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Grants Review

**Issues Paper for community
consultation – December 2018**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The grants review has considered cash and in-kind venue hire support provided by Council to community groups, organisation and individuals. The review has identified a number of changes across the areas of strategic alignment and structure, resource allocation and governance.

These changes seek to create a grants model that meets the community's needs and aspirations, and provides effective avenues for Council to invest in the community to reach its goals. It seeks to be agile and accessible to the community, while still demonstrating a high level of transparency in the distribution of public funds.

The review recommends increasing the total grants pool by \$110,000 which will create a total annual grants pool of \$512,300 and a three year partnership grants pool of \$354,000, a total pool of \$866,300. This includes the establishment two new grants programs, restructuring the existing community grants program and establishing a three year partnership grant category to distribute larger grants.

Recommendations summary

Strategic alignment and resource allocation

1. Allocate \$50,000 to environmental and sustainability grants, to be distributed through a specific environmental stream in both annual medium grants and three -year partnership grants.
2. Allocate \$40,000 to a social enterprise start up grant to be piloted in 2019/20 and reviewed after two years to determine the ongoing need.
3. Cease the Youth Encouragement Scheme and allocate an additional \$20,000 to establish an annual Youth Projects Grant which focus on supporting the solutions of the Darebin Youth Citizens Jury.

Grant structure and programs

4. Split the current Community Grants program into two categories, small and medium grants and tailor the application process appropriate to the amount available. Consider offering the small grants bi-annually.
5. For medium grants, ensure that application form ask questions specific to the category and that the each category contains priority areas that aligns with Council's objectives.
6. Split Arts Partnerships Grants into two programs – move \$64K for key cultural organisations into an \$8K x Three Year Partnership Grant, with the remaining \$24K supplementing an annual creative Projects Grant category.
7. Explore a new model to provide venue subsidy/support which is incorporated into the existing fees and charges schedule and managed by the venue, under an organisational wide framework to inform assessment.

Funding agreements

8. Establish a competitive Three Year Partnership Grants program to support programs and services that align with Council's priorities across the areas of wellbeing, inclusion reducing inequality, sustainability and creative culture.
9. \$42,000 for Family Violence Support Outreach programs into the Three Year Partnership Grants.
10. Allocate \$6000 for the Reservoir end of year event into Celebrating Darebin – seed funding for community event program

Governance

11. Update the current Community Grants Policy to encompass all programs and implement standard

governance practices and risk management controls.

12. Integrate all grants programs onto the Smarty Grants grant management system.
13. Centralise the coordination of all grants programs under the Community Grants Officer.
14. Create a centralised portal that contains all relevant information on the grants offered by Council and create an overarching grants communication plan.
15. Explore the establishment of a panel assessment processes for all programs.
16. All grants programs be reported to Council for noting, and further consideration and risk assessment undertaken to determine the role of Council and community members in shaping recommendations.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Council currently provides financial support to community groups and organisations through grants and the development of funding agreements. The majority of funds are distributed through the Community Grants Program.

The review considered cash and in-kind grants provided **by** Darebin Council **to** community groups, organisation and individuals. The scope of the review includes:

- Eight (8) grants programs operating across the organisations with a 2018/19 budget allocation of **\$518,000** in cash and **\$80,000** in-kind venue hire support.
- Ten (10) funding agreements with community organisations with a 2018/19 budget allocation of **\$249,339**.

This review considers a total cash budget of **\$767,339** and **\$80,000** in-kind venue hire support.

Appendix A- Summary of Grants and Funding Agreements should be referred as the scope of programs for this review.

PURPOSE

The grants review critically examined the grants and funding agreements to identify recommendations to enhance the strategic alignment of the program to Council's aspirations and create a program that is accessible, fair and agile to support the needs of the Darebin community.

The issues paper proposes recommendations to ensure that:

- the strategic intent reflects the Council Plan objectives.
- the budget is sufficient to support the community need and the investment reflects Council's priorities.
- the process is accessible and easy for community.
- the program is agile and responsive to community need.
- the program adheres to a high level of transparency

CONSULTATION PROCESS

The issues paper and recommendations have been informed by the following elements:

- Benchmarking of nine Local Government grants models.

- Internal consultation with six Departments currently operating grant programs and/or involved in assessing Community Grants.
- Consultation with six organisations currently on funding agreements.
- Community consultation via an online survey and *Your Say Darebin*. The survey received 69 responses, with the feedback outlined in the issues paper.

KEY FINDINGS

1. Strategic alignment and resource allocation

With the exception of the community grants program, the seven grants programs provided by the organisation have been established within the last 5 years. Programs have evolved for various reasons, with no strategic overview. Some programs been created as a way to administer an existing funding arrangement through a more transparent arrangement, others to address a gap or need within the community, or to create a more effective way to deliver an activity.

The consequence of this approach has resulted in a program that does not strongly align to the strategic intent of the 2017-21 Council Plan and other strategic documents in both what is funded and how resources are allocated.

The 2018/19 budget allocation to grants and funding agreements is \$767,339 cash and \$80,000 of in-kind venue hire support. The table below outlines the total investment across seven local government areas including Darebin, per capita funding and EFT allocated to grants administration.

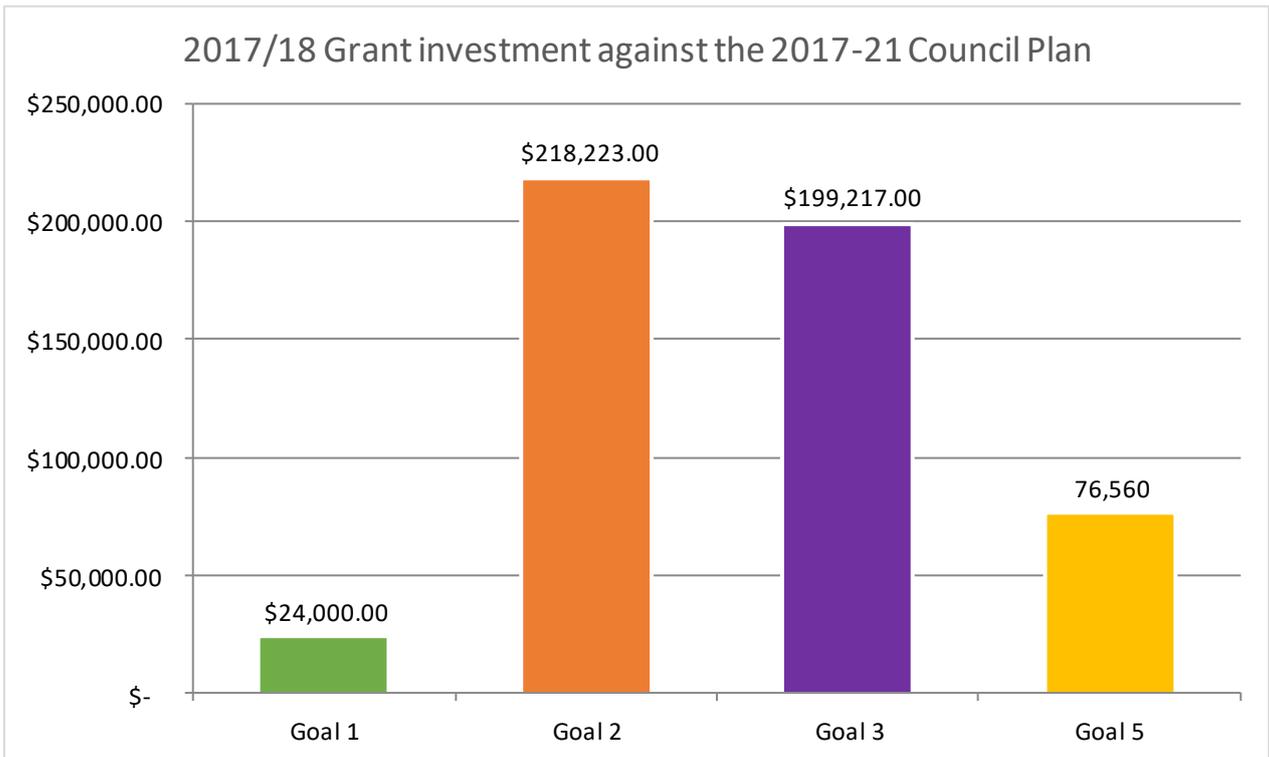
Table 1: LGA grant and funding investment

LGA	Funds (cash and venue hire)	Population (2016)	Per capita funding	Number of grants	EFT full time equivalents
Stonnington	\$617,148*	103,832	\$5.94	112	1
Moreland	\$627,000	162,558	\$3.85	207	1
Darebin	\$847,339	158,745 (2017)	\$5.33	243	1
Port Phillip	\$958,822	100,863	\$9.50	176	1
Boroondara	\$1.5m	167,231	\$8.96	87	1.25
Yarra	\$2.089m	86,657	\$23.00	260	2
Melbourne	\$13m	135,959	\$95.60	320	13

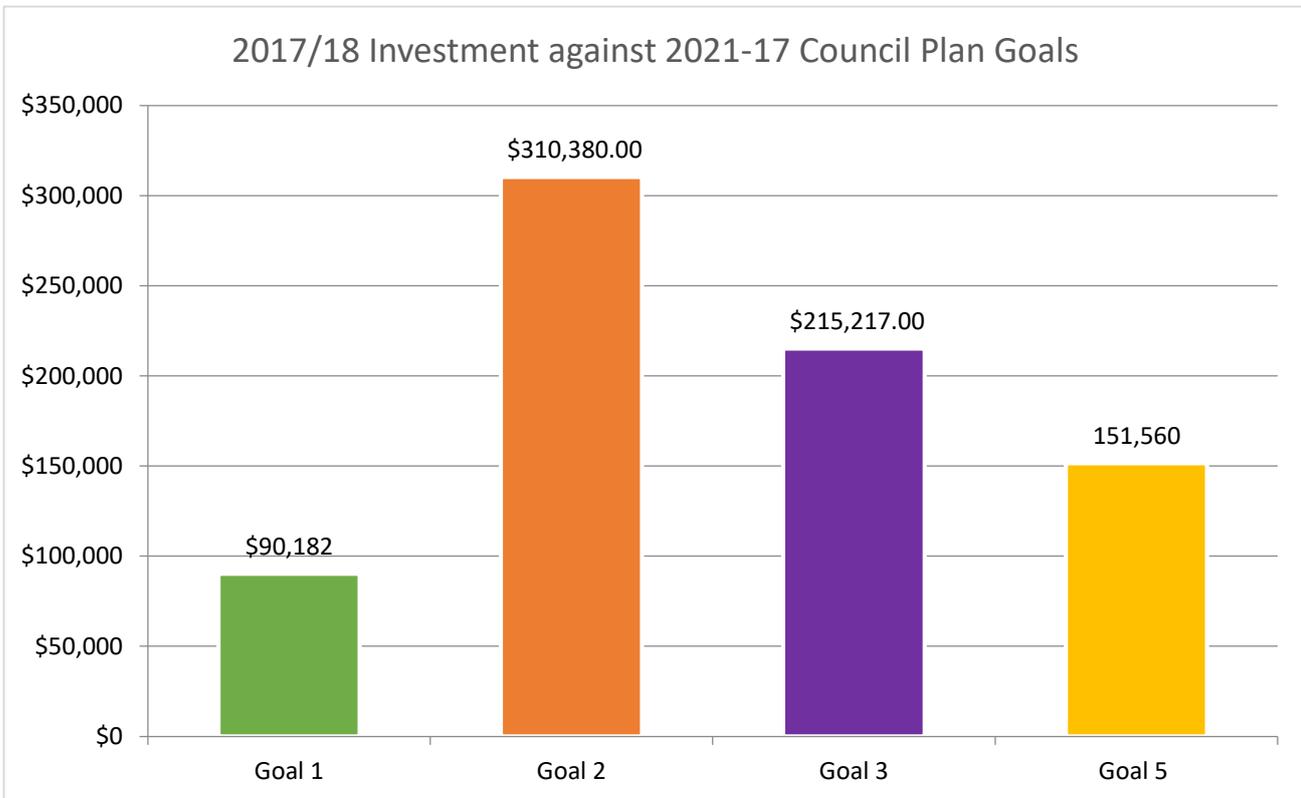
*This figure does not capture all funding agreements

While Council's overall investment pool is substantial and per capita investment is moderate, the allocation of funds does not reflect the priorities of the Council plan, of facilitate Council to deliver on these objectives via investment in community.

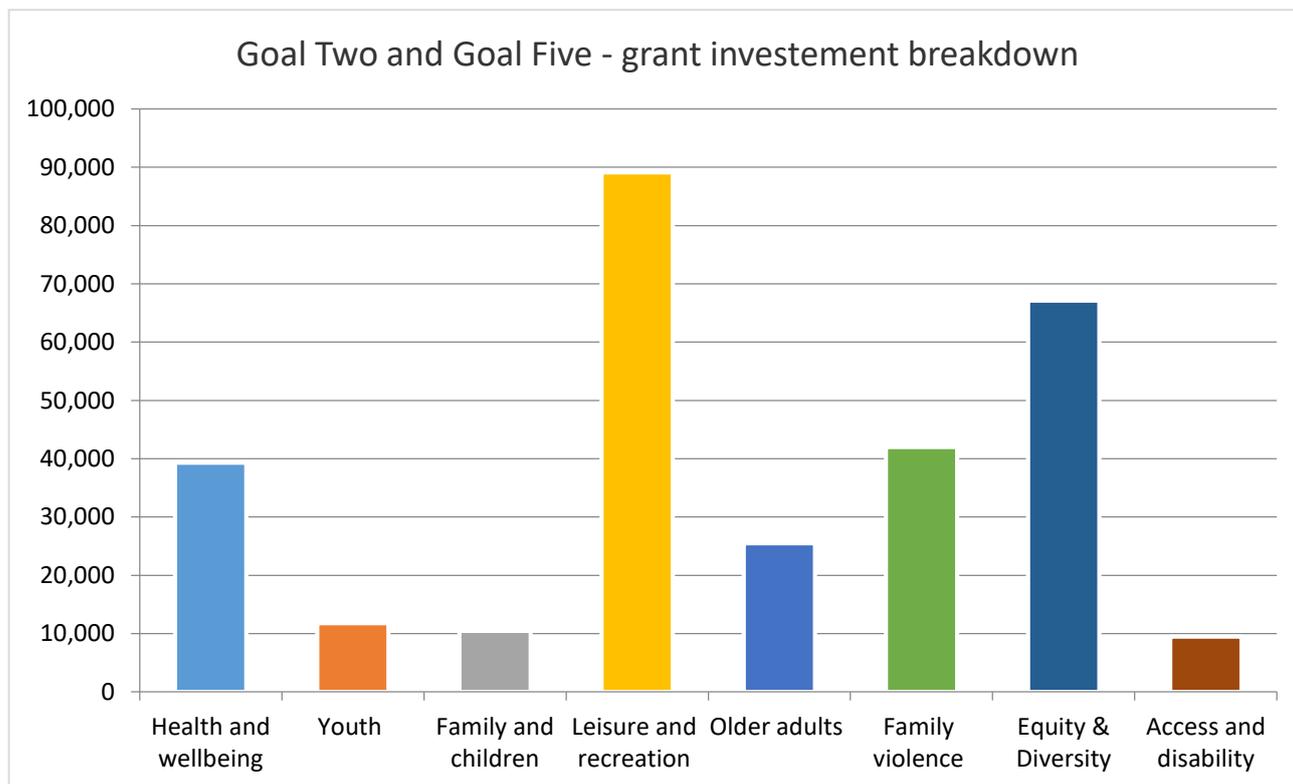
The graph below illustrates Council's current investment against the 2017-21 Council Plan goals through grants.



The graph below outlines Councils current **total** investment against the 2017-21 Council Plan goals through grants and funding agreements.



Goal Two and Goal Five cover a broad range of initiatives relating to wellbeing and inclusion and a number of grants provided align to both goals. A breakdown is presented below.



As illustrated above the allocation of funds across Goals Two, Three and Five which support the categories of community wellbeing, equity and diversity and arts and culture are mostly well resourced.

To better reflect Council's strategic goals, there is scope to consider a more focused investment in youth grants. Outside of the small allocation in Community Grants and the Youth Encouragement scheme (individual support) there little youth focused investment. The Youth Encouragement scheme been under subscribed, with applications received specifically to support young people's participation in representative State, National or International Sporting teams. The state government offers an "Athlete Pathway Travel Grants Program" is open multiple times per financial year to support athlete pathways in representative teams.

It is recommended that the Youth Encouragement Scheme cease and an additional \$20,000 funds be allocated to establish an annual Youth Projects Grant which focus on supporting the solutions of the Darebin Youth Citizens Jury.

Further to this, the key resource gaps relate to Goal 1 and Goal Four and are outlined below.

Environment and Sustainability

The current resource allocation for environment and sustainability grants does not match Council's commitment, with \$90,182 allocated in 2018/19. This includes \$24,000 in the Community Grants program, and \$66,182 in one annual funding agreement. The table below outlines sustainability and environmental grant benchmarking.

LGA	Program	Total Budget
Yarra	1. Support smaller projects up to \$4,000 to deliver sustainability outcomes 2. Support larger/more complex sustainability projects up to \$15,000	\$52,000
Banyule	1. Environmental Sustainability up to \$8,000 2. Sustainability Workshops up to \$3,000	\$75,000

	3. Residential Home Energy Audits	
Hobsons Bay	Environment grants of up to \$2,000	\$20,000

Increasing the allocation to environment and sustainability initiatives will support Council to deliver on its objectives in this space, particularly in the areas of reducing single use plastic, responding to the climate emergency and other priorities. Consultation with officers within the Energy and Adaption Unit identified that the most suitable grant offerings would be annual medium grants up to \$15,000, with approx. two large partnership grants on a three year term. As the sector further develops there opportunity to review and adjust as required.

Economic Development

A further opportunity to improve strategic alignment with investment is in relation to Goal Four, in particular supporting the development of social enterprises in Darebin. Council's Economic Development area increasingly receives requests for support in this space. While there is capacity to provide in-kind support and seek to enhance our internal processes for small businesses, there is currently no mechanism to provide cash support.

Social enterprise funding is increasingly a common Council grant program, providing an opportunity to address social, economic and environmental objectives. Current social enterprise grant programs include:

LGA	Program	Total Budget
Yarra	Annual Grants Social Enterprise program up to \$25,000 to Support local NFP or businesses to establish innovative revenue generating projects	\$90,000
Ballarat	Social Enterprise Grants Program The grant limit for this category to be based on an Economic Benefit Test.	\$75,000
Melbourne	Social Enterprise grants – currently under review – provides up to \$25,000 to encourage the establishment and expansion of social enterprises that enhance the City of Melbourne's reputation for business vitality, diversity and inclusiveness.	Not available
Parramatta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Enterprise Business Plan Grants - up to \$2,500 are available for groups or individuals at the concept stage of a social enterprise project Growing Social Enterprise - social enterprise that is currently sustainable and you're looking expand your operation. 	\$80,000

The Council Plan – Goal 4.1 – identifies '*Support the creation of a social enterprise network within Darebin*' as an action for the 2018/19 financial year. Part of the remit of this network will be to identify what support these businesses need, which would help inform a pilot funding program. It is recommended that a social enterprise start up grant be piloted in 2019/20, with the intent to review after two years.

Funding would be provided to assist start-ups with basic infrastructure such as the purchase of a coffee machine and installation, and/or business planning, digital marketing and training support. It is proposed that funds would be capped and allocated according to a criteria that prioritises applications that support Council's equity, wellbeing and sustainability objectives.

A further area where businesses require support is with capital works to improve accessibility for people with a disability. There are few examples where by Council's invests in works on private property, however Council may wish to consider what their role could be in supporting businesses to make these premises more accessible and inclusive for people with a disability.

Recommendations:

1. Allocate \$50,000 to environmental and sustainability grants, to be distributed through a specific environmental stream in both annual medium grants and three -year partnership grants.
2. Allocate \$40,000 to a social enterprise start up grant to be piloted in 2019/20 and reviewed after two years to determine the ongoing need.
3. Cease the Youth Encouragement Scheme and allocate an additional \$20,000 to establish an annual Youth Projects Grant which focus on supporting the solutions of the Darebin Youth Citizens Jury.

2. Grant structure and programs

Of the current grant programs, seven of the eight are targeted to specific initiatives and topics. The Community Grants program is a generalist grants program where groups can access funds for initiatives that align to one or more of the Council Plan goals. This analysis will focus on the community Grants program, with analysis for the other programs outlined in Appendix A.

2.1 Accessibility

Under the community grant program applicants are required to provide the same level of information whether applying for \$500 or \$6000. Feedback from survey participants and Council officers indicated that the current application form is an onerous process. A number of survey responses indicated that they found the application process repetitive and required a significant level of detail for the amount available.

One community grants round is provided each year with an application window between February – April. This model does not reflect how community ideas grow and develop, it doesn't enable community to respond to issues and preferences recurrent groups who are already aware of the program. It limits Council's ability to be agile and support community needs as they emerge.

A further barrier identified in the program is for individual artists, who are not eligible to apply without an auspice arrangement. This restricts a large portion of artists in the Darebin community. The medium Grants seeks to respond to this through a Create Projects category that seeks artists led community projects, led by either an individual artist or organisation.

2.2 Categories

While applicants need to identify how their programs aligns to one or more of the Council Plan goals, it does not contain specific categories, and streams are only created for the purpose of assessment. As a result, within a stream such as 'Equity and Diversity', applications range from volunteer led grass roots programs to well-developed projects submitted by organisations. In a competitive grants process this favours organisations, who often have experienced grant writing as paid staff,

2.3 Quality V Quantity

The assessment approach currently applied is to fund many applications small amounts, as opposed to funding fewer initiatives the full amount. Analysis of the past four grants cycles demonstrates that:

- 63.7% of funded applicants receive part funding.
- 62% of funded applicants received 50% or less of their requested amount.
- 22.5% of funded applicants received 75% or more of their requested amount.
- 45% of funded applicants received \$2000 or less.
- Only 8 applicants (1.4%) received \$6000.
- 20% of applications were declined.

The high amount of part funded applicants and applications receiving 50% or less of requested amounts is indicative of two factors:

- The programs budget is consistently oversubscribed, with the requested amount more than double the available budget.
- The applications received does not warrant the awarding of full funds and do not strongly align to Council's strategic objectives.

Further consultation with program assessors identified while there is difficulty meeting targets budgets against the demand, the primary reason for part funding of applications is that most applications received do not strongly align to Council's goals, or the business unit's strategic objectives.

Feedback from assessors and the analysis of the program indicates that the applicants which receive \$4000 or above and strongly align with Council's strategic objectives are primarily organisations, not community groups.

While Council should seek to ensure that all our funded programs align with our strategic objectives, the extent to which they align will vary. Council's grants program should ensure that it provides some capacity to support community activities that have great value to those involved, while still supporting more developed projects that have the capacity to demonstrate deliverables relating to the Council plan goals.

Many Councils have recognised this tension and created a flexible grants model with multiple categories, including smaller grants up to \$2000, often available multiple times each year or until the funds are exhausted. To manage the administration burden of multiple grant rounds, the application and assessment process is scaled to the amount of funding provided, while still retaining key risk controls.

2.4 Promotion

Council can significantly improve the promotion and communication of our grants program. There is currently no centralised source of information that outlines the types of grants Council provides, when they are provided and how they can be accessed. Council offers a diverse and substantial amount of community investment, however the current approach misses an opportunity to celebrate this investment and the benefit provided to community.

2.5 Venue Hire subsidy program

Council's venue hire subsidy program enables community groups and organisations to access Council venues free of charge or at a subsidised rate. \$80,000 is allocated to this program which is centralised in the community grants budget and paid to venues via an internal transfer.

The current process is outlined below, this takes place over four months

- Group contacts venue to get quote and make tentative booking
- Groups makes online application for venue subsidy
- Grants officer allocates application to relevant venue
- Two venue officers assess application
- Applicant and venue is notified of outcome.
- Applicant confirms booking with venue.
- Internal charge once a quarter between venue and community grants program.

This process is time consuming for community and requires significant administration from Council staff. Analysis of the current venue hire recipients and feedback from venue officers indicates that the program

primarily supports reoccurring bookings. As the program is only available once a year, it has limited agility to respond to community needs as they emerge outside the grant cycle, even when a venue has availability and the groups has a demonstrated need.

If the intention of this program is to provide the community with subsidised / free access to Council's venues and maximise the venue use, the model and process to administer this support can be streamlined.

A model to further explore would be removing the centralised application process and incorporating a 'free venues hire' option into the existing fees and charges schedule for venues, which can be accessed by groups only upon application.

Application and assessment would take place directly with the venue, with all venues making assessments against a shared framework, along with criteria specific to the objectives of the venue. There is also scope to remove the \$80,000 cap and enable which venues to determine how much in-kind venue support can be provided within the scope of their purpose and objectives.

This recommendation requires further consideration and development to further understand potential issues, risks and how the process would be implemented to ensure it remains a transparent decision making process.

Recommendations

4. Split the current Community Grants program into two categories, small and medium grants and tailor the application process appropriate to the amount available. Consider offering the small grants bi-annually.
5. For medium grants, ensure that application form ask questions specific to the category and that the each category contains priority areas that aligns with Council's objectives.
6. Split Arts Partnerships Grants into two programs – move \$64K for key cultural organisations into an \$8K x Three Year Partnership Grant, with the remaining \$24K supplementing an annual creative Projects Grant category.
7. Explore a new model to provide venue subsidy/support which is incorporated into the existing fees and charges schedule and managed by the venue, under an organisational wide framework to inform assessment.

3. Funding Agreements

Council currently provides \$249,339 in annual funding agreements to 10 organisations based and/or providing services in the City of Darebin. Most of these agreements are a legacy 'no cap' three year grants, previously managed through the community grants program. These agreements are development on an annual basis between a council officer and the organisation, with the amount fixed year to year. Without a formal process to request larger grants, the annual budget submission process has become a default mechanism for organisations to access funds.

The agreements fall into three categories; extension of service, project funds or operational funding, which in noted in Appendix A. Consultation took place with organisations currently on these agreements to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this process, summarised below:

Pros

- The developmental process with Council officers allows for flexibility and negotiation in what is delivered each year.
- The bi-annual reporting is manageable with KPIs negotiated.
- Current agreements support staff salaries, which is essential to deliver the service, and often not supported through other grant programs.

Cons

- Annual agreement agreements reduce the ability to plan beyond one year, the ability to attract other funds and establish more robust, long term community outcomes.
- As there is no application process there is no ability to pitch for extra funds to change or expand a service.
- There is no mechanism to access / apply for core organisational support, funding agreements are only for specific programs / service extensions (this excludes DECC who receive organisational support funding).
- The process doesn't present a fully transparent, robust consideration of which organisations get funded and for how much. It also reduces the visibility of these programs to the wider community.
- Some organisation felt it was unfair that they compete with smaller community groups community grant fund funds, but engage in the process as there is no alternative.

Benchmarking of other Councils identified that a multiple year – partnership grants model is utilised to support organisations with large grants to deliver services and programs that align to Council's goals. These grants often require the application to demonstrate a co-contribution and may have a focus on a particular issue, group or area.

It is recommended that Council cease annual agreements and establish a three-year partnership grants program. In addition to providing a more transparent process, a three-year grants program would enhance the ability to achieve Council's goals by investing in and partnering with organisations to deliver high quality service and programs. Grants categories can be tailored to focus on specific groups, locations and issues and agreements would have annual and three year KPIs to ensure that the impacts and outcomes can be measured. Each funding agreements would be supported by a Council officer who would work closely with the organisation of the term of the grant.

Most organisations are of the practise of applying for this type of funds through a competitive process and would welcome this change.

Recommendations

8. Establish a competitive Three Year Partnership Grants program to support programs and services that align with Council's priorities across the areas of wellbeing, inclusion reducing inequality, sustainability and creative culture.
9. Allocate \$42,000 for Family Violence Support Outreach programs into the Three Year Partnership Grants.
10. Allocate \$6000 for the Reservoir end of year event into Celebrating Darebin – seed funding for community event program.

4. Governance

The Community Grants Program Policy 2017-21 informs the delivery of the Community Grants Program, in terms of governance and structure; application and approval process; assessment, grant management; and review and evaluation. The Policy is specific to this program and does not include other grants. In line with the review and development of a new grants model, the policy should be reviewed and extended as an overarching framework for all grants.

Best practise in grant management recommends a number of controls to reduce risk and promote transparent decision making. The table below outlines how current grants offerings currently reflect some of these controls:

	Pool	Multiple assessors	Conflict of interest declaration	Acquittal required	Smarty Grants	Approval
Arts partnership initiatives	\$88,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	Manager
Community Grants Program	\$316,800	✓	✓	✓	✓	Executive
GLBTIQ grants program	\$20,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	Manager

Leisure minor works funding program	\$66,300	✓	✓	X	X	Manager
Local community events partnership scheme	\$50,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	Manager
PVAW Outreach	\$42,000	✓	✓	✓	X	Manager
Youth Encouragement Scheme	\$5,000	✓	✓	X	X	Coordinator
Christmas events	\$10,000	✓	✓	✓	X	Coordinator

Assessment and Approval

Assessment processes vary across programs, with a mix of two stage independent assessment and panel assessment. Two stage independent assessment requires assessor one to complete assessment before assessor two can commence. Within community grants, there is no dialogue between assessors and assessor two's recommendation is final.

Panel assessment uses a similar concept to Council's evaluation of tender submissions, whereby assessment is undertaken individually and then collectively to discuss variations and finalise recommendations. A panel approach would create a more deliberative assessment process, while improving efficiency.

None of the grants program involve Council or Councillors in the approval process. Benchmarking of other Councils identified a number of approval processes, ranging from Director sign-off to specialist grants panel which included community members, senior management, and at times Councillors. The use of a grants panel is most commonly applied grant programs over \$5000 and operate once a year. The role of Council varied from noting the recommendations in the chamber, to being involved in shaping the recommendations.

The local government inspectorate office has previously raised concern about the involvement of Council in decision making processes relating to grants. The review identified that Council involvement should be in setting the overarching principles of the grants program, priority areas and the budget allocation, with assessment and approval being undertaken by the organisation. Concern has also be raised about the role of external community representation is grants assessment in relation to conflict of interest.

It is recommended that all grants programs be reported to Council for noting, but further consideration and risk assessment undertaken to determine the role of Council and potential community members in shaping recommendations.

Coordination

Within the exception of Community Grants, grant programs are administered by the business unit related to the grant objective. It is recommended that consideration be given to all grants being coordinated centrally. Significant input would still be required from business units to build grant programs and undertake assessment but a central coordinator would ensure a consistent approach to governance and improve the coordination, timing and communication of Council's grants.

Recommendation

11. Update the current Community Grants Policy to encompass all programs and implement standard governance practices and risk management controls.
12. Integrate all grants programs onto the Smarty Grants grant management system.
13. Centralise the coordination of all grants programs under the Community Grants Officer.
14. Create a centralised portal that contains all relevant information on the grants offered by Council and create an overarching grants communication plan.

15. Explore the establishment of a panel assessment processes for all programs.
16. All grants programs be reported to Council for noting, and further consideration and risk assessment undertaken to determine the role of Council and community members in shaping recommendations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommendations outlined in this paper would require an additional \$117,500 to fully implement.

This would include an additional \$110,000 in grant funding and \$7,500 per annum as an extension to Council's existing Smarty Grants software licence.

NEXT STEPS

- Community consultation on proposed grants model December 2018
- Council report and implementation plan February 2019

PROPOSED GRANTS MODEL

Annual Grants

		Grant Amount	Total Pool
Small grants Funding to support community groups to support initiatives which reflect one or more of the Council Plan goals.		up to \$2500	\$100,000
	Christmas events for emergency relief organisations	up to \$2500	\$10,000
Medium Grants Funding to support initiatives which support the delivery of Council's Plan goals and demonstrate social, wellbeing, environmental or cultural benefits for our community.	Environment and Sustainability	Up to \$15,000	\$60,000
	Health and Wellbeing	Up to \$8,000	\$45,000
	Creative Projects – artist led initiatives	Up to \$15,000	\$75,000
	Equity and Inclusion	Up to \$8,000	\$45,000
Celebrating Darebin Grants	Community Events	\$3,000	\$56,000
	True North Events (for events in Reservoir)	\$5,000	
Social Enterprise Start up Grants Funding to support Darebin based social enterprises with start-up costs.		TBD	\$40,000
Youth Projects Projects which respond to the recommendation of the Darebin Youth Citizens Jury and support the inclusion, participation and wellbeing of Darebin's young people.		Up to \$5000	\$25,000
Leisure minor works grants Co - contribution to minor upgrades and infrastructure at Council owned recreation pavilions		Up to \$10,000 with co-contribution required.	\$66,300

Venue Hire support Free or subsidised use of selected Council venues upon application for not for profit groups to support initiatives and activities which reflect one or more of the Council Plan goals.	Yearly cap per group TBC	n/a
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Three Year Partnership Grants

Partnership Grants Three years of funding to deliver programs and services that align with Councils priorities. Eligible organisations will be not for profit organisations that have a proven track record in the provision of quality programs and services.	Environment and sustainability - programs and projects that create a sustainable and address climate change.	TBC	\$80,000
	Reducing inequality - programs and services that improve the wellbeing, inclusion and participation of Darebin's diverse communities.	TBC	\$160,000
	Key Cultural organisations –funding to support Key Cultural organisations location in Darebin.	8 x up to \$8,000	\$64,000
	Youth partnerships - programs and services that improve wellbeing outcomes for Darebin young people.	TBC	\$50,000

APPENDIX A- SUMMARY OF GRANTS AND FUNDING AGREEMENTS PROVIDED IN 2018/2019

2018/2019 Funding agreements	Amount	Description
Brotherhood of St Laurence – asylum seekers advocacy and support	\$50,000	Funding provided for the first time in 2018/19 to deliver the Employment Pathways for People Seeking Asylum (EPPSA) program.
Darebin Community Legal Centre service agreement	\$14,157	Annual funding to provide a free weekly legal outreach service at the East Preston Community Centre.
Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC) service agreement	\$25,000	Annual operational funding to support DECC to deliver initiatives aligned with Council's goals and facilitating Council's engagement with CALD communities.
DIVRS Fruit Squad	\$66,182	Annual funding to support delivery of Fruit Squad program, with expansion funds provided in 2018/19, including \$25,000 to support the purchase of a van.
East Reservoir festival	\$6,000	Annual funding to support the east Reservoir end of year community festival.
East Reservoir food hub	\$28,000	Funding provided for the first time in 2018/19 to support the development of a food hub at Reservoir Neighbourhood House.
Darebin Community Health – men's shed funding	\$32,000	Annual funding to support to the operation of the Your Community Men's Shed in east Reservoir.
Darebin Community Health – food security older adults	\$12,000	Annual funding to deliver food security / social inclusion activities for older adults in east reservoir.
Preston Symphony Orchestra	\$8,000	Annual contribution to operational funding.
Darebin City Brass Band	\$8,000	Annual contribution to operational funding.
TOTAL	\$249,339	
2018/2019 Grants		
Arts partnership initiatives	\$88,000	Grants of up to \$8000 to create new partnerships that enable inclusive artistic collaborations within Darebin to increase access and meaningful participation in the arts for priority communities.
Community Grants Program cash grants	\$236,800	Cash grants of up to \$6000 to support the community to deliver projects and activities that support the 2017-2021 Council Plan goals.

GLBTIQ grants program	\$20,000	A new program launched in November 2018 which provides grants of up to \$2000 (unincorporated/not auspiced) or up to \$4000 (incorporated) groups or organisations, for projects which demonstrate a positive impact on the wellbeing and/or inclusion of LGBTIQ people and communities connected to Darebin.
Leisure minor works funding program	\$66,300	Funding for minor capital works and equipment grants of up to \$10,000 for groups that are incorporated, not for profit and have an agreement to use a Darebin City Council recreation reserve and/or sporting pavilion. The program requires a 50% co-contribution from club.
Celebrating Darebin – seed funding for community events	\$50,000	A new program launch in October 2018. Community groups can apply for Community Events (up to \$3000) or True North Events for events in Reservoir (up to \$5000). Quick Response Community Events (up to \$1500) are also available all year round.
Family Violence Support Outreach programs	\$42,000	Funding to support organisation within the Darebin Family Violence network to deliver programs and services which support women and children experiencing or at risk of family violence
Youth Encouragement Scheme	\$5,000	Individual grants of up to \$500 to support young people aged 12-25 individuals who experience financial hardship to participate in leadership activities or representative sport.
Christmas events for emergency relief organisations	\$10,000	Small grants to organisations in the Darebin Emergency Relief Network to host End of Year/Christmas events for their clients and community members, many of whom are socially isolated and financially disadvantaged.
	Total cash	
Community Grants Program - venue hire subsidy	\$80,000	In- kind support of up to \$6000 for the hiring costs of nominated Council- owned venues.
	TOTAL	
	\$518,100	
	\$598,000	

Contact: Community.Wellbeing@darebin.vic.gov.au or Manager Equity and Wellbeing, T: 8470 8594