



Constituency Committee - Wirral South

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Date: | Wednesday, 26 February 2014 |
| Time: | 6.00 pm |
| Venue: | Mayer Hall, The Village, Bebington, Wirral. CH63 7PL |

Contact Officer: Shirley Hudspeth, Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 0151 691 8559
e-mail: shirleyhudspeth@wirral.gov.uk
Website: www.wirral.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary or non pecuniary interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 December 2013.

3. CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND SPEND UPDATE (COUNCILLOR PHIL GILCHRIST) (Pages 9 - 18)

To receive an update on the progress made by the 'Priority Task and Finish Group'.

4. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE RECRUITMENT PROCESS - ORAL UPDATE (FERGUS ADAMS, CONSTITUENCY MANAGER)

To receive an update from the Constituency Manager on any progress made since the last meeting of the Committee held on 18 December 2013.

5. CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE HANDBOOK DEVELOPMENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP ORAL UPDATE (FERGUS ADAMS, CONSTITUENCY MANAGER)

To receive an update from the Constituency Manager on progress made since the last meeting of the Committee held on 18 December 2013.

6. PAVEMENTS & GRASS VERGE PARKING - UPDATE REPORT (COUNCILLOR JERRY WILLIAMS) (Pages 19 - 24)

At its meeting on 27 January 2014 the Policy and Performance Committee - Regeneration and Environment considered the attached report and it was

'Resolved –

- (1) That the progress being made in continuing to address pavement and verge parking issues be noted.**
- (2) That the report be referred to each of the Constituency Committees for their consideration.'**

Consequently, the Committee is invited to give the report its consideration.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION (APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES)

Although it is possible to forward pre-notified questions to the Constituency Manager questions will also be taken at the meeting, via the Chair.

8. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The Committee is invited to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair for its next meeting, in the new Municipal Year (based upon previous agreement to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair on a rolling basis).

9. URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR

CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE - WIRRAL SOUTH

Wednesday, 18 December 2013

Present: Councillor A Hodson

Councillors P Gilchrist L Rowlands
T Harney W Smith
A Hodson A Sykes
K Hodson J Walsh
C Muspratt I Williams
S Niblock KJ Williams
C Povall

Apologies Councillors P Kearney D Mitchell

8 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

9 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the accuracy of Minutes of the meeting of the Constituency Committee – Wirral South on 21 October 2013 be approved.

10 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair indicated that Item 3 – Public Questions and Answer Session was to be moved to end of the agenda, to enable the public to ask questions if they so wished, on the agenda items discussed at the meeting.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Inspector Ross Meredith, Neighbourhood Inspector Wirral South, Merseyside Police and Mr Alan Fletcher, Station Manager Heswall and Bromborough, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE RECRUITMENT PROCESS UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Constituency Manger updating on the progress of the Wirral South Constituency Committee's Community Representative Selection Group.

Mr F.Adams, Constituency Manager, introduced the report which indicated that since the previous Constituency Committee meeting held on 21 October 2013, further contact had been made with a large number of community organisations throughout the constituency, following which a further 6 community representative applications had been submitted. As such the total number of applications received was now 11.

The Community Representative Selection Panel met On Tuesday 26 November 2013, with the membership of Councillor Phil Gilchrist, Councillor Christina Muspratt, Councillor Cherry Povall, Councillor Les Rowlands (in place of Councillor Andrew Hodson) and Councillor Irene Williams representing each electoral ward.

It was proposed that the recruitment of Community Representatives not go ahead this financial year based upon the view that the proposed process was not robust enough. It was further proposed that the process should be delayed to allow for successful applicants to be co-opted at the first committee of 2014/15. This was agreed by all elected members in attendance.

Any decision to delay the appointment of Community Representatives will allow the recruitment process to gain from the proposed Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) work proposed within the constituency for 2014/15 (for further details please see appendix 1: ABCD Briefing Paper).

In response to Members, the Assistant Chief Executive/Head of Universal and Infrastructure Services was in attendance at the meeting and informed that the Committee's budget could roll over, but advised that this may result in a reduction in allocation in the future. The Committee asked for further clarification on this issue.

Members commented that the recruitment process in relation to the appointment of community representatives needed to be undertaken as a matter of urgency; setting out a sufficient timetable of the procedure and process to be followed.

A Member commented that they felt enough time hadn't been given to enable the public to apply for the posts; therefore, welcomed the delay in the recruitment process, which would enable all appropriate groups to apply if they so wished.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the recruitment of Community Representatives be delayed to allow for a full review of the process in line with paragraph 3.4 of the report;**
- (2) any review in line with paragraph 3.4 of the report be completed in time to allow for successful applicants to be co-opted at the first committee of 2014/15;**
- (3) the content of appendix 1: ABCD Briefing Paper be noted; and**
- (4) the Constituency Manager be requested to seek clarification in relation to the rollover of Committee's budget allocation to the next financial year.**

12 CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND SPEND UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Neighbourhoods and Engagement setting out the priorities and processes relating to the spend for Wirral South Constituency Committee for 2013/14.

The report indicated that the Committee at its first meeting agreed to set up the 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group to set priorities for the remainder of the 2013-14 financial year. (Minute 4 refers). The Group considered priorities for 2013/14 from the information available and processes for spend against those priorities.

A range of information was taken into account by the 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group to determine proposed priorities for the Committee to concentrate on this financial year (2013/14). This included a 'Constituency Profile' document (produced by analysts in Public Health and a specific document reviewing the current situation in relation to fuel poverty in Wirral South (produced by Wirral's Acting Housing Strategy Manager).

Those in attendance at the 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group also expressed a desire to allocate £10K per Ward to allow for various improvements work to be carried out. This desire had since been echoed by a number of elected members both verbally and via e-mail.

The Task & Finish Group suggested the following approach:

- £10K per ward for improvement work (e.g. highways/grounds maintenance improvements yet to be defined with associated costs)
- A project utilising a suite of methods is developed to reduce levels of childhood obesity in Wirral South

- Further research to be carried out to assess the reliability of the fuel poverty statistics for the constituency prior to any decision regarding further spend
- Promoting the collective energy provider switch to ensure all are receiving maximised value for money

The report outlined in broad terms the proposed priorities but did not give specifics of projects and allocated spend. It was suggested that the 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group met once again in the New Year to agree allocation per project following further evidence gathering. A further report would be brought to the next Wirral South Constituency Committee on 26 February 2014 detailing exact allocation of budget to each individual priority.

In response to Members, Mr Adams indicated that he had met with Public Health and submitted a list of proposals for a 20K programme where impacts could be seen.

In relation to the proposals coming forward from Public Health, A Member raised concern that they felt that the funding was being spent on issues that had no real relevance or no importance to the members of the public in the area and suggested that smaller projects that would be of a benefit to the community be undertaken that would be less time consuming and evidenced a real impact to the community.

Members commented that in relation to the child obesity priority, it was unclear as to why this had been selected, given that there was no clear evidence to support this and it had not been brought to the attention of the Members of the Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee as a major issue for Wirral South. In response, Mr Adams indicated that the priority was chosen by the members of the Task and Finish Group who had considered evidential information.

In relation to fuel poverty, a Member asked if the 25k funding allocation from Health could be used towards this priority; as it was felt that fuel poverty did not constitute one of the high level outcomes set out by Health. It was further suggested that the priority should be addressed during the winter months and that a small project for example; a leaflet drop could be undertaken which would cost a limited amount of funding.

Members indicated that in relation to the budget allocation, they felt that as each Ward had its own issues and priorities, funding should be equally split between each of the wards. Mr F. Adams, Constituency Manager expressed his view that the £50K should be spent on practical improvement work. Some Councillors expressed a wish to allocate to various community groups but Mr Adams felt this was unwise without a robust and open to all grants process attached.

RESOLVED (12:1) - Councillor Niblock voted against: That

- (1) the allocation of £10K to each of the five wards be approved; and**
- (2) the previously appointed Priority Task and Finish Group be requested to reconvene in January 2014 to further assess the priorities chosen, the individual project costs and agree further action**

13 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH THE CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the report of the Constituency Manager which set out a proposed process for public engagement through Wirral South Constituency Committee.

This was an initial starting point that would form part of a broader public engagement framework and be supported by a communications strategy.

Merseyside Police operate 'Have Your Say' meetings with members of the public. These had been held in each ward across the borough on a monthly basis. The Police have decided to refocus these meetings around the Constituency footprints and reduce their frequency to quarterly.

There was an opportunity to reduce duplication, create efficiencies and bring together a variety of public engagement forums into one meeting. The report set out a proposed way forward in relation to the 'Have Your Say' meetings and Public Question Time.

Members raised concerns and indicated that whilst they welcomed the Police and Fire service attending the Committee, they felt there was still a need for separate "Have your say" meetings and local meetings to be held, this, they felt would enable the public to raise issues in a private setting and not in the formality of a Committee meeting.

A Member suggested that it may be of some benefit if Police officers were in attendance for the Public Question/Answers session this would enable them to feedback to residents on any concerns/issues raised and also update on any issues affecting their area.

RESOLVED:

That the adoption of a Public Question Time based on the format outlined within the report be approved.

14 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION (NOT TO EXCEED 20 MINUTES)**

The members of the public in attendance raised the following questions/ comments.

Question 1

In relation to war memorials, does the Council have a designated officer dealing with these, as the War Memorial Trust had funding available for memorials in the Borough?

In response, Mr Adams indicated that the Council did have a designated Officer and agreed to forward the information to the member of the public

Question 2

In relation to the reduction of "Have Your Say" meetings why not have them 1 hour per week than attending the Area Committee every three months?

In response, Inspector Meredith indicated that the Police nationally had introduced this change, he was now looking at redesigning the "Have your say" meeting to meet the needs of the Community, he further commented that it was his intention to retain the informal "meet your local bobby" surgeries within the area.

Question 3

What is the role of the Community Representatives?

In response, Mr Adams indicated that the role descriptions were set out within the ABCD document appended to Item 4 of the agenda, which had yet to be formally launched. The Community Representatives would form part of the Committee but would also be expected to attend other meetings outside of the Committee cycle.

Question 4

In relation to the Wallasey-based Save Energy Advice Service, this was not an advice service as we are not able to contact them.

In response, Mr Adams indicated that this was a service used and recommended by the Housing Strategy team, but agreed to look into this issue and respond

Question 5

The “have your say” are important; if you have these as part of the Committee you will disengage the public who want to report their issues.

Question 6

In relation to the procedure for the member of the public raising questions, it was unacceptable to ask for these in writing prior to the meeting and urged Members to re-look at this.

In response, the Chair indicated that as well as questions in advance, public questions could be asked on the night, subject to the discretion of the Chair.

Question 7

We can't really have an impact on fuel poverty, however, Lyndale Special School was under the threat of closure this was a more pressing health and wellbeing issue. Also, twenty minutes allocated for public questions was not long enough.

In response, the Chair advised and encouraged members of the public to contact their Ward Councillors if they had any specific issues/questions they wished to raise prior the Constituency Committees meetings.

Question 8

Under the new format we feel we can't engage or participate.

Ms L. Harland-Davies, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer (Wirral South) indicated that she was responsible for community engagement for Wirral South and suggested that residents may wish to form a community forum of their own, this was something which had been done in Eastham area with her help .

Question 9

Would there be a possibility of having a youth representative as part of the Committee?

The Chair and the Members of the Committee welcomed the suggestion and directed the individual to upcoming (revamped) Community Representative application process (as per item 11 above).

Question 10

Whilst this was not an ideal process, this was agreed by the Council as a way forward for engaging with the public, the Committee now needed to move forward.

Question 11

Instead of Childhood Obesity which was previously discussed could a priority be set to assist the local churches retaining food bank facilities which was a real issue for Wirral South?

15 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor P. Gilchrist be elected Chair for the meeting of the Committee scheduled for 26 February 2014; and**
- (2) Councillor S.Niblock be elected Vice-Chair for the meeting of the Committee scheduled for 26 February 2014.**

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

26 FEBRUARY 2014

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| SUBJECT: | CONSTITUENCY PRIORITIES AND SPEND UPDATE |
| WARD/S AFFECTED: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>BEBINGTON</u>▪ <u>BROMBOROUGH</u>▪ <u>CLATTERBRIDGE</u>▪ <u>EASTHAM</u>▪ <u>HESWALL</u> |
| REPORT OF: | CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL SOUTH) |
| RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER: | COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING & ENGAGEMENT |
| KEY DECISION? | NO |

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report details the progress made in relation to priorities and processes regarding spend for Wirral South Constituency Committee for 2013/14.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 At its inaugural meeting (October 21 2013) Wirral South's Constituency Committee agreed to set up a 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group to set priorities for the remainder of the 2013-14 financial year (Minute 4 of said meeting - resolutions 2 & 3 refers). Said group consisted of five elected members (those nominated were Cllr P Gilchrist, Cllr L Rowlands, Cllr I Williams, Cllr J Williams and Cllr A Sykes).

2.2 At its second meeting on 18 December 2013 Wirral South's Constituency Committee approved £10k be allocated to each of the five wards (minute 12 of said meeting - resolution 1 refers). Said £10k per ward was to be spent upon a number of improvement ideas developed by elected members.

- 2.3 At the same meeting (18 December) it was also resolved that the aforementioned Task & Finish Group should meet once again in January 2014. The purpose of the January meeting being to develop recommendations to the final Constituency Committee of 2013/14 (February 26 2014) regarding spend of relevant Public Health allocations (appendix 1 Wirral South Constituency Budget Allocation 2013/14).

3.0 £10K PER WARD PROGRESS UPDATE

- 3.1 At its meeting on 18 December, 2013 the Committee approved the allocation of £10K per ward to be spent on various improvements work, highlighted by the ward members. A number of projects have so far been identified including; traffic surveying projects, footpath resurfacing work, drop kerb installation to enhance accessibility, installation of planters in retail areas and the reinvigoration of neglected horticultural locations.
- 3.2 Although the entire £50K allocation may not be spent by the end of the 2013/14 financial year it has been confirmed that the remainder can be carried over into 2014/15. Further reports will be made to this committee to update upon progress of said budget allocation.

4.0 PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGET ALLOCATION PROGRESS UPDATE

- 4.1 Since the Constituency Committee held on December 18, 2013 the allocation of monies from Public Health has increased. On December 10 2013 the Director of Public Health presented a report to Cabinet recommending a further £100K be "...administered through the Constituency Committees" aimed at supporting the voluntary sector in Wirral (minute 120 from said meeting refers).
- 4.1.1 As such the Wirral South Constituency Committee is now responsible for administering the original £25K provided by Public Health and the further £25K 'Voluntary Sector Support Fund' (see appendix one for a full breakdown of allocated budget).
- 4.2 The 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group met for the second time on Thursday 30 January 2014. During the meeting the new allocation (Voluntary Sector Support Fund) was discussed at length. The criteria for said fund clearly states that a transparent funding exercise be administered (by the Constituency Committees) to consider requests of up to £3K from the voluntary Sector only.
- 4.2.1 Elected members present at the 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group (Cllr P Gilchrist, Cllr L Rowlands, Cllr I Williams, Cllr J Williams and Cllr C Povall (standing in for Cllr A Sykes) proposed that the originally allocated £25K from Public Health could also be rolled into the allocation process outlined in section 4.2 above. This £25K would not simply be available to the voluntary sector. It was agreed that this element of the funding would also carry a cap of £3K to encourage a wide ranging cohort of applicants, covering as much of the Wirral South Constituency footprint as possible.

- 4.2.2 In depth documents detailing the mechanics of the above mentioned (£50K total) grants programme will be tabled at a further meeting of the Wirral South Task and Finish Group in March 2014 for approval (e.g. application form, terms and conditions). Said documents will then be shared with the remaining elected members for Wirral South. All successful applicants would need to clearly demonstrate how their project contributes towards the achievement of indicators from the Department of Health's Public Health outcomes framework (see appendix two).
- 4.2.3 The 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group highlighted the importance of mobilising interest in any such grants programme. It was agreed that drop in/workshops would be held in each ward throughout the application process. These sessions will not only offer practical help with completing application forms but will serve as a forum for any unanswered questions groups and individuals may have.
- 4.2.4 It is hoped that if recommendation 14.2 is agreed the grants programme could be released on April 1, 2014. Following the completion of a five week application window the requests received will be assessed and decisions made on funding allocation. All elected members will be invited to the assessment session (mid May). Successful applicants could then be informed and proposed projects revealed at the first Constituency Committee of 2014/15 on (June 25, 2014).
- 4.2.5 If all applicants were given nine months to spend their allocation then a full programme review could be presented to the final Constituency Committee of 2014/15. Said review would clearly demonstrate the impact that the funded projects had on the objectives highlighted in appendix two.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 Failure to agree project spend expediently may result in a loss of funding allocation in future years.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 Careful consideration has been given to the best way to distribute this funding to help tackle the Constituency's priorities.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Residents were consulted about their priorities in the drafting of the Neighbourhood Plans (2012).
- 7.2 Feedback from communities to elected members has also factored into priority setting.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 The overarching proposed model for neighbourhood working will strengthen the Council's relationship with the voluntary and community sector.
- 8.2 Tackling the priorities of the Constituency will benefit communities directly.
- 8.3 The Voluntary Sector Support Fund itself will directly enhance the sector by adding some much needed financial stimulus.

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

- 9.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wirral South Constituency Committee.
- 9.2 Funding may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The arrangements will help the Council to deliver on the Localism Act 2011 and Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

Yes an impact review can be found at the link below (Progressing Neighbourhood Working). A specific EIA related to the grants fund itself will be carried out should the relevant recommendation be approved.

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

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 Focus on fuel poverty as a priority will encourage maximum efficiency in relation to residential energy usage and thus reduce carbon emissions.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 This report may have positive community safety implications dependent upon the allocation of spend determined by the Constituency Committee.

14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

- 14.1 The Committee note the progress made in relation to the allocation and spend of the previously agreed £10K per ward.
- 14.2 Committee agrees to support the proposal of the 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group to carry out a grants programme, administering a total of £50k contributing towards the achievement of indicators from the Department of Health's Public Health Outcomes Framework (appendix two).
- 14.3 Committee agrees that said grants programme be launched on April 1, 2014. The principles agreed by the Task and Finish Group aimed at ensuring the broadest geographical and social spread of the funding be approved.
- 14.4 Committee agrees that following a five week application window the 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group meet again (with an open invitation to all elected members for Wirral South) to assess all applications received.

15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 15.1 To enable the work of the Constituency Committee to be focused upon the needs of the local area and to ensure projects commence as expediently as possible.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Fergus Adams**
Constituency Manager (Wirral South)
telephone: (0151) 691 8428
email: fergusadams@wirral.gov.uk

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Improving Outcomes and Supporting Transparency: Part 1B: Public Health Outcomes Framework; Department of Health; Nov 2012; p4

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

| Council Meeting | Date |
|--|------------------|
| Wirral South Constituency Committee | 21 October 2013 |
| Cabinet – Public Health Outcomes Funding | 10 October 2013 |
| Voluntary Sector Support Fund | 10 December 2013 |

Appendix one: Wirral South Constituency Budget Allocation 2013/14
Appendix two: Overview of Public Health Outcome Framework Indicators 2013-2016

Appendix One

Wirral South Constituency Budget Allocation 2013/14

The Wirral South committee has a total allocation of £100,000 for 2013/14, this is from 3 sources. Below details the three sources and the outcomes attached to each budget allocation

Wirral Council **£50,000**

To 'kick-start' work on the new model with a focus on tackling inequalities

Public Health Funding **£25,000**

To achieve the following objectives:

- Children in poverty
- 1st time entrants to the Youth system
- 16-18 year old NEETS
- Re-offending levels
- Social Isolation
- Older Peoples perception of community safety
- Proportion of physically active and inactive adults

Voluntary Sector Support Fund **£25,000**

It was approved at the Cabinet Budget Meeting on 10th December 2013 that each Constituency Committee administers a Voluntary Sector Support Fund. This has been proposed due to organisation contacting Councillors with concerns about their futures. It was proposed each constituency has a sum of £25,000 to be used against an agreed set of criteria.

Organisations can request up to £3000, each proposal will have to state how their activity meets at least one of the following two high level outcome measures from the Department of Health's Public Health Outcomes Framework 2013-2016:

- Increased healthy life expectancy
- Reduced differences in the life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between communities

These outcome measures are supported by a number of public health indicators grouped into four domains:

- Improving the wider determinants of health
- Health improvement
- Health protection
- Healthcare public health and preventing premature mortality

Total budget £100,000

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix Two: Overview of Public Health Outcome Framework Indicators 2013-2016

| VISION | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| To improve and protect the nation's health and wellbeing and improve the health of the poorest fastest. | | | |
| Outcome measures | | | |
| Outcome 1) Increased healthy life expectancy, i.e. taking account of the health quality as well as the length of life | | | |
| Outcome 2) Reduced differences in life expectancy and health life expectancy between communities (through greater improvements in more disadvantaged communities) | | | |
| 1. Improving the wider determinants of health | 2. Health Improvement | 3. Health Protection | 4. Healthcare public health and preventing premature mortality |
| Objective | Objective | Objective | Objective |
| Improvements against wider factors which affect health and wellbeing and health inequalities | People are helped to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities | The population's health is protected from major incidents and other threats, whilst reducing health inequalities | Reduced numbers of people living with preventable ill health and people dying prematurely, whilst reducing the gap between communities |
| Indicators | Indicators | Indicators | Indicators |
| 1.1 Children in poverty 1.2 <i>School readiness (placeholder)</i> 1.3 Pupil absence 1.4 First time entrants to the youth justice system 1.5 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training 1.6 Adults with a learning disability/in contact with secondary mental health services who live in stable and appropriate accommodation † (ASCOF 1G and 1H) 1.7 <i>People in prison who have a mental illness or a significant mental illness (Placeholder)</i> 1.8 Employment for those with long-term health conditions including adults with a learning disability or who are in contact with secondary mental health services *(i-NHSOF 2.2) †† (ii-ASCOF 1E) ** (iii-NHSOF 2.5) †† (iiii-ASCOF 1F) 1.9 Sickness absence rate 1.10 Killed and seriously injured casualties on England's roads 1.11 <i>Domestic abuse (Placeholder)</i> 1.12 Violent crime (including sexual violence) 1.13 Re-offending levels 1.14 The percentage of the population affected by noise 1.15 <i>Statutory homelessness</i> 1.16 Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise/health reasons 1.17 <i>Fuel poverty (Placeholder)</i> 1.18 <i>Social Isolation (Placeholder)</i> † (ASCOF 1I) 1.19 <i>Older people's perception of community safety (Placeholder)</i> †† (ASCOF 4A) | 2.1 Low birth weight of term babies 2.2 Breastfeeding 2.3 Smoking status at time of delivery 2.4 Under 18 conceptions 2.5 <i>Child Development at 2-2½ years (Placeholder)</i> 2.6 Excess weight in 4-5 and 10-11 year olds 2.7 Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in under 18s 2.8 Emotional wellbeing of looked after children 2.9 <i>Smoking prevalence – 15 year olds (Placeholder)</i> 2.10 <i>Self-harm (Placeholder)</i> 2.11 Diet 2.12 Excess weight in adults 2.13 Proportion of physically active and inactive adults 2.14 Smoking prevalence – adults (over 18s) 2.15 Successful completion of drug treatment 2.16 People entering prison with substance dependence issues who are previously not known to community treatment 2.17 Recorded diabetes 2.18 <i>Alcohol-related admissions to hospital (placeholder)</i> 2.19 Cancer diagnosed at Stage 1 and Stage 2 2.20 Cancer screening coverage 2.21 Access to non-cancer screening programmes 2.22 Take up of the NHS Health Check Programme – by those eligible 2.23 Self-reported wellbeing 2.24 Injuries due to falls in people aged 65 and over | 3.1 Fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution. 3.2 Chlamydia diagnoses (15-24 year olds) 3.3 Population vaccination coverage 3.4 People presenting with HIV at a late stage of infection 3.5 Treatment completion for Tuberculosis (TB) 3.6 Public sector organisations with a board approved sustainable development management plan 3.7 <i>Comprehensive, agreed inter-agency plans for responding to public health incidents and emergencies (Placeholder)</i> | 4.1 Infant mortality * (NHSOF 1.6i) 4.2 Tooth decay in children aged 5 4.3 Mortality rate from causes considered preventable ** (NHSOF 1a) 4.4 Under 75 mortality rate from all cardiovascular diseases (including heart diseases and stroke) * (NHSOF 1.1) 4.5 Under 75 mortality rate from cancer * (NHSOF 1.4i) 4.6 Under 75 mortality rate from liver disease * (NHSOF 1.3) 4.7 Under 75 mortality rate from respiratory diseases * (NHSOF 1.2) 4.8 Mortality rate from infectious and parasitic diseases 4.9 Excess under 75 mortality rate in adults with serious mental illness * (NHSOF 1.5) 4.10 Suicide rate 4.11 Emergency readmissions within 30 days of discharge from hospital * (NHSOF 3b) 4.12 Preventable sight loss 4.13 <i>Health-related quality of life for older people (Placeholder)</i> 4.14 Hip fractures in people aged 65 and over 4.15 Excess winter deaths 4.16 Estimated diagnosis rate for people with dementia * (NHSOF 2.6i) |

Alignment across the Health and Care System
 * Indicator shared with the NHS Outcomes Framework
 ** Complementary to indicators in the NHS Outcomes Framework
 † Indicator shared with Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework
 †† Complementary to indicators in the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework
Indicators in italics are placeholders, pending development or identification

This page is intentionally left blank

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

27TH JANUARY 2014

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| SUBJECT: | PAVEMENT & GRASS VERGE PARKING UPDATE REPORT |
| WARD/S AFFECTED: | ALL |
| REPORT OF: | MARK SMITH, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT & REGULATION |
| RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER: | COUNCILLOR HARRY SMITH, HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION |
| KEY DECISION? | NO |

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on progress relating to pavement and grass verge parking since the last report in November 2012.
- 1.2 The report notes that the initiative to publicise the problems relating to pavement parking to the general public and issue warning notices in areas of particular concern is in its early stages but is having some positive effect.
- 1.3 The report recommends a continuation of the current initiative with further updates for Members in due course.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 This report provides an update on progress relating to pavement and grass verge parking issues since the report of the then Interim Director for Technical Services in November 2012 to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2 In that report it was recognised that pavement parking can, in some circumstances, increase danger for road users as they negotiate such hazards. It can also lead to higher traffic speeds on some roads as vehicles need not slow to pass legitimately parked vehicles. The issue is particularly sensitive for the public and Members alike, and is the subject of many enquiries to Streetscene. This is not only a problem for the public of Wirral, it is also a problem nationally.
- 2.3 In residential areas, narrow roads result in drivers parking on pavements/verges in an effort to avoid obstructing the road for through traffic and, in particular, large vehicles such as refuse collection vehicles, removal/delivery vans, etc.
- 2.4 In these locations residential parkers are generally aware that they should not be parking on the pavement/verge but they persist for a variety of reasons. Pavement/verge parking is a major problem at peak times outside most of the school sites in the Borough. Those who pavement/verge park outside schools do so regularly.

- 2.5 Many areas were designed when car ownership was not high. Some older housing estates have a significant number of amenity areas and narrow access roads. Houses in these cases can front onto large grassed areas without direct road frontages. It would be relatively costly to introduce a widescale programme of capital investment to provide parking laybys in many of these locations. Officers estimate that even if such a programme was undertaken, demand for parking is still likely to outstrip provision.
- 2.6 Obstruction resulting from footway or verge parking is not enforceable by the Council's parking management provision – unless there is a specific signed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) made within the remit of the Road Traffic Act 1984 in place. Enforcement is therefore only generally possible through the Police. Other TROs such as single or double yellow lines in place on a specific section of carriageway cover the whole width of the road including footways. In such cases prosecutions for infringement of the specific yellow line TRO can be undertaken by the Council.
- 2.7 Individual instances of parking on footways or verges can be considered by police officers to be obstructive or dangerous. Whilst these offences appear to clearly indicate parking on footways and verges is not permitted, officers within the police point out that unless there is evidence that a footway or carriageway is fully 'obstructed', there are no other definitions of what constitutes 'obstruction', 'wilful obstruction' or 'unnecessary obstruction' and in such cases they are less likely to secure a successful prosecution. Additionally, as Members may be aware the recent economic downturn has resulted in limitations in police resources, with such offences being seen as a lower priority than burglary, violence and other crime.
- 2.8 There have been 9 'pilot' verge & pavement parking TRO schemes introduced to date at a variety of locations across the Borough. These are reasonably well respected by motorists with good compliance in all locations and few prosecutions undertaken.
- 2.9 Following the report in 2012 and the suggestions made by Members of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee the leaflet designed by the Council to warn 'offending' drivers of their pavement parking was amended to include specific details of the incident.
- 2.10 These leaflets were finalised and following publicity in the local press and Wirral own website, the initiative was launched in July 2013. Since then over 100 individual warning notices have been issued to a variety of locations where either Members or the general public have informed my officers of particular problems.
- 2.11 During subsequent visits, officers have noted a general reduction in pavement parking, although the problem continues to persist in particular near schools at key start/finish times.
- 2.12 There are on average 2 – 3 occasions annually where reinstatement of badly rutted grass verges is necessary. The work typically involves rolling the grass surface with a heavy roller then making up the ground levels with top soil and grass seed. The total cost of this work is generally less than £500.

- 2.13 Whilst some damage does occur to grass verges over time when drivers choose to fully or partially mount them, though unsightly, this is in itself not normally a danger to pedestrians.
- 2.14 There are some difficulties in generating sufficient evidence to determine that the actual damage caused to a grassed verge has been done by an individual. In addition in many cases vehicle owners may have more than one authorised driver and proving that all of the damage was done by one individual is somewhat more difficult.
- 2.15 The report in November 2012 to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee identified a number of actions which are continuing to be progressed:
- 1) Undertake consultation with Area Forums, emergency services, WIRED and the Wirral Pedestrian Association regarding appropriate minimum widths, impingement upon which would be deemed obstruction, and report back to Members in due course.
Update – consultation with various groups ongoing, however a nominal width of 1.2 m is currently being used as guidance.
 - 2) Review and if found practical, prepare an invest-to-save proposal to address the consequences for highway maintenance and the defence of personal injury claims arising from pavement and grass verge parking.
Update – This proposal is still being investigated/pursued.
 - 3) If resources are available, conscious of the context described in 7.2 (of that report – *“The pursuit of the pavement and grass verge parking agenda is not currently a funded item and would require resources to be made available. As a “growth” item, careful consideration must be given to whether such resources could be identified considering the Councils financial position. It may be that Area Forums could decide to allocate some of their funds to this topic, but central funding is unlikely to be available”.*) - that:
 - i) in conjunction with the Police, undertake an information/publicity campaign using a variety of media strands to raise public awareness of the problems and the potential penalties that can be imposed.
Update – initial media launch undertaken. Information provided via a number of outlets including press and website. No additional funding available for further marketing at this time.
 - ii) issuing of specific warning leaflets for drivers together with a database of persistent ‘offenders’ in problem areas.
Update – over 100 warning leaflets have been issued relating to obstructive pavement parking to drivers with details captured.
 - iii) referral to the police for dangerous, damaging or persistent obstructive parking.
Update - No persistent offenders have yet been identified as requiring further police intervention.
 - iv) refer to Area Forums/known community groups for prioritisation of specific pavement /grass verge parking restrictions with subsequent enforcement action, as appropriate.
Update – A number of locations have been identified and referred to the new Constituency Forum Co-ordinators.

v) investigate the creation of a database of details of vehicles regularly parking on footways and grass verges causing obstruction and/or damage.

Update - completed

vi) undertake prosecutions of drivers causing damage to the highway infrastructure.

Update - not yet undertaken

4) Request that Senior Officers raise issues relating to obstruction and footway parking with all Council staff and its contractors.

Update – the Chief Executive has contacted all staff. Senior Officers have raised this issue with contractors.

2.16 Within the provisions of current legislation, where vehicles park partly or fully on a footway or verge, leaving sufficient room for free passage and parking so as not to cause a danger or cause identifiable damage, they would not normally be subject to further action.

2.17 If it can be proved that damage has been caused to the surface of a pavement/verge by a particular vehicle driver, then the Council can take action to recover the costs of the repairs through the Magistrates Court and if the person is found guilty, they are liable to a fine.

2.18 A number of sites have been identified as having ongoing grass verge parking where officers consider that the introduction of a verge/pavement parking TRO could assist. Constituency Forum Co-ordinators have been informed of these to see if the new Forums wish to prioritise their introduction.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 Not taking action will result in continuing damage to footways and grass verges which will require repair, incurring additional costs.

3.2 Unsafe parking practices may result in increased risk of road accidents.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 None.

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

6.1 The introduction of further specific Traffic Regulation Orders will require formal advertising, processing and sealing.

6.2 The pursuit of the pavement and grass verge parking agenda is not currently a funded item and would require resources to be made available. As a “growth” item, careful consideration must be given to whether such resources could be identified considering the Councils financial position. It may be that Constituency Forums could decide to allocate some of their funds to this topic, but central funding is unlikely to be available.

6.3 If funding was available, there could be a prospect of extending the role of the Council’s parking enforcement contractor to cover this additional area of enforcement and for them to serve fixed penalty notices on all vehicles parked on the pavements in any of the roads where traffic regulation orders are introduced.

6.4 The creation/implementation of a database to record persistent 'offenders' will require IT support and will need to conform with the data protection act.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Restricting pavement parking could reduce the Council's expenditure on pavement repairs and will maintain the reduction in public liability insurance claims arising from highway related tripping accidents.

8.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

No because this is a progress report.

9.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Effective control of on-street parking will have positive effects on quality of life issues such as access to property and visual amenity of the environment. It also supports sustainable goals in encouraging use of public transport and may lead to a saving in resource use where fewer repairs to pavements and verges are required.

10.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Enforcing and controlling pavement parking will reduce potential hazards and dangers to users of the public highway.

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Members are requested to note progress made in continuing to address pavement and verge parking issues.

12.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 The parking of vehicles on pavements and grass verges is widespread across the Borough. Many motorists are either ignorant or unconcerned of the impact that their actions can have on the condition of the pavement surface or the obstruction that they cause to pedestrians, the elderly and the less able by forcing them to walk around the vehicle and onto the road.

12.2 In terms of its impact on resources it is difficult to estimate exactly how much pavement parking costs the Council in terms of reactive maintenance/repairs but it is thought to be in excess of £40,000 annually with the majority of this cost related to damage done to flagged footways.

12.3 It is Council Policy to replace paving flags with tarmacadam in pavement locations where vehicle overriding is causing damage to the pavement and hazards for pedestrians.

12.4 Despite the benefits outlined in para 12.2, the Council's current financial position makes it difficult to identify resources to target this issue. It may be possible to adopt an invest-to-save model, but this would need further consideration.

| | | |
|------------------------|---|--|
| REPORT AUTHORS: | Shaun Brady Highway Asset Manager telephone: (0151) 606 2098 email: shaunbrady@wirral.gov.uk | David Rees Road Safety Manager telephone: (0151) 606 2111 email: davidrees@wirral.gov.uk |
|------------------------|---|--|

APPENDICES - Nil

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

| Council Meeting | Date |
|--|--------------------------|
| Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 21 November 2012 |
| Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 26 September 2011 |