



Report 03.410
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Committee Environment Committee
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Take Care funding policy

1. Purpose

To seek the approval of the Committee to change the policy for funding care groups.

2. Background

Councillors will be aware that successful applicants to the *Take Care* fund are able to access funding of \$19,000 over four years. This is \$5,000 in the first year, \$10,000 in the second year, and \$2,000 in each of the third and fourth years. This policy was determined by the Committee in September 2000 (Report 00.675).

3. Discussion

Experience thus far, however, suggests that some groups find it difficult to utilise these funds effectively, particularly when they are just starting out and in Year Two when \$10,000 is available. Community group processes of deciding what needs to be done and how best to achieve environmental aims often take longer than the groups expect. Organising the supply of \$10,000 of materials and plants and carrying out the work needed is time consuming and the groups can run out of time. They then seek our agreement to carry over some of their allocated funds. In addition, other groups that have been working successfully on projects are requesting that funds be available for a fifth year and at a very low level of, say, \$1000.

The next round of the fund will be advertised shortly. Before this happens we would like to change the original funding policy to meet better the needs of the groups and avoid the unnecessary carrying over of budgets. We propose a “smoother” and longer funding allocation of \$3,000 in year one, \$5,000 in years two, three and four, and \$1,000 in year five (\$19,000 in total). This would apply to new applications approved this year and those in future years.

For existing groups which want an additional fifth year, or voluntarily seek a smoothing of their funding over a five year period, this would be approved on a

case by case basis over the next two years, but not in such a way that the Council's performance indicator for the care programme was compromised.

This proposed change will not have a bearing on the overall budget for the programme or on the commitment in Take 10 to fund five new care groups per annum.

4. Communication

Once the new arrangement has been approved, a new application brochure will be prepared and applications called for in August.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee

- 1. **approve** the change in the funding parameters for groups in the Take Care environmental care programme.*

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