

TO: Economic Development Committee

FROM: Manager, Economic Development Unit

MEETING DATE: 20 October 2014

SUBJECT: **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PROJECTS BUDGET
– PROJECT CO-ORDINATORS' FUNDING REQUEST**

SUMMARY

On 1 October 2014, the Grow Dunedin Partnership, which governs Dunedin's Economic Development Strategy, met to discuss EDS projects and in particular, the resourcing of two of the Economic Development Strategy projects.

The Grow Dunedin Partnership has provided a request for specially earmarked funding for the next three years as detailed in the attached report. This funding comes from the existing EDS projects budget and is within budget.

IMPLICATIONS FOR:

(i) Policy:	No
(ii) Approved Annual Budget:	No
(iii) LTP/Funding Policy:	No
(iv) Activity Management Plans:	No
(v) Community Boards:	No
(vi) Sustainability:	No

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. Approve the earmarking of \$190,000 on an annual basis from the Economic Development Project Budget for the purpose of employing two project co-ordinators.
2. That this funding be included as two line items within the Economic Development Project fund for a period of three years:
 - Export Education Uplift Co-ordinator - \$95,000
 - Project China Co-ordinator - \$95,000

INTRODUCTION

The attached report from the Grow Dunedin Partnership requests that funding for the project co-ordinators for the EDS projects, Export Education Uplift and Project China, is committed for the next three years from the EDS projects budget.

BACKGROUND

Enterprise Dunedin's EDS projects budget is \$518,000 for the current 2014/2015 financial year and has yet to be ratified for the 2015/16 year and future years.

This budget pays for progressing EDS projects and includes payment for the project co-ordinators and project management costs.

DISCUSSION

The Grow Dunedin Partnership recognises that EDS projects gain more momentum when a dedicated co-ordinator is employed to progress the project.

The partnership is requesting that funding is committed for the next three years for Project Co-ordinators for Export Education Uplift and Project China.

For the 2015/16 financial year and future years, this will mean an allocation of \$190,000 ie \$95,000 for each project co-ordinator including overhead costs.

For the current financial year, the Export Education Uplift Co-ordinator has been forecast until the end of the year, pending approval. The Grow Dunedin Partnership is proposing to reforecast their 2014/2015 EDS projects budget to ensure that they can cover the cost of the Project China Co-ordinator, pending approval.

CONCLUSION

Project co-ordinators are essential in maintaining the momentum of EDS projects and funding can be allocated within the current EDS projects budget.

Approved by:

Approved by:

Des Adamson
**MANAGER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
UNIT**

Adrian Blair
ACTING MANAGER, ENTERPRISE DUNEDIN

Date report prepared: 3 October 2014

Attachments

Grow Dunedin Partnership– EDS Project Co-ordinators' funding request

Grow Dunedin

Introduction

On 1 October 2014, the Grow Dunedin Partnership met to discuss the resourcing of the Economic Development Strategy (EDS) projects. Evidence to date shows that those EDS projects which have a dedicated co-ordinator progress faster and more effectively. It was therefore resolved to commit funding to ensure both the Export Education Uplift and Project China projects had ongoing dedicated co-ordinators.

Discussion

Export Education

The Project Co-ordinator for the Education Uplift project was initially contracted for one year which ends in mid February 2015.

This project has, under the leadership of the Project Co-ordinator, been making very good progress and the Grow Dunedin Partnership wish to extend the Project Co-ordinator's contract for another three years. It is proposed by the Grow Dunedin Partnership that \$95,000 be added as a line item to Enterprise Dunedin's EDS projects budget to cover both the salary and associated overhead costs for this co-ordinator.

Project China

Project China has, until recently, used the skills of one of Dunedin City Council's Systems Accountants on a half time basis. Having seen the progress of a dedicated person can make with this project, the Grow Dunedin Partnership would like to engage a full-time Project Co-ordinator for a three year term.

As with the Education Uplift Co-ordinator, it is proposed that a line item be added to the EDS projects budget for \$95,000 to cover both the salary and associated overhead costs.

Summary

The Grow Dunedin Partnership wishes to transfer a total of \$190,000 from the EDS Projects budget into dedicated line items for the employment of two project co-ordinators responsible for the Education Uplift Project and the Shanghai and China Project. These line items would be included in the EDS Projects budget for a period of three years. As approval of these line items will take expenditure for both these project areas above the \$100,000 delegation limit for the 2014/15 year, the Grow Dunedin Partnership is seeking approval from the Economic Development Committee to proceed with this transfer.

Resolution

That the Economic Development Committee:

1. Approve the earmarking of \$190,000 on an annual basis from the Economic Development Project Budget for the purpose of employing two project co-ordinators.
2. That this funding be included as a line item within the Economic Development Project fund for a period of three years.



Chris Staynes
Chair
Grow Dunedin

2 October 2014

