



Notes from forum held 20 March 2023 Via Zoom and at Community Waikato

Facilitator: Sarah Gibb, Community Waikato

Note taker: Amantha Bowen, Community Transport Lead

Attendees: Sarah Gibb; Amantha Bowen; Ollie Goulden; Maurice Flynn; Bay of Plenty council staff: Mary McLaren, Marry Norris, Kailia Lee, Brydie Such; Trudi Knight; Greg Morton; Robyn Atherton; Marnie Goodman; Alicia Leaf; Christ Fulford; Sheryll Fitzpatrick; Peter Till; Amy McNaughten; Leanne Oldfield; Tracey Boyd; Nicola Poutu.

Apologies: Bridget Doran

1. **Welcome:** This session taking place both via Zoom and at Community Waikato. Bay of Plenty Council are keen to learn from Waikato's Community Transport sector how to get started with a programme that supports community transport in their region.

2. **Health Sector Reminders and updates from Greg:**

Waikato Regional Disability Hui / Whānau Haua Forum - ONLINE

Monday 15 May, 4pm - 6pm

If interested please email: norma.taute@waikatodhb.health.nz for a link to the meeting.

Thames Coromandel

Thursday 11 May, 11am - 1pm

Hato Hone | St John Hall, 285/345 Tiki Road, Coromandel

Taumaranui bus trial is ongoing for now.

Te What Ora are engaging with councils to provide them with updates about what's new with health system and what the role of local government is going to be.

National Travel Assistance review last done in 2015 and the national policy no longer sits with Ministry of Health – it now sits with Te Whata Ora central, in Wellington. It is due for review in the second half of this year. Rural access and support are considered critical issues in the national health plan, and Greg has been advocating for our consumer council in rural areas here in Waikato to feed into that process. Te Whata Ora looking for stories OR data - directly from health consumers, particularly Maori. They want to clearly know that policy changes will have real impact for them. Greg can direct you if you would like to feed in. He will share more updates as they come.

Currently for Waikato NTA are relaxing the 80km requirement to ensure that road closure/diversions are not a barrier.

FYI Undergoing a phased review of employees under health employment -- plan decided by 1st July.

Strengthening outcomes for equity of service deployment.

Greg has a colleague querying whether patients from Tairua are needing to get testing done in Thames, or if there are other options. He will also seek to confirm whether the accommodation that has been offered in Hamilton is Accessible, per a query from Ollie.

CDEM has a limited time period they are deployed for providing support in the aftermath of an emergency, so we need to look better ongoing support for after CDEM finishes.

3. **Waikato Regional Council's Community Transport Fund Policy (attached)** was confirmed by council earlier this month. The application form is being finalised and we expect to open applications in April, with decisions and

distribution finalised by the end of May/early June. Information will come out to you all letting you know how and when to start your applications once it opens.

This fund has been allocated for distribution to better resource and support community transport across the region. The framework is expected to continue to evolve over the years to come, to reflect the developments we anticipate are coming in terms of direction and national support for community transport.

Highlights of the fund policy include that it is open to Waikato-based organisations providing community transport and will be processed through Smart Grants online platform. The total annual value of the fund is \$200,000 and there will be a maximum grant per application of \$10,000.

Successfully funded applicants will need to complete a 6 monthly accountability report template including basic information such as patronage values, volunteer hours, etc. This will be used to develop up-to-date reports on the success of the Community Transport Fund.

4. **2022 Forum dates**

Please email through any agenda item suggestions to Amantha Bowen Amantha.Bowen@waikatoregion.govt.nz

19 June, 2023

18 September, 2023

4 December, 2023

Waikato Regional Council Community Transport Grant Fund Policy

Draft as at 20 March 2023

DRAFT



Policy Statement

Community Transport supports our communities by providing flexible and accessible community-led solutions in response to unmet local transport needs. It often represents the only means of transport for many vulnerable and isolated people, often older people, or people with disabilities.

Community transport typically:

- a) relies on volunteers and fundraising
- b) has low operating costs and draws very highly on community good will to deliver higher value services than to a public transport equivalent
- c) can generate significant benefits for communities by reducing isolation, enabling access to healthcare, education, and social opportunities.
- d) is an effective transport solution in smaller towns and rural areas and complements council's public transport network.

The Council has established a contestable fund through the 2022/23 Annual Plan to better support community transport providers.

Purpose

Policy Purpose

- The purpose of this policy is to identify the framework for Community Transport Grant (CT Grant) applications, general conditions, the prioritisation criteria to target application selections and the payment and contractual arrangements.

Grant Purpose

- Waikato Regional Council (WRC) wishes to encourage and support work done by community transport providers within the Waikato region by providing a grant toward operations.

Grant Funding

- Fund has a value of \$200,000 per annum, for community transport grants, with a maximum grant of \$10,000 per application.

Policy Principles

- **Funding Outcomes**
 - With this funding Waikato Regional Council aims to support the ongoing value added to communities through community transport groups.
 - **Applicants eligible to apply**
 - This funding is available to community transport groups who can demonstrate that they
 - are based in Waikato region
 - serving an area where public transport does not currently meet people's needs for participation
 - will retain a legal entity status:
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- incorporated societies, or
 - registered charitable trusts, or
 - a maori reservation/marae, or
 - a limited liability company fully owned by one of the above;
 - are a not-for-profit, non-government, or non-commercial organisation
 - comply with applicable legislation;
 - are able to manage financial accounts and meet reporting requirements.
- **Allocation Criteria**
 - Applications will be prioritised using the following criteria:
 1. Applicant has not received a CT Grant Fund allocation in the current financial year.
 2. Applicant will be primarily serving an area where there is not currently public transport adequate to meeting people's needs for participation.
 3. Applicant demonstrates responsiveness to community need.
 4. Applicant intends to provide transport to best suit their community's needs.
 5. Applicant intends to provide transport which supports people to remain in their chosen community.
 6. Preference will be given to organisations whose primary activity is community transport.
 7. Preference given to an applicant who requires funding to support running costs (e.g. vehicle repairs, fuel costs, staff training, insurances, booking and accounting software, etc) over innovative pursuits.
 - **Fund Budget**
 - The CT Grant fund budget available per annum is \$200,000. A maximum grant of \$10,000 is available per application.
 - Where the full budget is not claimed by the initial financial year's applications, council assessors may distribute the remainder of funding to existing applicants as appropriate.

Annual CT Grant Fund Application Evaluations

- CT Grant Fund applications will be assessed and awarded through a contestable evaluation process annually.
 - Applicants will complete an online application through an online portal such as SmartyGrants.
 - Applications will be assessed by Council representatives and a determination will be made if there are any relevant grant conditions.
 - Where applications exceed the annual grants budget, applications will be prioritised and/or grants reduced.
- **Support for applicants**
 - WRC staff will be available to provide advice to applicants and to answer any questions regarding eligibility or criteria.
- **CT Grant obligations & Payment**
 - Successful applicants will be required to:
 - Sign a WRC funding agreement (Doc# 25622881) which will identify the approved grant value, conditions, and the length of service obligation.
 - Operate within the terms imposed by the funding agreement.

- Complete a 6 monthly accountability report template including information such as patronage values, volunteer hours, and types of trips undertaken. Council will use this to develop up-to-date reports on the success of its community transport support.

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