

Chairperson and Committee Members

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

3 FEBRUARY 2011

Meeting Status: Public

Purpose of Report: For Decision

RECOMMENDATION ON WASTE LEVY COMMUNITY GRANT ALLOCATIONS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 Present the officer recommendations on the allocation of funding for the current round of waste levy community grants.
- 2 Propose that a sub-committee is formed in accordance with the waste levy allocation policy that was adopted by Council on 22 July 2010. The sub committee will approve all future funding as per the policy.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

- 3 The Council's significance policy is not triggered.

COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANT APPLICATIONS

Background

- 4 The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 requires operators of waste disposal facilities to pay a levy of \$10 per tonne of residual waste disposed of to landfill. This requirement came into force on the 1 July 2009. Approximately half of this levy money is allocated to local authorities to spend on implementing their waste management and minimisation plans. The remaining money (minus administration costs) is allocated, through a national fund (the Waste Minimisation Fund) to nationally significant waste minimisation projects. Further information on solid waste and legislation is available in the report SP-10-871.
- 5 The waste levy allocation policy agreed by the ECD committee on 22 July 2010 (Appendix A to this report) sets out how the Council would spend this funding.
- 6 The overall objective of the policy is
 - To ensure optimal and transparent allocation of the national waste levy funding to waste minimisation projects.*
 - To increase the range, scale and number of waste minimisation activities on the Kāpiti Coast through effective use of the waste levy fund.*
- 7 The Council agreed to allocate \$45,000 of this in 2010-11 to community education and contracts (category 3), as detailed in SP-10-871. With the amendments on 22 July 2010 in SP-10-957 the policy was approved and a

process developed to accommodate a contestable process. Subsequently \$20,000 has been allocated to this 2010-11 financial year. The maximum allocation per project was set at \$5,000.

- 8 Applications were invited in November 2010 and three were received. These have been assessed against the criteria in the waste levy allocation policy. Further information has been sought from the applicants where required. Two proposals are being put forward to be fully funded. The third is being put forward to be partially funded to cover the cost of obtaining resource consent for the activity the group has proposed.

CONSIDERATIONS

Criteria of the policy

- 9 The objective for community projects is:

To achieve a high level of community involvement in practical on-the-ground waste minimisation projects which encourage a network of community participation and long term action.

- 10 The specific requirements for community projects are:

- the project will lead to long term waste minimisation actions by participants;
- the project has a minimum involvement of either 5 households linked to the project or involves businesses or organisations active around waste minimisation; and
- details are provided on the costs of the project and how the contribution sought from the levy fund will be used.

Other criteria:

- there is a level of involvement of young people in the project ;
- the project involves skills and knowledge within the community about waste minimisation and/or reducing the need for waste;
- the project proposal shows how success will be measured in terms of waste reduction and skills learnt.

- 11 All three proposals that follow comply with the criteria.

‘Kakariki Street’ Application

- 12 ‘Kakariki Street’ is the group of thirteen households from Tilley Road, Te Miti St and Haumia Street in Paekākāriki who are participating in the ‘Kāpiti Coast’s Greenest Street Competition’ that is currently being run by the Council. They have applied for a waste levy grant of \$2,947 to purchase a mulcher, hand saws suitable for tree work and associated safety equipment, to process green waste

on-site at their homes. The equipment would be shared within the group of households initially and gradually expanded to other neighbouring households if there is capacity (i.e. significantly idle time indicating the mulcher could be utilised by more households than are presently in the group).

- 13 Kakariki Street proposes that the mulcher and equipment is stored and administered for three months by each household taking turns. The holder of equipment would be responsible for organising mulcher maintenance when it is required (i.e. each time a certain number of run-hours had passed). A cash charge will be levied each time the mulcher is used to cover these maintenance costs.
- 14 Kakariki Street would also organise a training session for all the households with local arborist Bruce Pryor, and get users to sign a health and safety disclaimer similar to that used by hire companies each time the mulcher is borrowed. There would be further training sessions for new households joining the group. It is intended that the safety and management plan requested from Kakariki Street will further mitigate any risk by encouraging applicants to consider 'best practice' when using and sharing the equipment. Council would not be liable for any injury resulting from the use of said equipment
- 15 Paekākāriki lacks both equipment hire businesses where a mulcher could be hired from and a Council green waste drop-off point. The distance to these facilities in Paraparaumu and Otaihunga respectively presents a barrier to their use for Paekākāriki residents and the approach proposed by Kakariki Street offers a potential solution for those residents.
- 16 Although the Kakariki Street Group has formed in the first instance to take part in the Council's competition, the group intends to carry on its association after the competition has ended. This will allow the equipment to be used and shared until the end of its useful life, however long that may be.

'Rainbow Court' Application

- 17 'Rainbow Court' is a group of eighteen households in Rainbow Court, Raumati South who are also participating in the 'Greenest Street' competition. They have applied for a waste levy grant of \$5,000 to purchase composting and worm farming equipment for all the households in the group. Each household would get \$277 credit to use for getting either compost bins, bokashi bins (yeast-assisted composting) or worm farms.
- 18 Any difference in the credit available and the cost of the items desired would be funded by the household in question. If there is unused credit after six months of the grant award, the funds would revert to the Council.
- 19 The equipment will be kept by the individual households and the intention is that it would be used by them for many years.

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o te Rito Application

- 20 Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o te Rito, a composite primary and secondary school in Ōtaki has applied for a waste levy grant of \$5,000 to go towards fencing, housing, equipment and feed for keeping kunekune pigs. The animals are to be kept on their land for the purposes of consuming the considerable volumes of

food waste generated by the Kura, which has a kitchen and regularly hosts and feeds large groups of people. Only two pigs are proposed to be obtained initially, and these will be enclosed on a wide area of hillside which is overrun with noxious weeds such as convolvulus. As part of their permaculture plan for the site, the pigs will be used to help eradicate the weeds and fertilise the area, preparing it for future development as an orchard.

- 21 Although it is on the fringe of the town, the Kura is in an area designated as residential in the district plan. Stacey Gasson, the Council's Sustainable Communities Co-ordinator, has visited the Kura to establish where the pigs are proposed to be kept. When this was analysed, it was found that not all of the proposed animal enclosure would comply with the Keeping of Animals Bylaw, but the fenced area could comply with the rules if it was reduced in size by around 20% on the side closest to neighbouring properties in Hadfield Court.
- 22 Examination of District Rules has shown than keeping pigs in the residential zone is a non-complying activity and as such would require resource consent. As this permission has not yet been obtained it would be premature to award Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o te Rito a full grant for the project.
- 23 The resource consent team has been consulted and they indicated that if certain conditions were met the activity could be successful in obtaining resource consent.
- 24 It is proposed the Kura is initially awarded \$900 of a \$5,000 waste levy grant set aside for them in order to pay the resource consent fee. If resource consent is successfully obtained, the balance of their grant will be awarded. If their application for resource consent is unsuccessful, or they have not submitted their application for resource consent within six months, the unspent funds set aside for the Kura will revert to general community projects fund for reallocation.
- 25 Representatives of the Kura have been consulted and they are happy to proceed on this basis, mindful that cost of obtaining resource consent will mean they need to obtain additional funding for the project.

All applications

- 26 Council can either make the purchases on behalf of the groups or release funds to the groups to make the purchase themselves. The latter option is preferred provided the groups have their own bank account for funds to be paid into and the group has formally adopted terms of reference that satisfy our requirements for financial administration and audit.
- 27 The groups have agreed to monitor the volumes of waste diverted from landfill as a result of their projects and the Sustainable Communities Co-ordinator will assist them with this.

SUB-COMMITTEE

- 28 Businesses have the opportunity to bid for a separate stream of waste levy funding of \$55,000 in 2010/11 for developing new technologies and seed funding for new ventures. Expressions of interest have been received and the applicants

who have passed this stage of the process are presently developing their business cases. Decisions on allocations will be required later this financial year.

- 29 The waste levy allocation policy states:

Approval of funding under any contestable process will be undertaken by a sub-committee of the Environment and Community Development Committee (or any future equivalent environmental policy making committee). The sub-committee will consist of the Chair of the Committee, the Chair of the Corporate Business Committee (or an equivalent Committee responsible for financial management), the Mayor and two other Councillors.

- 30 At the moment no such sub-committee has been formed. As there will be more levy allocations to decide in future, both those for community groups and also those for businesses, the formation of a sub committee would make funding rounds easier to administer.

Financial Considerations

- 31 The total allocation for the three proposed community projects is \$12,947 out of the available \$20,000. The remaining funds can be kept for further rounds of community grants. Waste levy funds can be carried over between financial years. There is no impact on rates funding.

Legal Considerations

- 32 There are no legal considerations for Council. The groups themselves are responsible for ensuring their activities comply with all relevant laws and regulations. The allocation and use of the funding will be subject to audit by MfE.

Delegation

- 33 Council, the Committee or Community Board may make a decision under the following delegation:

Part B.1, 7.1

'authority to develop ... policies and work programmes that support the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the community. This authority encompasses the power to... undertake all matters ... relating to solid waste management policy issues'.

Consultation

- 34 No public consultation was carried out.

Publicity Considerations

- 35 The projects will be publicised by the Council through various media. This will stimulate interest in future funding rounds.

Other Considerations

- 36 There are no other considerations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 37 That the Committee approves to allocate \$2,947 of waste levy funding to the Kakariki Street Greenest Street Group for their community waste reduction project, involving the purchase of a mulcher, hand saws and safety equipment to be shared within their local community.
- 38 That the Committee approves to allocate \$5,000 of waste levy funding to Rainbow Court Greenest Street Group for their community waste reduction project, involving the purchase of composting and worm farming equipment for 18 households.
- 39 That the Committee approves to allocate \$5,000 of waste levy funding to Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o te Rito for their community waste reduction project, involving establishment of an area for keeping pigs, on the condition that unspent funds allocated will revert if resource consent is not obtained, or has not been applied for within 6 months.
- 40 That the Committee forms a subcommittee of Councillor Gaylor, Councillor Church, Mayor Jenny Rowan and two other councillors, in accordance with the waste levy allocation policy for determining allocation of future waste levy grants.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

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ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A: Waste levy allocation policy

Appendix B: Kakariki Street application

Appendix C: Rainbow Court application

Appendix D: Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o te Rito application

17 January 2011 04:32 P.M.