help through the Mayor's Relief Fund.

The Wellington City Mission (WCM) met the requirements, in that it:

- targets families on low incomes (particularly women and children, refugees and migrants)
- assists the families by providing food parcels, clothing and paying bills
- provides a budgetary service
- is able to administer the fund without incurring any additional administration costs, enabling the full \$20,000 to be spent addressing need.

The Wellington City Mission has reported back on the use of the fund and a copy of their report is attached as Appendix A. The Wellington City Mission provides the greatest number of food parcels of any organisation in the city and the bulk of the fund has been applied to this need. They have indicated they would be happy to take responsibility for the fund if required for another year.

\$20,000 is available for allocation to an organisation in 2005/06. The Grants Effectiveness Review is now scheduled to be considered by the Strategy and Policy Committee in October 2005. It is therefore recommended that the fund be reallocated to Wellington City Mission for the 2005/06 year. The future of the fund from 2006/07 onwards will be considered as part of a report on the reconfiguration of the overall grants pool, to be reported to Council in October 2005.

## **5. Conclusion**

The Mayor's Relief Fund is currently unallocated for the 2005/06 year. It is recommended that the Subcommittee allocate the fund to the Wellington City Mission for 2005/06.

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## **Supporting information**

### **a) Strategic fit**

*This project supports objective 2.3 – Cultural Diversity:*

*Wellington welcomes, values and celebrates a diversity of cultures.*

### **b) Annual Plan reference**

*Relates to C130A: Community Grants.*

### **c) Annual Plan and Long Term Council Community Plan implications**

*The Mayor's Relief Fund is currently budgeted for in the LTCCP. The object of this paper is to reallocate the Fund to an organisation for distribution for the current 2003/04 financial year.*

### **d) Treaty of Waitangi implications**

*There are no Treaty of Waitangi implications.*

### **e) Consultation**

*No public consultation will be undertaken on this issue.*

### **f) Legal implications**

*There are no legal implications.*

## Appendix 1