

6.5 Grants and Sponsorship

1. Objective

Provide a sound governance framework for determining applications for grants and sponsorship; and establish a clear decision-making process providing certainty for applicants for grant and sponsorship opportunities from the Shire of East Pilbara ("the Shire"). Policy

2. Policy

This Policy is applicable to any grant or sponsorship arrangement where the Shire funds another organisation or individual to deliver a specific project or initiative.

3. Definitions

In this Policy-

'Applicant' is the individual or organisation making the application.

'Grant' is defined as a form of financial assistance that funds a community group or organisation to deliver a specific project. Grants are cash and/or in-kind contribution provided to a recipient for a specific, eligible purpose where there is no expected commercial return.

'Grants and sponsorship guidelines' the guidelines published by the Shire's Chief Executive Officer in accordance with this Policy.

'In-kind' means where the Shire provides the value of its resources, goods or services to eligible parties instead of cash as part of a grant or sponsorship. In-kind contribution can include the fees associated with Shire services such as equipment hire, venue and facility costs, transfer of equipment, waste services and permits with all in-kind support attached to a dollar amount.

'Personal benefit' is any gift or benefit for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1995 or applicable code of conduct.

'Sponsorship' a commercial arrangement in which a sponsor receives a contribution in money and/or in-kind support in return for the Shire receiving negotiated and specific benefits such as in-kind or promotional opportunities.

Any reference in this Policy to a dollar threshold for decision making on a funding limit is taken to be the combined amount of cash and in-kind support contribution.

4. Aims

Through the provision of grants and sponsorship, the Shire aims to:

- a. Strengthen the community by supporting a diverse range of activities, projects and initiatives that are responsive and representative of community needs;
- b. Build the capacity of individuals, community groups and local organisations to develop and implement sustainable solutions at a local level;
- c. Create community connections which drive activities that achieve strategic priorities as identified in the Shire's Strategic Community Plan;
- d. Recognise and celebrate the Shire's diversity, history, lifestyle, environment and uniqueness; and
- e. Support projects that deliver an economic benefit for the Shire's local businesses.

Detailed objectives associated with specific grant programs and sponsorships are outlined in the Shire's grants and sponsorship guidelines.

5. Programs and guidelines

The Shire's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will establish the grants and sponsorship guidelines to provide operational details and administration of the Shire's grants and sponsorship program.

The grants and sponsorship guidelines must be:

- a. In line with this Policy and relevant legislation; and
- b. Published on the Shire's website.

The grants and sponsorship guidelines will outline:

- a. Funding categories;
- b. Application processes and timeframes;
- c. Amounts that can be applied for;
- d. Additional grant category specific information including assessment criteria;
- e. Assessment process;
- f. Items ineligible for funding;
- g. Funding Agreement; and
- h. Acquittal process.

6. General Program Eligibility

The following eligibility conditions apply to all grants and sponsorship. Applicants should:

- a. Reside, operate or provide a service that directly benefits people within the Shire of East Pilbara;
- b. Have no outstanding debts to, or grant acquittals with the Shire;
- c. Be registered as a not-for-profit body or registered charity within the Australian Charities and not-for-profit Commission (excluding Participation Grants applicants);
- d. Use funding solely for the purposes outlined by the Shire in the agreement;
- e. Applications for Sponsorship and Community Grants are deemed eligible if submitted during the timeframe of round opening and closing periods;
- f. All applications made outside of Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines frequency and timelines will be automatically deemed ineligible; and
- g. Must be able to provide a current Australian Business Number (ABN) and current Public Liability Insurance for duration of the funding term.

The following are ineligible to apply for a grant and sponsorship:

- a. Activities that have already commenced or have been completed (retrospective funding);
- b. Cash prizes, gifts or fundraising activities;
- c. Recurrent operating expenses eg. Administration costs, staff wages and utilities;
- d. Activities that promote racism, violence, discrimination or segregation;
- e. To service outstanding debts or loans;
- f. Activities or events that are the responsibility of State or Federal Government;
- g. Purchasing or provision of alcohol, or the costs associated with meeting Liquor Licensing requirements;
- h. An individual's personal expenses eg. Living and medical;

- i. Political activities;
- j. Religious activities;
- k. Activities or events that conflict with planned Shire events;
- l. Activities or events that duplicate what another organisation is already delivering;
- m. State or Federal Government Departments, Agencies and Organisations (excludes Schools);
- n. Activities that generate income which is not used for the purposes of the project; and
- o. An applicant who has already been approved to receive funding or in-kind support within the same financial year, except successful applicants of a Participation Grant.

Other eligibility requirements and funding conditions may apply to specific funding categories, as set out in the grants and sponsorship guidelines and/or agreements.

The Shire reserves the right to withdraw funding from a successful applicant if the activity is not progressing satisfactorily, the organisation ceases to be eligible, the organisation breaches the Agreement or the activity poses a reputational risk for the Shire. Should this occur the recipient will be liable for costs involved and funds will be returned to (or recovered by) the Shire.

7. Assessment and Approval Process

Assessment

All eligible applications for grants and sponsorship will be assessed against the selection criteria identified in the grants and sponsorship guidelines.

All ineligible applications for Sponsorship and Community Grants will be advised and given an opportunity to address ineligibility conditions and invited to resubmit, subsequent reporting of applications will be submitted to the next Ordinary Council meeting detailing both eligible and ineligible applications. That Council can overrule ineligible applications in the interests of wider community benefits.

Applications will be prioritised in accordance with the Shire's Strategic Community Plan and the allocated budget for grants and sponsorship.

Applications that do not require Council approval will be assessed by the Chief Executive Officer or authorised sub-delegate, who will then provide a recommendation to the Chief Executive Officer or authorised sub-delegate. The decision maker may not be involved in the assessment of applications.

The Chief Executive Officer will establish an internal Assessment Panel for assessment of Community Grants and Sponsorship applications. The Assessment Panel will meet to discuss and assess applications requiring Council approval. The Assessment Panel will make recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer to report to Council for approval.

Applications may only be approved subject to the availability of funds in the approved Annual Budget.

Canvassing of Councillors or Assessment Panel members will disqualify applicants.

Decision Making

Funding applications are assessed independently of the decision maker (Council, delegate or sub-delegate).

Applications up to a value not exceeding \$3,000 may be made by the Chief Executive Officer or sub-delegate. The Chief Executive Officer may determine certain categories of grant, and set Council approval thresholds below \$3,000.

8. Agreement and Acquittal

Agreement

All successful Community Grants, Sponsorship and In-Kind Support applicants are required to enter into a formal written funding agreement prior to funds being released by the Shire.

The funding agreement will include:

- a. Purpose;
- b. Term of funding;
- c. Shire contribution and approved activities;
- d. Confirmation of any co-contributions;
- e. Grant and sponsorship terms and conditions including requirement for successful applicant to complete an acquittal within 28 days of the project competition; termination of agreement and repayment of funds;
- f. Expected Shire benefits;
- g. Shire Branding requirements;
- h. Media, communications and other promotional opportunities; and
- i. Declaration on behalf of recipient.

Acquittal

An acquittal must be provided to the Shire within 28 days of the conclusion of approved grant or sponsorship project.

The acquittal must include:

- a. Financial statements including receipts;
- b. Details of the project including how many people attended, benefit to the community, outcomes;
- c. Evidence on how the Shire was acknowledged; and
- d. Photos, survey results or feedback provided from attendees.

Acquittals will be retained by the Shire through the SmartyGrants portal and Synergy to ensure compliance with agreement and used in consideration of any future funding requests from the applicant.

9. Conflicts of Interest

In the administration and awarding of grants and sponsorship any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest must be managed in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995, its regulations and the codes of conducts.

Employees, Assessment Panel members and elected members with any involvement with a grant or sponsorship application must declare:

- a. any direct or indirect financial interests they have with the application; and
- b. any impartial interests they have with any application.

10. Reporting

Information Bulletin will be updated to monthly with all incoming and outgoing funding applications.

Inclusion of funding provided in the Shire's Annual Report.

Shire will promote its funding of applicants, projects, events and other initiatives through social media and Shire website, Your Say Engagement Platform and using other media outputs as appropriate.

11. Review of Policy

This Policy will be reviewed every two years.

12. Authorisation Details

References:	The Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, may amend the Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines as required.		
Authorised by:	Council		
Date:	24 September 2010	Item No.	9.2.3
Review/Amendment Date	31 January 2014	Item No.	9.2.2
Review/Amendment Date	27 June 2015	Item No.	9.2.5
Review/Amendment Date	28 August 2020	Item No.	9.3.1
Review/Amendment Date	25 November 2022	Item No.	11.3.1
Review/Amendment Date	30 June 2023	Item No.	11.3.3
Review/Amendment Date	25 October 2024	Item No.	12.1.1
Next Review	Every two years		
Responsible Directorate	Executive Services		
Responsible Officer	Manager Strategy and Partnerships		
File No.			