

Notice of Meeting:

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Grants Subcommittee will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 22 September 2026
Time: 9:30 am
Venue: Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, the Octagon, Dunedin

Sandy Graham
Chief Executive Officer

Grants Subcommittee
PUBLIC AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson	Cr Andrew Simms	
Deputy Chairperson	Cr Mandy Mayhem	
Members	Cr John Chambers	Ms Amie Curtis
	Ms Sarah Ellis	Mr Andrew Henderson
	Cr Cherry Lucas	Cr Mickey Treadwell
Senior Officer	Nicola Morand, Manahautū – Kaiwhakahaere Hapori me Rautaki / General Manager - Community and Strategy	
Governance Support Officer	Rebecca Murray	

Rebecca Murray
Governance Support Officer

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Note: Reports and recommendations contained in this agenda are not to be considered as Council policy until adopted.

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1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

The meeting will open with a Karakia Timatanga.

2 APOLOGIES

At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Note: Any additions must be approved by resolution with an explanation as to why they cannot be delayed until a future meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Members are reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected or independent representative and any private or other external interest they might have.
2. Elected or independent members are reminded to update their register of interests as soon as practicable, including amending the register at this meeting if necessary.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Subcommittee:

- a) **Notes/Amends** if necessary the Elected or Independent Members' Interest Register attached as Attachment A; and
- b) **Confirms/Amends** the proposed management plan for Elected or Independent Members' Interests.

Attachments

	Title	Page
↓A	Grants Subcommittee Register of Interest	6

Grants Subcommittee Register of Interest 17 September 2026				
Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
Cr Andrew Simms (Chairperson)	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Limited	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Auckland Limited t/a Andrew Simms - Motor vehicle retail	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Stephen Duff Motors Limited t/a Andrew Simms Dunedin - Motor vehicle retail	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Three Diamond Automotive t/a Ralliart NZ - Race car preparation	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Cambridge Finance Limited - Financial Services	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	The Landseer Group Limited - Investments	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Otago Motorhome Centre Limited - Motor vehicle retail	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Henderson Limited - Motor vehicle retail	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Moorhouse Limited - Motor vehicle retail	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Minaret Property Investments Limited - Property Investment	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	The Newfoundland Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	The Moturata Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Taieri Trails Group	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Taieri Cricket Club	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Mosgiel AFC	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Commercial Property. Andersons Bay Road, Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Heritage Fund (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Heritage Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Tūhura Otago Museum Trust Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Taieri Airport Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Mandy Mayhem (Deputy Chairperson)	Chairperson	Waitati Hall Society Inc	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Chairperson	Keep Ōtepoti Dunedin Beautiful	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Co-ordinator	Emergency Response Group, Blueskin area	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Blueskin Bay Amenities Society	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
Cr Mandy Mayhem (Deputy Chairperson) (cont)	Member	Blueskin A & P Society	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Zone Representative and Board Member	Keep New Zealand Beautiful	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Coastal Community Cycleway Network	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Waitati Music Festival Committee	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Property Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Disability Issues Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Gasworks Museum Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Keep Dunedin Beautiful (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Performing Arts Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Creative New Zealand Grants Advisory Panel (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Social Wellbeing Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Blueskin Bay Watch	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr John Chambers	Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Rental Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Ōtākou Golf Club	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Opera Otago	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Hereweka Harbour Cone Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Okia Reserve Management Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Waikouaiti Coast Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Cherry Lucas	Trustee	Otago Farmers Market	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Partner	Southway Enterprises	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Henderson Lucas Family Trust - Residential Dunedin Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Shanghai Association (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Local Government New Zealand (Zone 6) (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
Cr Cherry Lucas (cont)	Member	Tūhura Otago Museum Trust Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Ōtepoti Dunedin Destination Management Plan Advisory Panel (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Taieri Airport Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Tertiary Precinct Planning Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Deputy Lead	Infrastructure Portfolio (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Te Poāri a Pukekura (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Mosgiel-Taieri Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Mickey Treadwell	Director	Atawhai Interactive Tapui Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Co-owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Green Party of Aotearoa	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Otaru Sister City Society (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Ice Sports Dunedin Incorporated (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Ōtepoti Dunedin Live Music Advisory Panel (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Te Ao Tūroa Partnership (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Otago Peninsula Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Amie Curtis	Registered Member	Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Employee	Ministry of Education	Potential conflict of interest	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Hono ki Tua Ltd	Potential conflict of interest	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Board Member	Kokiri Training Centre	Potential conflict of interest	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Board Member	Otago University Childcare Association	Potential conflict of interest	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Andrew Henderson	Executive Officer and Trustee	Dunedin Budget Advisory Service Trust	Potential conflict of interest	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Officer	Dunedin Community House Inc	Potential conflict of interest	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Officer	South Dunedin Community Network Inc	Potential conflict of interest	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Residential Property Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Contractor to DCC - SLA	Dunedin Budget Advisory Service Trust administers the Consumer Electricity Fund on behalf of DCC	Potential conflict of interest	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Commercial Lessee	Dunedin Budget Advisory Service Trust leases space and partners with Catholic Social Services	Potential conflict of interest	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
Sarah Ellis	Joint Owner	Residential Property Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Mabel Rose Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Shareholder	New Zealand Brush Company	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Employee	Gallery De Novo	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Dunedin Midwinter Celebrations Trust	Potential conflict of interest	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Otago Art Society	Potential conflict of interest	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Founder/Contractor	National Youth Portrait Awards	Potential conflict of interest	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Friends of the Hocken	Potential conflict of interest	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

GRANTS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING - 26 JUNE 2026

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Subcommittee:

- a) **Confirms** the public part of the minutes of the Grants Subcommittee meeting held on 26 June 2026 as a correct record.

Attachments

	Title	Page
A↓	Minutes of Grants Subcommittee meeting held on 26 June 2026	11

Grants Subcommittee

MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Grants Subcommittee held in the Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, the Octagon, Dunedin on Friday 26 June 2026, commencing at 9:00 am

PRESENT

Chairperson	Cr Andrew Simms	
Deputy Chairperson	Cr Mandy Mayhem	
Members	Cr John Chambers	Ms Amie Curtis
	Ms Sarah Ellis	Mr Andrew Henderson
	Cr Cherry Lucas	Cr Mickey Treadwell

IN ATTENDANCE

Nicola Morand Manahautū – Kaiwhakahaere Hapori me Rautaki / General Manager – Community and Strategy), Cam McCracken (Director - Dpag, Toitu, Lan Yuan and Olveston), Mike Cartwright (Manager City Growth and Advisory Services), Mark Mawdsley (Team Leader Advisory Services), Karen Gadowski (Waste Minimisation Strategy Officer), Amie Taua (Team Leader Ara Toi Partnerships), Nick Tipa (Creative Partnerships Advisor) Sean Norling (Creative Partnerships Advisor), Gina Hu'akau, Mai Tamimi (Team Leader Community Development), Waiariki Parata-Taiapa (Community Advisor), Logan Taylor (Management Accountant), Lawrie Warwood (Financial Analyst) and Roxanne Davies (Governance Support Officer)

Governance Support Officer Rebecca Murray

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Cr Mickey Treadwell opened the meeting with a Karakia Timatanga.

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Mickey Treadwell):

That the Subcommittee:

Confirms the agenda without addition or alteration.

Motion carried (GS/2026/023)

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arose between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

Mr Andrew Henderson advised editorial changes with his current register of interest.

Cr Mandy Mayhem updated her register of interest with the roles she was appointed at the recent Council Meeting.

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Subcommittee:

- a) **Amends** the Elected or Independent Members' Interest Register; and
- b) **Amends** the proposed management plan for Elected or Independent Members' Interests.

Motion carried (GS/2026/024)

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 GRANTS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING - 29 MAY 2026

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Subcommittee:

Confirms the minutes of the Grants Subcommittee meeting held on 29 May 2026 as a correct record.

Motion carried (GS/2026/025)

PART A REPORTS**6 DUNEDIN BIODIVERSITY FUND ALLOCATED - \$5,000 AND UNDER AND COMPLETED PROJECTS**

This report provided a summary of applications to the Dunedin Biodiversity Fund for the March 2026 funding round and notes the allocation of grants approved under staff delegation.

The Manager City Growth and Advisory Services Manager City Growth and Advisory Services (Mike Cartwright) and Team Leader Advisory Services (Mark Mawdsley) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Subcommittee:

- a) **Notes** the allocation of Biodiversity Fund grants approved under delegation for the March 2026 funding round.
- b) **Notes** the project completion reports for Biodiversity Fund projects completed between 1 December 2025 and 30 April 2026.

Motion carried (GS/2026/026)

7 WASTE MINIMISATION GRANTS ALLOCATED - \$5,000 AND UNDER

This report provided a summary of the Waste Minimisation Community grants that were approved under the Chief Executive Officer's delegation in the March 2026 round, and the Waste Minimisation Small Project grants awarded under the Chief Executive Officer's delegation in May 2026.

The Waste Minimisation Strategy Officer (Karen Gadomski) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Subcommittee:

- a) **Notes** that the Waste Minimisation Grants are funded by Waste Disposal Levy funds provided by the Ministry for the Environment and are not rates funded.
- b) **Notes** the approved funding allocated to organisations for Waste Minimisation Community grants and Waste Minimisation Small Project grants.

Motion carried (GS/2026/027)

8 DCC ARTS GRANTS ALLOCATED - \$5,000 AND UNDER AND DCC SMALL ARTS GRANTS REPORT

This report provided a summary of the DCC Arts Grants (under \$5k) that have been approved by staff, under delegation up to 30 April 2026.

The Director - Dpag, Toitu, Lan Yuan and Olveston (Cam McCracken), Team Leader Ara Toi Partnerships (Amie Taua), Creative Partnerships Advisor (Nick Tipa) and Creative Partnerships Advisor (Sean Norling) responded to questions.

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Mickey Treadwell):

That the Subcommittee:

- a) **Notes** the DCC Arts Grants approved from the DCC's Ara Toi/Creative Partnerships team (up to 30 April 2026).
- b) **Notes** the grants allocated between 2 December 2025 and 30 April 2026 for DCC Small Arts Grants.

Motion carried (GS/2026/028)

9 CNZ CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME GRANTS ALLOCATED

This report provided a summary of the CreativeNZ Creative Communities Scheme (CCS) funding allocation that have been approved by an Assessment Panel of community arts representatives.

The Director - Dpag, Toitu, Lan Yuan and Olveston (Cam McCracken), Team Leader Ara Toi Partnerships (Amie Taua), Creative Partnerships Advisor (Nick Tipa) and Creative Partnerships Advisor (Sean Norling) responded to questions.

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Subcommittee:

Notes the Creative Communities Scheme funding round was allocated and approved by the Assessment Panel of community arts representatives.

Motion carried (GS/2026/029)

10 DCC COMMUNITY GRANTS ALLOCATED - \$5,000 AND UNDER AND SMALL GRANTS REPORT

This report provided a summary of the Community Grants (under \$5k) that have been approved by staff, under delegation up to 30 April 2026.

The Manahautū – Kaiwhakahaere Hapori me Rautaki / General Manager – Community and Strategy (Nicola Morand), Manager Community Partnerships (Gina Hu'akau), Team Leader Community Development (Mai Tamimi) and Waiariki Parata-Taiapa (Community Advisor) responded to questions.

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Mickey Treadwell):

That the Subcommittee:

- a) **Notes** the small grants approved from the DCC's Community Partnerships team (up to 30 April 2026).

- b) **Notes** the grants allocated between 1 December 2025 and 30 April 2026 for Small Project and Neighbourhood Matching Grants.

Motion carried (GS/2026/030)

11 CITY SERVICE CITY PROJECT GRANTS 2026/27 - ARA TOI ARTS AND CULTURE SECTOR

This report provided a summary of the arts and culture grant applications to the Dunedin City Council's (DCC) City Service, City Project Fund for the 2026/27 round.

The Director - Dpag, Toitu, Lan Yuan and Olveston (Cam McCracken), Team Leader Ara Toi Partnerships (Amie Taua), Creative Partnerships Advisor (Nick Tipa) and Creative Partnerships Advisor (Sean Norling) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Ms Sarah Ellis declared a conflict of interest with Item 9 - Dunedin Midwinter Celebrations and withdrew from this item.

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Subcommittee:

Declines the following City Service City Project Fund for the 2026/27 application:

- 9 Dunedin Midwinter Celebrations

Motion carried (GS/2026/031)

Ms Sarah Ellis returned to the meeting.

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Mickey Treadwell):

That the Subcommittee:

Approves the following City Service City Project Fund for the 2026/27 funding application:

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------|
| 1 | Blue Oyster (The Blue Oyster Arts Trust) | \$20,000.00 |
|---|--|-------------|

Motion carried (GS/2026/032)

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Subcommittee:

Approves the following City Service City Project Fund for the 2026/27 funding application:

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------|
| 2 | City Choir Dunedin (Dunedin Choral Society) | \$12,500.00 |
|---|---|-------------|

Motion carried (GS/2026/033)

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Subcommittee:

Adjourns the meeting for 10 minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 10.37am and reconvened at 10.46am.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Subcommittee:

Declines the following City Service City Project Fund for the 2026/27 funding application:

7 Dunedin Fringe Arts Trust

Division

The Subcommittee voted by division

For: Cr John Chambers, Ms Amie Curtis, Ms Sarah Ellis, Mr Andrew Henderson,
Cr Cherry Lucas, Cr Mandy Mayhem and Cr Andrew Simms (7).

Against: Cr Mickey Treadwell (1).

Abstained: Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 7 votes to 1

Motion carried (GS/2026/034)

Moved (Cr Mandy Mayhem/Mr Andrew Henderson):

That the Subcommittee:

Approves the following City Service City Project Fund for the 2026/27 funding application:

6 Dunedin Collaborative Theatre Trust \$17,000.00

Motion carried (GS/2026/035)

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Andrew Simms):

That the Subcommittee:

Approves the following City Service City Project Fund for the 2026/27 funding application:

5 Dunedin Civic Orchestra Inc. trading as Dunedin Symphony Orchestra \$100,000.00

Motion carried (GS/2026/036)

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Mickey Treadwell):

That the Subcommittee:

Approves the following City Service City Project Fund for the 2026/27 funding applications:

3 Connections Education & Development Trust (Studio2) \$16,000.00
(Connections Studio Account)

4 Dance Ōtepoti \$15,000.00

8 Dunedin Jazz Foundation \$16,050.00

10	Dunedin Youth Orchestra	\$15,000.00
11	Māori & Pasifika Education Trust	\$10,000.00
12	Mayfair Theatre Charitable Trust	\$10,000.00

Motion carried (GS/2026/037)

12 CITY SERVICE CITY PROJECT GRANTS 2026/27- SOCIAL SECTOR

This report provided a summary of the social sector grant applications to the Dunedin City Council's (DCC) City Service, City Project Fund for the 2026/27 financial year.

The Manahautū – Kaiwhakahaere Hapori me Rautaki / General Manager – Community and Strategy (Nicola Morand), Manager Community Partnerships (Gina Hu'akau), Team Leader Community Development (Mai Tamimi) and Waiariki Parata-Taiapa (Community Advisor) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Mr Andrew Henderson declared a conflict of interest with Item 4 - Dunedin Budget Advisory Service and Item 6 - Dunedin Community House Inc and withdrew from these items.

Cr Andrew Simms declared a conflict of interest with Item 7 - Dunedin Night Shelter Trust and withdrew from this item.

Cr Mandy Mayhem declared a conflict of interest with Item 12 - Our Food Network Ōtepoti and withdrew from this item.

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Subcommittee:

Declines the following City Service, City Project Fund for the 2026/27 funding applications:

- 18 Volunteer South/Kaituao O te Taitonga

Division

The Subcommittee voted by division

For: Crs John Chambers and Cr Andrew Simms (2).

Against: Ms Sarah Ellis, Cr Cherry Lucas, Cr Mandy Mayhem and Cr Mickey Treadwell (4).

Abstained: Ms Amie Curtis and Mr Andrew Henderson (2).

The division was declared LOST by 4 votes to 2

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Subcommittee:

Adjourns the meeting for 5 minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 12.01 pm and reconvened at 12.17 pm.

Cr Mandy Mayhem and Mr Andrew Henderson withdrew from this item.

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Subcommittee:

Approves the following City Service, City Project Fund for the 2026/27 funding applications:

1	Age Concern Otago	\$12,500.00
2	Citizens Advice Bureau Dunedin Inc	\$18,000.00
4	Dunedin Budget Advisory Service	\$13,000.00
10	Methodist Mission Southern	\$9,000.00
12	Our Food Network Ōtepoti	\$9,000.00
14	Red Frogs NZ	\$10,000.00
16	The Hills Radio Trust	\$17,500.00

Motion carried (GS/2026/038)

Cr Mandy Mayhem and Mr Andrew Henderson returned to the meeting.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Andrew Simms):

That the Subcommittee:

Approves the following City Service, City Project Fund for the 2026/27 funding application:

6	Dunedin Community House Inc	\$20,000.00
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Motion carried (GS/2026/039)

Cr Andrew Simms withdrew from this item. Cr Mandy Mayhem Chaired the meeting.

Moved (Cr Mandy Mayhem/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Subcommittee:

Approves the following City Service, City Project Fund for the 2026/27 funding application:

7	Dunedin Night Shelter Trust	\$25,000.00
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Motion carried (GS/2026/040)

Cr Andrew Simms returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair.

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Subcommittee:

Approves the following City Service, City Project Fund for the 2026/27 funding applications:

3	Drug Injecting Services in Canterbury Trust	\$12,500.00
5	Dunedin Community Accounting	\$5,000.00
8	Ko ngā Rourou Manaaki	\$10,000.00
9	Life Matters Suicide Prevention Trust	\$10,000.00
11	Ōtepoti Community Builders	\$10,000.00
13	Presbyterian Support Otago Inc - Integrated Practice Accelerator	\$10,000.00
15	Te Hou Ora Whānau Services	\$15,000.00
17	Victim Support NZ Inc/Manaaki Tāngata Aotearoa Manatōpū	\$5,000.00
18	Volunteer South/Kaituao O te Taitonga	\$10,000.00
19	Youthline Otago Inc	\$10,000.00

Motion carried (GS/2026/041)

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Subcommittee:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, exclude the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting namely:

General subject of the matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution	Reason for Confidentiality
C1 Major Community and Premier Grants Report	S7(2)(h) The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	S48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act, or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as shown above after each item.

Motion carried (GS/2026/042)

The meeting went into non-public at 12.28 pm concluded at 1.35 pm.

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CHAIRPERSON

PART A REPORTS

CITY SERVICE GRANT - VOLUNTEER SOUTH/KAITUAO O TE TAITONGA UPDATE

Department: Community Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 This report provides an update to the Grants Subcommittee on a grant returned to the Dunedin City Council (DCC) by Volunteer South/Kaituao o te Taitonga and seeks a decision on its reallocation.
- 2 This report relates to a grant approved in the recent City Service, City Project grant round (2026/27) for Volunteer South/Kaituao o te Taitonga.
- 3 Volunteer South/Kaituao o te Taitonga has formally advised the DCC that they do not wish to receive the grant and have declined the funding.
- 4 Staff now seek the Grants Subcommittee's decision on how they would like the grant to be reallocated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Subcommittee:

- a) **Determines** how the \$10,000 City Service/City Project grant originally approved for Volunteer South/Kaituao o te Taitonga should be reallocated following the organisation's decision to decline the funding.

BACKGROUND

- 5 At its meeting on 26 June 2026, the Grants Subcommittee resolved to approve a City Service, City Project grant of \$10,000 to Volunteer South/Kaituao o te Taitonga, as follows:

Moved (Cr Andrew Simms/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Subcommittee:

Approves the following City Service, City Project Fund for the 2026/27 funding applications:

3	<i>Drug Injecting Services in Canterbury Trust</i>	<i>\$12,500.00</i>
5	<i>Dunedin Community Accounting</i>	<i>\$5,000.00</i>
8	<i>Ko ngā Rourou Manaaki</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>
9	<i>Life Matters Suicide Prevention Trust</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>
11	<i>Ōtepoti Community Builders</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>

13	<i>Presbyterian Support Otago Inc - Integrated Practice Accelerator</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>
15	<i>Te Hou Ora Whānau Services</i>	<i>\$15,000.00</i>
17	<i>Victim Support NZ Inc/Manaaki Tāngata Aotearoa Manatōpū</i>	<i>\$5,000.00</i>
18	<i>Volunteer South/Kaituao O te Taitonga</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>
19	<i>Youthline Otago Inc</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>

Motion carried (GS/2026/001)

- 6 Following the Grants Subcommittee's decision, staff were made aware that Volunteer South/Kaituao o te Taitonga was undertaking a strategic review. Staff contacted the organisation to advise that the grant would be issued once their long-term intentions were confirmed.
- 7 In August 2026, following a board meeting, the Chair of Volunteer South/Kaituao o te Taitonga formally advised the DCC that the organisation intends to wind down its operations and wished to decline the grant. They expressed hope that the Grants Subcommittee would reallocate the funding to another organisation supporting volunteer-related work and volunteers.
- 8 Staff have reviewed the matter and identified a recommended option for reallocation.

DISCUSSION

- 9 Staff recommend that the returned grant be reallocated through the September 2026 Community Grants (under \$5,000) grant round.
- 10 Staff have considered this matter carefully and recommend that the returned grant be reallocated through the September 2026 Community Grants (under \$5,000) funding round.
- 11 The rationale for this recommendation is:
 - it enables the grant to be allocated within the current financial year (2026/27);
 - the September Community Grants round is generally heavily contested so any additional funds would be well received;
 - Community Grants frequently attract applications from groups who actively support volunteers.
- 12 This approach ensures the funding continues to support community-based volunteer activity, consistent with the spirit of Volunteer South/Kaituao o te Taitonga's original work.
- 13 Staff consider this to be the most efficient and equitable method of reallocation.
- 14 No alternative organisations have been identified that directly mirror Volunteer South/Kaituao o te Taitonga's role and could receive the grant outside a contestable process.
- 15 Reallocation through an existing contestable grant round helps maintain fairness and transparency.

OPTIONS

Option One – Recommended Option

- 16 **Approves** the reallocation of the \$10,000 grant originally awarded to Volunteer South/Kaituao o te Taitonga to the September 2026 Community Grants (under \$5,000) round.

Advantages

- Enables allocation within the current financial year (2026/27).
- Supports a highly contested grant round.
- Directs funding to groups that typically support volunteer activity.

Disadvantages

- The grant will not be utilised for a City Service/City Project applicant, which is its original purpose.

Option Two – Status Quo

- 17 **Declines** the reallocation of the \$10,000 grant originally awarded to Volunteer South/Kaituao o te Taitonga to the September 2026 Community Grants (under \$5,000) round.

Advantages

- The grant will be returned to the DCC, contributing to overall budget availability.

Disadvantages

- The grant will not be allocated within the current financial year (2026/27).
- The grant will not support the September Community Grants round, despite high demand.

NEXT STEPS

- 18 Staff will follow the decision by the Grants Subcommittee.

Signatories

Author:	Gina Hu'akau - Community Partnerships Manager
Authoriser:	Nicola Morand - Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy)

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision supports democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities. This decision promotes the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Economic Development Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Environment Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Arts and Culture Strategy	☐	☐	✓
3 Waters Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Future Development Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	☐	☐

Grants support many of the DCC's plans and strategies.

Māori Impact Statement

Grants help support local community projects and activities that help progress the goals in Te Taki Haruru.

Sustainability

Grants support local community projects and activities that help deliver sustainability in a broader sense.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

There are no known implications as the budget has been confirmed during the recent 2026/27 annual plan process.

Financial considerations

There are no known implications as the budget has been confirmed during the recent 2026/27 annual plan process.

Significance

This matter is not considered significant in accordance with the DCC's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement – external

Engagement has occurred with Volunteer South/Kaituao o te Taitonga.

Engagement - internal

No internal teams were engaged with on this matter.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There are no known legal or health and safety risks as the fund will follow the general guidelines we use for all DCC grants.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Conflict of Interest

There are no known conflicts of interests.

Community Boards

There are no implications for Community Boards.

PLACE BASED GROUPS ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS 2025/26 - SUMMARY

Department: Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 Successful applicants to the Place Based Grant Fund (Fund) are expected to deliver an accountability report within 12 months of having received Dunedin City Council (DCC) funding.
- 2 This report summarises report backs (accountability reports) from ten Place Based community groups who received grant funding in 2025.
- 3 Analysis shows the Place-Based Community Grant (Fund) is achieving its intended purpose, primarily supporting operational capacity such as staffing and volunteer coordination to enable locally led activities.
- 4 Through an investment of \$460,000 across ten place-based organisations, groups collectively reached approximately 61,600 residents and contributed more than 33,900 volunteer hours, demonstrating significant community return on investment on the Fund.
- 5 Groups reported that the Fund helped strengthen community wellbeing and connectedness and build community resilience and collaboration.
- 6 Many groups noted growing demand for services, including volunteer support, food security initiatives, and community and youth programmes.
- 7 The Fund has enabled groups to leverage additional grants and attract community contributions. However, funding sustainability and organisational capacity remain the most significant challenges.
- 8 Overall, accountability reporting indicates the Fund contributes positively to community capability, local leadership, and community resilience, enabling groups to respond effectively to current needs and prepare for future challenges.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Subcommittee:

- a) **Notes** the Place Based Groups Accountability Reports 2025/26 – Summary Report.
- b) **Provides** feedback on the format and content of future summary accountability reporting.

BACKGROUND

- 9 In 2025 staff worked alongside Place Based groups to develop questions related to community development, to add to their accountability report. These questions can be viewed in Attachment A.

- 10 In 2025, the Grants' Subcommittee approved funding for ten place-based groups in Dunedin (Table 1). There was a total of \$460K in the budget available for distribution:

Name of organisation	Purpose of funding	Amount approved
Āraiteuru Marae Council Incorporated	Contribution towards the wages of the Kaitiaki (groundskeeper) and Kaiwhakarite (administrator).	\$ 43,150.00
BIAS Charitable Trust	Contribution towards wages for Manager, and Community Advisors.	\$ 75,000.00
Caversham Community Group	Contribution towards the costs of CCG projects and activities.	\$ 7,850.00
Corstorphine Community Hub Trust	Contribution towards operation expenditure, events and staff wages.	\$ 52,000.00
Greater Green Island Community Network Charitable Trust	Contribution towards wages of three part-time community development workers and operational costs.	\$ 45,000.00
North East Valley Community Development (The Valley Project)	Contribution towards operational costs.	\$ 50,000.00
Progress of Waikouaiti Area (POWA)	Contribution towards operational costs including wages and delivery of community led initiatives.	\$ 45,000.00
South Dunedin Community Network	Contribution towards wages and operational costs.	\$ 75,000.00
Strath Taieri Connect Charitable Trust	Contribution towards wages for coordinators and operational costs.	\$ 45,000.00
Taieri Network	Contribution to wages and operational support.	\$ 52,000.00

Table 1: Grants approved for Place Based groups in 2025.

DISCUSSION

- 11 All ten place-based groups submitted accountability reports in July 2026, responding to ten key reporting questions. The summary below summarises the key points raised in response to each question.

Purpose of the grant

- 12 Responses show strong consistency in how place-based funding is used across Dunedin. Most grants **support core community development** such as community hubs, staffing, volunteer coordination, communications, relationship building, and sustainability. Figure 1 outlines the key themes.

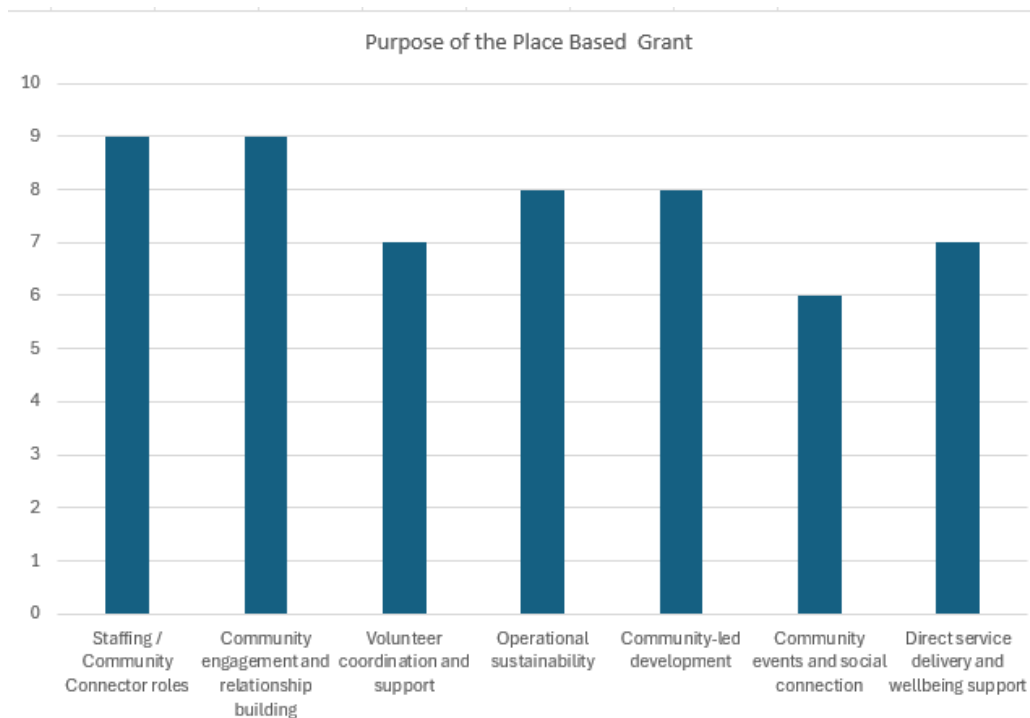


Figure 1: Key themes related to the purpose of the grant

Other funding sources

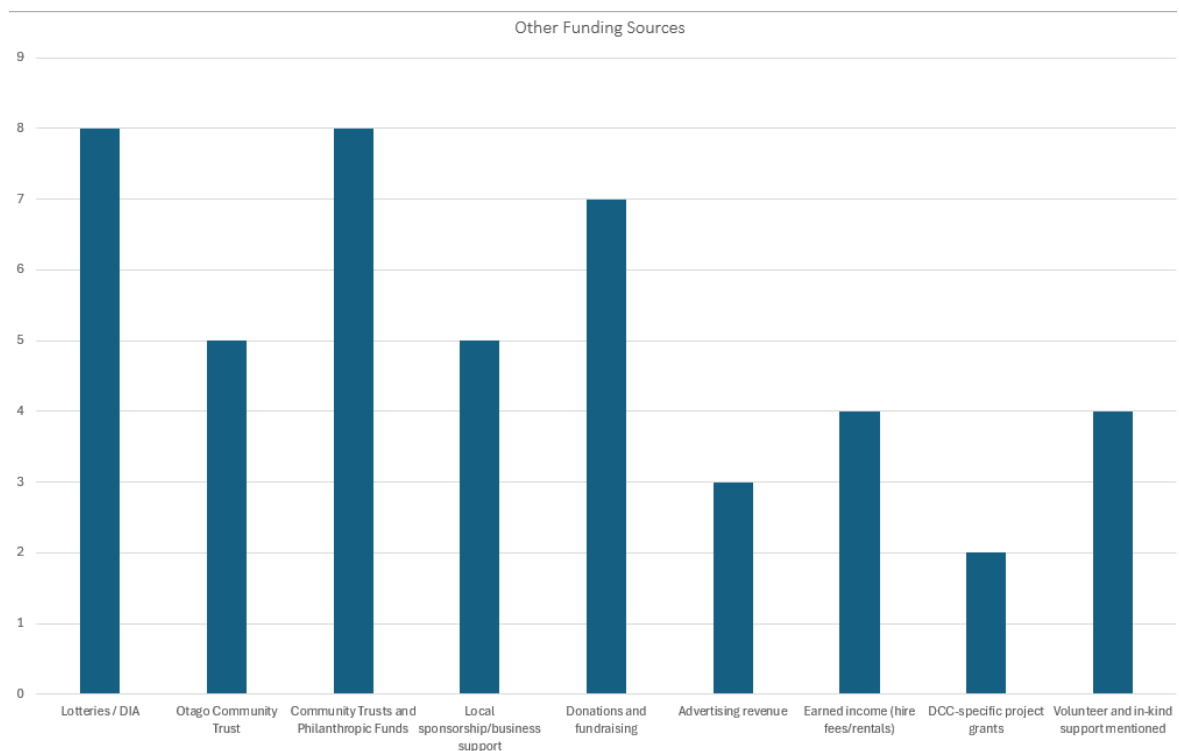


Figure 2: Other Funding Sources (not DCC)

- 13 Groups demonstrated a strong ability to attract external funding, with Lotteries and Community Trusts the primary external funders.

- 14 Most groups have multiple income streams, with only a few relying primarily on DCC funding. The Fund helps groups leverage larger grants, reinforcing the value of place-based investment.
- 15 Funding for staff was consistently valued, as it provides the capacity needed to secure additional external funding. Some groups also generate income through donations and fundraising.
- 16 Groups reported that the Fund supports community-led development and is valued by residents.

Impact of the Place Based Fund

- 17 The Fund's primary impact is providing capacity and stability for groups to sustain operations and coordinate community-led activities.
- 18 Strengthened community connection was a consistent outcome, reflected in increased participation, volunteer involvement, welcoming spaces, and improved belonging.
- 19 Collaboration was a major theme, and many groups discussed how their group has helped improve local coordination, reduced duplication, sharing of resources, and more effective responses.
- 20 All groups valued the Fund's flexibility, which allowed them to adapt activities and respond to emerging needs, ensuring programmes remained community-led.
- 21 Many initiatives delivered by the groups addressed practical wellbeing needs such as food security, social support, housing, and advocacy, with groups increasingly acting as first responders to growing social and economic pressures faced by residents.
- 22 All groups highlighted the importance of volunteers and local leadership and expressed a desire to strengthen both. They acknowledged the Fund's role in supporting pathways from participation to leadership, strengthening long-term resilience.
- 23 Groups described resilience as emerging from relationships, leadership, and participation, rather than individual projects.
- 24 The most consistent feedback was that investment in trusted local groups and relationships generates outcomes far beyond individual projects, strengthening connected, resilient communities.

Common challenges

- 25 Groups reported that demand for food support, advocacy, social services, and community connection is increasing faster than their groups' capacity to respond.
- 26 Groups face workforce pressures, including small staff teams, volunteer shortages, and workload challenges.
- 27 Funding uncertainty, rising costs, and planning constraints remain significant concerns. Multi-year funding is strongly valued.
- 28 Infrastructure limitations include storage shortages, constrained facilities, and pressure on physical resources. These challenges indicate that continued investment alone may not be

sufficient to meet growing community demand. Sustainability of staffing, volunteer recruitment, and funding diversification remain key risks across the sector

Key lessons learned

- 29 Strong relationships are foundational to effective place-based work, enabling trust, engagement, and collaboration.
- 30 Groups emphasised “listening to adapt” flexible, responsive practice shaped by ongoing community feedback.
- 31 Investing in people is critical including building staff capacity, volunteer support, leadership development, and connector roles.
- 32 Community-led approaches are effective as many groups highlighted that empowerment increases participation, ownership, sustainability, and impact.

Volunteer contributions

- 33 Volunteer contributions remain significant in place-based groups as they contribute to operational support, service delivery, and community activities.
- 34 Governance volunteers also contribute substantial time to strategic planning, compliance, funding applications, financial oversight, board participation, and organisational leadership. Groups rely heavily on skilled governance volunteers to maintain stability and maximise community outcomes.
- 35 Operational volunteers support programmes, events, food initiatives, environmental projects, youth support, community gardens, administration, publications, and communications. Their work strengthens the wider community sector and reflects the interconnected nature of Dunedin’s community development network.
- 36 The high level of volunteer participation suggests that place-based groups are trusted community entities, capable of mobilising significant local support.
- 37 Collectively, place-based groups reported more than 33,900 volunteer hours annually, demonstrating a substantial return on the DCC’s grant through community participation. Using the living wage as a guide, this represents over one million dollars in local community contribution through volunteer labour.

Community engagement

- 38 Community engagement is central to place-based work. Groups consistently reported that they connect with residents and use feedback to shape priorities.
- 39 Engagement is built on ongoing relationships through daily interactions, events, hui, surveys, newsletters, social media, and partnerships. The Fund helps communities to identify priorities, design solutions, and actively participate in creating stronger, more connected and resilient communities.
- 40 Many groups reported that they use varied engagement channels to increase reach. Effective groups use both formal and informal methods to ensure broad representation.

- 41 Community feedback directly shapes services with many groups reporting that key priorities include:
- food security
 - youth leadership and participation
 - wellbeing
 - resilience, and
 - local place-making.
- 42 Groups also reported on their key lessons such as communicating more about a group's core purpose, showing the community that relationships matter more than programmes, supporting participation from residents to build ownership of the group, and being flexible in their activities and services. The most significant finding is that groups are community connectors, facilitators and enablers of local leadership.

Acknowledgement of DCC fund

- 43 All groups showed strong recognition of the DCC Place-Based Fund.
- 44 Most groups formally acknowledge the Fund in their financial accounts, annual reports, websites, social media, and communications.
- 45 Many groups communicated the value of DCC's investment with their local communities, making the Fund highly visible.

Feedback on DCC staff support for Place Based Groups

- 46 Feedback on the support delivered by the Community Partnerships Team was overwhelmingly positive. Staff were consistently described as approachable, responsive, supportive, and knowledgeable.
- 47 Groups highly valued ongoing access to staff through regular meetings, informal check-ins, and timely advice. This includes funding advice, project guidance, community development support, strategic planning, and connections.
- 48 Bi-monthly meetings where all place-based groups are invited are highly valued for peer learning, collaboration, and sector awareness.
- 49 Suggestions for improvement include longer-term funding, more networking opportunities, and simplified reporting.
- 50 Some groups seek additional support navigating Council structures and accessing other funding sources to support local activities.
- 51 Overall, the Community Partnerships Team is seen as a trusted partner. Key themes for improvement included funding certainty, opportunities for collaboration, and reducing administrative burden.

Summary

- 52 The 2024-2025 Place-Based Fund reports demonstrate the value of sustained investment in community-led development and place-based communities across Dunedin.

- 53 Consistent outcomes include increased capacity, stronger connections, expanded partnerships, greater leadership, and more responsive community-driven solutions.
- 54 Volunteer contributions as reported from the groups is approximately 33,900 hours annually, showing the Fund's strong leverage of community effort.
- 55 Groups expressed strong confidence in the Community Partnerships Team's relationship-based approach.
- 56 Overall, the Fund is building stronger, more connected, resilient, and empowered communities across Dunedin, with outcomes extending well beyond individual projects.
- 57 The accountability reports indicate that the Place Based Fund primarily functions as capacity-building funding, enabling staffing, coordination, leadership development, and volunteer support. This differs from project-based grants and suggests the Fund plays an important role in sustaining community infrastructure across Dunedin. The reports also indicate increasing community demand in areas such as food security, youth engagement, wellbeing support, and social connection. These trends may have implications for future funding priorities and the design of community grant programmes.

Options

- 58 There are no options, as this report is for noting.

NEXT STEPS

- 59 To support continuous improvement, feedback from the Grants Subcommittee on future summary reporting is welcomed.

Signatories

Author:	Mai Tamimi - Team Leader Community Development
Authoriser:	Gina Hu'akau - Community Partnerships Manager Nicola Morand - Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy)

Attachments

	Title	Page
↓A	Extra Questions for Report Back Form for Place Based Grant	35

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities. This decision promotes the social, economic, environment and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Economic Development Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Environment Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Arts and Culture Strategy	✓	☐	☐
3 Waters Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Future Development Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	☐	☐

Grant decisions directly support community groups to deliver on projects, services and activities that support local residents' wellbeing and contributes to many of the DCC's strategies and plans.

Māori Impact Statement

Te Taki Haruru, the DCC's Māori Strategic Framework outlines the aspirations for Māori living in Ōtepoti Dunedin. Many place based groups contribute to these aspirations through the services and activities that they deliver. In making grant decisions, the Subcommittee includes representation as appointed by mana whenua to ensure all grant decisions include mana whenua perspectives.

Sustainability

There are no negative implications for sustainability, with some grant applications positively contributing to sustainable goals for their local community.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

Grants are part of the DCC's Levels of Service and are included in the DCC's long-term and annual plans and budgets.

Financial considerations

There are no financial considerations as grants are allocated according to the DCC's grants budget approved by Council.

Significance

The significance of the decision related to grants has been assessed as 'low'.

Engagement – external

No internal or external engagement has taken place related to grants. Internal checks by staff from relevant DCC teams has occurred, to ensure that applicants have met the grant criteria.

Engagement - internal

No internal engagement has occurred.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

The risks related to grants is considered low as applicants have fulfilled their obligation and completed an accountability report.

Conflict of Interest

Conflicts of Interest have been noted by staff in accordance with the DCC's Conflict of Interest policy. The Subcommittee manages its Conflicts of Interest in accordance with the DCC's Conflict of Interest policy.

Community Boards

There are no implications for Community Boards. There are some applicants who are located within Community Board areas and have received a Community Board Grant.

Final

Report Back form for Place Based Grants

1. Impact of the Place-Based Fund

Please tell us how the Place-Based Fund has supported your group. We're interested in how the grant has helped your group to deliver local community-led activities or services.

- What worked well?
- What challenges did you face?
- What key lessons has your group learned over the past 12 months?
- Please tell us how the Place Based fund has supported your place-based group?

(Up to 500 words). *If you would like to provide more details, please attach a document below.*

2. Volunteer Contributions

Please provide an estimate of volunteer hours over the past 12 months. The DCC appreciates the important role of local community groups, whose volunteers generously give their time and skills to provide activities and services in their area.

Volunteer Activity	Estimate of volunteer hours over the past 12 months
Governance	
Operations	
Volunteer time supporting other local community groups	
Other community volunteers who help out at your group	
Other	
Total	

3. Community Engagement and Feedback

Please describe how your group has connected with your local community over the past 12 months. We're especially interested in:

- How your group has engaged with community members?
- How feedback from the community has influenced your future plans?

The DCC's Place-Based Fund supports groups that work with their communities to identify shared goals. We appreciate your reflections on this community-led approach. (Up to 500 words)

4. Acknowledging DCC's grant

Please confirm how your organisation acknowledge the DCC's place based grant? (Tick relevant boxes)

- ☒ Place-based grant is identified in our financial account
- ☒ Place-based grant is acknowledged in our annual report

- ☒ Place-based grant is acknowledged in our website/social media/community newsletter
- ☒ Other: Free Text (up to 50 words)

5. End of Year Financials

Please attach a copy of your group's end-of year financial accounts that relate to the year you received and spent the place-based grant. Your financial accounts need to identify the DCC's place-based grant (as per the requirement in your Service Level Agreement).

6. Audited Accounts

Audited accounts help confirm that a group's financial statements are accurate and reliable. The DCC recognises that audits can be time-consuming and costly, so they are not required in your Report Back.

If we ever had concerns about your finances, we would first speak with your group to discuss them. In some cases, we may request audited accounts as part of our obligations to monitor public money.

To help us keep our records up to date, please answer the following:

- 6.1 Does your group have audited accounts for the latest financial year? Yes / No
 - 6.1.a If yes, are they available on the Charities Register? Yes / No
 - 6.1.b If no, please explain below (limit response to 100 words). For example:

Have you requested audited accounts but they are not yet published? If so, when will they be ready?
Does your group only produce audited accounts occasionally?

7. Feedback on Support

The Community Partnerships team provides support to place-based groups throughout the year, and we'd really appreciate your feedback.

- 8.1 What support have you found most useful? (Up to 250 words)
- 8.2 What suggestions do you have to help us improve our service? (Up to 250 words)

PLACE BASED 2026/27 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Department: Community and Planning and Community Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 The Grants Subcommittee is delegated to allocate the Place-Based Fund (Fund) for the 2026/27 year on behalf of Council.
- 2 The Grants Subcommittee's delegations are outlined in the Dunedin City Council (DCC) Committee Structure and Delegations Manual (2023).
- 3 A total of \$490,000 was approved in the 9-year plan 2025-2034 for the Place-Based Community Grants Fund in the 2026/27 year.
- 4 In July 2026, 10 Place-Based Community Groups (PBCGs) applied to the Fund (see Attachment A).
- 5 In total, applicants have requested \$761,578.20, representing approximately 39% of their combined annual operating expenses of just over \$1.9 million. Last year, place-based groups applied for around 38% of their annual operational costs.
- 6 Two additional applications were received for consideration. After assessing these applications against the Place-Based Community Grant eligibility criteria and DCC Grants Management Policy, staff have determined that neither application meets the funding requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Subcommittee:

- a) **Decides** the Place-Based Community Grants to be allocated in the 2026/27 financial year.

BACKGROUND

- 7 PBCGs undertake community-led development in communities and suburbs, with the purpose of improving the lives and wellbeing of residents. In 2025, the Subcommittee approved funding for 10 PBCGs across Ōtepoti/Dunedin.
- 8 Each PBCG is structured in a manner that best reflects the community it serves, and the geographical area where they work and deliver their activities. Some are Charitable Incorporated Societies, others are Charitable Trusts, one is a voluntary informal group that is supported by an 'umbrella charitable entity' to administer its funding.
- 9 PBCGs deliver activities and services in their local community which are geographically defined. They are resident-led, with a focus on meeting diverse needs by strengthening local relationships through the delivery of services and/or activities, such as improving transport options and green spaces within their local area.

- 10 PBCGs have been operating in Ōtepoti/Dunedin for several decades, with some local groups growing and others reducing in size or activity over time as key local people join and leave.
- 11 The Fund was first approved through the 2018-2028 Long-Term Plan, with an annual budget of \$300,000 to support community wellbeing. Through the 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan, the Fund was increased to \$400,000, with planned annual increases of \$30,000 from 2022/23 onwards. Under that approach, the Fund would have reached \$550,000 in 2026/27.
- 12 In February 2024, Council resolved not to apply the planned increase for the 2024/25 financial year:

Moved (Deputy Mayor Cherry Lucas/Cr Lee Vandervis):

That the Council:

- a) **Directs** staff not to distribute the \$30,000 increase in the Place-Based Funding pool for the 2024-25 year as per Council resolution (CNL/2021/121).
- b) **Notes** that resolution (CNL/2021/121) would be subject to further consideration once the Grants Review had been completed as part of the nine-year plan.

Division

The Council voted by division

For: Crs Sophie Barker, Kevin Gilbert, Cherry Lucas, Mandy Mayhem, Jim O'Malley, Lee Vandervis, Brent Weatherall and Andrew Whiley (8).

Against: Crs David Benson-Pope, Christine Garey, Carmen Houlahan, Marie Laufiso and Steve Walker (5).

Abstained: Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 8 votes to 5

Motion carried (CNL/2024/001)

- 13 As a result, the Grants Subcommittee approved a total allocation of \$460,000 to 10 Place-Based Community Groups (PBCGs) for 2024/25.
- 14 During deliberations on the 2025-2034 9-Year Plan, Council considered but did not approve a proposal to increase the Place-Based Community Grants Fund to \$520,000 in 2025/26 and \$550,000 in 2026/27.

Moved (Cr David Benson-Pope/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

- a) **Increases** the Place Based Funding pool by \$30,000 for the 2025/26 year to \$520,000, and then by a further \$30,000 in the 2026/27 year to \$550,000. The fund would then remain at \$550,000 per annum.

The Council voted by division

For: Crs David Benson-Pope, Christine Garey, Carmen Houlahan, Marie Laufiso and Steve Walker (5).

Against: Crs Bill Acklin, Sophie Barker, Kevin Gilbert, Cherry Lucas, Mandy Mayhem, Jim O'Malley, Brent Weatherall, Andrew Whiley and Mayor Jules Radich (9).

Abstained: Nil

The division was declared LOST by 9 votes to 5

- 15 Consequently, Council confirmed Place-Based Community Grants funding at \$490,000 per annum through the 2025-2034 9-Year Plan.

DISCUSSION

DCC Place Based Fund and Summary of Applications received for 2026/27

- 16 In total, 12 applications to the Fund were received for the 2026/27 financial year. The Fund opened on 6 July and closed on 31 July 2026.
- 17 The applications are mostly for a contribution towards the group's operational costs including wages and salaries over the next 12 months. The applications are from the 10 PBCGs who received funding last financial year, and an additional two applications from new applicants.

Ineligible Applications

- 18 After assessing two new applications against the Place-Based Community Grant eligibility criteria, staff have raised concerns that neither meets the Fund's criteria.
- 19 Staff seek approval from the Grants Subcommittee to decline these applications as both have been assessed as ineligible.

Eligible Applications

- 20 Based on the financial data from the 10 eligible PBCGs, they showed annual expenses of just over \$1.9 million, which is \$200,000 more than the \$1.7 million in annual expenses noted in 2025.
- 21 The total amount that the 10 PBCGs have applied for from the Fund is \$761,578.20 which is an increase from the 2025 figure of \$676,906.89. This increase is due to some PBCGs wanting to respond to local community needs by growing their services and other PBCGs noting a reduction in other grant funds in their budgets.
- 22 The range of grant amounts applied for in the 2026/27 Fund range from \$9,800, through to the highest amount of \$165,000. The median amount applied for is \$76,000 which is greater than the median of \$67,000 in 2025.
- 23 From reviewing the PBCGs financial information (Statement of Performance), this shows that all 10 PBCG applicants are sourcing funding from other funding entities and/or generating funding from activities and services. Analysis of applicant budgets indicates that nine PBCGs have requested funding equivalent to less than 70% of their previous year's expenditure. One PBCG has requested more than 70% of their previous year's costs but they have also shown they are sourcing income from other funders, as detailed in their 2026/27 budgets.

- 24 To be eligible to apply to the Fund, each PBCG must demonstrate that it contributes at least 30% of its operating costs through other funding sources, income generation, volunteer contributions, or other recognised support. Nine PBCGs included these details in their budgets, with one group including their contribution of volunteer hours as well as budget details in order to meet the criteria.
- 25 Staff have verified that all 10 PBCGs that have applied to the 2026/27 Fund meet the DCC's eligibility grant criteria and that they are focussed on providing wellbeing and building resilience among their local community. This view by staff has been established through:
- reviewing each of the PBCG's accountability report in relation to previous Council funding,
 - visiting each of the PBCGs over the past 12 months,
 - interaction with PBCG's staff and governance representatives, and
 - engagement with local residents who have participated in activities with local PBCGs.

Summary Data and Analysis related to Eligible Applicants

- 26 The complete applications, related documents, and staff's individual assessment related to each eligible PBCG have been made available to the Subcommittee for their information.
- 27 A summary of each applicant's details including key data, is provided to the Grants Subcommittee in (Attachment A).
- 28 In the past, staff have proposed grant amounts using the budget and some assessment of each group's needs to determine a specific recommendation. Although the final decision remained with the Subcommittee, this approach did not always provide the Subcommittee with a strong rationale as to how the suggested amounts for each PBCG were determined. Staff also did not provide options to the Subcommittee to consider fully funding or to decline a group's application.
- 29 Instead, staff have prepared analysis options to support governance discussion and decision making by the Subcommittee members. The analysis options are;
- a) **Equality:** Funding is distributed equally across applicants (subject to the amounts requested), regardless of differences in community need, organisational capacity, or local context. regardless of their needs or the needs of the communities that they work with. The budget is divided based on equal allocations and in regard to what they've applied for.
 - b) **Equity:** each PBCG is assessed in relation to a range of equity needs based on the needs of the communities that they are working with. This framework also considers each PBCG's capability and capacity in meeting those needs.
 - c) **Needs assessment:** key community-led areas were noted and reviewed with each PBCG and their application's focus. The rationale is that each PBCG is on a journey in strengthening its community-led approach. Staff produced a 'heatmap' of each PBCG showing its needs. Staff also identified what support and resourcing could be applied within Council's remit to grow a PBCG's community-led approach.
 - d) **Mixed method:** Combines all of the approaches above (that is, A, B and C) to determine grant allocations while also considering what each PBCG received last year.

- 30 In applying the analysis options, the approved budget for the Fund remained a key determining factor.

Summary of findings

- 31 In summary, there are many different ways to rationalise how to distribute funds depending on which factors the Subcommittee considers most important.
- 32 The analysis suggests that in recognising a PBCG's development needs and equity challenges, the analysis indicates that some PBCGs could reasonably be prioritised for full funding based on identified equity and development considerations. The analysis was also used to check for the potential risk of under-funding.
- 33 In completing the analysis, staff propose that there are no PBCGs who should be 'not funded' as each are providing value for their communities and meeting local community needs.

OPTIONS

- 32 As the allocation of the Place-Based Community Grants Fund is a matter for the Grants Subcommittee, staff have not provided a recommended funding allocation. Instead, analysis has been provided to support elected members in determining grant allocations.

NEXT STEPS

- 33 Staff will notify applicants of the Subcommittee's decisions and administer the Fund in accordance with the DCC's Grants Management Policy and processes.

Signatories

Author:	Mai Tamimi - Team Leader Community Development Gina Hu'akau - Community Partnerships Manager
Authoriser:	Nicola Morand - Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy)

Attachments

	Title	Page
↓A	Summary of Place Based 2026/27 applications	44

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision supports democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities. This decision promotes the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Economic Development Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Environment Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Arts and Culture Strategy	✓	☐	☐
3 Waters Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Future Development Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	☐	☐

The activity of PBCGs supports many of the DCC's plans and strategies. Some PBCGs are also being asked to offer their advice in regard to Parks, Transport and Planning and have participated in DCC forums.

Māori Impact Statement

The majority of PBCGs work alongside Māori whānau in their local areas. A few PBCGs have engaged or are engaging with their local Marae, others are yet to develop their relationships with mana whenua or mātāwaka communities. Āraiteuru Marae is the exception being a significant place for Māori and other communities in Ōtepoti/Dunedin. Each of the PBCGs contribute to the values and outcomes in Te Taki Haruru.

Sustainability

Many of the PBCGs are implementing sustainability practices into their services and activities. This includes sustainability plans related to how they grow community resilience, diversify their income to support financial sustainability, and encouraging sustainable practices related to transport, food resilience and waste minimisation.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

PBCGs deliver community-led development. Working in partnership with the DCC means that many of the place-based activities relate well to the DCC's LTP and Annual Plan key objectives.

Financial considerations

There are no financial implications. The budget for the Fund has been approved by Council as part of the 9-year plan and budget.

Significance

There are no matters of significance.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Engagement – external

Staff have engaged with all of the PBCG applicants to ensure that their information is correct for the Grants Subcommittee and to understand the future aspirations of each PBCG.

Engagement - internal

The Community Partnerships Team are the lead department for PBCGs and the Fund. Other departments were engaged with when needing to verify information which included Māori Partnerships, Property, Parks and Recreation, and Waste.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There are no legal implications.

Conflict of Interest

There are no known conflicts of interests.

Community Boards

The PBCGs who are operating within Community Board areas have reported that they work well together despite having a different focus. Community Boards advocate to the DCC on behalf of community needs as per their terms of reference. PBCGs are independent of the DCC and deliver activities and services that are community-led and developed, in order to create or support positive change in their community.

Place Based Fund - Applicant Details - 2026/27

No	Name of organisation	Bank Account Name	Purpose of Funding	Total Exp from 25/26 accounts - <i>From Charities Register</i>	Amount Requested from Place Based Fund 26/27
1	Āraiteuru Marae Council Incorporated	Araiteuru Marae Council Inc	To support the operational wages of three essential positions Kaiwhakahaere (Manager) – 1.0 FTE, Kaiwhakarite (Administrator) – 0.5 FTE, and Kaitiaki (Caretaker) – 0.5 FTE	\$ 305,753.00	\$ 165,000.00
2	BIAS Charitable Trust	BIAS Charitable Trust	A contribution towards the wages of Community Manager and two Community Advisors	\$ 198,390.00	\$ 80,000.00
3	Caversham Community Group	South Dunedin Community Network	To help with the costs associated with the projects and activities undertaken	\$ 15,920.64	\$ 9,805.70
4	Corstorphine Community Hub Trust	Corstorphine Community Hub	To support staffing, operating and delivery costs	\$ 253,592.00	\$ 70,112.50
5	Greater Green Island Community Network Charitable Trust	Greater Green Island Community Network	Contribution toward wages and operational costs	\$ 361,162.00	\$ 65,000.00
6	North East Valley Community Development Project (The Valley Project)	The Valley Project	To help with operational costs including wages to support staffing	\$ 353,032.00	\$ 100,000.00
7	Progress of Waikouaiti Area (POWA)	POWA (Progress of Waikouaiti Area)	To support the core operations including wages	\$ 91,094.00	\$ 47,660.00
8	South Dunedin Community Network	The South Dunedin Community Network Inc	To help with staff and operation costs including rent	\$ 222,332.00	\$ 110,000.00
9	Strath Taieri Connect Charitable Trust	Strath Taieri Connect Charitable Trust	To help with the ongoing delivery and coordination of the STCCT's community-led initiatives	\$ 62,703.00	\$ 55,000.00
10	Taieri Network	Taieri Network	Contribution to the Salary/Wages of Community Connector	\$ 111,630.00	\$ 59,000.00
			Total costs of all applicants projects	\$ 1,975,608.64	
			Total Request		\$ 761,578.20
			Total Available for distribution		\$ 490,000.00

TE AO TŪROA GRANTS UPDATE

Department: Community Services and Corporate Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 This report provides an update on the Te Ao Tūroa Grants for the Grants Subcommittee.
- 2 Grants from the Te Ao Tūroa Fund (Fund) were originally distributed through the former Te Ao Tūroa Partnerships Committee between 2019-2021.
- 3 In 2021, the Fund was placed 'on hold' following the disestablishment of the Te Ao Tūroa Partnership Group.
- 4 Since 2021, the budget for the Fund has not been allocated as there has been no decision-making authority in place.
- 5 Following the approval of Dunedin City Council's (DCCs) 2026/27 Annual Plan, the Fund budget of \$61,000 has been allocated to the Community Partnerships grants budget.
- 6 This report provides an update on the Fund and outlines how it will be administered as a small contestable grant of up to \$5,000, consistent with Council's grant delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Subcommittee:

- a) **Notes** the update on the Te Ao Tūroa Fund.

BACKGROUND

- 7 Te Ao Tūroa Fund was originally established as an annual contestable grant programme with a total budget of \$45,000 to support community projects and activities that aligned and progressed the goals in the Te Ao Tūroa Strategy (2016-2026).
- 8 A subcommittee of the Te Ao Tūroa Partnerships Committee (Committee) reviewed applications and made recommendations to the Committee, which held delegated authority from Council to distribute the fund.
- 9 Grants were distributed annually, with applicants able to apply for between \$2,000-\$15,000.
- 10 The fund was placed on hold in 2021 following the disestablishment of the Te Ao Tūroa Partnership Group.
- 11 Between 2021 and 2026, the fund was not allocated as no decision-making body was in place.
- 12 Following approval of the DCC's 2026/27 Annual Plan, the Fund budget (\$61,000) has been allocated to the Community Partnerships operational grant budget.

DISCUSSION

- 13 Since 2021, community groups undertaking environmental projects have typically applied to either the Community Grant (under \$5,000) or the Community Small Project Fund (under \$500), as no dedicated environmental fund has been available.
- 14 Staff sought feedback across relevant teams to determine the most appropriate grant structure. Feedback indicated strong support for an accessible, low-value grant model similar to the Community Grant Fund (under \$5,000). A small contestable fund would also align with DCC's administrative capacity to manage applications and accountability processes.
- 15 It has been determined that the Fund is best administered as an under-\$5,000 contestable grant, open twice a year (March and September), which aligns with existing Community Partnerships processes for community grants.
- 16 Staff are developing the criteria and process for the fund, with the aim of launching it in March 2027. This timeframe will also ensure sufficient capacity to establish the grant criteria, application processes, and accountability requirements. The March 2027 funding round will enable the annual budget to be allocated within the 2026/27 financial year while allowing sufficient time to establish the grant framework and undertake promotion of the Fund.
- 17 As with Council's delegations related to under \$5,000 grants, successful recipients will be reported to the Grants Subcommittee following each grant round and publicly listed on the DCC website, along with all other successful grant recipients.

OPTIONS

- 18 There are no options provided, as this report is presented for information and noting only.

NEXT STEPS

- 19 Staff will continue developing the eligibility criteria, application process, and administration framework for the Te Ao Tūroa Fund, with the first funding round expected to open in March 2027.

Signatories

Author:	Gina Hu'akau - Community Partnerships Manager Meghan Cooper - Kaitātari Kaupapa Here Matua - Senior Policy Analyst
Authoriser:	Nicola Morand - Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy)

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities. This decision promotes the social and environmental well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Economic Development Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Environment Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Arts and Culture Strategy	☐	☐	✓
3 Waters Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Future Development Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	☐	☐	✓

Te Ao Tūroa grants will support community projects and activities that align and progress the goals in the Te Ao Tūroa Strategy (2016-2026).

Māori Impact Statement

Te Ao Tūroa Fund will support local community projects and activities that help progress the goals in Te Taki Haruru. The fund will help target investment in work that restores te taiao, as detailed in Autikaka.

Sustainability

Te Ao Tūroa grants will support local community projects and activities that help support sustainability in a broader sense.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

There are no known implications as the budget has been confirmed during the recent 2026/27 annual plan process.

Financial considerations

There are no known implications as the budget has been confirmed during the recent 2026/27 annual plan process.

Significance

This matter is not considered significant in accordance with the DCC's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement – external

Engagement has occurred with teams from within Council, and a few key environmental groups we work with in Community Partnerships.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Engagement - internal

Biodiversity, Enviroschools, Keep Dunedin Beautiful and Task Force Green.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There are no known legal or health and safety risks as the fund will follow the general guidelines we use for all DCC grants.

Conflict of Interest

There are no known conflicts of interest.

Community Boards

Community Boards will be notified once the fund is ready for grant applications so they can also promote it to their local community.

ANNUAL GRANTS REPORT

Department: Corporate Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 The Annual Grants Report provides Council with a summary of Dunedin City Council (DCC) grant funding delivered during the 2025/26 financial year.
- 2 The DCC supports a wide range of community outcomes through two funding mechanisms: Contestable Grants and Funding Agreements. Together, these approaches support diverse sectors across Ōtepoti Dunedin and hundreds of local community organisations.
- 3 The report also presents findings from an independent report undertaken by Fundsorter, which analysed grant-making across Ōtepoti Dunedin, including funding provided by central government, gambling bodies, philanthropic trusts, and local government.
- 4 The analysis provides insights into funding distribution across community sectors and highlights the areas receiving the greatest levels of investment.
- 5 This report explores opportunities to improve the impact, effectiveness, and strategic alignment of DCC grant-making and presents draft funding frameworks for the Grants Subcommittee's consideration.
- 6 The report seeks the Grants Subcommittee's feedback on the proposed format and content of an annual grants report to inform future reporting and funding oversight.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Subcommittee:

- a) **Notes** the contents of the Dunedin City Council's Annual Grants Report (2026/27).

BACKGROUND

- 7 A separate report will be provided to Council next month seeking approval to consult on an updated draft DCC Grants Policy (the Policy) through the Long-Term Plan process.
- 8 The Policy includes a requirement for DCC staff to provide Council with an Annual Grants Report that presents an overview of all grants funding allocated by the DCC over the past financial year.
- 9 The purpose of the Annual Grants Report is to:
 - increase visibility of where and how grants funding is being spent,
 - provide Council with regular analysis of what is being achieved through funding, and
 - provide data to support Council in its future strategic decisions regarding grants.

- 10 This paper is the first Annual Grants Report and sets out the proposed format and content of future annual grants reports that would be provided to Council through the Annual Plan process under the (draft) Grants Policy.
- 11 This report has been presented to the Grants Subcommittee to seek their feedback on the format and content of an annual grants report.

DISCUSSION

- 12 The DCC currently provides grant funding through two broad funding approaches: Contestable Grants and Funding Agreements.

Contestable Grants

- 13 Contestable Grants are annual grants that are open to applications from the public and awarded through a contestable process. Applications are assessed against funding criteria and priorities, and funding is allocated to those that best align with the objectives of the grant.
- 14 The DCC currently has fifteen Contestable Grant categories that each have a different purpose and criteria which are detailed on the DCC's website.
 - a) Biodiversity Grants
 - b) City Service and City Project Grants – Arts
 - c) City Service and City Project Grants – Community
 - d) Community Grants, plus
 - i) Neighbourhood Matching Grants, and
 - ii) DCC Small Community Project Grants.
 - e) Contestable Community Events Grants
 - f) DCC Community Arts Grants, plus
 - i) DCC Small Arts Project Grants.
 - g) DCC Professional Theatre Fund
 - h) Hapori Māori Fund and Pasifika Innovation Funds
 - i) Premier and Major Events Grants
 - j) Place Based Grants
 - k) Rates Relief
 - l) Waste Minimisation Grants

- 15 Under the current delegation set by Council in February 2026 (Attachment A), the Grants Subcommittee is delegated to approve contestable grants over \$5,000 and the Chief Executive is delegated to approve small contestable grants (\$5,000 and under).

Funding Agreements

- 16 The DCC also provides grants through a range of Funding Agreements outside of the contestable process. Some of these grants are annual, others are multi-year and formalised through Service Level Agreements or Property Arrangements.
- 17 Funding Agreements are typically used where there is an ongoing service delivery requirement, a strategic partnership, or a property-related arrangement and, as such, represent the long-term relationships that the DCC has with different community groups.
- 18 A full list of current Funding Agreements and agreement expiry dates (where applicable) has been provided as Attachment B. The draft Grants Policy explains that Funding Agreements are approved by Council through its Annual Plan and Long-Term Plan process.
- 19 Funding arrangements that the DCC is legislatively required to support, such as the Tūhura Otago Museum Levy, also sit within this category but sit outside of the draft Grants Policy, as the levy funding amount is determined by a legislative process.

2025/26 Financial Year budget and expenditure

- 20 Attachments B and C provide an overview of the budget and expenditure of all grants in the 2025/26 Financial Year (FY). The annual Contestable Grants expenditure 92% of budget, while Funding Agreements expenditure was 98% of budget in 2025/26.
- 21 The data shows an underspend in the Contestable Grants budget of \$307,389. This is mainly from an underspend in the Premier and Major Events Grant category (\$280,000).
- 22 For other Contestable Grants, their expenditure against budget shows that overall, these grants are well utilised by the community.
- 23 For Funding Agreements, there was an overall underspend of \$549,557 across a range of categories. The largest variances related to the Aukaha agreement (underspend of \$206,113) and the Event Attraction Fund (administered by Dunedin Venues Management Limited with an underspend of \$100,000) agreements. Aukaha grants are no longer included in the 2026/27 budget.

The funding landscape in Ōtepoti Dunedin

- 24 The DCC commissioned Fundsorter to produce an independent report looking at the funding landscape in Ōtepoti Dunedin. This report is included as Attachment D.
- 25 Fundsorter is an organisation that helps community groups find funding and supports funders to make informed, strategic decisions.
- 26 The Fundsorter Report (the Report) provides insights into the funding environment in Ōtepoti Dunedin to help understand the DCC's role in grant-making and how funding supports the local community.

- 27 The Tūhura Otago Museum Levy funding was not included due to the nature of the funding being legislative and to avoid distorting the data, as its size would significantly influence the overall results. In the 2025/26 FY budget, the levy accounted for 33.7% of the DCC funding considered across both contestable and non-contestable categories.
- 28 Grants to private individuals were also not included as the Report was designed to highlight funding for organisations. This means some contestable funding, such as the Hapori Māori Innovation Fund and the Pasifika Development Fund were excluded. Grants funding to Māori and Pasifika may therefore be slightly higher than represented in the Report.
- 29 Funding Agreements are referred to as 'non-contestable funding' in the Report.

Overview of the Ōtepoti Dunedin funding landscape

- 30 The Report identified several key themes within the general Ōtepoti Dunedin funding landscape including:
 - a) Funding allocation patterns: There is some misalignment between where funding is going and what funders identify their priorities to be. The data shows that of the \$22m+ funding allocated through grants from 47 funders across the city, funding towards sports accounted for 21.6% of all funding. This is despite sport being a named priority in just 3.1% of stated funding priorities.
 - b) Concentrations of funding among recipients: There is a high concentration of funding among a small number of recipients. 58.9% of all funding went to 10% of recipients, and fewer than 60 grants across the city exceeded \$50,000.
 - c) Community representation: The Report notes that minority communities are underrepresented in funding. Pacific peoples make up 3.9% of Ōtepoti Dunedin's population but receive 0.53% of funding. Rainbow communities are named as a priority for four funds but receive little actual funding. Ethnic communities receive only 0.35% of funding. Māori receive 4.3% of funding against a Māori population of 10.8%, but 42% of that funding comes from a single grant, meaning almost half of funding to Māori rests on a single funding decision.

DCC funding

- 31 The Report found that much of the DCC's funding goes towards areas that are already well funded in Ōtepoti Dunedin. \$1.1 million goes towards facilities and capital works (40% of the overall funding towards facilities and capital works in the report often goes towards sports and recreation facilities), and approximately \$1 million each toward arts and creativity, sport, and recreation – the top five areas covered by contestable funders outside of the DCC.
- 32 In contrast, DCC contestable funding covers a broad range of areas, supporting a wide range of categories and often those where funding from others is limited. Non-contestable funding (Funding Agreements) is more concentrated, with 26 of the 41 categories receiving nothing from non-contestable funding, which is often more long-term, sustainable funding.
- 33 The Report indicates significant overlap between areas supported through contestable grants and those supported through Funding Agreements.

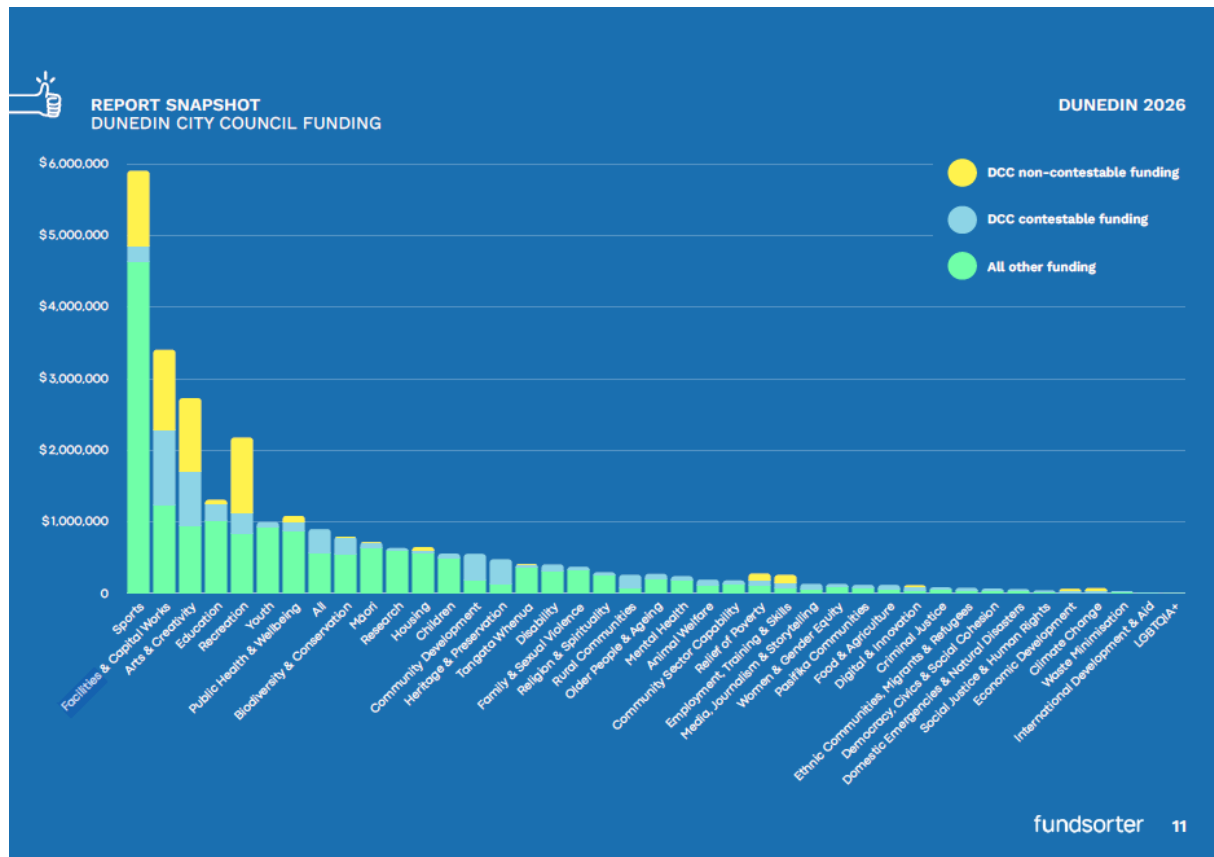


Figure 1: Snapshot of DCC funding across Ōtepoti Dunedin (Fundsorster, 2026)

National landscape

- 34 High levels of sports funding are consistent with funding patterns in other parts of the country. In the Christchurch, Waimakariri and Selwyn region, sport received 25.72% of the overall funding but was more consistently named as a high priority (Fundsorster, February 2026).
- 35 Funding for young people is underrepresented in Ōtepoti Dunedin. Despite 20.6% of residents being aged 15-24, the Report shows young people receive 4.4% of dollars across 196 grants. Comparatively, 28.2% of funding in Waikato focuses on children and young people (Fundsorster, July 2026).

Discussion points for Council

- 36 The findings in the Report provide Council with an opportunity to reflect on the DCC's role in the funding landscape across the city and how grants funding aligns with Council's strategic goals.
- 37 In particular, Council may wish to consider:
- Whether the range of categories supported through DCC grant funding aligns with Council's expectations and intended role in funding across the city.
 - How effectively the DCC's grant funding responds to the community's needs.
 - Whether the DCC's grant funding approach encourages long-term stability for community organisations.

- d) Whether DCC funding could play a more active role in addressing specific areas or gaps.

Strengths of the DCC's current funding approach

- 38 Providing funding through two different approaches (Contestable Grants and Funding Agreements) allows the DCC flexibility to support initiatives that contribute to community wellbeing. Strengths of this approach include:
- a) Responsiveness: The DCC's Contestable Grants funding is responsive to changing community needs and allows for equitable access to funding opportunities through an open application process. This form of funding supports established organisations as well as newer organisations or services that emerge in response to growing needs.
 - b) Stability and sustainability: Funding Agreements, particularly when multi-year, provide stability and assurance to organisations that allow for future planning and long-term sustainability. Long-term Funding Agreements also reduce the administrative burden on both applicants and Council's delegates.
 - c) Enabling community organisations: One of the distinguishing features of DCC grant funding is its willingness to contribute toward operational expenses (OpEx), such as rent, utilities, and wages. This form of funding, which may only be in small amounts, helps organisations to keep things running from an operational perspective, while seeking larger grants from other funders.
 - d) Leading the way: DCC funding can help leverage support from other funders to provide funding if they see some is already being provided by the DCC, as this demonstrates a level of trust or validity in the organisation that is applying.
- 39 Grants funding also allows the DCC to build and maintain ongoing relationships with the community. Some examples of where Contestable Grants funding has gone in the 2025/26 include:
- a) The Ōtepoti Garden Festival (Spring Programme) – The DCC provided a grant from the Community Events Grant funding to help deliver a free, family-friendly Garden Picnic Day at the Botanic Garden.
 - b) English Language Partners – The DCC provided a grant from the Community Grants funding to help cover rental costs. English Language Partners support adult former refugees and migrants living in Ōtepoti Dunedin.
 - c) Inspire Upcycling – the DCC provided a grant from the Waste Minimisation Grant funding to help support the reduction of textile waste for the op-shop, which generates around 8kg of textile waste per week from low-quality clothing donations.

Opportunities

- 40 Changes could be made to make the grants programme more impactful. There are opportunities to:
- a) better align grant types with Council's Long Term Plan Community Outcomes,
 - b) simplify grant categories,

- c) develop clearer pathways for applicants to move from Contestable Funding to a Funding Agreement, and
 - d) take a more considered and strategic approach to funding decisions (currently funding decisions are often made on an individual rather than system basis).
- 41 Examples of potential funding frameworks to support the use of grants as a strategic tool were introduced at the Council workshop on 27 August 2026. These examples have been provided as Attachment E for Council's consideration.
- 42 Staff welcome feedback and direction from the Grants Subcommittee on potential future changes to the grants programme.

OPTIONS

- 43 No options are presented as this report is for noting.

NEXT STEPS

- 44 Unless otherwise directed by Council, an Annual Grants Report will be prepared each year as part of the Annual Plan process.
- 45 If Council decides to change the funding approach to grants, the next Annual Grants Report will report back on progress towards any identified outcomes.

Signatories

Author:	Meghan Cooper - Kaitātari Kaupapa Here Matua - Senior Policy Analyst
Authoriser:	Gina Hu'akau - Community Partnerships Manager Nicola Morand - Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy)

Attachments

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↓A	Grants Review Council meeting Minutes 12 February	58
↓B	Funding Agreements and expenditure 2025-26 FY	62
↓C	Contestable Grants and expenditure 2025/26 FY	66
↓D	Fundsorter Report - the funding landscape in Ōtepoti Dunedin	69
↓E	Examples of funding frameworks	85

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This report supports democratic local decision-making by providing Council with information on grants funding allocated by the DCC. It promotes the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities by improving Council's understanding of how grants funding contributes to community outcomes.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Economic Development Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Environment Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Arts and Culture Strategy	✓	☐	☐
3 Waters Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Future Development Strategy	✓	☐	☐
Integrated Transport Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	☐	☐	✓
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	☐	☐	✓

This report contributes to Council's strategic framework by providing information on how grants funding supports a broad range of community outcomes and strategic priorities.

Māori Impact Statement

The report supports Council's consideration of how grants funding contributes to outcomes for Māori and the wider community. The report includes information on DCC funding provided through the Hāpori Māori Fund and analysis of funding received by Māori within the wider Ōtepoti Dunedin funding landscape. Consistent with the aspirations of Te Taki Haruru, the report recognises the importance of partnership and shared understanding in supporting collective wellbeing.

Sustainability

The report identifies opportunities to improve long-term sustainability of DCC grants funding. It highlights the role grant funding plays in supporting the long-term social, economic, cultural and environmental sustainability of Ōtepoti Dunedin. The report also identifies opportunities to strengthen the strategic alignment of grants funding with Council priorities and community outcomes, supporting a more sustainable and effective approach over time.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

The report relates to grants funding currently provided through Annual Plan and Long Term Plan budgets. It supports Council's consideration of the proposed Grants Policy, which includes annual reporting on grants funding.

Financial considerations

As this is a noting paper there are no identified financial impacts. Analysis of financial impacts can be provided if Council decides at any point to change its approach to grant-making.

Significance

As this is a noting paper there is an overall assessment of low significance in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Engagement – external

The report includes analysis undertaken by Fundsorter relating to the funding landscape in Ōtepoti Dunedin. No external engagement was undertaken specifically for the purpose of the recommendation contained in this report.

Engagement - internal

The DCC's Corporate Policy team has worked with Finance on identifying current grant budgets and 2025/26 Financial Year expenditure. Teams from across the DCC (including Parks and Recreation, Community Partnerships, Events, Enterprise Dunedin, Ara Toi, and Property Services) have been contacted to provide end of contract dates for Funding Agreements.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There are no identified risks.

Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest have been identified.

Community Boards

There are no direct implications for Community Boards.

12 GRANTS REVIEW

This report provided an overview of the 2025 DCC Grants Review, outlining recommended core policy settings to improve clarity, transparency, and strategic alignment across the grants system, and seeking Council agreement on these settings and the proposed next steps.

Manahautū - General Manager Community and Strategy (Nicola Morand) and Manager Community Partnerships (Gina Hu'akau) responded to questions.

Moved (Mayor Sophie Barker/Cr Christine Garey):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting until 3pm.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 2.55pm and reconvened at 3.02pm.

Moved (Mayor Sophie Barker/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meetings for two minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 3.20pm and reconvened at 3.23pm.

During discussion Mayor Sophie left the meeting at 3.48pm. Deputy Mayor Lucas chaired the meeting.

Mayor Sophie returned to the meeting at 3.53pm and resumed the Chair.

Following Deputy Mayor Cherry Lucas moving and Mayor Sophie Barker seconding a motion. Cr Mandy Mayhem moved an amendment to Item 1 (e). Cr Marie Laufiso seconded the amendment.

Moved (Cr Mandy Mayhem/Cr Marie Laufiso):

That the Council:

- e) **Confirms** its preferred Governance Structure for Grant Decisions is a Grants Subcommittee + Staff Delegations + Council Oversight where:
 - a) Staff allocate small grants under delegation.
 - b) A Grants Subcommittee (which include community representatives) allocates mid-tier grants, multi-year and large grants.

Division

The Council voted by division

For: Crs John Chambers, Christine Garey, Doug Hall, Marie Laufiso, Mandy Mayhem, Benedict Ong, Andrew Simms, Mickey Treadwell and Steve Walker (9).

Against: Crs Cherry Lucas, Russell Lund, Lee Vandervis, Brent Weatherall and Mayor Sophie Barker (5).

Abstained: Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 9 votes to 5

Motion carried (CNL/2026/021)

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Mayor Sophie Barker):

That the Council:

- 1 **Adopts** the following policy settings for Grants:
 - a) **Defines** a Council Grant as:

A non-repayable financial contribution to an external organisation or individual for a specific project that advances strategic goals the Council cannot deliver alone. It supports community-led activities and services that deliver a measurable public benefit, as outlined in the Council's Long-Term Plan, without expectation of commercial return. While primarily targeting not-for-profit organisations, grants may support for-profit activities where a clear and distinct community benefit is delivered and is demonstrably separated from private gain.
 - b) **Confirms** Council's Role and Purpose in Grant-Making is:
 - i) Stewardship – ensuring public funds are allocated fairly, transparently, and strategically;
 - ii) Partnership – working with community organisations as co-deliverers of community outcomes;
 - iii) Enabler – reducing barriers and administrative burden; and
 - iv) Accountability – maintaining oversight and alignment with Council priorities

- c) **Agrees** its priorities for Grant-Making are to:
 - i) Prioritise the development of grant approaches that more directly advance its community outcomes; and
 - ii) Refine grant structures and budget settings over time to strengthen this alignment, with further options to be considered through a future Annual Plan process.
 - d) **Confirms** its preferred approach to delivering grants is consolidation plus development of new community outcomes grants, including:
 - i) Consolidation of existing grant categories to improve clarity and consistency; and
 - ii) Development of new partnership-based grants aligned to priority community outcomes (for example housing, youth wellbeing, and health), subject to future budget and implementation decisions.
 - f) **Notes** that grant funding levels will be set through the Annual Plan and Long-Term Plan processes.
- 2 **Notes** That the agreed policy settings will inform the update of the Grants Management Policy (2019) and associated governance, delegations, and operational arrangements.
- 3 **Requests** that staff
- a) Draft an updated Grants Management Policy reflecting the agreed policy settings;
 - b) Develop implementation and transition arrangements, including any required updates to delegations and committee terms of reference;
 - c) Undertake pre-procurement analysis for a grants management system aligned with the agreed policy framework; and
 - d) Report back to Council through a future Annual Plan process with detailed options to strengthen alignment between grant-making.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/022)

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Mayor Sophie Barker):

That the Council:

- e) **Confirms** its preferred Governance Structure for Grant Decisions is a Grants Subcommittee + Staff Delegations + Council Oversight where:
 - i) Staff allocate small grants under delegation.
 - ii) A Grants Subcommittee (which include community representatives) allocates mid-tier grants, multi-year and large grants.

Division

The Council voted by division

For: Crs John Chambers, Christine Garey, Doug Hall, Marie Laufiso, Mandy Mayhem, Andrew Simms, Mickey Treadwell and Steve Walker (8).

Against: Crs Cherry Lucas, Russell Lund, Benedict Ong, Lee Vandervis, Brent Weatherall and Mayor Sophie Barker (6).

Abstained: Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 8 votes to 6

Motion carried (CNL/2026/023)

Moved (Mayor Sophie Barker/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

Adjourns for 10 minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 4.17pm and reconvened at 4.25pm.

13 GRANTS ALLOCATED \$5K AND UNDER

This report provided details of the Waste Minimisation Community grants that were awarded under the Chief Executive Officer's delegation in the September 2025 round, and the Waste Minimisation Small grants awarded by the former Grants Subcommittee Chair during the period March 2025 and October 2025.

Moved (Mayor Sophie Barker/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

- a) **Notes** that the Waste Minimisation Grants are funded by Waste Disposal Levy funds provided by the Ministry for the Environment and are not rates funded.
- b) **Notes** the approved funding allocated to organisations for Waste Minimisation Small Projects and Waste Minimisation Community grants.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/024)

Funding agreements 2025/26 FY

Grant category	Approved 25/26 budget \$	Actual spend 25/26 \$	Purpose	End date of contract
Discretionary Funding				
Mayors Scholarship Grant	5,000	4,135	Scholarship offered via the University of Otago to support a student doing an undergraduate degree at the University of Otago. The purpose is to recognise former Mayors and increase the strength of the Town/Gown partnership.	Decided through the annual plan
Remissions (hardship grants for rates)	600	20,126	Rates remissions for residents experiencing hardship.	Decided through the annual plan
Otago Museum Rates Rebate	8,266	-	Rates rebate provided for the café and operational areas.	Decided through the annual plan
Significant Trees Grants	3,000	3,000	The Fund for Maintaining Significant Trees provides a financial incentive to assist owners with the maintenance of significant trees listed in Appendix A1.3 of the 2GP District Plan.	Decided through the annual plan
Sister Cities	18,500	10,000	The Sister City grants are provided to the respective Sister City organisations to support their role in fostering and maintaining Dunedin's international sister city relationships. The funding is administered by each organisation and may be used at their discretion to support activities, programmes, and initiatives that further their objectives and contribute to cultural, educational, community, and relationship-building outcomes in Ōtepoti Dunedin.	Decided through the annual plan
Strath-Taieri Community Board	10,000	9,919	Funding for the board to grant locally	Decided through the annual plan
Mosgiel-Taieri Community Board	10,000	7,798	Funding for the board to grant locally	Decided through the annual plan
Saddle Hill Community Board	10,000	9,423	Funding for the board to grant locally	Decided through the annual plan
West Harbour Community Board	10,000	9,875	Funding for the board to grant locally	Decided through the annual plan
Waikouaiti Coast Community Board	10,000	9,581	Funding for the board to grant locally	Decided through the annual plan
Otago Peninsula Community Board	10,000	9,420	Funding for the board to grant locally	Decided through the annual plan
JobDUD Internship	50,000	29,344	Private businesses can apply for a grant of up to \$1,000 towards internship wages.	Decided through the annual plan
Total Discretionary Funding	145,366	122,620		
Community Service Agreements				
King's High School Artificial Surface	10,000	10,000	To assist with the development and maintenance of the artificial hockey turf at King's High School.	30 June 2030
Port Chalmers and Districts Lions Club	2,500	2,500	To assist with the costs of maintaining Lady Thorn Dell in Port Chalmers maintenance includes tree planting, plant removal, painting, litter collection and minor building, costs include but are not limited to paint, fertiliser, bark, bulbs and herbicide.	30 June 2027
Heritage Roses Otago	2,000	2,000	To assist with the costs of maintaining the Heritage Roses in the Northern Cemetery.	30 June 2027
Town Belt Initiative (Dunedin Amenities Society)	50,000	50,000	Contributes to the cost of employing an Education Coordinator to deliver the Town Belt Kaitiaki programme.	30 June 2034
Mountain Bike Otago	80,000	80,000	To assist Mountain Bike Otago with developing and maintaining the quality of the mountain bike tracks on approved DCC land to meet the grade specifications for each track, maintenance includes but is not limited to maintaining track width and slope, spraying, trimming vegetation, clearing drains, topping up gravel on tracks and signage. And upkeep of mountain bike tracks in Dunedin.	30 June 2031
Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust	15,000	15,000	To assist with the operational cost of the Trust managing the Okia Reserve. Operational work includes pest control, weed control and revegetation, maintaining a fire-break, maintaining tracks and existing fencing. It assist with the organisation and engagements of volunteers at the reserve.	30 June 2027
Dunedin Wildlife Hospital	100,000	100,000	To assist with the operational costs of the Dunedin Wildlife Hospital.	30 June 2028
Swim Coaching, Lessons and Pool Grants	226,000	226,000	Some funding goes to Sport Otago to support reimbursing schools for lesson costs (DCC contribute 50% and Kiwisport the remaining 50%). Funding also goes towards a number of community and school pool grants to assist with the operational costs associated with the delivery and access to swimming across Dunedin as Council run pools cannot always meet the demand. The remaining funding goes to the Dunedin Swim Coaching Board to assist with the running costs of the Elite Swimming Squads at Moana Pool, including lane and meeting room hire, and the delivery of quality swim coaching programmes.	30 June 2027

Library Taieri	2,000	2,000	Funding for the Outram Library and the Middlemarch library. We give them an annual grant for operating costs rather than provide a library service (eg physical library or book bus visits) in these areas.	Decided through the annual plan
Library Strath Taieri	7,000	7,000	Funding for the Outram Library and the Middlemarch library. We give them an annual grant for operating costs rather than provide a library service (eg physical library or book bus visits) in these areas.	Decided through the annual plan
Port Chalmers & Strath Taieri Middlemarch Museums	10,000	10,000	Financial support for the two museums - unable to find exactly what the money goes towards but has been going since 2012	Decided through the annual plan
Santa Parade	71,526	70,400	Funding for costs related to the storage of floats and equipment utilised for the annual Santa Parade.	30 June 2027 (contracted each year through the annual plan)
Dunedin Dream Brokerage	50,000	50,000	the Dunedin Dream Brokerage has a community service agreement and the funding they receive goes towards their annual operating costs. DDB works with the creative community and building owners around the city to foster unique and accessible creative projects in unused or vacant spaces and shop fronts. These events foster community interaction and engagement through engaging with the installations that are accessible and inclusive	30 June 2027
Tomahawk Smalls Beach Care Trust	15,000	15,000	To assist with the production of a minimum of 750 eco-sourced, native coastal PB3-quality plants, and to support the costs associated with growing, planting, and maintaining them, all plants must be native to the Dunedin ecological area, grown from eco-sourced seed or cuttings, hardened for coastal conditions, and meet the specified quality, potting, fertiliser, and health requirements.	30 June 2034
Dunedin Tracks Network Trust	50,000	50,000	To progress the Coastal Community Cycle Connection and the Taieri Trail. Funding will assist with planning, securing landowner permissions and easements, obtaining resource consents, and undertaking technical assessments, helping to accelerate the completion of these trails.	30 June 2034
Otago Nuggets and Southern Hoiho	50,000	50,000	Support for the 2 local basketball teams in the National Basketball League for 3 years from 2025/26.	30 June 2028
Dunedin Environment Centre Trust - Shetland Street Community Gardens	10,000	10,000	To assist with the operation of a community garden and plant nursery, and the planting and maintenance of Kaikorai Common, Bishopcourt (formerly Shetland Street Reserve), the Shetland Street Community Gardens, and Dunedin City Council land along the Kaikorai Stream.	30 June 2034
Total Community Service Agreements	751,026	749,900		
Service Level Agreements				
Dunedin Budget Advisory Services (DCC Electricity Fund)	185,000	195,000	\$25,000 is for DBAS to deliver funding of \$160,000 for people experiencing hardship in electricity. This fund supports around 400+ local residents every year.	30 June 2027
Cosy Home Trust	110,800	110,800	SLA for Cosy Home Trust to deliver insulation upgrades in accordance to the rules set by Government	30 June 2027
Aukaha Grants/SLA	250,000	43,887	To our rūnaka owned company to do consultant work for the DCC - such as resource management advice	Concluded
Edgar Stadium (Dunedin Indoor Venues Trust)	251,482	251,482	Funding towards operating Edgar Stadium	Decided through the annual plan
Surf Life Saving New Zealand	159,266	159,266	To assist with the cost of delivering of a weekday lifeguard service during the school holiday period at Brighton, St Clair, St Kilda, and Warrington beaches.	30 June 2027
Sport Otago Getting Dunedn Active	37,234	37,234	Getting Dunedin Active and Core Services (was two agreements now combined into one agreement) - To assist with delivering activities that encourage Dunedin residents to be physically active, including supporting participation in play, active recreation and sport, delivering community events, improving health outcomes through programmes such as Green Prescription and Active Families, administering community funding opportunities, and advocating for the development and maintenance of sport and recreation facilities across the region.	30/06/2034 (merged with the below in 26/27 budget)

Sport Otago Core Services	43,440	43,440	Getting Dunedin Active and Core Services (was two agreements now combined into one agreement) - To assist with delivering activities that encourage Dunedin residents to be physically active, including supporting participation in play, active recreation and sport, delivering community events, improving health outcomes through programmes such as Green Prescription and Active Families, administering community funding opportunities, and advocating for the development and maintenance of sport and recreation facilities across the region.	30/06/2034 (merged with the above in 26/27 budget)
Start-up Trust	294,300	294,209	Annual partner support (alongside the University of Otago and Otago Polytechnic) for not-for-profit charitable trust helping new businesses and entrepreneurs grow	30 June 2028
Dunedin Fringe Art Trust - Te Whare o Rukutia	50,000	50,000	Funding for the Fringe trust to manage Te Whare o Rukitia - our community gallery that offers free and accesible space for all community groups to put on performances/seminars, etc	30 June 2028
Green Island Combined Sports Bodies	45,000	45,000	To assist with the operational costs of running the Sunnyvale Sports Centre.	30 June 2034
Total Service Level Agreements	1,426,522	1,230,318		

Property Arrangements				
St Leonards Hall	8,500	8,500	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Civic Hall	2,000	2,000	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Portobello Hall	5,200	5,200	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Ravensbourne Hall	7,800	7,800	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Outram Hall	4,500	4,500	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Momona Hall	2,800	2,800	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Brighton Hall	5,150	6,438	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Fairfield Hall	11,500	11,500	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
OceanView Hall	5,148	5,150	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Strath-Taieri Hall	40,500	46,825	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Port Chalmers Hall	8,500	8,500	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Mosgiel Coronation Hall	16,800	17,430	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Waitati Hall	5,500	5,500	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Karitane Hall	7,000	7,000	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Warrington Hall	5,500	5,500	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Waikouaiti Hall	23,908	24,355	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Allanton Hall	2,300	2,386	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Harwood Hall	5,500	5,500	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	30 June 2034
Regent Theatre Trust	210,000	210,000	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	Decided through the annual plan
Otago Wellness Trust	85,786	85,786	Grant towards groups who manage DCC assets (hall/land/both)	Decided through the annual plan
Total Property Arrangements	463,892	472,670		

Grants Funded by Central Government Agencies				
Waste Minimisation Grants (Ministry for the Environment)	140,000	185,806	Allocates funding for small projects, community initiatives and commercial innovation and development from the Waste Levy.	Decided through the annual plan
Arts Grants (Creative New Zealand)	93,420	93,420	Supports local, community-based arts, cultural, and creative projects. It is funded by Creative New Zealand and administered by DCC.	Decided through the annual plan
Total Grants Funded by Central Government Agencies	233,420	279,226		

Other Grants				
NZ Masters Games Trust	115,783	115,783	DCC and Wanganui District Council owned - this grant goes to trust to manage the games through a hybrid model.	SLA commits Council until 2036
Marae Development	78,792	78,792	Split three ways to our three local marae, outcomes in advancing Māori community interests.	Funding redirected to the Youth Development Fund in the 26/27 budget

Film Otago Southland (Regional Partnership)	15,000	38,908	Regional partnership with other local government entities, screen industry leaders and Southern Institute of Technology. Funding goes towards general operations including includes regional marketing and promotion, workforce development, IP development, advocacy, facilitation and hosting production enquiries with the hope they land and create work in the region. In some case Dunedin based: screenwriters can apply for research funding, and crew can apply for travel support to get to training opportunities elsewhere in the region to their home.	30 June 2027
Total Other Agreements	209,575	233,483		
Legislative Grants				
Otago Museum Levy	5,278,603	5,278,019	Legislatively required to fund through the Otago Museum Trust Board Act 1996.	Process for determining levy amount is outlined in the Otago Museum Trust Board Act 1996
Total Legislative Grants	5,278,603	5,278,019		
Service Level Agreements to DCC Owned Companies				
Dunedin Centre (DVML)	757,000	757,000	An annual grant provided to DVML to enable community groups to access either the Dunedin Centre or Forsyth Barr Stadium through free venue hire, including coverage of associated event costs such as security and cleaning fees. This fund is available through two community rounds each year.	Decided through the annual plan
Community Access Fund (DVML) (same fund as above but split into two grant periods)	750,000	750,000	An annual grant provided to DVML to enable community groups to access either the Dunedin Centre or Forsyth Barr Stadium through free venue hire, including coverage of associated event costs such as security and cleaning fees. This fund is available through two community rounds each year.	Decided through the annual plan
Event Attraction Fund (DVML)	2,045,000	1,945,000	Ringfenced funding to entice major events to the city.	Decided through the annual plan
Total Service Level Agreements to DCC Owned Companies	3,552,000	3,452,000		
Total	12,060,404	11,818,236		

Grant category	Approved 25/26 budget \$	Actual spend 25/26 \$	Purpose
Contestable events grants	83,210	73,911	This fund supports local community events that reflect and celebrate Dunedin's communities, city and its people
Māori and Pasifika Innovation Funds (Hapori fund)	90,000	87,400	The Hapori Māori Fund and Pāsifika Development Fund were established by Dunedin City Council to support local Māori and Pāsifika to be active across the economy. The fund can support creative, cultural, youth and social enterprises as well as general business activity.
Premier & Major Events Grants	805,678	525,678	A premier event has targeted appeal but delivers significant visitor spend and national or international profile for the city. A major community event celebrates events that are important to the city and its identity.
Dunedin Heritage Fund (contestable funding to a third party)	680,700	680,700	The Dunedin Heritage Fund is a contestable grant fund administered by Dunedin City Council and Heritage New Zealand. The fund supports the conservation and continued use of the City's key heritage places.
Place Based Grants	490,000	490,000	Place-based Community Grants are open to groups focused on delivering placed-based community development within specific geographical areas of the city (communities and suburbs).
City Services Grants - Community	231,550	231,550	City Service and City Project grants support key and unique organisations to deliver services and projects that help the city achieve its strategic goals.
City Service Grants - Arts	231,550	231,550	City Service and City Project Arts grants support key organisations and projects to help the city achieve its strategic goals.
Arts Grants	175,600	172,600	Arts, cultural, and creative initiatives contribute to a vibrant, exciting city and funding contributes to a range of grants that support these activities.
Rates Relief	542,481	539,080	Rates Relief grants support non-government and not-for-profit groups that make their property available to help improve our community's wellbeing. This includes organisations that deliver social, educational, recreational, cultural, and environmental activities.
Biodiversity Grants	81,300	75,309	The fund supports landowners and communities to protect, manage and enhance the condition and extent of indigenous biodiversity across Dunedin city.
Community Grants	202,900	199,802	Community grants are available to groups providing activities and facilities for the well-being of the residents of Ōtepoti Dunedin.
Total Contestable Grants	3,614,969	3,307,580	

DUNEDIN

The funding landscape

An analysis of grant funding across
the Dunedin City Council area

fundsorter 

August 2026



FOREWORD



Gina Huakau
Community Partnerships
Manager

[Dunedin City Council](#)

The Dunedin City Council (DCC) commissioned Fundsorter to prepare this report so we can better understand how local grant making supports local people and communities. Across Ōtepoti Dunedin, people contribute their time, skills, and energy to keep community groups, neighbourhood initiatives, local projects and events thriving. While we recognise that the DCC's grants help support this vital community work, we also know we're part of a wider network of funders who invest in positive outcomes for our city.

To plan well for the future, the DCC wanted a clearer picture of our role within this funding ecosystem and how it compares with other organisations active in Dunedin. To support this, we asked Fundsorter — an independent organisation that helps community groups find funding — to provide an objective, data-driven view of local grant making. Their analysis looks at what funders say they prioritise, where funding actually goes, and how the DCC's own grant allocations fit within that broader landscape by reviewing 47 funders relevant to Dunedin.

The DCC also recognises that over the coming years significant change is likely to occur for both local government and community organisations in regard to funding. This report provides reliable, locally grounded information to help identify gaps, overlaps, and opportunities for positive change, so that we can ensure the DCC's grants remain accessible, fair, and aligned with the outcomes our communities value.



Lani Evans
Co-Founder & CEO

[Fundsorter](#)

Fundsorter exists to make funding better, reducing the administrative burden on community organisations, increasing equity, and strengthening the sector's collective insight. We believe that greater transparency, and regular, accessible data on where grants are going, helps everyone make better decisions. Funders can be more informed and strategic. Community organisations can advocate with stronger evidence. And together, we can develop a clearer picture of how funding is being prioritised across Aotearoa.

This report is part of that commitment. It offers a snapshot of funding priorities and flows in the Dunedin City Council area right now, and forms the foundation for tracking how those patterns shift over time. Data allows us to move beyond anecdotes and see the bigger picture — who is being funded, who is not, and what that reflects about our collective values and priorities.

We are pleased to be partnering with the Dunedin City Council on this report. We are grateful for their support in making this work possible. As you read this report, we invite you to consider what the findings mean for your own mahi — whether you are a funder, a community organisation or an interested citizen.

fundsorter 02



INTRODUCTION

There is a lack of accessible, aggregated data in the community sector, particularly about funding: where it goes, what funders prioritise, and how those priorities align with community need. **Greater transparency enables more informed decision-making.** It allows us to see how challenges shift over time, whether funding responds to those shifts, and where persistent gaps remain.

This report maps the funding landscape for the Dunedin City Council area by examining both stated funding priorities and actual grant distribution over a 12-month period. It provides an independent evidence base to:

- Inform funding strategy across the region
- Support more coordinated and complementary philanthropy
- Equip community organisations with credible data to strengthen advocacy
- Surface inequities not visible at an individual grant or organisational level

Aggregated regional analysis creates shared intelligence, and shared intelligence strengthens the wider ecosystem.

The analysis focuses primarily on contestable funding — funding distributed through an open or semi-open application process — though it does include some non-contestable grants. This report also examines service level agreements and their impact on the funding landscape.

The report aims to offer an aggregated view of where funding resources flow. It is not a definitive account of all investment: proactive funding, impact investment portfolios, and informal giving are not well captured here, and we have undoubtedly missed some funds in our data collection. Nevertheless, this report provides more information than we have had before, and gives us a starting point for discussion.

For community organisations, this report offers a stronger foundation for advocacy — whether that means seeking additional funding, highlighting gaps, or questioning allocation patterns. It may provide a basis for greater collaboration across the sector, grounded in shared evidence rather than anecdote.

For funders, the findings present an opportunity to reflect. We encourage you to:

- Understand funding trends in the city and position your work within the wider landscape.
- Regularly review whether funding decisions align with stated strategic priorities, and address any gaps between intent and allocation.
- Communicate clearly about both funding intentions and actual distribution. Greater transparency supports better-aligned applications and stronger coordination across funders.
- Ensure that stated priorities are matched by meaningful investment.

This report is intended as a contribution to shared understanding, not a judgement. Over time, consistent and openly shared data will build a more complete picture of funding flows and trends, and help us create a more equitable funding landscape.

A note on anonymity: we haven't named individual funders, other than the Dunedin City Council, which commissioned this report. We have reported by funder type and in aggregate, in order to describe the system.



ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report was commissioned by the Dunedin City Council. Ngā mihi nui for your support.

In total, this report analyses 1,768 grants worth \$22,503,429, across a city of about 128,900 (roughly \$175 per head), as well as \$4.7 million of service level agreements and a \$5.3 million legislative grant, both examined separately later in this report. We explored 47 funders operating in the Dunedin City Council. Of those, 42 were active during the 12-month time period (April 1st 2025 through to March 31st 2026), and also funded organisations (rather than grants to individuals, which are out of scope for this report).

We couldn't access detailed information for nine in-scope funders, so their grants could only be assigned to our general "All" category. That category also holds grants from better-documented funders where the individual grant record lacked detail. In total it accounts for \$897,854, or 4.0% of the funding analysed. For two others, the available data didn't align precisely with our focus period, so we've used their last financial years as a proxy, on the basis that neither had a change of leadership or strategy that would materially affect the comparison. And five further funders either chose not to participate or weren't able to meet the required timelines.

Class Four gaming trusts provided 31.5% of the \$22.3m analysed — the largest single source of contestable funding in the city. Philanthropic trusts and foundations (including family foundations, community trusts and community foundations) accounted for 28.5% and councils for 26.8%, with central government and statutory funders supplying 12.5%, and service clubs, corporate and iwi funders under 1% between them. The council share is contestable grantmaking only — other council commitments are covered later in this report.

How to read the numbers

Each grant is categorised by its focus, so a grant funding a teen sports programme is counted under both "sports" and "youth". Grants carry 2.1 categories on average. That means we can look at the data three ways. Each answers a different question, and none is more correct than the others.

The gap between reach and share of dollars is where much of the interest lies. A cause can appear in a great many grants and still receive very little money, or appear rarely and command a lot. Both tell you something useful about how a cause is funded.

We also report the average and the typical grant amounts. The average is the total divided by the number of grants. The typical grant is the midpoint — half of all grants were larger and half were smaller. The gap between them matters: Dunedin's average grant is \$12,728, but the typical grant is just \$5,000, because a small number of very large grants pull the average up.

The three measures used throughout this report:



Reach

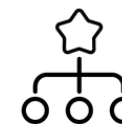
How often a cause appears, or the share of all grants that touched on it. Grants carry multiple categories, so these overlap and sum to more than 100%.

e.g. Sport: 31.6% of grants, nearly one in three



Dollars touched

The full value of every grant that involved the cause. This also overlaps, and sums to more than 100%.
e.g. Sport: 29.2% of dollars (\$6.6m)



Share of dollars

Each grant's value divided equally across its categories, so the total sums to 100%. This is our headline measure.

e.g. Sport: 21.6% of dollars (\$4.9m)

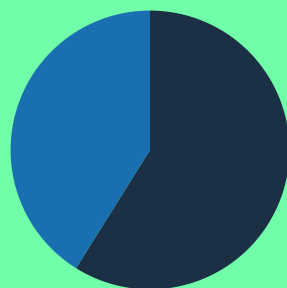
Where we say a category "received" a percentage, we mean share of dollars.

fundsorter 04



REPORT SNAPSHOT

DUNEDIN 2026



58.9%

Of all funding
went to 10% of
recipients



Māori receive fewer
grants but the grants
are 2.5 x larger than the
average grant



Ethnic communities,
migrants and refugees
are 11% of the population
and 0.35% of funding



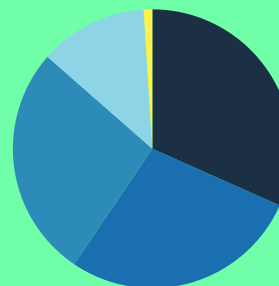
Education is funded
often and thinly. It
makes up 21.3% of
grants, 5.6% of funds



Sport is a named priority
in just 3.1% of stated
funding priorities but
received 31.6% of grants,
and 21.6% of funds



Climate change is barely
funded, receiving just
0.17% of all funding



Where did the funds come
from?

- 31.8% Class Four gaming
- 27.9% Philanthropic trusts and foundations
- 27.1% local and district councils
- 12.6% central government and statutory funders
- 1% service clubs, corporate and iwi



Disability is funded broadly
but in small amounts. The
sector receives 7.1% of
grants, 1.8% of funds

\$22+m
distributed

1,768
grants analysed



Fewer than 60 grants
across the whole city
exceeded \$50,000

\$5,000
typical grant

fundsorter 05



KEY FINDINGS

What the data tells us about Dunedin and funding

Sport is first on every measure. It's the number one category on reach (31.6% of grants), dollars touched (29.2%) and share of dollars (21.6%) — more than twice the next largest category. The average sports grant is \$11,765, below the average across the region. Sport gets a very large number of somewhat smaller grants, despite being named as a priority by just 9 of the region's 132 funds.

Young people are not well funded. 20.6% of Dunedin residents are aged 15 to 24 — far above the national picture, because this is a university city. Youth is the most-named fund priority. However, funding for young people accounted for 4.4% of dollars across 196 grants. A fifth of the population are youth, and the funding record doesn't reflect that.

Gaming trusts are Dunedin's largest source of contestable funding. Class Four gaming trusts provide 31.5% of the dollars and make 44.6% of all grants, so they're the funder most organisations are engaging with most frequently. Their typical grant is \$5,745.

Biodiversity and conservation is well funded with a typical grant of \$15,000, three times the typical Dunedin grant. But biodiversity and conservation takes 91% of every environmental dollar, leaving climate change and waste minimisation to share what's left, and the majority of that remainder comes from councils. Dunedin funds nature well, but funds the rest of the environment barely at all, and leans on one type of funder to do it.

Climate change is barely funded. Our most predictable crisis is almost invisible in contestable funding. Climate change receives just 0.17% of the pool, and no grants in the dataset explicitly name adaptation, flooding or sea-level rise as its purpose.

Everyone loves a building. Buildings are the one thing every funder in Dunedin agrees on. Councils, philanthropic trusts, gaming trusts and central government all fund capital works — 17 funders in total support facilities and capital works, one of the broadest funder groups for any category. What they're building is narrower than that suggests: 40% of the dollars spent on buildings and facilities goes to sports and recreation facilities.

Children aren't overlooked but they are underfunded. Children (aged 0 - 12) appear in 13.4% of all grants but receive just 2.5% of dollars, at an average of \$7,736 and typical grant of \$4,000 — the lowest typical grant amount of any major category.

Education has high reach, but small funds. Education is the second most-reached category (21.3% of all grants carry an education tag) but those grants account for just 5.6% of the dollars. Education gets exactly typical-sized grants; it just doesn't get the big ones. Only ten education grants in the year exceeded \$50,000.

Arts and creativity funding lines up. 19 funds name arts and creativity as a priority (6.5% of all stated priorities in the region) and it receives 7.6% of the dollars. That gap of just over a percentage point makes arts one of the few categories where stated intent and actual delivery sit close together. It's the third largest category by dollars, though the typical arts grant of \$4,258 sits below the city's \$5,000 norm.

Māori receive fewer, larger grants. Only 4.3% of grants are categorised Māori, but those grants touch \$2.4 million, or 10.6% of all dollars touched. The average grant involving Māori is \$31,309, more than twice the regional average.

Relief of poverty is named more than it's funded. Ten funds name relief of poverty as a priority (3.4% of all stated priorities in the region) but it receives 0.80% of the pool across 63 grants. At an average grant of \$9,604, poverty relief is underfunded relative to both stated intent and evident need. This is a consistent finding across regional datasets we have explored.

Arts, sport, education and recreation 40.1% of dollars granted. Disabled people, ethnic communities, rainbow communities, people in housing need and those in contact with the justice system take 5.3% between them.

Health funding is the one place intent and delivery meet. Public health and wellbeing appears in 11.9% of all grants and takes 4.5% of the dollars, a gap of about a percentage point, the closest match between what funders say they'll fund and what they actually fund of any large category in the dataset. It is also the most widely supported cause in the city, funded by 20 of the region's funders.

This analysis is not definitive, but it provides a starting point. Regular snapshots of this kind, taken over time, could help track trends, test assumptions, and support more deliberate and equitable allocation of resources across the region.

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KEY FINDINGS

Funding against population

Comparing funding shares to population shares is a blunt instrument. Not every community needs funding in proportion to its size, and some groups are supported largely through government services rather than grants. But it's a useful way of asking whether the funding record looks like the region it serves.

A city of students and retired people funds neither. 20.6% of residents are aged 15 to 24, far above the national picture, and 17.3% are 65 or over — more than a third of Dunedin at one end or the other. Young people receive \$38 per head, older people \$12.

Pacific peoples. 3.9% of the population, 0.53% of dollars across 34 grants, \$24 per head (as against \$175 for the general population). Five of the region's funds name Pasifika communities as a priority, more stated intent than for most communities, but the money doesn't back it up.

Rainbow communities are named but not delivered to. Four funds name rainbow communities as a priority, but little funding reaches them, with few grants and small average grant sizes.

Ethnic communities are the fastest-growing part of Dunedin and the least funded. 9.3% of residents identify as Asian and 1.7% as Middle Eastern, Latin American or African. Funding is only 0.35% of dollars.

Māori funding rests on a single decision. Māori and tangata whenua work received 4.3% of Dunedin's share of dollars, against a Māori population of 10.8%. Forty-two percent of that arrived in one grant. Remove it and Māori funding here looks like everyone else's — small, local and annual.

Disabled people are funded as a group apart. 17% of New Zealanders are disabled. Of the city's 126 disability grants, not one also names Māori, Pasifika or ethnic communities. Disability is treated as a category of person rather than as a dimension of every other community.

The shape of funding

Most organisations received just one grant. 974 organisations received funding, and 67.9% of them received one grant from this dataset. At the other end, the top 10% of recipients received 58.9% of the money, and the top 1% took 20.4% of it.

The funding landscape runs on annual grants. Less than 10% of grants are multi-year, and those are concentrated in government grants; gaming trusts and philanthropic trusts make very few. This explains why organisations struggle to plan beyond 12 months.

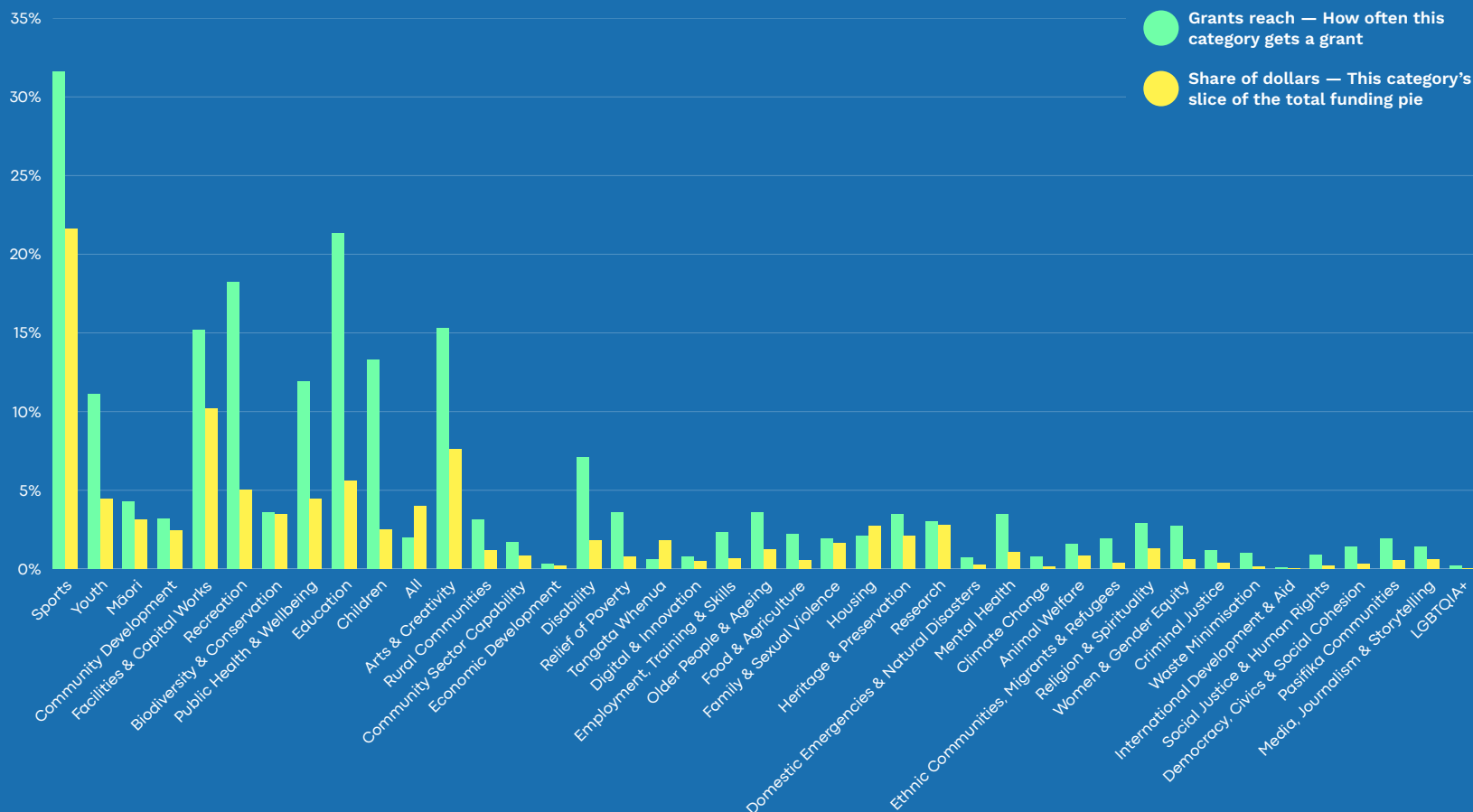
Grants are mostly small. Fewer than 60 grants across the whole city exceeded \$50,000. The typical grant is \$5,000. Most organisations will need several grants to fund anything substantial.

Grant size	% of grants	% of dollars
Under \$1,000	4.0%	0.2%
\$1,000 - \$4,999	37.8%	8.1%
\$5,000 - \$9,999	23.2%	11.7%
\$10,000 - \$49,999	30.8%	44.7%
\$50,000 - \$99,999	3.1%	15.6%
\$100,000 +	1.2%	19.8%



REPORT SNAPSHOT
FUNDING LANDSCAPE: GRANTS REACH VS DOLLARS

DUNEDIN 2026

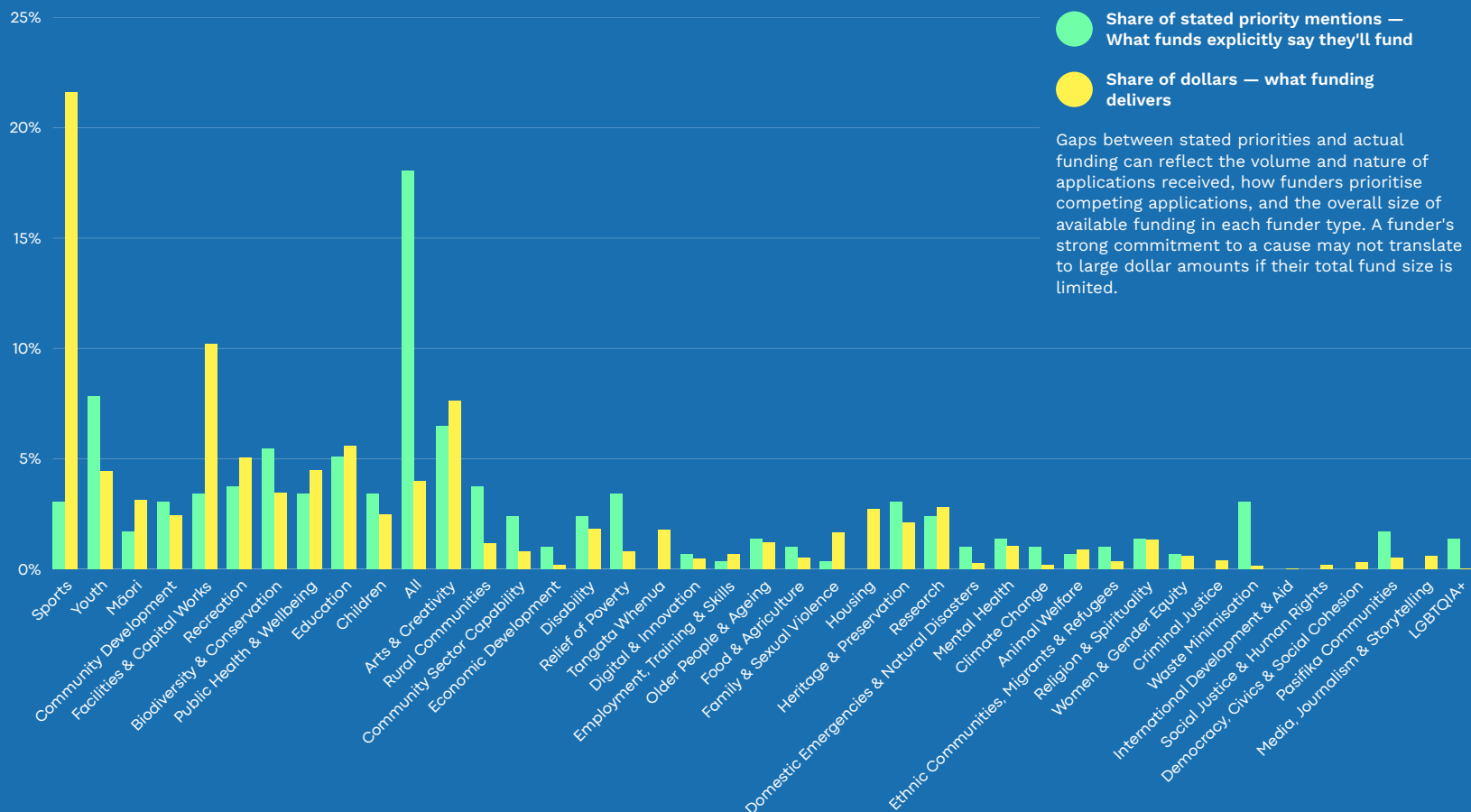


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REPORT SNAPSHOT FUNDING LANDSCAPE: PRIORITIES VS DOLLARS

DUNEDIN 2026



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KEY FINDINGS

Dunedin City Council Funding

The Dunedin City Council is the largest funder in this dataset. Altogether, the council distributed \$15.7m over the year. However, not all council community grants are included in the data above. We also received data on other funding from the Dunedin City Council: \$9.9 million in legislative and service level agreements.

These are not contestable grants. Such arrangements are less flexible and less community-led, set by contract or by statute, renewed on a cycle, and shaped by council requirements rather than applied for. Around two-thirds of the council's community funding is allocated this way.

Just over half of that \$9.9 million is a single legislative grant: \$5,278,019 to the Otago Museum. It is set by statute rather than decided by the Council, and the museum does not apply for it. At around one-sixth of all the funding reviewed, including it would distort every category it touches, so it sits outside every other figure and chart in this report. That leaves \$4.7 million of service level agreements and legislative funding.

It is a significant lever. Where a contestable round responds to what the community brings forward, this funding lets the Council decide directly what the city supports from one year to the next.

Most of it goes to areas already well represented in Dunedin's contestable funding: \$1.1m to facilities and capital works, and \$1m each to arts and creativity, sport and recreation — all categories already in the top five areas of the report on contestable grants.

Other categories also appear in this funding: employment and training (\$108,360), relief of poverty (\$97,500), public health (\$76,750) and education (\$50,676), and smaller amounts to climate change, housing, economic development, biodiversity & conservation, Māori, tangata whenua and digital & innovation.

Twenty-six of the 41 categories receive nothing from non-contestable funding, including disability, mental health, older people, and many other communities.

Where the money comes from

Three kinds of funding. The chart on the next page splits each category into three kinds of funding, because they behave differently: one is decided by contract, one by contest, and one by everyone else. Together they show where the Council is the main funder of a cause, where it is one voice among many, and where a cause depends entirely on funders outside the Council.

Dunedin City Council non-contestable funding, \$4.7m. Service level agreements and statutory funding, set by contract or by statute and renewed on a cycle. Organisations do not apply for these.

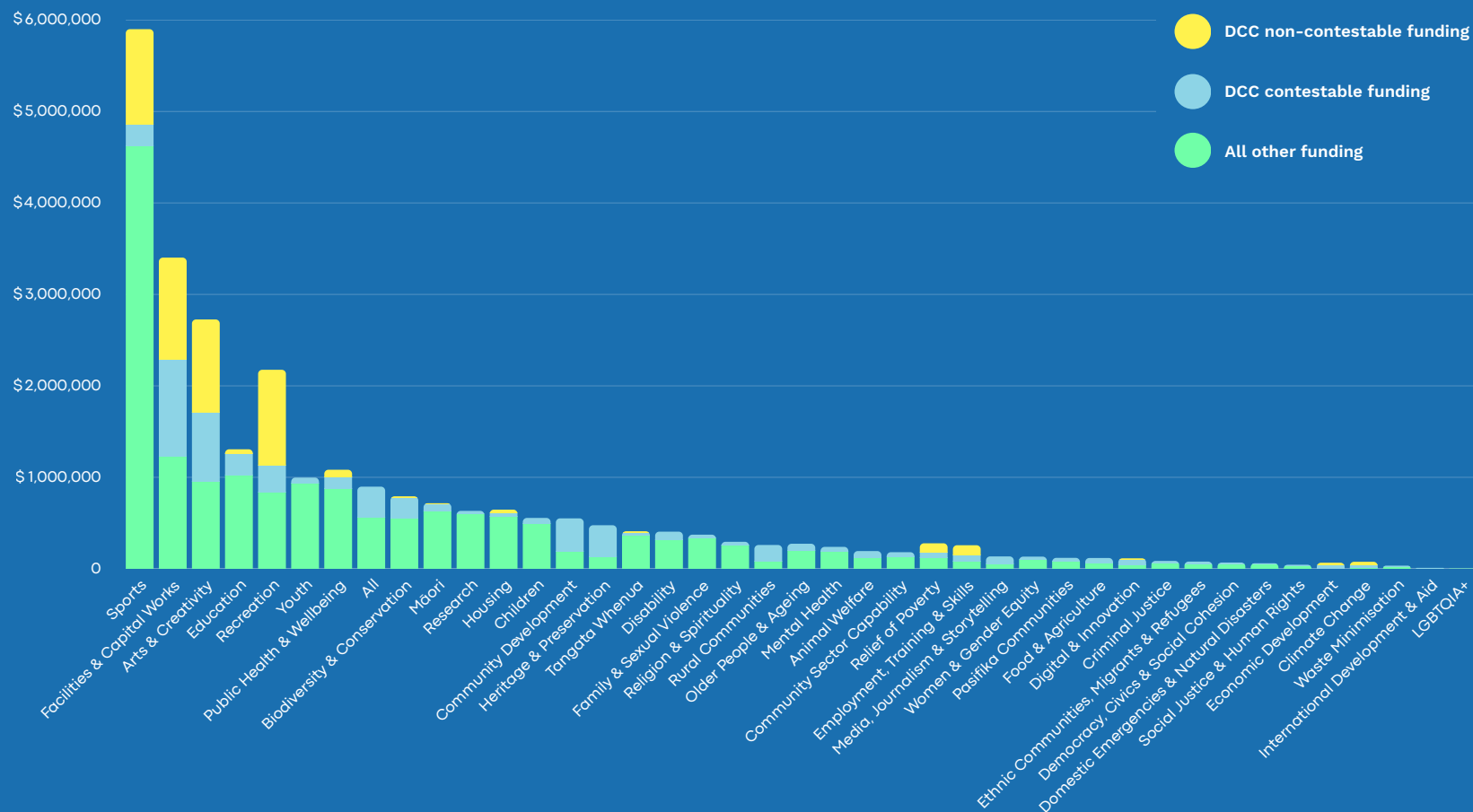
Dunedin City Council contestable funding, \$5.4m. Grants from the Council's open funding rounds, which eligible organisations apply for and which are decided competitively.

Other contestable funding, \$17.1m. Contestable grants from every other funder in the dataset: gaming trusts, philanthropic trusts and foundations, central government and statutory funders, service clubs, corporates and iwi.



REPORT SNAPSHOT
DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL FUNDING

DUNEDIN 2026



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NOTES ON THE DATA

Data exclusions

Grants for individuals. This report is designed to highlight funding for organisations, not individuals. Individual funding comes from a range of different places, including grants and scholarships which we do not collect or analyse. When we do find grants for individuals in datasets, we do not include those. In this dataset we excluded several medical and research grants made to individuals, and approximately \$170,000 worth of grants to individuals from the Dunedin City Council.

Data quality

Low quality data. We receive data in a wide variety of formats, and with varying levels of detail. When detail is light, we engage in an enrichment process, where we investigate the kaupapa of organisations to provide a better basis for understanding the purpose of grants.

Assumptions

Availability and accuracy of information. The report assumes that publicly available documentation and information provided by funders accurately reflect actual funding practices. Where information is incomplete or unclear, reasonable interpretations have been made.

Stability of funding objectives. It is assumed that the stated objectives of contestable grant programmes have been broadly stable over the period examined, and that any minor changes do not materially affect the overall purpose or intent of the funds.

Categorisation notes

“All” grant funding. Some funders have very broad strategies that encompass any work that is beneficial to the community. These are so broad that they cannot be allocated to more specific categories. An example of this would be a trust that “funds for charitable, philanthropic and sporting purposes.” On the grants side, “all” appears as a category when a funder has not provided adequate detail on individual grants.

Māori versus Tangata Whenua. These are two distinct categories in our funding data. Māori is funding tagged for outcomes benefiting Māori, or for projects led by Māori or kaupapa Māori organisations. Tangata Whenua is funding that is specifically for hapū or iwi.



FUNDING CATEGORIES

Fundsorter, in consultation with those working in the community sector, has created a list of funding categories that broadly represent the work carried out by the community or for-purpose sector. We understand that these categories are not perfect, but believe they are a good starting point for data analysis and conversations.

All. Funders with no stated cause, population, or kaupapa focus (e.g. discretionary community grants, general foundation rounds, community trust funds); used exclusively and never combined with other tags.

Climate Change. Climate change mitigation (emissions reduction, renewable energy, sustainable transport, carbon sequestration) and adaptation (community resilience, disaster risk reduction, climate justice), including related policy, research, advocacy, and education.

Biodiversity & Conservation. Protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing species, ecosystems, and genetic diversity, including predator control, ecological restoration, freshwater and marine health, and kaitiakitanga and mātauranga Māori conservation approaches.

Waste Minimisation. Reducing waste across the full hierarchy — source reduction, reuse, repair, recycling, composting, and resource recovery — including circular economy and landfill diversion initiatives.

Food & Agriculture. Access to nutritious food, sustainable food production, and healthy food systems, including community gardens, food rescue, food sovereignty, regenerative farming, sustainable fisheries, and mahinga kai.

Disability. Disability rights, inclusion, and practical support for disabled people and their whānau, including assistive technology, respite, supported employment, accessible infrastructure, the Deaf community and NZSL, and tāngata whaikaha.

Mental Health. Psychological, emotional, and psychiatric wellbeing across prevention, treatment, and recovery, including counselling, peer support, crisis response, suicide prevention, and kaupapa Māori approaches (hauora hinengaro).

Public Health & Wellbeing. Physical health services, health promotion, and population wellbeing, including disease prevention, clinical care, health education and equity, and kaupapa Māori models such as Te Whare Tapa Whā.

Children. The wellbeing, development, and protection of children and tamariki (pre-birth to age 12, sometimes 18), including early childhood education, parenting support, child protection, and hardship support.

Youth. Projects by or for young people and rangatahi (roughly ages 12–24, sometimes 35), including youth development, mentoring, leadership, cultural connection, and youth justice.

Older People & Ageing. Wellbeing, participation, and dignity for older people and kaumātua, including aged and palliative care, isolation and elder abuse prevention, and age-friendly and intergenerational initiatives.

Employment, Training & Skills. Building employment pathways, workforce skills, and economic self-sufficiency, including vocational training, job placement, social enterprise, financial capability, and support for people facing barriers to work.

Education. Learning across all life stages, from early childhood through tertiary and lifelong learning, including schooling, teacher development, educational resources, and kaupapa Māori settings such as kura kaupapa and kōhanga reo.

Digital & Innovation. Technology, digital systems, and social innovation as the primary focus, including AI for good, digital inclusion, civic tech, Indigenous data sovereignty (Te Mana Raraunga), and the testing and scaling of new social solutions.



FUNDING CATEGORIES

Economic Development. Growing local and regional economies and community wealth through entrepreneurship, small business support, financial inclusion, and Māori and iwi economic self-determination, with an economic-outcome lens.

Research. The generation of new, generalisable knowledge through original systematic investigation across all disciplines, tagged only where a fund explicitly supports research, study, or knowledge generation.

Māori. Outcomes benefiting Māori or projects led by Māori, iwi, hapū, or kaupapa Māori organisations across all domains, including any indigenous-focused fund Māori can apply to.

Tangata Whenua. Work specifically by or for hapū and iwi as distinct governing entities (iwi/hapū trusts, PSGEs), governed by tribal leadership or exclusively for members of a named iwi/hapū within a rohe.

Pasifika Communities. Initiatives led by or for Pacific peoples in Aotearoa across cultural, social, health, economic, and wellbeing outcomes, including language, arts, Pacific-led research, and MVPFAFF+ communities.

Ethnic Communities, Migrants & Refugees. New Zealand-based support for ethnic minorities, migrants, refugees, and diaspora groups, including settlement services, cultural identity, anti-racism advocacy, and social cohesion.

LGBTQIA+. Supporting Rainbow communities' rights, visibility, and wellbeing, including community services, sexual and mental health, anti-discrimination advocacy, gender-affirming care, takatāpui, and MVPFAFF+.

Social Justice & Human Rights. Advancing equity, justice, and human rights through advocacy, movements, and systemic reform, including civil liberties, reproductive rights, racial justice, and Te Tiriti-based advocacy.

Women & Gender Equity. Initiatives where women, girls, or gender minorities are the primary beneficiaries or gender drives disadvantage, including gender-based violence, reproductive health, pay equity, and leadership, encompassing wāhine, trans women, and gender-diverse people.

Arts & Creativity. Artistic and creative expression across all forms, including individual artists, arts organisations, community participation, cultural events, infrastructure, toi Māori, and Pacific arts.

Heritage & Preservation. Protecting, restoring, and transmitting cultural, historical, built, and natural heritage, including historic buildings, collections, taonga, oral and language history, urupā, marae, and wāhi tapu.

Media, Journalism & Storytelling. Media production, journalism, and storytelling across all platforms, including public interest journalism, documentary, community media, media literacy, reo Māori broadcasting, and Pacific and ethnic media.

Domestic Emergencies & Natural Disasters. Relief, response, and recovery for New Zealand communities affected by emergencies and disasters, including immediate relief, civil defence, rebuilding, and preparedness and resilience.

Housing. Housing provision and support addressing unaffordability, insecurity, and homelessness, including social and affordable housing, emergency housing, tenancy support, home modifications, and papakāinga.

Relief of Poverty. Reducing poverty and material hardship through both direct assistance (food, financial help, budgeting) and structural work addressing the systemic causes of disadvantage, including colonisation and Māori land loss.

Criminal Justice. The criminal justice system, its reform, and the people affected, including prison reform, restorative justice, reintegration, and te ao Māori approaches such as Te Pae Oranga and Te Ao Mārama.



FUNDING CATEGORIES

Family & Sexual Violence. Preventing and responding to family, domestic, and sexual violence and child and elder abuse, including crisis services, recovery, prevention, abuse-in-care support, and kaupapa Māori approaches.

Rural Communities. Wellbeing, services, and infrastructure in rural areas and small towns, including rural halls, connectivity, farming families, the primary sector, provincial "regional" New Zealand, and rural Māori and papakāinga.

Community Development. Building community capacity, power, and self-determination so local people lead and decide, including community organising and participatory planning — not merely activities that happen "in the community."

Democracy, Civics & Social Cohesion. Strengthening democratic systems, civic participation, and social cohesion, including electoral integrity, civic education, peace building, countering disinformation and extremism, and Treaty-based participatory governance.

Community Sector Capability. Building the capability, sustainability, and effectiveness of community organisations and the wider sector, including governance, fundraising, systems, workforce, networks, and Te Tiriti partnership practice.

Facilities & Capital Works. The construction, renovation, and fit-out of community facilities and fixed infrastructure (halls, marae, clubrooms, accessibility and seismic works), excluding standalone portable equipment.

Sports. Organised sport and physical activity from grassroots to elite, including club and youth sport, disability sport, facilities, events, and initiatives addressing barriers for underrepresented groups.

Recreation. Voluntary leisure and recreational activities for enjoyment, connection, and wellbeing, including outdoor pursuits, hobby groups, events, and the tracks, trails, parks, and halls that enable them.

International Development & Aid. Work whose primary beneficiaries are communities outside New Zealand, including humanitarian aid, long-term development, global advocacy, and international partnerships, excluding NZ-based work.

Religion & Spirituality. Religious practice, faith community life, and spiritual wellbeing across all traditions, including worship, chaplaincy, interfaith work, sacred spaces, and Māori and Pacific faith traditions.

Animal Welfare. The welfare and humane treatment of domestic, companion, farm, and wild animals, including rescue and rehoming, anti-cruelty advocacy, farm animal welfare, and stronger welfare standards.



ABOUT FUNDSORTER

Fundsorter is a social enterprise designed to help community organisations reduce the time and effort spent finding and applying for grants.

The tool brings together a comprehensive database of funding opportunities, a smart matching algorithm, and an AI-driven drafting tool that continually learns and improves. After creating a profile, organisations share information about their funding needs. Fundsorter then identifies the most relevant opportunities and generates tailored application drafts for selected funds. Soon, the system will also be able to generate accountability reports, streamlining the entire grants process from start to finish.

Our kaupapa is focused on creating a more equitable funding landscape in Aotearoa. We do this by making the grant-seeking process more efficient, more equitable and accessible for all; by providing education opportunities to connect community organisations to the emerging tech paradigm and; by collating, analysing and disseminating data that can help funders and communities make better informed decisions.

We are a small New Zealand-based team with experience in the community sector, philanthropy, technology and research. We work closely with users and funders to make sure our tools are useful, accurate, and grounded in how funding actually works.

Thank you to everyone who supported this mahi.

Report team



Lani Evans
Co-founder + CEO



Alanna Irving
Co-founder + CPO



Tonielle Purdy
Graphic Designer
[For Good Studio](#)

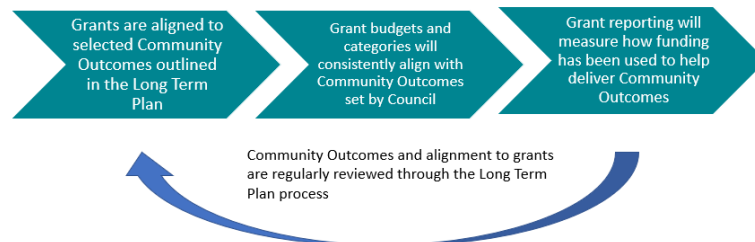
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Funding framework examples

- 1 There's currently 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 which are outlined in the Long Term Plan.
- 2 Examples of funding frameworks to assist Council with future funding decisions could include:

a) Grant funding based on Long Term Plan Community Outcomes:

- i) Council could align grant categories with specific Community Outcomes in the Long Term Plan.
- ii) Grant making would be used as a tool to advance strategic priorities and ensure that grants funding is aligned to Long Term Plan priorities.



b) Contestable Grant funding is redirected towards targeted strategic investment:

- i) Council could redirect all Contestable Grants funding towards one or two specifically identified strategic goals (such as young people or homelessness).
- ii) Strategic goals can be identified and updated through each Long Term Plan process.



c) A portion of funding could be used to advance Community Outcomes, with the remaining ringfenced for targeted investment:

- i) Council could decide the percentage of funding it would like to go towards progressing Community Outcomes and targeted investment.
- ii) Funding would continue to take the form of both Contestable Grants and Funding Agreements, with Council deciding the percentage split.
- iii) DCC funding would retain its breadth, with Council having the ability to strategically decide which Contestable Grants could move to Funding Agreements and which no longer align.



- 3 With all frameworks, updates on progress could be reported to Council through the Annual Grants Report. The framework approach could be reviewed regularly through the Long Term Plan process.
- 4 Any changes in funding approaches would need to be worked through with the community.

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

That the Subcommittee:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, exclude the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting namely:

General subject of the matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution	Reason for Confidentiality
C1 Confirmation of the Confidential Minutes of Grants Subcommittee meeting - 26 June 2026 - Public Excluded	S7(2)(h) The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	.	

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act, or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as shown above after each item.