

Constituency Committee - Wirral West
Thursday, 9 February 2017

REPORT TITLE:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER'S PROGRESS AND BUDGET REPORT
REPORT OF:	Assistant Director: Health & Outcomes

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on current projects and activities funded using the Wirral West Constituency Committee's budget allocations.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the Committee notes the progress and updates detailed in the Constituency Manager's report.

The Committee is also asked to approve the following specific recommendations in relation to the environmental budget:

- That £5,000 of the environmental budget is made available for a 'Small Grant, Big Difference' programme for activities which improve the local environment (on the basis of £1,000 per ward, with a maximum grant of £200 for individual projects);
- That the remaining £3,000 is utilised to organise a series of clean up ('sparkle') days of action in selected locations co-ordinated by the constituency team.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure that the priorities of the Constituency Committee in relation to constituency budget expenditure are being progressed as required.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

This report sets out priorities of the Constituency Committee in relation to constituency budget expenditure and associated actions undertaken by the constituency team. All actions are progressed with due consideration to a range of options and in consultation with the Committee and relevant stakeholders as appropriate.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION: CONSTITUENCY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Wirral West Community Fund

Further to consultation with the Constituency Committee in June 2016 the timetable for the Community Fund was as follows:

- The Community Fund opened for applications – Thursday 28th July 2016;
- Closing date for applications – noon, Thursday 8th September 2016;
- Community vote opened – Thursday 6th October 2016;
- Networking event – Thursday 13th October 2016;
- Community vote closed – noon, Thursday 20th October 2016;
- Applicants notified – week beginning 7th November 2016;
- Projects to be completed by 30th November 2017.

Concerns were raised at the June Committee meeting about whether groups might have issues completing applications during the summer – some flexibility was put in place in terms of the deadline in mitigation of this.

The level of applications to the Fund was consistent with previous years. The Constituency Committee and constituency team are very grateful to the efforts made by groups in attending the networking event at Hilbre School on the 13th October. Whilst attendance by residents (i.e. people not involved in local groups) was limited, a positive outcome of the event was that 100% of those who completed an evaluation form had connected with new groups working in the area and the comments reinforced this:

- *“Valuable networking opportunity”*
- *“It was great to mix with other groups and find out what else is available in the community”*
- *“Good to network, useful contacts”*
- *“A friendly atmosphere”*
- *“I enjoyed networking with other groups and raising awareness of our provision”*
- *“Met many new contacts”*
- *“Good networking and scope for linking in / working together with other groups in area and across Wirral”*
- *“On balance we thought it was worth it and had fun. It was good to meet others. Could it form part of the constituency meeting?”*

In respect of the community vote stage of the process, the number of votes received was 1,852 (see **Table 1** below) which represented a decrease on the previous year but still a good response to the initiative. The level of participation across the five wards is set out in **Table 2** overleaf. Concerns about groups being disadvantaged where they are less familiar with the use of technology (i.e. being less able to generate support via email and social media) continue to be raised – the use of paper copies helps to address this, and it is taken into account in the decision-making process.

Table 1 – response to Wirral West community vote (October 2016)

Total number of voters:	1,852
Online votes:	1,406
Paper votes:	446

Table 2 - numbers of residents voting by ward

Ward	Number of Residents Voting	Percentage of Total
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	446	24.1%
Hoylake and Meols	269	14.5%
Pensby and Thingwall	179	9.7%
Upton and Woodchurch	315	17%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	322	17.4%
Rest of Wirral	311	16.8%

Following consultation with ward councillors as to the outcomes of the vote, groups were notified of the outcome. **Appendices 1-5** set out the projects in each ward awarded a grant (and the amount of funding). The Committee is asked to note that these documents have been updated further to publication on the Council's website in November to reflect the further consideration by ward councillors and subsequent award made by West Kirby and Thurstaston councillors to a group which was unable to attend the networking event. The Committee is also asked to note that, as a result of putting in place increased scope for projects to be delivered across ward boundaries (i.e. by allowing groups and organisations to select more than one ward on the application form), some projects received a partial contribution from two or more ward allocations and therefore appear more than once in the attached Appendices. These projects are also listed in Table 3 below for the purposes of transparency:

Table 3 – projects funded from two or more ward allocations

Project	Grant Awarded	Wards Contributing
West Kirby Christmas Lights	£1,000.00	West Kirby and Thurstaston (£500.00) and Hoylake and Meols (£500.00)
Friends of Sandlea Park	£1,000.00	West Kirby and Thurstaston (£500.00) and Hoylake and Meols (£500.00)
#Strongertogether (Next Chapter CIC)	£1,000.00	Hoylake and Meols (£750.00); West Kirby and Thurstaston (£250.00)
Best Foot Forward (Next Chapter CIC)	£1,000.00	Hoylake and Meols (£250.00); Pensby and Thingwall (£250.00); Upton (£250.00); West Kirby and Thurstaston (£250.00)
Expanding FareShare Merseyside to support Wirral West	£917.00	Greasby, Frankby and Irby (£250.00); Hoylake and Meols (£334.00); West Kirby and Thurstaston (£333.00)
A Host of Golden Daffodils (Irby, Thurstaston and Pensby Amenity Society)	£501.60	Greasby, Frankby and Irby (£200.00); Pensby and Thingwall (£200.00); West Kirby and Thurstaston (£101.60)

The Constituency Committee's annual core budget of £50,000 has been allocated each year through the Community Fund grant programme on the basis of £10,000 per ward. Taking into account the allocation of Community Fund grants for 2016-17 and any underspend from this and previous years of the Fund, the remaining budget available is set out in **Table 4**. Column 2 sets out the cumulative total for each ward of the amount allocated in Community Fund grants and spent on local improvements at the discretion of ward councillors since 2013-14 (i.e. the first year of operation of the Constituency Committees and the first year of the core budget being allocated through the Community Fund).

Table 4 – Community Fund remaining budget*

Ward	Allocated in grants and spent on local improvements since 2013-14	Remaining Monies
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	£34,171.00	£5,829.00
Hoylake and Meols	£39,602.93	£397.07
Pensby and Thingwall	£34,776.96	£5,223.04
Upton	£30,597.52	£9,402.48
West Kirby and Thurstaston	£36,279.25	£3,720.75
TOTAL	£175,427.66	£24,572.34

**position based on actual expenditure to date*

As agreed by the Constituency Committee on 30th June 2016 (minute ref 7) any remaining monies from the Community Fund will continue to be allocated to local improvements at the discretion of Ward Councillors, supported by the Constituency Manager.

The presentation to Committee (agenda item 5) reflects on the overall impact of the Community Fund since 2013-14.

Special Places Project (2014-15 Love Wirral budget allocation)

Special Places benches have now been installed in a number of locations:



Special Places bench, Carr Lane, Hoylake



Special Places bench, Cubbins Green, West Kirby



Special Places bench, Footpath 43, Grange Hill, West Kirby



Special Places bench, Warwick Park, Upton



Improved access now in place to bench at Pump Lane Pond, Greasby

Progress is ongoing with regards to the installation of benches at the remaining locations agreed by the Special Places Panel. Working with stakeholders has also provided alternative cost effective solutions, e.g. with the funding, the Friends of Hilbre are building a number of benches for use on the island which can be safely stored when not in use. The constituency team is also seeking alternative funding or solutions for other suggestions put forward by local people in response to the original request for ideas.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (2015-16 ASB allocation)

The Council's budget in February 2015 made provision for dedicated funding for Constituency Committees to identify actions for tackling issues of ASB. The Committee agreed that £10,000 of this devolved budget should be utilised in Woodchurch as the constituency ASB hotspot, with the remaining

£5,000 to be used in the wider constituency. Expenditure in respect of this budget is undertaken in consultation with Constituency Committee members (i.e. the ASB Panel). As detailed in the Constituency Manager's report of the 6th October 2016, the ASB Panel agreed to allocate funding for the Sports Development and Youth Support teams to be able to offer activities at the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) in Woodchurch as well as additional diversionary activities targeted at young people from the Upton / Woodchurch / Overchurch, Pensby, and Greasby areas who demonstrate positive behaviours over a period of time.

The programme of Friday evening sessions at the Woodchurch MUGA is working well. Attendance figures supplied by the Sports Development team for the Operation Banger period (September – November 2016) demonstrate high levels of engagement at the Woodchurch MUGA compared to similar activities in the borough. The attendance figures for Woodchurch were as follows:

Table 5 – attendance at Woodchurch MUGA diversionary activities

Month	Attendances (Male)	Attendances (Female)
September 2016	16	5
October 2016	22	8
November 2016	9	5
Total	47	18

The ASB Panel will continue to be updated on the outcomes of this engagement and consulted on proposals for sustaining this activity during 2017.

Appendix 6 provides an update on diversionary activities funded in the wider Wirral West area using the Constituency Committee's budget.

On the basis of the Panel's agreement to use up to a maximum of £5,000 from the ASB budget for early intervention work with children in years 5 and 6 at risk of becoming engaged in ASB / criminal damage and ending up on police 'radar', the Woodchurch Community Hub at Fender Primary School has been delivering the Little Brothers mentoring project. Through the project,

role models are building positive relationships with male pupils at risk of engaging in ASB, inspiring involvement in a range of health and fitness and learning activities and providing guidance and support.

The project is progressing well involving 15 boys from years 5 and 6 from Fender Primary and St Michael and All Angels Catholic Primary. The group meets twice a week, 3:30-7pm and the sessions include homework, 1:1 mentor support, group work, sports, snacks and drinks and journal writing. The group has also benefited from visits from Merseyside Police to about safety and gang related issues and a visit from an ex-pupil who is now an army engineer and who talked to the group about their choices and having the confidence to say no the gangs. This visit was particularly successful and inspiring for the group.

Road Safety Budget

As detailed in the previous report to the Committee, at its meeting of the 20th September, the Road Safety Panel agreed that the following new schemes should be prioritised, subject to further investigation and consultation as appropriate:

Ward	Prioritised Schemes	Estimated Cost
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	Hillview Road 20mph zone - traffic calming (i.e. road humps) and associated signage along Hillview Rd and Sandy Lane (south of Hillview Road). This scheme will be progressed subject to the outcome of required traffic speed surveys and consultation with residents. Should this scheme not be taken forward, the budget available for Greasby, Frankby and Irby will be utilised for dropped crossings.	£15,000
Hoyle and Meols	Meols Station approach – Traffic Regulation Order to address parking issues	£1,800
	North Parade (Kings Gap to Hoyle Rd) – Improved signage and build out at Hoyle Rd to prevent misuse of one way system	£10,000
	Riversdale Road – dropped kerb crossings at junction with Meols Drive	£1,700
	Ashton Park access road (Westbourne Road / Church Road) - 'H bar' access protection marking across Ashton Park access road and neighbouring properties to improve access and sight lines	£200
	Groveside – dropped kerb crossings at junction with Banks Rd	£1,400

Ward	Prioritised Schemes	Estimated Cost
Pensby and Thingwall	Gills Lane – Traffic Regulation Orders to prevent parking and improve sightlines at junctions of Marlfield Lane and Thorncroft Drive	£2,400
	Heywood Boulevard 20mph Zone – signage in the vicinity of Thingwall Primary along Heywood Boulevard (bounded by Thingwall Rd East, Thingwall Drive)	£3,800
	Portal Road - Traffic Regulation Orders to prevent parking and improve sightlines at junctions of Gibson Close and Cheshire Way (proximity to Ladymount School)	£2,400
	Whaley Lane - Traffic Regulation Order to prevent parking and improve sightlines at junction of Thingwall Road East	£1,200
Upton	Saughall Massie Lane - Traffic Regulation Orders to prevent parking and improve sightlines on junctions with Saughall Massie Lane	-
West Kirby and Thurstaston	Caldy Road - school flashing lights, school sign relocation and 'H bar' markings to address unintended consequences (i.e. speeding) of the parking restrictions put in place relating to Avalon School	£3,600
	Dropped crossings programme – a maximum of 8 sets of dropped kerb crossings (based on an average cost of £1,700 for each set) in locations to be agreed	£14,500

Work to develop and implement these schemes is underway in conjunction with ward councillors as required. A detailed update on progress will be presented to the next meeting of the Constituency Committee.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any financial implications of this report are in respect of the constituency budget currently available. There are no wider financial implications.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

The activities set out in this report are being delivered via existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Risk assessments are undertaken in respect of constituency projects and activities as necessary and appropriate.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

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 and proactive engagement with voluntary, community and faith groups is a clear objective of the constituency working approach.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

An impact assessment 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>

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APPENDICES

Appendices 1-5: Wirral West Community Fund Grant Awards (November 2016)

Appendix 6: Wirral West Youth Outreach Case Study (ASB Budget)

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting			Date
Wirral West Constituency	Committee –	Constituency Manager's Report	12th December 2013
Wirral West Constituency	Committee –	Constituency Manager's Report	6th March 2014
Wirral West Constituency	Committee –	Constituency Manager's Report	3rd July 2014
Wirral West Constituency	Committee –	Constituency Manager's Report	16th October 2014
Wirral West Constituency	Committee –	Constituency Manager's Report	26th February 2015
Wirral West Constituency	Committee –	Constituency Manager's Report	16th July 2015
Wirral West Constituency	Committee –	Constituency Manager's Report	12th November 2015
Wirral West Constituency	Committee –	Constituency Manager's Report	11th February 2016
Wirral West Constituency	Committee –	Constituency Manager's Report	30th June 2016
Wirral West Constituency	Committee –	Constituency Manager's Report	6th October 2016