



Grants: looking forward



Purpose of this workshop

Update on proposed changes to the Grants Policy. A report with the draft policy will come later for Council approval.

Provide an overview of a proposed Annual Grants Report, which will include looking at the current funding landscape in Ōtepoti Dunedin.

Gather feedback on possible areas of change to the strategic approach to grants, including on a proposal of a grants funding framework.

No decisions are sought at this workshop. Feedback received will help inform the development of future reports and recommendations to Council.





Overview of the grants work programme

Grants Policy

- Reflects Council's agreed core policy settings
- Overarching, sets the framework for practice
- Reflects staff feedback on operational issues

We will seek Council approval of the draft before formal consultation through the Long Term Plan process

Annual Grants Report

- A proposed staff responsibility in the draft Grants Policy
- To support Council's decision making (through the AP and LTP)
- Initial report to include an overview of the funding landscape in Ōtepoti Dunedin

The report will come to Council for noting

Strategic approach

- Considers the strategic approach to grant making
- Includes the proposal of a grants funding framework

To help support decision making





Strengthening of the system

We now have a **clear policy foundation** to set the direction for how we give grants.

We are clear about **who can administer grants and the process** to do so (through the Grants Subcommittee and staff delegations).

We're working on resolving operational inconsistencies through proposed updates to the Grants Policy.

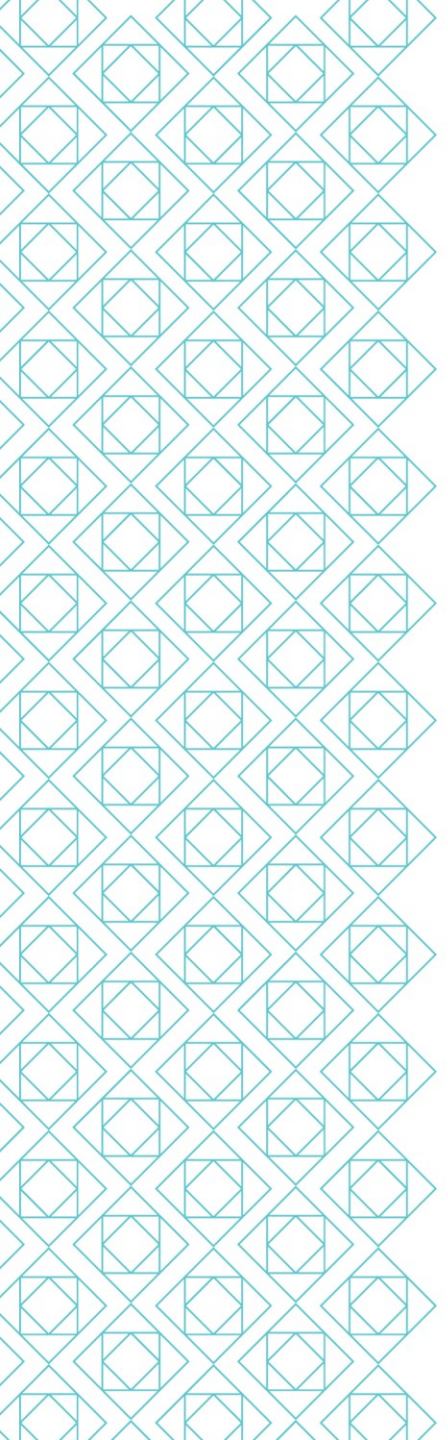




Current challenges

- The current Grants Management Policy **no longer reflects Council's agreed policy position.**
- There are **unclear processes** across grant funding.
- There's **no clear reporting** on how much of the allocated grant budget is spent each year.
- There's **no framework linking grants funding to Council's strategic outcomes.** As a result, there's also **limited data** on how grant funding helps progress Council's Community Outcomes (LTP).





Improving the foundations: proposed updates to the DCC's Grants Policy



Proposed updates to the Grants Policy

- The Grants Policy is an **overarching policy** that directs the process for grant making. However, we acknowledge that this is a policy the community has a high interest in.
- The policy **does not make any decisions around budgets** or funding intentions, which the draft policy states are decided by Council through the Annual Plan and Long-Term Plan processes.
- Following internal legal guidance, consultation on the proposed updated Grants Policy will be through the **Special Consultative Procedure as part of the Long-Term Plan process.**





Summary of proposed changes

- The proposed draft policy:
 - Incorporates Council's February resolutions (refer to handout) around the core policy settings, including **Council's agreed role** in grant making and **definition of a grant**.
 - **Better aligns** the policy to Council's Long Term Plan.
 - Strengthens the DCC's ability to make **defensible decisions** in grant making, including through guiding transparent and consistent decision making.
 - **Resolves operational issues** with the current policy, including staff administrative time.
 - **Provides guidance** to support staff with the decision-making process.





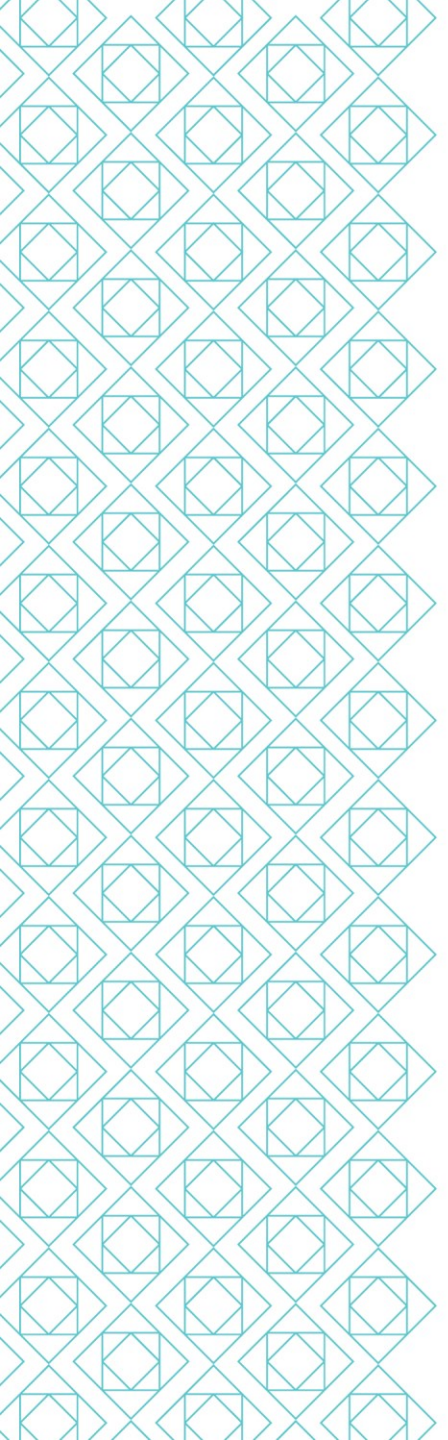
Questions for your feedback on the draft policy

We've identified the following four questions for future Council consideration/potential decisions on the policy:

1. Should priority be given to applications from local groups or organisations? (page 10)
2. Should applications that are already receiving alcohol sponsorship be excluded from funding? (page 12)
3. Should any grants require means testing to receive funding?
4. If we fund a separate body to deliver funds on our behalf, do we want specific funding criteria to be included?

Is there anything you think is missing from the policy?





Understanding where we are now: Annual Grants Report



Why might an Annual Grants Report be helpful?

In the draft policy there is an additional staff responsibility to provide an Annual Grants Report that we will trial this year.

The purpose of the report is to **increase visibility of grant funding and decision making.**

We think an Annual Grants Report might be helpful because:

- There's currently limited visibility of where and how grants funding is being spent.
- We don't currently provide Council with any regular analysis of what is being achieved through grants funding.
- Data provided in the report can support Council to make strategic decisions on funding.





Annual Grants Report

The report ***could*** include:

- Data on **applications received** in the last year (transparency and accountability, budget/actual spend).
- **Trends** analysis of DCC's grant making, noting challenges and potential opportunities for improvements in our operations.
- An **overview of the funding landscape** in Ōtepoti Dunedin and the DCC's role in this.
- Any identified **risks**.
- **Grant highlights** about some applications we've funded in the last year and a summary of the ongoing long-term relationships we have with the community through grant-making (understanding outcomes, measuring activity).

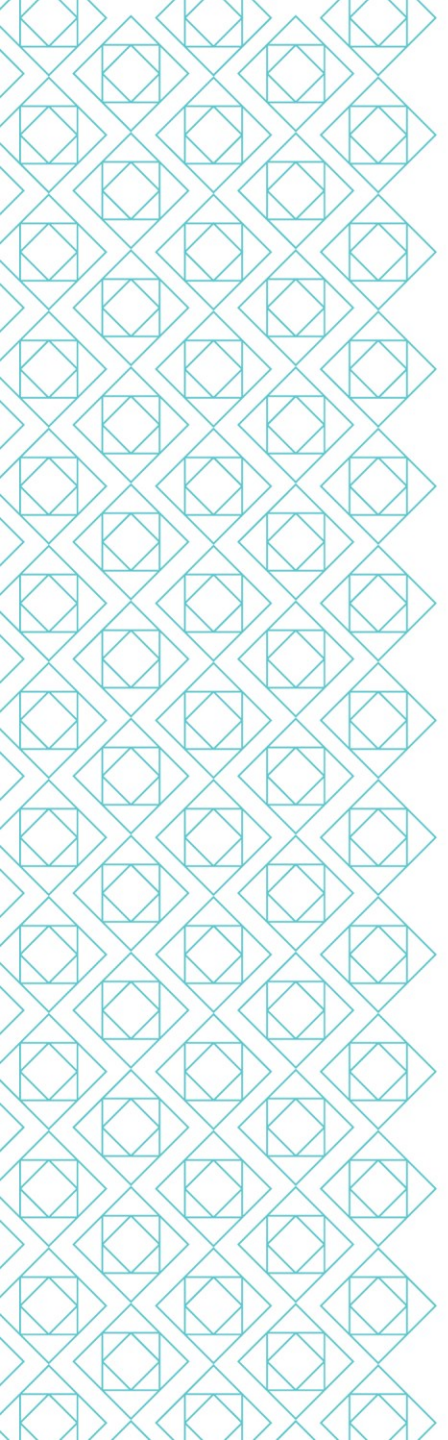




Questions for consideration on the Annual Grants Report

1. Does this approach sound helpful to support your decision making around grants?
2. Are there any other areas you would specifically like us to focus on?
3. Is there anything else you'd like to see in the report?





Looking across the funding landscape: Fundsorter report



Fundsorter report: the funding landscape in Dunedin

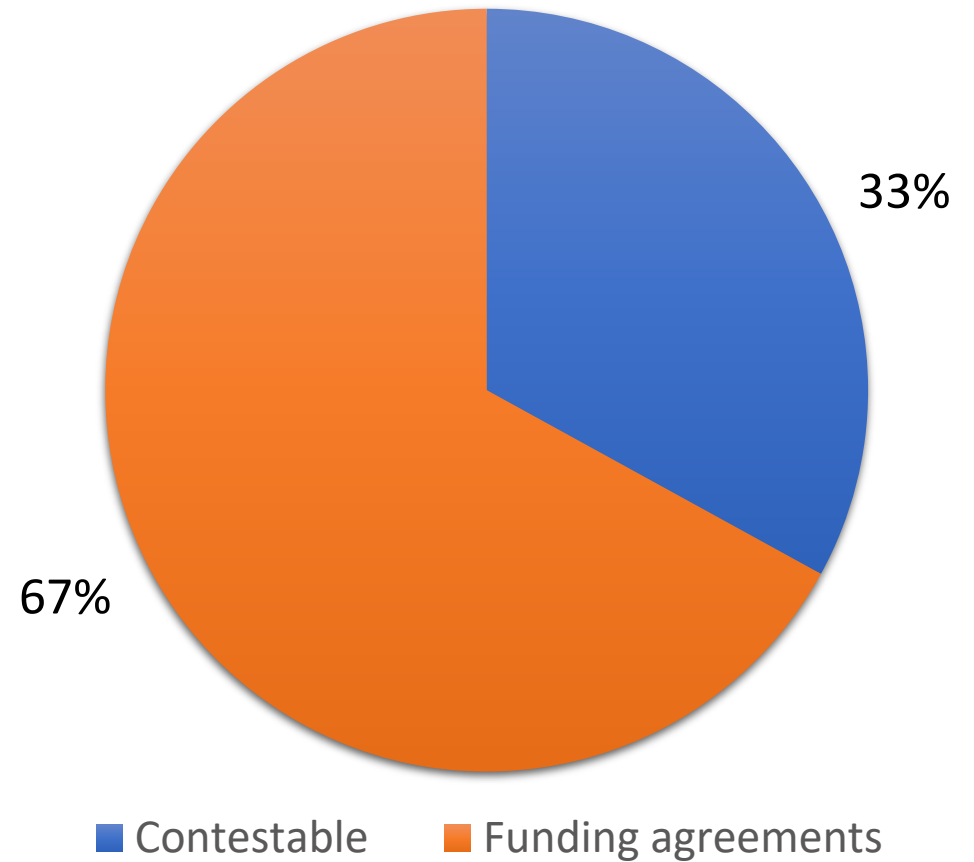
Let's think about:

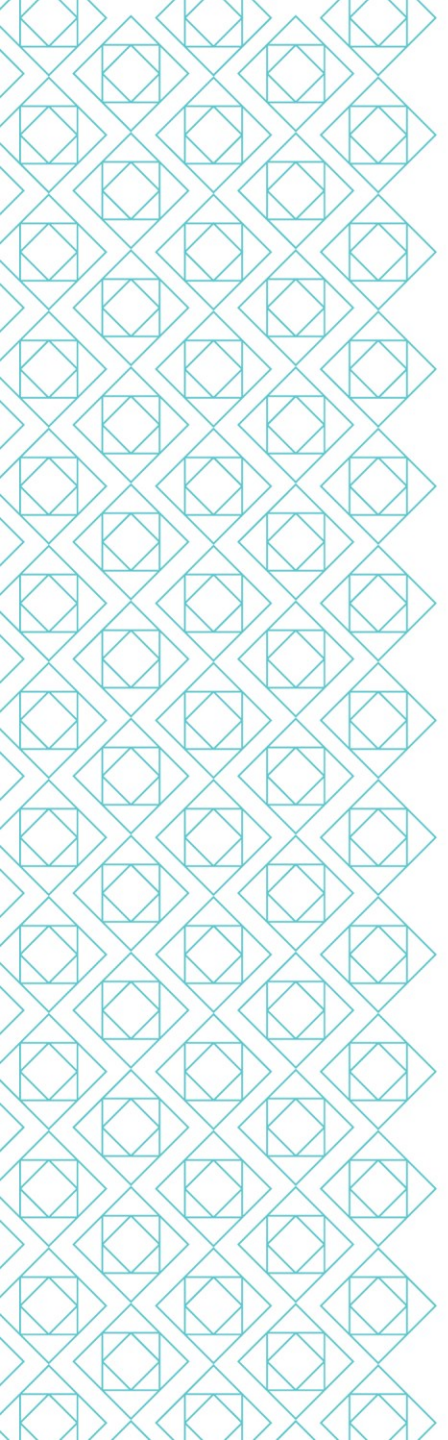
- What does this tell us about how we fund?
- We fund a large range of categories – is this what you expected?
- How does our grant making respond to community needs?
- Does our grant making approach encourage long-term stability for organisations?
- Do we want grant making to actively address particular areas across Dunedin?



Current funding – approved 26/27 budget (without the museum)

- **\$3.3m** – contestable funding
- **\$10.2m** – funding agreements





Possible options to use grant making as a tool to advance Council's Community Outcomes

*The system is not broken, but it needs
strengthening*



Opportunities to strengthen the grants system

There are opportunities to:

- **better align grant types** with Council's Community Outcomes (LTP),
- **simplify grant categories,**
- **develop clearer pathways** for applicants to move from contestable funding to a funding agreement, and
- take a more considered and **strategic approach to funding** decisions (currently funding decisions are often made on an individual rather than system basis).





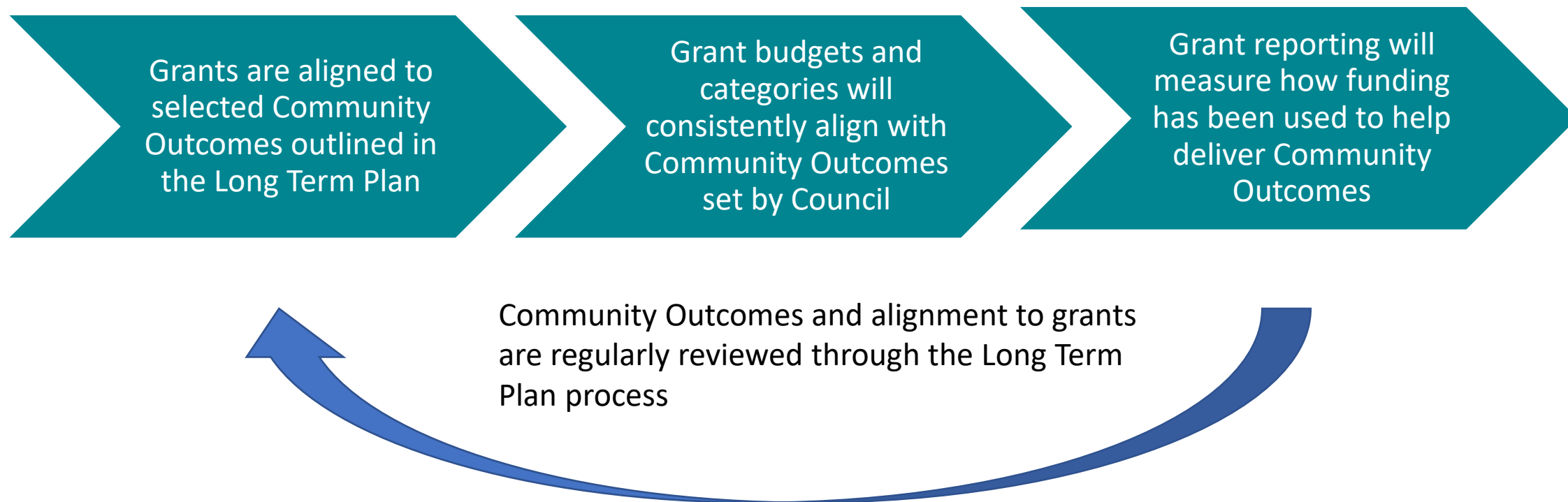
Questions for consideration

- How can we better use grants and grant making to **achieve strategic outcomes for our local community?**
- How should **budgets be decided?**
- Could our **grant categories be simplified?**
- How should decisions be made on **multi-year funding agreements?**
- Do we want to develop clearer pathways for long-term funding (**moving from contestable funding to a funding agreement**)?
- What **criteria could be used** when identifying organisations that may be suitable for longer-term strategic partnership arrangements?





Option A – grant funding based on LTP Community Outcomes





Option B – contestable grant funding redirected towards targeted strategic investment





Option C – a combination of A and B



What might this look like?

Which
community
outcomes
would grants help
make a positive
difference?

Eight Community Outcomes (9 year plan)

1. A supportive city with caring communities and a great quality of life
2. A healthy city with reliable and quality water, wastewater and stormwater systems
3. A compact city with a vibrant CBD and thriving suburban and rural centres
4. A successful city with a diverse, innovative and productive economy
5. A creative city with a rich and diverse arts and culture scene
6. A connected city with a safe, accessible and low-carbon transport system
7. A sustainable city with healthy and treasured natural environments
8. An active city with quality and accessible recreational spaces and opportunities

Option
C =
A+B

A {

B {

EXAMPLE – Grants Funding Framework using Community Outcomes (9 YP) Council determines what % of the grants budget goes where.		Community Outcome A	Community Outcome B	Community Outcome C	Community Outcome D	Community Outcome E
Annual Contestable Grants (supporting community groups/people in their community goals). Includes quick response, Under \$5k, and larger grants needing Grants Subcommittee approval.		%	%	%	%	%
Multi Year Funding Agreements (partnerships) - with groups who help Council achieve our community outcomes – at least 3 years to align with Council's LTP. Approved by Council		%	%	%	%	%
(new/proposed) Grants supporting Council's Strategic Priorities – approved by Council . (multi-year)		%	%	%	%	%
DCC's grants budget approved via AP or LTP: split across community outcomes (need to decide on weighting)		%	%	%	%	%



Next steps – two reports

- The first report will seek Council's **approval to consult on a proposed draft of the Grants Policy**:
 - If approved, the draft Grants Policy will go out for formal consultation as part of the Long Term Plan process.
 - This report will also seek direction on the four key areas previously highlighted (prioritisation to local groups, alcohol sponsorship, means testing, funding criteria for external bodies).
- The second report will be the **Annual Grants Report**:
 - The Annual Grants Report will provide an overview of current grants funding, including grant budgets vs actual spend.
 - Part of this report will include analysis of the current system and provide a rough picture of what current funding looks like under a funding framework (if categorised under the current Long Term Plan Community Outcomes).
 - This report will seek also seek decisions on how Council would like to approach future grants funding including reviewing grants sub-categories.



