

Application for community events grant - Jack McLean Community Recreation Centre opening

TO Thames Community Board
FROM Brian Robson - Community Manager
DATE 22 January 2018
SUBJECT **Application for community events grant - Jack McLean Community Recreation Centre opening**

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is for the Thames Community Board to consider a Community Event Grant application requesting \$800 to cover the costs associated with an opening ceremony event for the Jack McLean Community Recreation Centre..

2 Background

The Jack McLean Community Recreation Centre is an important facility for Thames and the various stakeholder groups are eager to start using it in 2018. The project has been beset with difficulties that have resulted in additional costs and delays, but Friday February 16th has been set as the agreed start date.

3 Issue

The opening of such a high-profile facility is a generational event that ought to be given due significance so that the occasion creates a permanent impression on those present. Food and refreshment are key ingredients in any successful event as some VIP visitors may have travelled some distance to attend and people from the local community appreciate the opportunity for interaction that comes with sharing sustenance.

The ceremony will be in two phases; firstly Ngati Maru will offer a blessing at dawn, and a karakia is always followed by hospitality for the participants and a koha for the Iwi; secondly, a ceremonial opening will take place at 10am with speeches and performance, followed by refreshments for those in attendance.

4 Discussion

As this is a one-off event for the Thames community, it is recommended that the costs associated with it be covered by the Thames Community Board events funding. Otherwise the cost will be drawn from the project budget and this decision could prove contentious with sponsors and the public, given the cost-overruns to date.

\$600 is requested to cover the Ngati Maru contribution and a further \$900 to cater the morning tea for dignitaries, sponsors and key stakeholders like the McLean family.

The Thames Community Board has a contestable fund of \$15,000 and \$5,900 of that amount has been allocated thus far this year to community groups, leaving \$9,100 remaining to be considered for distribution from this fund. A further grant of \$1,500 is under consideration for the Thames Heritage Event Trust

5 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Thames Community Board:

1. Receives the 'Application for Community Events Grant - Jack McLean Community Recreation Centre Opening' report, dated 19 January 2018.
2. Approves a grant of \$1,500 to the for the purpose of catering for attendees and compensating Ngati Maru for their contribution.