Reprioritising COGS Funding to Support Community-led Development

Portfolio: Community and Voluntary Sector

On 9 March 2011, the Cabinet Social Policy Committee (SOC):

1. noted that the Department of Internal Affairs reviewed five Crown-funded schemes and concluded that better outcomes could be achieved for communities, hapu and iwi through community-led development;

2. noted that community-led development focuses on communities as a whole, rather than on specific programmes or activities, and is typified by broad community engagement to identify shared issues;

3. noted that the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector wishes to see a shift of focus in the community and voluntary sector portfolio away from small grants for individual projects and/or service organisations towards a community-led development approach which invests more directly and more strategically in communities as a whole, to achieve better outcomes for those communities;

4. approved the following changes to appropriations to fund more significant, and more effective, longer-term investment in community development, with no impact on the operating balance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vote Community and Voluntary Sector Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector</th>
<th>2010/11</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>2014/15 and outyears</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Departmental Other Expenses: Community Organisation Grants Scheme Community Development Scheme</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1,500)</td>
<td>(1,500)</td>
<td>(1,500)</td>
<td>(1,500)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Operating</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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</table>
noted that in May 2003, the previous government agreed that the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector be required to consult with the Ministers of Māori Affairs, Social Services and Employment, Women’s Affairs, Pacific Island Affairs, Rural Affairs, Youth Affairs, Senior Citizens, Disability Issues, and Ethnic Affairs regarding any proposed changes to the Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS) [SDC Min (03) 10/6];

noted that the National COGS Committee has been informed and was accepting of the rationale for the transfer;

noted that the Minister for Community and Voluntary Sector will publish the paper under SOC (11) 6 on the Department of Internal Affairs’ website after the Budget is announced in May 2011 and decisions have been made regarding the four communities the Department will initially work with;

invited the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector to report to SOC by 30 June 2011 on progress with implementing the community-led development approach in the four selected communities.