

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

12TH DECEMBER 2013

SUBJECT:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER'S UPDATE
WARD/S AFFECTED:	WARDS WITHIN THE WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ GREASBY, FRANKBY AND IRBY▪ HOYLAKE AND MEOLS▪ PENSBY AND THINGWALL▪ WEST KIRBY AND THURSTASTON▪ UPTON AND WOODCHURCH
REPORT OF:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL WEST)
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CABINET MEMBER – NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 1.1 At its meeting of the 30th October, the Wirral West Constituency Committee identified a number of actions for the Constituency Manager. This report provides updates on progress in relation to these actions.

2.0 WIRRAL WEST COMMITTEE HANDBOOK

Action:

- 2.1 That the Constituency Manager be requested to engage with all Members of the Committee in order to develop a Wirral West Constituency Handbook and an update report be presented to the next meeting.

Progress:

- 2.2 Work is ongoing to develop the Wirral West Committee handbook and this will be circulated to councillors and community representatives for consultation at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 2.3 The Committee is asked to note that the Council's four Constituency Managers are working collectively to ensure that handbooks for each Committee are consistent where necessary and that they reflect best practice.

3.0 COMMUNITY ASSET AUDIT / CONSTITUENCY PLAN

Action:

- 3.1 That the considerations set out in the report to the Committee on developing priorities for the constituency be considered in respect of a Community Asset Audit for the area and Wirral West's Constituency Plan, and presented to the next meeting of the Committee to highlight need and priorities for funding in future years.

Progress:

- 3.2 The development of a Community Asset Audit for Wirral West will build on the Council's exploration of how it can use Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) to support its vision for Wirral. The ABCD approach is about encouraging people to come together on the basis of their assets, not concentrate on their needs. Funded by Public Health, there have been three workshops in Wirral attended by local councillors, partners and voluntary, community and faith sector organisations which have been aimed at introducing key stakeholders to the principles of ABCD and develop a practical understanding of the approach. ABCD incorporates:
- **Mapping** - identifying the assets of individuals, associations, and then institutions within the area;
 - **Building Relationships** - bringing local assets together; and
 - **Building Community Vision** - building a local vision and plan.
- 3.3 Funding is now being sought from Public Health to put in place a series of next steps in respect of taking forward ABCD. These steps will include working with the local community in each of the constituency areas to map local assets and identifying how this 'map' will be maintained and renewed. It is also proposed that ABCD workshop sessions are held in each constituency. These activities will provide the opportunity to engage the wider community and to address the resolution made at the last meeting of the Committee that the Constituency Manager consider how best to involve local people in the working of the Committee, other than those appointed as Community Representatives.
- 3.4 In respect of developing a Constituency Plan for Wirral West, the Community Asset Audit will complement the assessment of evidence and needs which is being developed by Public Health (the Constituency Profile) and which is presented as a separate agenda item.
- 3.5 The Constituency Plan will bring together these pieces of work by setting out:
- The community assets already in place in Wirral West and the community's vision for the area (the Community Asset Audit);
 - An evidence-based assessment of local needs and priorities (the Constituency Profile);
 - How the community, the Council and public service partners in Wirral West will come together to address local needs and priorities by building on community assets (the Constituency Plan).

4.0 LOVE WIRRAL

Action:

- 4.1 That a report on the outcomes of the Love Wirral process be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

Progress:

- 4.2 The publication of this report precedes the 6th December closing date for the Love Wirral grant and details of numbers of applicants will be provided verbally at the Constituency Committee meeting. The opportunity has been widely circulated to

groups in Wirral West both via email and through handing out flyers at meetings and events, as well as information being made available in local community centres. Advice and support has been provided to groups as requested.

- 4.3 The next stage of the Love Wirral process is assessment of the applications received followed by a 2 week online vote which will open on the 13th January 2014 and close on the 24th. The results of this vote for Wirral West projects will be subject to endorsement and approval from the councillors Constituency Committee.
- 4.4 The questions about the online voting system raised at the Constituency Committee meeting were fed back to the officers responsible for administering the grant. To clarify:
- All applications which meet the required criteria will be posted online and the public invited to vote yes or no to each;
 - People will only be able to vote online once – to ensure that this is the case, individuals will need to provide their name, house number and postcode. This system will also allow for multiple votes from people sharing a postal address as well as allowing people without an email address to vote;
 - Free access to the internet is available at Council libraries for a period of 30 minutes and staff in libraries have been briefed about the online vote for Love Wirral should members of the public have any queries. People with internet access on their mobile telephones will be able to access the online voting page.
 - There are no costs attached to the online voting system.
- 4.5 In addition, following concerns raised at the Constituency Committee about digital exclusion, i.e. that some members of the community may not be able to access the internet, the use of online voting will now be complemented by a paper voting system.

5.0 WEBSITE

Action:

- 5.1 That the officers be requested to investigate the feasibility of a dedicated website for the Constituency Committee to achieve greater participation.

Progress:

- 5.2 It is proposed that communications and networking in the constituency, including the feasibility of how a dedicated website might support this, is addressed as part of the Wirral West Community Asset Audit. In this respect, it is recognised that there are a number of existing community websites which are assets on which to build.
- 5.3 In the meantime, dedicated pages on the Council's website are being developed for Wirral West, and for the other constituencies, to ensure that information is easily accessible. For Wirral West, this will include information on the grants available for the local community.

6.0 CONSTITUENCY BUDGET 2013

Action:

- 6.1 That, in view of the need for early progress to be made in the allocation of funding in the current financial year, the Constituency Manager be requested to liaise with Members to put in place an approach to allocate the Committee's budget for 2013/2014, subject to good governance and to any relevant funding criteria;

Progress:

- 6.2 Work has been undertaken to develop an approach to allocate the Committee's budget in line with the action agreed, and Committee members have been consulted on this. The approach takes into account the Committee's wish for the budget allocation to be split equally between wards.

Two strands of activity have been put in place to allocate the Committee's budget:

- A **Wirral West Community Fund** (Total: £50,000; £10,000 per ward) – the criteria for grants from this pot will be very simple – for community groups to improve the quality of life in Wirral West through projects which impact positively on local people and places. Applications will be welcomed from the 20th December 2013 to the 31st January 2014 and a large-scale event will be held in February 2014 where the Wirral West community will be able to decide on whether the projects put forward should be funded. Further details will be widely communicated throughout the constituency. Actions will be put in place to ensure that applications meet the necessary criteria, that the voting process at event is fair and transparent, and that applicants and the wider community are clear about the process and are provided with every opportunity to get involved.
- A **Wirral West Public Health Fund** (Total: £25,000; £5,000 per ward) – the criteria for grants from this pot will be specifically aimed at improving public health, e.g. through tackling social isolation, and a targeted approach will be undertaken with organisations to develop applications for this Fund. The approach will take into account existing programmes of activity. This approach will ensure that the specific outcomes and indicators identified in connection with this funding allocation are addressed and that any projects funded have a clear focus on sustainability. The recently published annual report of the Director of Public Health entitled Social Isolation provides useful context.

7.0 MONITORING ATTENDANCE

Action:

- 7.1 That, at future meetings of the Constituency Committee, monitoring of the numbers of members of the public in attendance and where they had travelled from to attend be undertaken so as to allow the information to be incorporated into the record.

Progress:

- 7.2 Given that monitoring of attendance of the last meeting was incomplete (of an estimated audience of between 40 and 50 people, 12 people signed in). A more robust system of monitoring has been actioned for this meeting of the Committee

and will continue to be monitored ensure that a record of attendance is systematically undertaken. Members of the Wirral West community attending events are requested to sign in to support this process and help us to ensure that attendance is as representative as possible.

8.0 RISKS

8.1 A detailed risk assessment is being developed to support the constituency working approach. The allocation of the Constituency Committee's budget via the approach set out in section 6 of this report has a risk register in place, with mitigating actions identified.

9.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 This report sets out activities undertaken in relation to actions agreed by the Committee, all of which have been progressed with due consideration to a range of options.

10.0 CONSULTATION

10.1 Consultation is undertaken with the members of the Constituency Committee as to the development and operation of the Committee. Ongoing consultation with the local community as to issues for the area is an ongoing focus of the constituency working approach.

11.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

11.1 This report has positive implications for voluntary, community and faith groups in Wirral West particularly in respect of the funding opportunities which will be available.

12.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

12.1 This report will have implications for the allocation of the Constituency Committee's budget allocation.

13.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

14.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

14.1 An 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>

15.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are no direct carbon reduction implications in relation to this report. Projects funded by the Wirral West Constituency Committee budget may however have a direct impact on carbon reduction.

16.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

16.1 There are no direct planning and community safety implications in relation to this report. Projects funded by the Wirral West Constituency Committee may however have a direct impact on community safety.

17.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

17.1 Members of the Wirral West Constituency Committee are requested to:

- Note the contents of the Constituency Manager's report and the progress made in relation to actions previously agreed by the Committee and request any further action required.

18.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

18.1 In order to ensure that actions requested by the Committee are being progressed as required.

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APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Annual report of the Director of Public Health - Social Isolation (available at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/news/26-11-2013/health-report-highlights-dangers-social-isolation>)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Meeting	Date
Wirral West Constituency Committee	30th October 2014