

Heritage Assistance Fund

TO	Thames Community Board
FROM	Greg Hampton - Area Manager
DATE	21 October 2015
SUBJECT	Heritage Assistance Fund

1 Purpose of Report

For the Thames Community Board to determine if it will use the current district criteria or develop its own for the administration of its portion of the Heritage Assistance Fund.

2 Background

In 1992, the Thames Community Board began investigations along with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust into setting up a Heritage Committee and assistance fund. In 1996, it was resolved by Council that the Heritage Committee would be established and the first meeting of the Heritage Committee was held on 30 April 1997.

There were provisions in the 1996/1997 Annual Plan for meeting the costs for six meetings in 1996/1997 and the same again for 1997/1998.

In the Thames Community Board recommendations to Council for establishing the Heritage Committee, a Heritage Fund of \$15,000 provided by the Thames Community Board through their 1994/1995 Business Plan was also included and this was confirmed with the opening of a special bank account by the Area Manager in 1997 and a deposit of \$15,000 was made.

The last meeting of the Heritage Committee was held on 20 August 1997 and at that time, the Committee was still working on the criteria for administering the heritage fund with input from Council and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, and several other projects were underway. Due to other priorities, the meeting of the Committee ceased and no more meetings of the Heritage Committee have been held since August 1997.

The Operative District Plan contains Objectives, Policies and Methods for Heritage Resources. These Objectives, Policies and Methods include the following:

214.3 OBJECTIVE:

To conserve, protect and enhance the buildings, items, streetscapes, trees, landscape features, archaeological sites and Waahi Tapu, which are of recognised significant cultural, historic, architectural, aesthetic, scientific or special heritage value in the District and to ensure that new works do not compromise those values.

214.4 POLICIES:

.1 To provide for the effective protection of objects, sites, places and building with heritage value.

.2 To enhance and promote heritage values wherever possible throughout the District.

214.5 METHODS:

.10 Establish a District heritage assistance fund to provide financial assistance for resource

consents required under the District Plan and to encourage other conservation work. These funds are administered by the Heritage Committee.

.11 Provide regular advice clinics by people with heritage conservation expertise, on heritage conservation generally.

Neither the Heritage Committee nor the Heritage Assistance Fund has been successfully established since the decisions version of the District Plan was released in 1999. Funding for the Heritage Assistance fund has been included in the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan Budgets since 2005/06, but in the absence of assessment criteria for administration of the fund it was not utilised for the following two financial years.

Through stakeholder consultation on the Heritage Strategy in 2006/07, actions in the Heritage Strategy were prioritised and among the top five actions were the following two:

- *Establish a Heritage Committee – develop terms of reference for a Heritage Committee and have an established arm of Council absorb the roles and functions of the Heritage Committee, such as the Policy and Planning Committee.*
- *Establish a Heritage Assistance Fund to provide financial assistance for resource consents required under the District Plan (for scheduled Heritage items due to their identified heritage status), and to encourage other conservation work – administered by the Heritage Committee or similar.*

In 2008, the report “*Heritage Strategy*” was received by Council. The report covered the status of the Heritage Strategy for the Coromandel Peninsula and was put forward with the recommendation from the then Policy and Planning Committee to adopt the draft Heritage Strategy. The Council subsequently resolved to:

2. *Resolves to adopt the Draft Heritage Strategy with the amendment that the funding of oral histories is removed.*

An assessment criteria was then adopted and an amount of \$15,000 was made available for the Heritage Assistance Fund through the Long Term Plan process to be used as intended in the District Plan. It should be noted that this criteria was focussed on Council assistance to landowners when required to apply for resource consent because a building is listed in the District Plan. (**Attachment A**)

In the absence of a Heritage Committee, and in order for Council to be able to administer the Heritage Assistance Fund, Council provided delegation to the then Development Planning Manager to determine applications to the Heritage Assistance Fund for up to \$2000 and applications for assistance over \$2,000 to be considered by the then Policy & Planning Committee .

3 Issue

Council has statutory obligations and requirements under several Acts, most notably the Resource Management Act 1991, to manage and protect heritage. These obligations and requirements are reflected in the various policy statements and plans of the Council including the District Plan and the policy documents of other organisations (e.g. the Waikato Regional Policy Statement, etc).

The Grants and Remissions Activity in the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan includes funding to continue the provision of the Heritage Assistance Fund for the next ten years.

At its 13 May 2015 Long Term Plan deliberations Council requested that the \$30,000 budget be distributed to the Community Board areas based on the rating base per area for

2015/16.

The following calculations have been assessed based on the percentage of rating units per area:

Area	Percentage (%)	Budget (\$)
Coromandel-Colville	9.4	2,847
Thames	20.1	6,030
Mercury Bay	33.5	10,050
Tairua-Pauanui	16.55	4,965
Whangamata	20.4	6,108

Discussion

With only seven months of the financial year remaining the Board could choose to a) adopt the district criteria for 2015/2016 or b) allocate the \$6,030 based on requests received or other identified needs

A Thames area specific policy and criteria could be developed and adopted by the Board in time for the 2016/2017 year.

4 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Thames Community Board:

1. Receives the Heritage Assistance Fund report.
2. Determines whether to adopt the district criteria to administer the Thames Heritage Assistance Fund for the 2015/2016 year.
3. Instructs staff to draft a Thames area specific policy and criteria to administer the Thames Heritage Assistance Fund from 1 July 2016 onwards.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A - Adopted Assessment Criteria

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