

P25-001: COMMUNITY FUNDING INVESTMENT POLICY

Adopted by the Council on 13 May 2025

Preamble

New Plymouth District Council has a responsibility to promote the Social, Economic, Cultural and Environmental wellbeing within the district. One way to achieve this is to provide financial support and investment for community organisations operating within and benefiting the people and district of New Plymouth.

Purpose

The purpose of the Community Funding Investment Policy is to set out the parameters by which New Plymouth District Council may offer funding, subsidies or in-kind services to communities, groups, individuals and organisations within the district.

Definitions

CBD areas – these include the City Centre Zone in New Plymouth, the Town Centre Zones of Inglewood, Waitara and Fitzroy and other Local Centre Zones as defined in the Proposed or Operative District Plan

Community – a social group sharing common characteristics, locality, heritage or interests, and perceived as distinct within the larger society within which it operates.

Community concessional lease – a subsidised rental lease for occupation of Council administered land and/or buildings.

Competitive sporting activities – general sports activities of sports clubs (for example, grounds maintenance, coaching, uniforms, tournament fees, venue hire costs for regular training and games, subsidies for registrations).

Council – New Plymouth District Council.

Enhancing the social fabric – provides for more and better interactions between members of the community, allowing them to be more involved, happy, willing to support and engage with one another and be encouraged to make the district a more positive and pleasant place to live.

Financial year – being 1 July to 30 June.

Grant – a financial contribution to a group, organisation or sector of the community.

Marae – a meeting place registered as a reserve under the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 (The Māori Land Act).

Not-for-profit – a group with a primary purpose of delivering non-statutory services and activities, and does not seek to generate profit, revenue or financial surpluses for commercial or individual interests.

Political activities – the promotion of a political stance, ideology or party.

Rates remission – a reduction, postponement or removal of rates.

Re-gifting – an organisation seeks funding so they can administer these funds to individuals or organisations through their own funding scheme.

Religious activities – any activity that promotes or supports a particular religious deity or ultimate reality (for example, but not limited to, worship ceremonies, religious studies, or active promotion and advertising).

Retrospective costs – where a project, service or event has commenced prior to the funding committee meeting.

Social Enterprise – a revenue-generating organisation, with a primary purpose of achieving social, cultural or environmental goals, and reinvests financial surpluses in the pursuit of the social, cultural and environmental outcomes of the organisation.

Statutory function – a function conferred or imposed by a statutory instrument (law), and is delivered in part through government funding which is provided to the organisation for the purpose of providing the service.

Urupā – Māori burial ground.

Purpose of Community Funding Investment

Community funding investment and community concessional leases may be granted by the Council for the following purposes:

1. Where the functions of the group or organisation, or the funding sought, contributes towards the social, economic, environmental or cultural wellbeing of the district.
2. Supporting the viability of community services that may not be provided by other sectors or organisations.
3. Building and strengthening the capacity of community groups and organisations to become financially sustainable where possible.
4. To be a catalyst for change for the benefit of the community.
5. Enhancing the social fabric of the community.
6. Managing, maintaining, preserving and enhancing the district's built, cultural and natural heritage.
7. Building community cohesion and resilience.

Any specific and/or additional purposes of the different fund streams and community concessional leases can be found in the schedules, supplementary to the policy.

Considerations when awarding community funding

The award of community funding by Council will be guided by the following value considerations:

1. The extent to which the support sought will fund purposeful activity and demonstrable outcomes that benefit the community.
2. The extent to which the support will fund activities that align with Council's strategic vision, mission and goals.
3. The extent of public good that is promoted.
4. The degree to which the support will lead to capacity building and sustainability.
5. The extent to which an unmet need of the community is being met.

Policy schedules

The following funding and concessional lease schemes shall operate under the general terms of the Community Funding Investment Policy.

- Built Heritage Protection Fund
- Community Climate Action Fund
- Community Concessional Leases
- Community Partnership Grant
- Community Services and Programmes Grant
- Cultural Heritage Protection Fund
- Charitable Sponsorship
- Community Events Grant
- Main Street Building Fund
- Manaaki Urupā Grant
- Marae Development Grant
- Marae Insurance
- Mayoral Relief Fund
- Planting Our Place Fund - Te Korowai o Tāne
- Resource Management Support for Iwi and Hapū
- Rural Halls Development Grant
- Rural Hall Insurance
- Natural Heritage Protection Fund
- Social Enterprise Grant
- Strategic Council Partner
- Whanake Grant
- Zero Waste Fund

The following policy and contestable fund shall operate alongside the Community Funding Investment Policy:

- Rates Remission Policy
- Reduced Service Rates

Excluded schemes

The following funding schemes are excluded from the scope of this policy:

- Agility Fund
- Art in Public Places
- Catalyst Fund
- Cemeteries Board Support Grants
- Creative Communities Scheme (funding and criteria care of Creative New Zealand and administered through the Creative Communities Advisory Committee)
- Major Events Fund (administered by the Regional Economic Development Agency)
- Property Insurance for Rural Halls and Marae
- Rural Domains Scheme

Eligibility

Please refer to relevant policy schedule for full eligibility criteria

The general eligibility for all grant types is as follows^{1 2}:

1. Be located and operating within the New Plymouth District Boundaries.
2. Be a not-for-profit community group or organisation and be able to demonstrate that the purposes of the activity contribute to the social, economic, cultural or environmental wellbeing/interests of the district.

Exclusions

Funding will not be made available for the purposes of ^{1 2}:

1. Religious activities (for example, services or projects seeking to promote religious objectives and/or the teaching or preaching of faith).
2. Political activities (for example, services or projects seeking to promote political objectives).
3. Statutory functions, activities and services (for example, primary and secondary education providers, policing or health care funded through central government organisations at a national, regional or local level).
4. Re-gifting (for example, where an organisation seeks funding so they can administer these funds to individuals or organisations through their own funding scheme).
5. Activities that contravene any policy or strategic objective of the Council.
6. Previous grant applicants who failed to fulfil the obligations and terms of the previous funding agreement.
7. Commercial or private organisations whose purpose is profit generation for shareholders, directors or owners.

Funding will not be provided when:

8. Services, programmes or projects have received funding from the Council via another funding mechanism, including the Annual Plan, Long-Term Plan, and Major Events Fund.
9. Funding support for the service, programme or project has already been given from the Council within the same financial year.
10. The funding is for a specific individual.
11. The application is for retrospective costs.

¹ Unless otherwise stated in a specific policy schedule

² This does not apply to applications for the purpose of ongoing operational costs of organisations.

Applications

All applications for funding must be made online via the Council's grant management system, within the advertised timeframes.

Applications must be accompanied by the relevant documentation required, which is specified in each of the attached policy schedules.

Level of community funding

The Council shall determine the level of funds that will be available for community funding purposes during its Long-Term Plan or Annual Plan process.

Each policy schedule will have a specific amount allocated for distribution.

Concessional lease rental will be determined through the Long-Term Plan or Annual Plan process and set out in the Schedule of Fees and Charges.

Policy Contact

The policy holder is the Community and Economic Team within the Strategy and Planning Group.

Policy Review

This policy shall next be reviewed in February 2027 and then every three years.

This policy revoked the following existing policy:

- P22-002 Community Funding Investment Policy (2022)

This policy establishes the following funds:

- Community Climate Initiatives Fund

This policy incorporates the following policies and/or funding programmes:

- Strategic Council Partners