

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

12 DECEMBER 2013

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>MERSEYSIDE POLICE ENGAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR WIRRAL WEST</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>WARDS WITHIN THE WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL WEST)</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>CABINET MEMBER – NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The Wirral West Constituency Committee resolved at its last meeting:

“That a report be presented to the next meeting of the Committee upon the proposed approach to aligning the Police’s ‘Have Your Say’ prioritisation process with the work of the Constituency Committee and operational arrangements for Wirral West”.

1.2 This report addresses the recommendation of the Committee.

### 2.0 MERSEYSIDE POLICE ENGAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR WIRRAL WEST

2.0 As part of the new approach to neighbourhood working, the Council is working closely with partners to look at where operational boundaries can be aligned with the constituency footprint.

2.2 Merseyside Police have already reorganised their management and operation structure around the constituencies, with Neighbourhood Inspectors now in place for each of the four areas. The Neighbourhood Policing team for Wirral West is based at Upton Police Station and comprises 8 Constables and 8 Community Support Officers to cover the area. Neighbourhood Policing Teams are supported by the 24/7 patrol officers and by further officers who can be drawn into the area based on need.

2.3 The Police have expressed their intention that the public engagement meetings which take place to support the setting of policing priorities, currently known as ‘Have Your Say’ and held in each ward on a monthly basis, will be undertaken quarterly on a constituency basis.

2.4 It is proposed that, given the strong public engagement focus of the Wirral West Constituency Committee, there is an opportunity to reduce duplication and maximise attendance by opening up the public question time element of the Committee meetings to incorporate the Police’s ‘Have Your Say’, i.e. to specifically

cover policing priorities and policing issues. The proposed format of the public question time would therefore be:

- **Part 1** - general questions from the public about all aspects of the work of the Constituency Committee and an opportunity to raise any local issues affecting the community;
- **Part 2** – a short update on crime and disorder in the constituency from the Neighbourhood Inspector, followed by questions from the public in response and an opportunity for the community to raise local priorities.

2.5 The Committee is asked to note that, as well as the Constituency Committee providing an ongoing focus for public engagement, work will be undertaken to ensure that other methods of engagement are available in Wirral West and that these are joined up wherever possible with partner activity. The Police will also welcome comments and ideas through their website at [www.merseyside.police.uk](http://www.merseyside.police.uk), through direct contact with local officers or through calls to 101 which is the 24 hour non emergency number.

2.6 The Committee is also asked to note that, as a Constituency Plan is developed, the need for meaningful and effective joined up priority setting which addresses the issues for Wirral West across partner agencies will be critical. Joined up engagement with the public at the Committees and through other mechanisms will support this.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

3.1 Effective public engagement is at the heart of neighbourhood working and key to its success. Constituency Committee meetings and public question times will be held in all parts of the area on a rolling programme (ward by ward) to promote attendance from as wide an audience as possible, and supplemented by other engagement opportunities as the constituency approach develops.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 As indicated in 3.1, consideration will continue to be given to a broader framework for the engagement of communities. The community budgeting event which will take place in February is one example of this, and will provide an opportunity for local communities to tell us about their priorities for the constituency area.

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

5.1 Consideration has been given to public feedback and outcomes from the 'Have Your Say' process for public engagement.

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

6.1 Community representatives and voluntary, community and faith groups will be specifically consulted in priority setting for the constituency, as well as being able to engage in Constituency Committee meetings through the public question time.

## **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

7.1 This will be delivered within existing resources.

## **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Effective community engagement is key to delivery of the Localism Act.

## **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

Yes and impact review can be found at the link below (Progressing Neighbourhood Working).

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/chief-executives>

## **10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The combining of forums for engagement, where appropriate, will help support carbon reduction.

## **11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 This will impact positively upon community safety and perceptions of community safety and lead to increasingly joined up priority setting and responsiveness.

## **12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

12.1 The Wirral West Constituency Committee notes the policing operational arrangements set out in 2.2 of this report;

12.2 The Wirral West Constituency Committee agrees to incorporate 'Have Your Say' on policing priorities as part of its public question time.

12.3 The Wirral West Constituency Committee agrees to support the further development of joined up mechanisms for community engagement as the constituency approach progresses.

## **13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

14.1 To support partnership working and joined up engagement and priority setting.

**REPORT AUTHOR: Jane Morgan**  
Constituency Manager (Wirral West)  
telephone: (0151) 691 8318  
email: [janemorgan@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:janemorgan@wirral.gov.uk)

Report prepared in conjunction with:  
**Inspector Brian Griffiths, Merseyside Police**

**REFERENCE MATERIAL**

None

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Cabinet – Neighbourhood Working – Proposed Operating Model</b>	<b>23 May 2013</b>
<b>Wirral West Constituency Committee Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>30 October 2013</b>