

3.5 Additional Information 2021-22 Round 2 Small Grants (Biannual) Allocation

Abstract

At the Services Delegated Committee (SDC) meeting on 8 February 2021, a report on the allocation of Round 2 of the Small Grants (Biannual) was discussed. At that meeting, the SDC recommended:

- To endorse the Small (Biannual) Grants funding allocations for Round Two 2020-21 of \$68,134.55 (as outlined in Attachment 1, as annexed to the minutes).
- Officers bring back a further report on the funding applications not recommended for approval and information to be provided include the funding applications and the officers' assessment of the funding applications to enable councillors to make an informed decision.
- Roll over unexpended funds to the 2021-22 Annual Community Strengthening Grants.

Two applications were not recommended for funding and further information was sought. This information and the two applications and associated staff assessments were provided to the Annual Community Grants Assessment Panel, which met on 18 February, so that further consideration could be given to the two applications not recommended for funding.

Confidential information is contained in **Attachment 2**, as circulated in the confidential section of the agenda attachments.

These attachments are confidential information for the purposes of section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*:

- (a) because it is Council business information, being information that would prejudice Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released (section 3(1)(a)); and
- (b) because it is personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about a person of their personal affairs (section 3(1)(f)); and
- (c) these grounds apply because these Attachments concern the ongoing allocation of grants that would, if prematurely released, diminish the strength of Council's position in regard to its final decision about the allocation of the grants.

This item is included in the public agenda to facilitate transparency and accountability in Council's decision making.

If discussion of the confidential information in the attachment to this report is required in order for Council to make a decision, this item will be deferred to the confidential section of the agenda.

Officers' recommendation

That the Services Delegated Committee resolve to:

1. Endorse an additional Small (Biannual) Grants allocation for Round Two 2020-21 of \$1,500 (as outlined in **Attachment 1**, as annexed to the minutes).
2. Roll over unexpended funds of \$60,596.45 to the 2021-22 Annual Community Strengthening Grants.

Responsible director: Carolyn McClean, Director Community Support

1. Purpose

This report contains additional information to the Allocation 2020-1 Round 2 Small Grants (Biannual) report presented to the Services Delegated Committee on Monday 8 February 2021.

This report also contains the recommendations from the Community Strengthening Grants Assessment Panel, which reconvened on Thursday 18 February 2021 to consider information provided as a response to questions raised by councillors at the Council meeting.

2. Policy implications and relevance to Community Plan and Council Plan

The Boroondara Community Plan 2017-27 is Council's key strategic document and it describes the community's 10-year vision and priorities. It guides Council's decision making, and directly informs the Council Plan, budget processes and Council strategies, plans, policies and actions.

The Boroondara Community Plan is structured around seven themes our community told us were important to them and each includes a strategic objective describing the outcomes we are seeking to achieve. The three strategies of relevance for this report are:

Strategy 1.3 under the Priority Theme of Your Community, Services and Facilities.

Deliver, facilitate and advocate for services and programs that promote health, wellbeing, safety and a sense of community.

Strategy 1.8 under the Priority Theme of Your Community, Services and Facilities.

Facilitate and produce diverse arts and cultural programs to provide entertainment and increase participation in community life for residents and tourists.

Strategy 6.3 under the Priority Theme of Your Local Shops and Businesses

Showcase and promote the City's attractions to increase visitation and spending locally.

In addition, the health and wellbeing priorities of promoting mental health and social connection will also be contributed to through these projects.

Council Plan

The Boroondara Council Plan 2017-21 vision is for *a vibrant and inclusive city, meeting the needs and aspirations of its community*. As noted above, the relevant themes for this report are:

Priority Theme One: Your Community, Services and Facilities

Priority Theme Six: Your local Shops and Businesses

Policy context

The Boroondara Community Strengthening Grants Policy 2020, sets out the parameters for the allocation of the Small (Biannual) Grants program. This is a new grants category providing quick-turnaround funding for small, new and one-off services, programs and activities that strengthen the Boroondara community. The policy integrates Council's grant funding activities so they strategically align to community needs, as identified in the Council Plan 2017-21.

3. Background

At the Services Delegated Committee (SDC) meeting on 8 February 2021, a report on the allocation of Round 2 of the Small Grants (Biannual) was discussed. At that meeting, the SDC recommended:

- To endorse the Small (Biannual) Grants funding allocations for Round Two 2020-21 of \$68,134.55 (as outlined in Attachment 1, as annexed to the minutes).
- Officers bring back a further report on the funding applications not recommended for approval and information to be provided include the funding applications and the officers' assessment of the funding applications to enable councillors to make an informed decision.
- Roll over unexpended funds to the 2021-22 Annual Community Strengthening Grants.

Two applications were not recommended for funding and further information was sought. This information and the two applications and associated staff assessments were provided to the Annual Community Grants Assessment Panel so further consideration could be given to the two applications not recommended for funding.

4. Outline of key issues/options

The Panel reconvened on Thursday 18 February 2021 to consider the two not recommended applications, staff assessments and further information provided by Independent Community News Group Incorporated. There was no further information on the second application.

The Panel considered the application from Independent Community News Group Incorporated and the additional information requested and recommended that the applicant receive partial funding of \$1,500 (**Attachment 1**).

The Panel considered the second application and confirmed the staff recommendation of no funding (**Confidential Attachment 2**).

5. Consultation/communication

The Small (Biannual) Grants program was promoted through:

- The Fuse e-newsletter
- Council's social media
- Boroondara Creative Network e-newsletter
- the BVRC Member Bulletin

- City of Boroondara website on a dedicated webpage.
- a specific website news item.

While information sessions were not delivered due to COVID-19 restrictions, applicants were assisted through phone contact with Council officers.

Applicants will be notified via email of the outcome of their application.

6. Financial and resource implications

Following the endorsement of the Round 2 Small Grants (Biannual) totalling \$68,134, by SDC, there are remaining funds of \$62,096.45. With the Panel's further recommendation \$1,500 be allocated to Independent Community News Group Incorporated, \$60,596.45 remains.

The Panel recommended that the remaining funds of \$60,596.45 be rolled over to the 2021-22 Annual Community Strengthening Grants.

7. Governance issues

The officers responsible for this report have no general or material conflicts of interest requiring disclosure.

8. Social and environmental issues

The outcomes from the applications recommended for funding will have a positive social impact within the Boroondara community. The recommended application supports a resource which will promote a sense of community and enhance community inclusion.

Manager: **Fiona Brown, Manager Community Planning and Development**

Report officer: Fiona Brown, Manager Community Planning and Development

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Attachment 1: 2020 Round 2 Small (Biannual) Grant - Recommended

Recommended

Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Panel Recommendation	Partial and/or Conditional Funding	Conflict of interest
1 Independent Community News Group Incorporated	Eastsider News, a local, free and community-based newspaper	Funding is requested to produce promotional material such as posters, flyers, and brochures to increase awareness of Eastsider News. Funding would be used for the following: - Printing of leaflets - Printing of posters - Printing of brochures - Preparation of photos - Website campaign.	\$1,500.00	Contribution towards project	Cr Cynthia Watson