

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014

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

#### 1.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 1.1 This report provides an update on progress in relation to the ongoing work programme being undertaken in support of the Wirral West Constituency Committee. This is set out in the 'action tracker' attached at **Appendix 1**. Particular items for noting are highlighted below in the main body of the report.

#### 2.0 WIRRAL WEST COMMUNITY FUND

- 2.1 The Committee recommended at its meeting of the 3rd July 2014 that the Constituency Manager be given delegated authority to develop the Community Fund grants programme for allocating the Committee's £50,000 core budget (i.e. £10,000 per ward).
- 2.2 It proposed that the timetable for the Community Fund is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Milestones</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2014	Community Fund launched
12 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Deadline for applications
12 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2015	Funding events and online / paper voting
5 <sup>th</sup> February 2015 (Constituency Committee meeting)	Funding awarded for projects which will need to be completed by December 2015

- 2.3 The application and voting process is currently being refined to reflect the suggestions from community groups who responded to the evaluation questionnaire and which were set out in the previous report to Committee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, i.e.:

- Reviewing the online voting system to ensure that information about the projects and the options for voting are clear;
- Allowing more time for preparation and better, more effective publicity to increase the level of awareness and support that the wider community;
- Ensuring locations for voting events are easily accessible and give careful consideration to dates and times, as well as the use of 'A' boards to draw people in;
- Thinking again about whether groups should give an informal presentation about their project as part of a more structured event.

2.4 It is also proposed that the terms and conditions of the Community Fund are refreshed. Whilst the maximum grant will remain at the £1,000 threshold previously put in place, applications for funding above this amount will be considered. The aim of this will be to encourage exceptional projects which have a significant impact on local areas or the constituency as a whole.

### 3.0 'HAVE YOUR SAY' EVENTS

3.1 The second 'have your say' marketplace event took place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September at Fender Primary, Woodchurch (Upton Ward) and had representatives from a number of organisations who were on hand to answer questions from members of the public and give updates on services and activities in the area. In addition, groups funded by the Constituency Committee were asked to attend and share information on their projects and network with others. As for the first event, attendees welcomed the opportunity to have face to face informal conversations and discuss local issues.

3.2 The approach to these events will be further developed and publicised. The scheduled dates for future marketplace engagement events are as follows:

- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014, 7 p.m., Greasby, Frankby and Irby Ward (venue to be confirmed);
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 7 p.m., West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward (venue to be confirmed);
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015, 7 p.m., Pensby and Thingwall Ward (venue to be confirmed).

### 4.0 WIRRAL WEST COMMUNITY FUND / PUBLIC HEALTH PROJECTS

4.1 The constituency team are working proactively with groups to support projects funded by the Committee in March 2014 and to monitor progress. Project highlights include:

**KH2 Community Link Services** was awarded just over £2,300 to deliver a 'sporting memories' programme for older people in the Hoylake area. The first meeting was in May when staff at Royal Liverpool Golf Club spoke to the group about preparing the course for the 2014 Open. This was later followed up with a visit to Royal Liverpool and an informative, entertaining talk on the Club's history. More recently, the National Football Museum in Manchester visited the group bringing a range of football memorabilia which prompted many sporting memories from group members. The group are also collectively working on a project 'Played in Wirral' mapping the

sporting venues that have disappeared or moved, such as Parkgate baths, the Speedway Track at New Brighton or horse racing on Leasowe beach. As a totally new concept for bringing people together, i.e. talking about sport, interest in the group has been promising and numbers continue to grow. Three or four clients attend from Hoylake Cottage Hospital, which has fed back that “these monthly meetings are becoming very popular, particularly with our men. There is much discussion after the event and we hope it will continue next year!”

The **Festival of Firsts** was awarded £926 to include a Festi-Velo bike parade as part of the festival in July 2014, which will be the first of its kind in the UK outside the City of Bristol. The Festi-velo event attracted over 120 individual bike riders of all ages and abilities from very small children to more elderly members of the community from all over Wirral. The popularity it received because it as a new event exceeded their expectations – as they were hoping for about 50 bikes maximum. The event provided a festive spectacle that was appreciated by thousands of members of the public in Hoylake, Meols and West Kirby. The situation also promoted cycling as a fun and accessible healthy activity for people of all ages. Feedback from evaluation forms was very positive with everyone calling the Festi-velo a “real buzz”.

The **Melrose Wednesday Club** was awarded £3,000 to develop its weekly sessions for children and young people in Hoylake. The Club brings together children from particular parts of West Kirby and Hoylake, providing a series of music lessons. The children involved are continuously growing in confidence, playing Tin Whistles and Violins both within the Club and at home, getting ready for each class. The children are even working towards a concert to be held at the end of term – an opportunity like this would not have been possible without the grant. The Wednesday Club also put on a Summer School as part of the project, where local children experienced a variety of activities, including circus skills.

The **St Bridget’s Centre Management Committee** was awarded £1,000 towards the cost of audio-visual equipment for the Beacon Room to extend use of the Centre. This project has purchased and installed some audio visual equipment in one of the larger rooms within the Centre. The first use was by the Museum Group for their Heritage Open Day in September 2014 and the facility is now being publicised to develop interest and training and support is also on offer.

**Fruit to Suit** was awarded just under £2,700 to work with schools to establish healthy tuck shop businesses. Fruit to Suit has now trained three schools to set up and run a healthy tuck shop. They are all in the process of writing their business plans and preparing for launch! Of the children involved so far:

- 76% enjoyed the Creating a Company Challenge
- 85% felt they learnt about setting up your own business
- 56% had never considered setting up their own business before the Challenge
- 67% would now consider setting up their own business
- 81% felt they learned new facts about healthy eating
- 85% would recommend us to another school

## **5.0 NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING – DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS CASE**

- 5.1 At its meeting in July, the Committee resolved that, in noting the priorities identified by local people as part of the Community Fund voting process which took place earlier the year, the Committee requests that these should be taken into account in respect of the work being undertaken by the Council and Executive to develop proposals for the further devolution of budgets, functions and responsibilities to the Constituency Committees. The Committee further requested that the Constituency Manager prepare a report for the next meeting of the Committee on how these proposals are progressing with a view to producing a business case thereafter.
- 5.2 The Committee is asked to note that this work is ongoing and that a detailed report will be presented to the next meeting in February 2015. As with all areas of the constituency work programme, members of the Committee will be consulted on these proposals as appropriate.

## **6.0 PUBLIC HEALTH UNDERSPEND**

- 6.1 At the Wirral West Constituency Committee on the 3rd July, the Committee agreed that the Constituency Manager be given delegated authority to use the Committee's Public Health Outcomes Fund underspend from 2013-14 (£5,633.77) for partnership working with the voluntary, community and faith sector to support older people. Working closely with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, a partnership project is now being taking forward with the following aims:
- To support older people in the constituency to keep safe, warm and well in their own homes this winter;
  - To reduce social isolation amongst older people in Wirral West;
  - To develop stronger links between partners and volunteers working in the constituency
- 6.2 The key elements of the project will be to:
- Establish a constituency winter campaign team, made up of partner staff and local volunteers. Members of the Constituency Committee are also of course welcome to be part of this team. It is anticipated that a launch event will take place in the constituency in November;
  - Establish a dynamic 'store' of information and equipment to be given out during the campaign, including winter warmth packs and a range of equipment identified by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service;
  - Identify and attend local events and forums already planned throughout the winter to promote key messages;
  - Allocate funding to voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to organise additional events in areas of the constituency where gaps are identified;
  - Provide transport for older people to attend local events where this is a barrier for them;
  - Undertake follow up home visits (Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service) to older people identified by the campaign team at the events and provide equipment which may help them keep safe and warm, e.g. oil filled radiators;
  - Organise a follow up event to identify positive outcomes of the project to be fed back to the Constituency Committee.

6.3 Members of the Committee will be regularly updated on the project as it develops.

## **7.0 RISKS**

7.1 A detailed risk assessment has been developed to support the constituency working approach.

## **8.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 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.

## **9.0 CONSULTATION**

9.1 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.

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

10.1 The constituency working approach has positive implications for voluntary, community and faith groups in Wirral West.

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

11.1 The activities set out in this report will be delivered via existing resources and utilising the constituency budget as determined by the Committee.

## **12.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 There are no legal implications relating to the activities set out in this report.

## **13.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 An impact review relating to neighbourhood working can be found at the link below:

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

## **14.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 There are no direct carbon reduction implications relating to this report.

## **15.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 There are no direct planning and community safety implications relating to this report.

## 16.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

16.1 Members of the Wirral West Constituency Committee are requested to note progress in relation to the work being undertaken in support of the Committee and in respect of the constituency working approach.

## 17.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

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

## APPENDICES

**Appendix 1: Wirral West Constituency Committee – Areas of Activity / Action Tracker**

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Meeting	Date
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Update	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2013
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Update	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Update	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2014

**APPENDIX 1: WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE – AREAS OF ACTIVITY / ACTION TRACKER (OCTOBER 2014)**

Activity	RAG Rating	Status	Consultation with Councillors and Community Representatives
1. Committee Handbook	Amber	Work on the Handbook is ongoing. A draft will be circulated in due course.	Comments from Councillors and Community Representatives will be consulted on the Handbook prior to publication.
2. Community Asset Audit / Asset Based Community Development Project	Green	An organisation has now been commissioned by Public Health to initiate asset based community development (ABCD) in Wirral across the four constituencies, including mapping and auditing of assets. A workshop for community stakeholders being held on the 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> October will inform the further development of this work.	Councillors and Community Representatives will be kept updated on progress.
3. Wirral West Constituency Plan	Amber	Previous reports to the Committee have set out the initial considerations which have been given to developing a Constituency Plan. It was proposed that workshops would be held in advance of this meeting initially to priorities based on the evidence and the feedback from local communities gathered through the Community Fund voting process and agreeing any additional targeted consultation and research required.	Planned workshops with councillors and community representatives to discuss the development of the Constituency Plan did not go ahead but will be rescheduled.
4. Love Wirral Initiative	Green	Love Wirral projects are now underway and will be complete by 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2014.	A report on the outcomes of the Love Wirral initiative will be made available.
5. Constituency Engagement – ‘Have Your Say’ Events	Green	<b>An update on this activity is presented as part the main body of the report.</b>	Councillors and Community Representatives are updated on engagement activities as these are developed and implemented.
6. Wirral West Community Fund / Public Health Projects (2014)	Green	<b>An update on projects funded by the Committee is presented as part the main body of the report.</b>	Councillors and Community Representatives will be updated on the progress of projects on an ongoing basis.

Activity	RAG Rating	Status	Consultation with Councillors and Community Representatives
7. Wirral West Community Fund 2015	Green	An update on the Community Fund grant programme (to identify projects to take place in 2015) is presented as part the main body of the report.	Councillors and Community Representatives will be consulted as appropriate on the implementation of the Community Fund grant programme.
8. Neighbourhood Working Business Case	Green	As noted in the main body of the report, this work is ongoing and will be reported to the next meeting of the Committee	Councillors and Community Representatives will be kept updated on progress.
9. Winter Project (Public Health Underspend)	Green	An update on the development of this project is presented as part of the main body of the report.	Councillors and Community Representatives will be invited to proactively contribute to this project.
10. Other Activities	Green	<p>The constituency team is involved in a wide range of other activities. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Working with ward councillors to identify priorities for allocating 2013-14 Community Fund underspend in each ward;</li> <li>▪ Responding to issues raised by ward councillors and community members and working with Council departments and partners to resolve issues;</li> <li>▪ Supporting town centre action planning and other regeneration initiatives;</li> <li>▪ Working with the lead officer for the Open 2014 to follow up on issues raised by the local community;</li> <li>▪ Supporting the Future Council budget consultation;</li> <li>▪ Attending and supporting a range of community meetings relevant to the work of the Committee.</li> </ul>	Councillors and Community Representatives are consulted on the work of the constituency team collectively or on a ward basis in respect of involvement in local issues.