

Policy number	Policy 114
Policy title	Community Funding
Strategic outcomes supported	CL6 – Finances are managed appropriately, sustainably and transparently for the benefit of the community. S3 – An empowered community with a sense of pride, safety and belonging

Policy objective:

This policy aims to ensure the success and prosperity of the Town’s community while ensuring transparency of funding decisions and accountability of those parties receiving funding.

Policy scope:

This policy applies to any eligible party seeking funding from the Town through the following programs:

- Community grants program.
- Place grants program
- Donations.
- Operating subsidies (including peppercorn lease).
- Rebates.

Policy definitions:

The following definitions apply in this policy:

auspice organisation means legal entity which must take responsibility for applying, receiving, holding, administrating and acquitting against a grant or funding on behalf of an unincorporated organisation or individual.

business means a registered trading business.

business group means a group of two or more local businesses who work in partnership.

community grants program includes any grant program which is open to the local community and residents in return for social outcomes at an individual and community level.

cost-benefit comparison relates to social benefits and outcomes achieved at an individual and community level being greater than the totality of funding and support provided by the Town. The funding recipient will be required to attribute a cost against the operational service delivery cost required to achieve the social benefits and outcomes.

cost-effectiveness analysis means the comparison of two similar programs or services taking into consideration cost and resourcing against the benefits and outcomes anticipated to be achieved or achieved. A cost-effectiveness analysis helps to determine which ‘applicant’ should receive funding/ resources based upon:

- a. the greatest potential impact at an individual and community level informed through a cost-benefit comparison; and
- b. should sufficient funds be available Council may elect to approve two or more similar operating subsidies.

donation means a financial gift to an eligible party.

economic efficiency is when goods and services that are produced are the ones that are most valued by society, produced at least cost and allocated to those who value them most highly. Economic efficiency comprises:

- a. allocative efficiency- allocating resources to their most productive use;
- b. technical efficiency- providing goods and services at least cost; and
- c. dynamic efficiency- ensuring that investments are optimal over the long-term (three year maximum contracts) in both their timing and location.

established and solvent means:

- a. operating a business for all or part of the income year;
- b. cash reserve and/or guaranteed income to cover three months' worth of operating costs at any time;
- c. has an aggregated turnover less than \$10 million annually; and
- d. has demonstrated capacity to deliver upon Funding Agreements.

funding agreement means a contract entered into by the Town and funding recipient which stipulates obligations inclusive of, deliverables, reporting requirements, roles and responsibilities, termination of funding and funding period.

incorporated association means an association, as defined by the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)*, inclusive of any association, society, club, institution, community group or body formed or carried on for a lawful purpose. All profits made by the association must be used to benefit the association or, in the case of a charity, the beneficiaries of that charity, and not for the gain of its individual members.

in-kind support means goods or services provided to eligible parties by the Town. Such as fee waiver for the use of the Town's facilities and services, inclusive of parks, reserves or equipment; or support inclusive of but not limited to cross-promotion through social media platforms and production of marketing material. In-kind support will be attributed a monetary value and considered within the totality of funds provided by the Town to the eligible party.

intervention means a program, service or initiative.

operating subsidy means a cash payment and/ or peppercorn lease made to an eligible party to support its sustainable operating capacity to deliver programs, support and services to the local community, capped at 50% of total operating costs.

party means any person, community group, business group, organisation or other, applying for funding from the Town.

peppercorn lease means a subsidised nominal rental amount which is significantly below the market valuation, thus forfeiting revenue in return for social benefits for the community (to be informed by cost-benefit comparison).

program means an intervention, event, initiative, or service delivered by a party to a specific community cohort or the general community.

rebate means a financial reimbursement of the expenditure of funds, to an eligible party, excluding rate rebates or concessions.

social enterprise (also referred to as business) means:

- a. a small business that is led by an economic, social, cultural or environmental mission consistent with a public or community benefit;
- b. derive a substantial portion of their income from trade; and
- c. reinvest the majority of their profits/ surplus in the fulfilment of their mission.

sustainable operating capacity means the capacity of an organisation to remain financially viable over a long-term period through diverse revenue and funding streams which meet the full cost of services delivery, attract and retain human capital, and manage operational risks.

town team/ place-based group means a group of residents, businesses and landowners working collaboratively to improve their local neighbourhood.

Policy statement:

1. The Town will administer funding programs to support the resilience of the community.
2. Funding programs are subject to an annual budget approval process. The Town reserves the right to withhold the administration or availability of any of the following funding programs based upon the long term and annual financial position of the Town.
3. Any party wishing to apply for funding must have Public Liability Insurance of \$10 million with the exception of rebates, donations and for grants, in instances where initiatives are not exposed to public risk.
4. The Town reserves the right to deny funding to any party should the proposed program or initiative or party conflict with the Town's Vision, Mission or Values, or bring the Town's brand or reputation into disrepute, or at its discretion.
5. All funding provided under this policy is to be reported on in the Annual Report.
6. The Town must ensure that all documentation relating to community funding programs, including executed agreements, is recorded, as required under the *State Records Act 2000*.

Ineligibility criteria:

7. Unless otherwise stated in additional ineligibility criteria under each funding program, applicants will be ineligible where:
 - a. the applicant has an outstanding debt to the Town;
 - b. the applicant has failed to submit a satisfactory acquittal for a previous Town funding program; or
 - c. the application is submitted retrospectively i.e. after a project, activity and/or program has already taken place.
 - d. the applicant is a Town employee or Elected Member.

Conflicts of interest:

8. In the administration and awarding of community funding programs any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest are to be managed in keeping with the *Local Government Act 1995*, the code of conduct and the Town's values.
9. In order to achieve this, in keeping with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995*, *Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007* and *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* employees and elected members with any involvement in community funding programs shall declare:

- a. any financial, indirect financial, proximity or gift interests that they have with any applicant for a community funding program; and
 - b. any impartiality interests they have with any applicant for a community funding program.
10. As is required under the Act, where any employee or elected member discloses a financial, indirect financial, proximity or gift related interest they must not be involved in that particular community funding program application. If:
- a. this is as a member of a panel, they must not participate in the panel and the CEO should appoint another person as a member of the panel;
 - b. as an employee who awards or assesses applications for funding, the application must be referred to another appropriate employee who can award or undertake the assessment for the funding; and
 - c. the application is referred to a committee or Council, in accordance with the requirements of the Act.
11. Where an impartiality interest by an employee is disclosed, the interest should be referred to the CEO to establish if it continues to be appropriate for that employee to be involved in the assessment process.

Lobbying of Elected Members:

12. Applicants may not lobby, or seek to influence the decision-making of Elected Members or Town staff, in relation to their submitted funding applications.
13. If, during the period between submitting a funding application and a determination by Council, an applicant seeks to lobby any Elected Member or Town staff of the Town of Victoria Park, or attempts to provide additional information, either directly or indirectly, on any matter relating to the funding application to an Elected Member or Town staff, the person/organisation may be disqualified and the grant or donation excluded from being considered for approval.

Community grants program:

14. The community grants program will increase the capacity of community groups, businesses, clubs and organisations within the Town of Victoria Park, to implement projects, activities and programs that enhance and promote community wellbeing, aligned to the Town's Strategic Community Plan.

Grant funding programs:

15. The Community Grants program is comprised of a range of community grant programs inclusive of, but not limited to:
 - a. Community Development Grants;
 - b. Sport and Club Development Grants;
 - c. Youth Project Grants;
 - d. Community Safety and Crime Prevention Grants;
 - e. Art and Culture Grants;
 - f. Healthy Communities Grants; and
 - g. Urban Forest Grants.

Aims:

16. The aims of the Town's Community Grants Program are to:
 - a. Complement and achieve the Town of Victoria Park's strategic objectives;

- b. Provide financial assistance to the community to develop and implement projects, activities and programs that enhance the wellbeing of the community;
- c. Strengthen local community capacity and cohesion through capitalising on the strengths and abilities of the community to effectively identify its own needs and to plan, develop and implement innovative solutions;
- d. Facilitate fair, transparent and equitable distribution of community resources and programs through the Town; and
- e. Increase participation and accessibility to a range of quality and innovative programs and activities for the residents of the Town.

Eligibility:

17. Eligible applicants are:

- a. not-for-profit organisations;
- b. community group or clubs;
- c. artists, individuals and businesses;
- d. resident associations;
- e. town teams or place-based groups;
- f. parents and citizen (P&C) and parents and friends (P&F) associations;
- g. schools (only for projects falling outside the Department of Education responsibilities); and
- h. social-enterprises.

Approval process:

18. The CEO will be responsible for receiving community grants applications. The CEO shall establish a panel of no less than three members to assess all eligible applications received. The panel will assess applications against the requirements and assessment criteria and make a recommendation to Council for consideration.
19. Funding rounds will be tailored to the specific community grants program, and detailed in Practice 114.1 Community Grants which is to be made publicly available.
20. The Town may require public recognition of the grant through means as deemed appropriate by the Town.

Place grants program:

Aims:

21. Place grants aim to support community-led initiatives that:
 - a. make a positive contribution to the physical character, amenity or activation of a neighbourhood
 - b. build the capacity and capability of a town team or place-based group

Eligibility:

22. Eligible applicants are:

- a. not-for-profit organisations;
- b. community group or clubs;
- c. artists, individuals and businesses;
- d. resident associations;
- e. town teams or place-based groups;
- f. parents and citizen (P&C) and parents and friends (P&F) associations;
- g. schools (only for projects falling outside the Department of Education responsibilities); and
- h. social-enterprises.

Approval process:

23. The CEO will be responsible for receiving, assessing and approving place grant applications detailed in Practice 114.6 Place Grants which is to be made publicly available.
24. Dependent upon annual budget approval, funding will be available year-round, or until funds have been expended.
25. The Town may require public recognition of the grant through means as deemed appropriate by the Town.

Donations:

26. The donations program will support the local community through an annual financial assistance program.
27. Donations will be for the provision of charitable purposes or services or to support individual or group achievement at a state, national or international level of competition.
28. The Town reserves the right to request a profile of the donation recipient including what the funds will be or have been used for.

Aims:

29. The aims of the Town's Community Donations Program are:
 - a. To complement the Town of Victoria Park's strategic objectives; and
 - b. To support the following three (3) categories through financial assistance:

Youth National and International Sport Donation

- i. To support local residents who reside within the Town aged between 12- 25 years to participate within their sporting discipline at a national or international level.
- ii. Applicants must produce a letter of selection from their state sporting association or national body.

Youth Leadership and Development Donation

- iii. To support individuals aged between 12-25 years nominated to undertake a youth leadership or development course delivered by a recognised organisation for personal and/ or professional development.
- iv. Applicants must demonstrate a letter of offer to undertake the personal or professional development.

School Welfare

- v. Maximum of two applications per school, per financial year, to support the welfare of students and families requiring assistance with educational fees or items.
- vi. The school must submit the application on behalf of the student/ family.

Approval process:

30. The CEO will be responsible for receiving, assessing and approving donations applications.

31. Dependent upon annual budget approval, funding will be available year-round, or until funds have been expended.
32. The Chief Executive Officer will be responsible for operationalising and administering the Donations program in accordance with Practice 114.2 Donations which is to be made publicly available.

Operating Subsidy:

33. The operating subsidy program will support the operating capacity of eligible parties to deliver meaningful interventions, programs and services to the community.

Aim:

34. To ensure economic efficiency, accountability and transparent financial management of funds by the Town, inclusive of in-kind support, cash and peppercorn lease.

Eligibility:

35. Applicants must meet the following:
 - a. must be an established and solvent incorporated not-for-profit organisation or social enterprise;
 - b. the mission/ purpose of the organisation or social-enterprise must be of a sporting or recreational, cultural or community service focus;
 - c. the mission / purpose will be stated in the organisation's constitution, details of incorporation or similar statement of purpose;
 - d. operating subsidy request must align with the Town's identified priority focus area(s);
 - e. operating subsidy request is based upon industry benchmarked standard costs of operation; and
 - f. the impact of the operating subsidy upon competition and economic efficiency are minimised as far as practicable and evidenced by the applying party.

Ineligibility:

36. Applicants will be ineligible for an Operational Subsidy where:
 - a. the eligibility criteria is not met;
 - b. the applicant does not operate within the Town from a rateable premise, or does not primarily deliver services within the Town;
 - c. the applicant has previously breached a requirement of a lease or licence with the Town and failed to rectify the breach to the satisfaction of the Town; or
 - d. the applicant is insolvent.

Approval Process:

37. The CEO will be responsible for receiving operating subsidy applications. The CEO shall establish a panel of no less than three members to assess all eligible applications received. The panel will assess applications against the requirements and assessment criteria and make a recommendation to Council for consideration.
38. The Chief Executive Officer will be responsible for operationalising and administering the operating subsidy program in accordance with Practice 114.4 Operating Subsidies which is to be made publicly available.
39. Allocation of up to 1% of the Town's rateable income will be considered to support the operating subsidy program annually;

40. Dependent upon annual budget approval, the operating subsidy program will be advertised publicly with one founding round open per year.
41. Operating subsidies will be capped at \$100,000 (ex GST) cash contribution per organisation per year, and no more than 50% of total operating costs, inclusive of cash, in-kind support relating to subsidised rental value of the lease forfeited under a peppercorn lease.
42. The Town will be responsible for receiving operating subsidy applications and making a recommendation to Council for consideration.
43. Applications will be assessed against cost-benefit comparison aligned to the Town's Strategic Community Plan outcomes.
44. In the instance where two or more applicants apply for an operating subsidy to deliver similar services, a cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) will be undertaken to ensure the most efficient use of rate payers funds.
45. Should sufficient funds be available Council may elect to approve two or more similar operating subsidies.
46. Three (3) year recurrent Funding Agreements will be entered into with the successful applicant.
47. Previously successful applicants are eligible to re-apply for an operating subsidy;
48. Operating subsidy applications will be considered alongside Lease / License Agreements, where relevant.
49. Consumer Price Index Perth all Groups will be applied annually to the life of the funding contract
50. Successful applications will be required to provide quarterly 'output reports' and an annual 'outcome report' to the Town, to be used by the Town as the Town deems fit.
51. Successful applicants will be required to provide the Town with an annual statement of income and expenditure of the operating subsidy which has been certified by the applicant's auditor.
52. The annual outcome report must demonstrate cost-benefit comparison in return for the operating subsidy.
53. The Town reserves the right to terminate a Funding Agreement upon unsatisfactory annual outcomes reported in an acquittal and or report.
54. Should the acquittal process be deemed unsatisfactory, the Town reserves the right to request the full reimbursement of funding provided.
55. The Town reserves the right to incrementally decrease funding per year to promote sustainable operating capacity, should the financial position of the funding recipient change.
56. The eligibility criteria, reporting and acquittal process will be made publicly available on the Town's website.

Rebates:

57. The Rebates programs relates to the following funding programs:
 - a. Adopt-a-verge;
 - b. CCTV Partnership Program;

- c. Security Incentive Scheme; and
- d. Street Meet and Greet.

58. The CEO will be responsible for receiving, assessing and approving rebate applications.

Adopt-a-verge

59. The 'Adopt-a-Verge' program supports residents to transform the verge areas in their street into beautiful native gardens, with the assistance of the Town of Victoria Park. A verge is considered to be the area between the road and your property.

Aims:

60. The aims of the Adopt-a-Verge program are to:
- a. Reduce water use;
 - b. Increase Biodiversity; and
 - c. Promote aesthetically pleasing verges.

Eligibility:

61. Local residents are eligible for an Adopt-a-Verge rebate.

Ineligibility:

62. The following parties are ineligible for an Adopt-a-Verge rebate:
- a. Commercial or industrial properties; and
 - b. Property developers.

CCTV Partnership Program:

Aims:

63. To assist private residences, businesses or community groups to install an effective CCTV system and create a partnership between the applicant, WA Police Force, and the Town to address crime and safety problems through visual surveillance.

Eligibility:

64. Any property owner, resident, business or community group in the Town is eligible to apply for funding of up to half the total project cost, per project (refer to management practice 114.1 Community Funding for capped amount).

Ineligibility:

65. The following parties are ineligible to join the CCTV Partnership Program:
- a. State or Federal government agencies; or
 - b. Properties outside the Town of Victoria Park.

Security Incentive Scheme:

Aims:

66. To support residents in taking an active role to deter burglaries.

Eligibility:

67. Any local property owner, resident, business or community group in the Town.

Ineligibility:

68. The following parties are ineligible for a Security Incentive Scheme rebate:

- a. State or Federal government agencies;
- b. Any party that has already received their maximum rebate under the Security Incentive Scheme for the financial year; or
- c. Any party that does not comply with the operational Terms and Conditions of the program.

Street Meet n Greet:

Aims:

69. To empower community members to deliver local street events throughout the Town.

Eligibility:

70. Any resident, business or community group in the Town is eligible to apply.

Ineligibility:

71. The following parties are ineligible for a Street Meet n Greet rebate:

- a. State or Federal government agencies;
- b. Properties outside the Town of Victoria Park;
- c. Any party with a current outstanding debt with the Town;
- d. Any event that does not target local street neighbours as the focus of the event; or
- e. Any party that does not comply with the operational Terms and Conditions of the program.

Related documents

- Practice 114.1 Community grants*
- Practice 114.2 Donations*
- Practice 114.4 Operating subsidies*
- Practice 114.5 Rebates*

Responsible officers	Community Development Coordinator
Policy manager	Manager - Community
Approval authority	Council
Next evaluation date	

Revision history

Version	Action	Date	Authority	Resolution number	Report number
1	Adopted	17/12/2019	Council	284/2019	Item 14.5
2	Amended	16/09/2020	Council	519/2020	Item 15.2

3	Amended	20/10/2020	Council	535/2020	Item 12.6
4	Amended	15/12/2020	Council	594/2020	Item 15.1