

# Community Sport and Recreation Loans Scheme Policy (#3212)

Adopted: May 2014

## Background

Between 2004 and 2008 sports groups could apply to the Community Board for the Community Sport Fund that was allocated twice a year “to encourage the use of recreational assets and/or increase the level of recreational activity in the District.” This fund was later replaced by the Community Fund [Policy #3209 – Community Funds]. The goal of the Community Fund is broader than the Community Sport Fund and is “to further the promotion and development of good quality infrastructure and local public services within the communities which have the widest benefit to the ratepayers.”

As part of Council’s Annual Plan/LTCCP process the Council has made available capital grants to sports groups such as BaySport Inc in Kerikeri or Kaitia Gymnastic Club so they could develop their own facilities on Council land. These grants have been used by the sports groups to leverage external funding.

There is now a demand from community sport and recreation groups for a loan fund for major capital projects. This loan facility would be available for sports or recreation groups located on Council land that can demonstrate they have the ability to repay a loan facility. These loans would only be available to improve or develop new or existing sports facilities that have been identified in relevant strategy or reserve management plans.

It is expected that the approval of a loan will also enable sports and recreation groups to leverage external funding.

## Objective

To provide a broad range of recreation and sport facilities in the Far North District through the allocation of the Community Sport and Recreation Loans Scheme.

## Policy Statements

1. As part of Council’s Annual Plan/LTCCP process Council may allocate loans to sports and recreation clubs who can demonstrate the ability to repay loans within the agreed period.
2. Applications must be not-for-profit groups whose activities provide opportunities for residents of the Far North particularly its children and youth, people with disabilities and people with limited incomes.
3. Organisations must be incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 or the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 and must have provision in their constitution to borrow money.
4. Loans are for a maximum of 10 years (normally 5 years) at the current interest per annum.

5. These loans would only be available to improve or develop new or existing sports or recreation facilities on Council land.
6. Capital projects must be identified in regional or national sports organisation's facility plans, Council's Recreation Plan or reserve management plans.

## Procedures

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1. All applicants must complete the Community Sport and Recreation Loan Scheme Application Form.
2. The following criteria must be met by all applicants:
  - a. A community based not-for-profit recreation or sporting organisation.
  - b. Be based in the Far North area with the facility being provided primarily for Far North residents.
  - c. Must have provided accountability reports for all previous Council funding and have no unresolved or outstanding accountability issues including outstanding debt to Council.
  - d. Must have had the funding application approved at a properly convened committee meeting and in writing.
  - e. Must provide evidence of the need for the project from their regional or national sporting body.
  - f. Have appropriate financial management, accounting, monitoring and reporting practices.
  - g. Be able to demonstrate the ability to make loan repayments. Payments to be made on a quarterly basis.
  - h. Have sound governance and appropriate operational capability and capacity to deliver to the level as agreed.
  - i. Be able to commit to collaboration and partnering, where appropriate.