

CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE - WIRRAL WEST

Thursday, 3 July 2014

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	JE Green (Chair)	
	Councillors	J Hale	L Reecejones
		T Anderson	Tony Smith
		D Elderton	M Sullivan
		G Ellis	G Watt
		M Hornby	S Whittingham
		M Patrick	
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	E Boulton	W Clements
		P Brightmore	

Thirty one members of the public were in attendance, with the percentage attendance by ward as follows:

- Greasby, Frankby and Irby 13%
- Hoylake and Meols 10%
- Pensby and Thingwall 13%
- Upton 19%
- West Kirby and Thurstaston 39%
- Not stated 6%

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The Head of Legal and Member Services requested nominations for the appointment of Chair for the 2014/2015 municipal year.

On a motion by Councillor Hale, seconded by Councillor Elderton, it was –

Resolved – That Councillor Jeff Green be appointed Chair for the municipal year 2014/2015.

(Councillor Green in the Chair)

On a motion by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Elderton, it was –

Resolved – That Councillor John Hale be appointed Vice-Chair for the municipal year 2014/2015

2 APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

The Chair advised that at the meeting of the Committee held on 12 December 2013 (minute 14 refers), and in accordance with the authorisation conferred by the Council (minute 41 (14 October 2013) refers), the Committee had appointed its Community Representatives, following an evaluation and based upon recommendations made by Ward Councillors. All had indicated their willingness to continue in their role for the municipal year 2014/2015.

Resolved – That the following persons be appointed as the Committee’s Community Representatives for the municipal year 2014/2015 –

- (a) Jackie Hall Hoylake and Meols Ward**
- (b) John Smith Greasby Frankby and Irby Ward**
- (c) Lynn Collier Pensby and Thingwall Ward**
- (d) Elise Wong Upton Ward**
- (e) David Wade West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward**

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillors Jeff Green and Stuart Whittingham declared their interest in agenda item 6 – Your Wirral Grants Programme (see minute 6 post), by virtue of their membership of the Magenta Living Board.

Councillor Tom Anderson declared his interest in agenda item 7 – Wirral West Constituency Budget 2014/2015 (see minute 7 post) insofar as it related to public health spending, by virtue of his employment.

In addition, all Members declared their personal interest in agenda items 6 (Your Wirral Grants Programme) and 7 (Wirral West Constituency Budget 2014/2015) by virtue of their involvement with various community groups within the Wirral West Constituency that may be eligible for grant funding.

4 MINUTES

The Head of Legal and Member Services presented the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2014. With regard to minute 25, the Constituency Manager advised that, in response to the Chair having written to the Chief Fire Officer to ascertain the facts in relation to fire station mergers, in the light of conflicting reports, she had received an update from the Chief Fire Officer. The update stated that *‘the Fire and Rescue Authority is having to deliver £26.5m savings as a result of Government cuts to its budget up to and including 2015/2016. The Authority is pursuing the merger on the recommendation of the Chief Fire Officer who has described the merger as representing the least worst operational option for West Wirral.*

The Authority has invested significant time and effort in attempting to identify a suitable site for the proposed merger of West Kirby and Upton fire stations. Unfortunately it has not yet been possible to identify a suitable site which is available for purchase with the appropriate planning consent.

If the merger option cannot be delivered, which appears increasingly likely, then the next option to be pursued by the Authority will be the outright closure of West Kirby and the development of the existing Upton site in partnership with North West Ambulance Service who have expressed an interest in collocation.

From an operational perspective the Authority can still make the 10 minute response standard to the existing West Kirby station area from Upton, Heswall and Wallasey'.

Resolved –

(1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2014 be approved.

(2) That the update from the Chief Fire Officer be noted.

5 CONSTITUENCY MANAGER'S REPORT

The Constituency Manager (Wirral West) presented her report, which provided an update in relation to the ongoing work programme being undertaken in support of the Committee, which was set out in an 'action tracker' appended to the report.

She reported upon work that had been undertaken with partners to develop a joined up approach to engagement within the Constituency and commented upon the success of the first partner 'have your say' marketplace event, which took place on 17 April 2014 in Hoylake. The approach to the events would be further developed and publicised to ensure that people were aware of their purpose and how they linked with the Constituency Committee. The dates for future marketplace engagement events were as follows, with the venue for each still to be confirmed –

- 18 September 2014 at 7.00pm Upton Ward
- 11 December 2014 at 7.00pm Greasby, Frankby and Irby Ward
- 26 March 2015 at 7.00pm West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward
- 18 June 2015 at 7.00pm Pensby and Thingwall Ward

She reported also that all Wirral West Community Fund/Public Health projects agreed at the last meeting (minute 23 (6 March 2014) refers) needed to be completed by December 2014, and the Constituency team was working proactively with local groups to support project activity. As part of this, an opportunity had been provided for groups to provide an update on their projects to the Committee. She indicated that, although a number were still in the early stages of development, several had provided a summary of progress and she highlighted what had been achieved to date in respect of the following projects –

- **Woodchurch Methodist Centre**
Awarded £472 to hold a 'Making Connections' event, to find ways to reduce isolation and loneliness amongst older people
- **St Hildeburgh's Lunch Club**
Awarded £1400 to expand their regular lunches for isolated older members of the community
- **The Friends of Hilbre Parents and Teachers Association**
Awarded £1000 for their community Clean Up project, being delivered in conjunction with Wirral Eco Schools

- **Happy Times**

Awarded £3000 to deliver fun 'musical movement' sessions for older people living in sheltered accommodation in Pensby and Woodchurch

She confirmed that the project updates would be published on the Wirral West web pages at www.wirral.gov.uk/wirralwest, together with further updates received as other projects were developed.

Resolved –

- (1) That the progress in relation to the work being undertaken in support of the Committee and in respect of the Constituency Working approach, be noted.**
- (2) That the thanks of the Committee be accorded to the Constituency Manager for the success of the constituency engagement events in bringing together ward groups and for providing an opportunity for members of the public to receive updates on ward activities.**

6 YOUR WIRRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Constituency Manager (Wirral West) reported that the 'Your Wirral Fund' was a small grants programme of £250,000 that had been in operation since 2007. It was a strand of the Community Fund that came into being as a result of the Value Added Tax (VAT) return generated by the Housing stock transfer from Wirral Council to Wirral Partnership Homes, now Magenta Living. A Joint Working Group acted as the accountable body for Your Wirral and was comprised of representation from Wirral Council and Magenta Living, including Councillors and Board Members and it had been agreed that the Fund should now be administered via the Constituency Committees, the allocation determined by Magenta Living on the basis of the number of housing units in each Constituency area. She indicated that £50,000 had been ringfenced for Wirral-wide projects and the specific allocation for Wirral West was £40,000.

The Joint Working Group had determined criteria for eligibility for funding, with applications having to fit within one or more of the following themes, in line with the charitable objectives of the Community Fund Deed –

1. Creating an attractive and safe environment
2. Contributing to community economic regeneration
3. Preventing crime or reducing the fear of crime
4. Providing employment and training for local people
5. Benefiting local people who face discrimination
6. Improving community facilities
7. Engaging communities to improve quality of life

The Constituency Manager highlighted a series of terms and conditions had been developed to ensure that the conditions of the Community Fund Deed were not compromised. It had also been proposed that applications for funding for Wirral-wide projects (i.e. projects that would be delivered in two or more constituency areas) would be assessed by a separate panel comprising the Chair or Vice-Chair of each Constituency Committee and an officer from

Magenta Living, who would make recommendations for approval by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Engagement.

The Your Wirral Fund would be launched across Wirral in the week commencing 28 July 2014 and would remain open throughout the year with 'cut off' dates advertised for each Constituency, by which applications needed to be received to be considered by the Panel and referred for decision to the Constituency Committee. The Your Wirral Constituency Panel was therefore expected to meet up to four times in this municipal year in advance of each of the Constituency Committee meetings until the funding was spent.

The views of the Committee were therefore sought as to –

- Nominations for the Wirral West Your Wirral Constituency Panel, which will make recommendations to the Constituency Committee with regard to the allocation of Your Wirral grants in Wirral West. Both councillors and community representatives may be nominated to sit on this panel;
- Whether the Wirral West Your Wirral Constituency Panel should give priority to one or more of the 7 themes when they were considering their recommendations to the Committee.

The Chair expressed a view that each ward should be represented on the Panel, to make recommendations to the Committee for allocation of grants and that the Panel should have regard to all seven themes so as to ensure that the best applications are recommended for funding, rather than those that simply comply with a particular theme.

Resolved –

- (1) That one Councillor from each ward, together with each of the Community Representatives be nominated to the Wirral West Your Wirral Constituency Panel which will make recommendations to the Constituency Committee**
- (2) That, to comply with the charitable objectives of the Community Fund Deed, the Panel shall consider applications for funding, which fit within the seven themes but that no priority be given to any specific theme when considering recommendations to the Committee.**
- (3) That the Chair (or Vice Chair) of the Committee be nominated to represent the Wirral West Constituency Committee on the separate panel which will make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Housing and Engagement with regard to the allocation of Wirral wide Your Wirral grants.**

7 WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE BUDGET 2014/2015

The Constituency Manager (Wirral West) reported upon the Constituency Committee Budget 2014/2015 and sought the views of the Committee as to the process for taking forward expenditure in relation to the Constituency Committee's budget allocation for 2014/2015, i.e. –

A 2013/2014 Budget Underspend

The Committee's total budget allocation for 2013/2014 amounted to £100,000, which was made up of –

- £50,000 core Council budget to 'kickstart' neighbourhood working, which was allocated on the basis of £10,000 per ward (minute 23 (6 March 2014) refers). The Constituency Manager highlighted the underspend for each ward, which, as agreed by the Committee, had been held in reserve, to be carried over into 2014/2015, for ward improvements and/or to extend a further opportunity for local projects to access grant funding and add value to existing community activities.
- £50,000 Public Health Outcomes Fund budget to improve health and well-being, with a focus on supporting voluntary, community and faith sector organisations. Following the grant allocation, there was a net underspend of £5,633.57 and the Constituency Manager reported upon work with partners to develop a project proposal in response to a Cabinet Office funding opportunity aimed at supporting older people and reducing hospital admissions during the winter months. Should the bid be successful, the project would fund a voluntary or community sector organisation in each of the four constituencies to act as a 'winter champion' by increasing social action and improving the support networks available for older people where they lived. The Constituency Manager sought delegated authority to use the Public Health underspend of £5,633.57 to further develop the partnership working with the voluntary, community and faith sector in respect of support for older people in Wirral West.

B 2014/2015 Neighbourhood Working Allocation

The Council's budget allocation for 2014/2015 included a further allocation of £200,000 to be devolved to the Constituency Committees to enable neighbourhood working to be further developed (£50,000 per Constituency area). The Committee was requested to consider whether the broad approach of an equitable split between five wards, with projects voted upon by the community, should continue in 2014/2015, subject to development and improvement of the approach based upon feedback received by way of a survey from the local community. The Constituency Manager provided an outline of the survey results and set out the priority areas that had been identified.

With regard to the Council allocation for 2014/2015, a Member expressed a view that levels of deprivation and population across the Constituency should be calculated and that funding should be allocated to wards on that basis. An alternative view was also expressed that, in view of the levels of funding available to be allocated, the grant should be distributed to wards on the same basis as in 2013/2014.

C 2014/2015 Integrated Transport Block (Road Safety) Allocation

This provided an allocation of £77,750 for each Constituency Committee, which was required to be distributed in relation to the following objectives –

- Improving Road Safety (£38,875)
- Promoting Active Travel and Health (£38,875)

The Constituency Manager outlined the rationale for each of the objectives and indicated that the funding was to be used for capital expenditure schemes as opposed to revenue expenditure (i.e. the funding may be spent on the creation of a fixed asset rather than on operating costs or the provision of a day to day service.). She proposed that recommendations for the allocation of the road safety budget across the five wards would be by way of consultation with Members of the Committee and that a lead Member would be nominated from each ward to work with the Constituency Manager and the Road Safety Team to identify road safety schemes.

With regard to the 2014/2015 Council allocation, it was moved by Councillor Green and seconded by Councillor Hale –

“That the budget of £50,000 be allocated on the basis of £10,000 per ward, with project applications being voted upon by the community, and that the recommendation at paragraph 14.3 of the report now submitted, be agreed.”

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Patrick and seconded by Councillor Sullivan –

“That levels of deprivation and population across the Constituency be calculated and that the 2014/2015 Council allocation be allocated to wards on that basis.”

The amendment was put and lost (5:7)
The Motion was put and carried (7:3)

Resolved –

- (1) That in relation to the 2013/2014 Community Fund underspend, carried over for each ward, the Committee agrees that this should continue to be allocated by the Constituency Manager through ongoing consultation with the relevant ward councillors in line with minute 23 (6 March 2014).**
- (2) That, in relation to the 2013/2014 Public Health Outcomes Fund underspend of £5,633.77, the Committee agrees that the Constituency Manager be given delegated authority to utilise this funding to support partnership working with the voluntary, community and faith sector to support older people.**
- (3) That, in relation to the 2014/2015 Council allocation, the Committee delegates authority to the Constituency Manager to develop the Community Fund programme taking into account the feedback from local people as to their priorities for expenditure and the feedback from groups for improving the community voting process. (7:3)**
- (4) That, in noting the priorities identified by local people, 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 requests 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) That, in relation to the 2014/2015 Road Safety Allocation, the Committee agrees that a Lead Member for each ward should be nominated to work with the Constituency Manager to identify possible schemes for funding.**

8 WIRRAL WEST PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair invited questions from members of the public upon matters that were relevant to the Wirral West Constituency and he indicated that a number of questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting.

- A member of the public, Mr John Durrant, representing the Wirral Environmental Network, highlighted his concern with regard to the Dee Estuary and in particular, to the shoreline at Thurstaston being subject to tidal erosion. He questioned whether Wirral Council and its neighbouring local authorities should work together to turn the estuary into a Lakeland and to link Wirral by road with North Wales.
 - The Council's Health, Safety and Resilience Manager, who had responsibility for coastal management referred to the Coastal Management Plan, which was available by way of the Council's website. This was a 50 year plan, the current version having been approved by the Cabinet in 2010, and covered the whole of Wirral's coastline and all relevant agencies were signatories to it. The Constituency Manager proposed to provide a copy of the document to the questioner and any areas of concern could then be raised direct with appropriate Council officers.

- A question was asked by Mrs Fiona Johnson as to why the Number 138 bus service was no longer running, it being a valuable link between West Kirby, Hoylake, Moreton, Liscard and New Brighton. Members also expressed their concern that this service had been stopped and Councillor Hale advised that he was awaiting a response to an enquiry he had made to the Leader of the Council, Merseytravel now being a part of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
 - The Constituency Manager proposed to make enquiries on behalf of the Constituency Committee and to notify Members of the outcome.

- A Pensby resident, Mr John Cranny, enquired whether the Committee would consider the provision of bike stands in the vicinity of the shops on Pensby Road, near Fishers Lane.
 - The Chair indicated that such a request would seem to fit well with the criteria for the provision of grant funding. He asked the Constituency Manager to arrange for the request to be considered as part of the budget allocation process for the improvement of road safety and promotion of active travel and health (see minute 7 ante).

- A question was asked by Mr Andrew Hodgson as to whether a reduced speed limit of 20mph could be imposed in parts of the centre of West

Kirby, on the basis of improving both road safety and promoting active travel and health.

- The Chair introduced Councillor Stuart Whittingham, who was the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Highways and Transport. Councillor Whittingham proposed to liaise with the Council's traffic management officers, who would assess the suitability of the proposal. Subject to officers recommendations, it could then be considered as part of the process for the allocation of the Committee's road safety budget
- A resident of the Upton area, Mr Damian McGregor, had submitted questions (i) as to why safety barriers had been removed with the introduction of new traffic lights at the Upton By-Pass; (ii) why were footways next to the roadway re-sited; and (iii) with regard to the provision of yellow lines as part of the junction set up.
 - David Rees, the Council's Road Safety Manager, outlined the content of a written response had been sent to the questioner. The introduction of traffic lights had been in response to an independent safety audit and he confirmed that officers would keep the situation under review.

There were no proposals to erect a pedestrian guardrail along the full length of the new footways adjacent to the by-pass. The pedestrian guardrail was erected to guide pedestrians to a specific location where needed and did not form a vehicle safety barrier system. A footway adjacent to a busy carriageway with a speed limit of 30mph without a guardrail was not dissimilar to other locations on the borough, for example Woodchurch Road which had a busy 4 lane carriageway. The existing pedestrian guardrail was to remain insitu on the verges to the north side of the by-pass which would prevent pedestrians crossing over the by-pass and thus directing them to the proposed pedestrian controlled crossing island. The independent Road Safety Audit carried out and approved for the scheme during the design process did not highlight the lack of guardrail as a safety issue and therefore it was not mentioned in the audit.

With regard to the re-siting of the footway, the proposed location of the new footway adjacent to the carriageway on the south side of the junction would lead to the new pedestrian refuge facility to Houghton Road and thus onto the controlled pedestrian crossing facility on the By-Pass. This new footway was in addition to the existing footpath located at the back of verge, which was to remain.

There were currently no proposals for additional yellow lines on Houghton Road, but the operation of the junction would continue to be monitored. Whilst there were large amounts of yellow lines elsewhere on the estate (New Hey Road and roads off) these went in many years ago and the current approach was not to favour blanketing an area with yellow lines unless absolutely necessary.

In response to a further question from a Member, he stated that the guardrails were in a very poor condition and had been recycled.

- A resident referred to The Open Golf Championship and requested details of what, if any, payments had been made to the Council by The R&A, to cover the significant costs involved in Wirral hosting the event.
 - The Council's Health, Safety and Resilience Manager confirmed that no specific funding had been provided by The R&A. However, the large number of visitors who were expected to attend the Championship would provide a clear economic benefit to Wirral, in terms of spend in local bars, restaurants and shops.

The Chair commented also that, in addition to the economic benefits, The Open presented an opportunity to showcase Wirral to a global audience and, hopefully, to attract future investment. He was proud that The Open was taking place in Wirral and praised the work undertaken by Council officers to ensure the event was a success.

- A resident asked whether the Council could cut 500 jobs, as recently reported, and still maintain essential services; and whether the Council was out of touch with its constituents.
 - Councillor Tony Smith, Cabinet Member – Children and Family Services commented that the Council was in the financial position it was in because of cuts in grant by central government. The Chief Executive was working hard to ensure that a balanced budget could be set and it was hoped that the level of savings required could be achieved by way of voluntary severance/redundancy. The Cabinet was fully aware of the impact on Wirral residents and did not choose to be in the position of having to make such severe cuts in spending.

- A local resident, on behalf of the Woodchurch Trust sought clarification of a number of matters –
 - (i) in respect of the Committee's Constitution
 - The Chair confirmed that the Committee was properly constituted and that the Constituency Manager would be able to provide copies of the document, on request.
 - (ii) road repairs in the vicinity of Hoole Road, Woodchurch
 - Councillor Stuart Whittingham, Cabinet Member – Highways and Transport provided an explanation of the type of asphalt treatment that had been used in the area. Council officers were monitoring the condition of the road surface and any further works would be followed up.
 - (iii) money loaned by the Council to other local authorities
 - Members commented that the Leader of the Council had recently made a statement on the significant benefit to Wirral of safe, low risk lending to other local authorities. Councillor Whittingham agreed to investigate the matter raised and to provide a written response to the questioner in due course.
 - (iv) the provision of a youth hub at Woodchurch Leisure Centre
 - A Member confirmed the information that had been provided at the last meeting of the Committee that the location of the Youth Hub in central Birkenhead was because the land had been provided free of charge by the Fire Authority and it had excellent transport links from all over Wirral.

- A resident requested an update in relation to the development of a project proposal in response to a Cabinet Office funding opportunity aimed at supporting older people and reducing hospital admissions during the winter months.
 - The Constituency Manager referred to her Wirral West Constituency Committee Budget 2014/2015 report (see minute 7 ante), which highlighted the opportunity that had arisen. The outcome of the Cabinet Office bid was not yet known but, if successful, consultation would take place with local groups on how best to take the project forward.

- A West Kirby resident referred to the review of on-street parking restrictions in West Kirby and, subject to the safety requirements at junctions, questioned whether some short term parking could be allowed to benefit local businesses, where there were double lines at present.
 - The Chair agreed that there had been an urgent need for a review of parking in West Kirby. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport commented that a Scrutiny Review on Parking had been undertaken, which had brought forward recommendations to the Cabinet. The Council's Road Safety Manager commented that he would consider the results of the review and provide a response to the questioner and to the Committee.

- A resident questioned how many Councillors would be getting complimentary tickets to The Open Golf Championship
 - The Chair confirmed that he had received an invitation to attend and would be pleased to support such a prestigious event in Wirral. It would be a matter for other Members to declare any gifts or hospitality they were offered.

- A resident of Irby referred to the difficulty that was faced by children of Irby Primary School when trying to undertake cycling proficiency lessons, because of the volume of traffic they encountered when attempting to cross roads. He asked whether assistance to schools in the area could be provided by the Committee.
 - The Constituency Manager agreed to liaise with the questioner to consider what assistance, if any could be provided.

9 UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

The Chair invited the Community Representatives to provide a brief update in relation to local issues.

Hoylake and Meols Ward

Jackie Hall MBE indicated that she was proud to have been given the opportunity to represent Hoylake and Meols Ward, as its Community Representative and she praised the work being undertaken by local groups who worked together for the benefit of the community. She highlighted the success of the Festival of Firsts in Hoylake and referred specifically to bunting, floral hanging baskets and planters of herbs, all of which were provided by volunteers. The benefits to the area of the Hoylake Golf Resort were also eagerly anticipated. However, on a less positive note, she

expressed her disappointment that nothing had been done regarding the derelict toilet block on Hoylake Promenade.

West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward

David Wade highlighted a number of matters of concern to local people in West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward, particularly, the closure and loss of West Kirby Fire Station, drilling in the Dee Estuary, parking problems in the vicinity of West Kirby Rail Station and proposed development at the West Kirby Medical Centre.

Ward Councillor David Elderton provided an update regarding the development planned by Magenta Living, which was subject to legal challenge. Magenta had been advised that the legal challenge should run its course and that £10million had been set aside for the development to be completed. However, no timescale could be given at the present time. Councillor Green and Councillor Whittingham declared their personal interest in this issue by virtue of them being members of the Magenta Living Board.

Greasby, Frankby and Irby Ward

John Smith referred to the retail development that was being undertaken in the vicinity of the Red Cat in Greasby and commented that, this morning, there had been a serious accident in the vicinity of the site. Although not directly connected, he had asked that the accident be investigated with a view to establishing whether the development presented increased risks.

He also highlighted the need for a response from the Council in relation to funding the provision of Christmas lighting and he requested an update in relation to the Western Link works, which had the potential to cause disruption of The Open.

Pensby and Thingwall Ward

Lynn Collier referred to traffic problems caused by parents performing illegal or dangerous manoeuvres, when dropping children off at school. She highlighted specific problems in the vicinity of Pensby Primary School and sought advice and support from the Council's Road Safety Manager

Resolved – That the reports be noted and the Constituency Manager be requested to provide feedback to the Committee in relation to the various issues highlighted.

10 **INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION**

The Principal Electoral Services Officer presented the report of the Director of Public Health/Head of Policy and Performance upon Individual Electoral Registration (IER), which had been presented to the Council's Coordinating Committee on 15 January 2014 and subsequently to the Cabinet at its meeting on 13 March 2014. The Cabinet requested that the report be referred to Constituency Committees as a topic for discussion.

She confirmed that IER had been implemented on 10 June 2014 and all local authorities had been asked to check their match rate against DWP date.

Wirral's accuracy rate was above the national average and in Wirral West it was expected that over 90% of electors would be registered automatically. Residents were now able to register online and, although this had proved to be very successful, the challenge was how best to target the 10% who were not registered. There was to be a national campaign in August 2014, which would be complemented in Wirral with local initiatives to raise awareness, the cost of which would be fully funded until 2015, after which, any additional costs would have to be met by the Council.

In response to concerns expressed with regard to the security of data exchange with the DWP, she indicated that it was done by way of a secure digital data server, which had been tested to ensure that it was both accurate and secure.

Resolved – That the report be noted

11 **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

16 October 2014 at a venue to be confirmed