



Constituency Committee - Wirral West

Date:	Thursday, 26 February 2015
Time:	7.00 pm
Venue:	St Hildeburgh's Church, 1 Stanley Road, Hoylake, Wirral CH47 1HL

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AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to consider whether they have 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.

3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 12)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Constituency Committee meeting held on 16 October 2014.

4. OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

To receive a presentation from Mark Camborne, the Council's lead officer for the Open Golf, on the impact of the 2014 championship at Hoylake.

15 minutes will be allocated for this item of business.

5. UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

A verbal update from the Constituency Committee's community representatives on local issues.

15 minutes will be allocated for this item of business.

6. CONSTITUENCY MANAGER'S REPORT (Pages 13 - 26)

A report on progress in relation to the ongoing work programme being undertaken in support of the Wirral West Constituency Committee.

10 minutes will be allocated for this item of business.

7. WIRRAL WEST COMMUNITY FUND (Pages 27 - 30)

A report and presentation on the outcomes of the Community Fund public voting process and recommendations as to the allocation of Community Fund grants.

15 minutes will be allocated for this item of business.

8. LOVE WIRRAL BUDGET (Pages 31 - 34)

A report and recommendations relating to the use of the Constituency Committee's Love Wirral budget allocation (£10,000).

10 minutes will be allocated for this item of business.

9. WIRRAL WEST COMMUNITY QUESTION TIME

Members of the public are invited to raise questions or issues, either at the meeting or in advance, to the Wirral West Constituency Manager, (janemorgan@wirral.gov.uk)

45 minutes will be allocated for this item of business.

10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR

To consider any other business that the Chair accepts as being urgent.

CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE - WIRRAL WEST

Thursday, 16 October 2014

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	JE Green (Chair)	
	Councillors	J Hale	M Hornby
		T Anderson	M Patrick
		E Boulton	L Reecejones
		P Brightmore	Tony Smith
		W Clements	M Sullivan
		D Elderton	G Watt
		G Ellis	S Whittingham
<u>Community</u>		Lynn Collier	
<u>Representatives:</u>		Jackie Hall MBE	
		John Smith	
		David Wade	
		Elise Wong	

Twenty three members of the public were in attendance, with the percentage attendance by ward as follows:

- Greasby, Frankby and Irby 26%
- Hoylake and Meols 22%
- Pensby and Thingwall 13%
- Upton 22%
- West Kirby and Thurstaston 8.5%
- Other 8.5%

12 **MARK DELAP - PRINCIPAL COMMITTEE OFFICER**

Members stood in silence for one minute in tribute to Mark Delap, Principal Committee Officer who had died suddenly on 29 September 2014.

13 **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 items on the agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

Councillor S Whittingham and Councillor J Green declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 – Your Wirral Grants Programme (see minute 19 post), by virtue of their membership of the Magenta Living Board.

14 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2014 be approved.

15 **MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE CONSULTATION**

Dan Stephens, Chief Fire Officer, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Services, gave a presentation on the proposed fire station merger.

The Chief Fire Officer provided the details regarding the consultation process of the proposed fire station merger in Greasby. The presentation highlighted the details of the core functions under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the Fire and Rescue National Framework. Mr Stephens reported upon the financial challenge of the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority and advised that there had been a 35% Government grant reduction since 2010. He informed Members that the Authority had recognised that cuts had to be made across the whole service, that it would not be possible to protect front line jobs and that there would be a significant impact on organisational capacity. He reported that engagement forums had been held earlier in the year which had considered a range of options for delivering savings which included:

- i) Outright station closures
- ii) Station mergers
- iii) Day only crewing
- iv) Community retained firefighters

Mr Stephens advised that the outcome of the consultation was that station mergers were the most popular option and that three possible merger options had been identified which were:

- i) Upton/West Kirby at Greasby
- ii) Huyton/Whiston at Prescot
- iii) Eccleston/St Helens at St Helens Town Centre

Mr Stephens further advised that the proposal in Liverpool was the outright closure of Allerton Station. He reported that all mergers were subject to a twelve week consultation process and that the Authority was bidding for capital funding from the Government for the Greasby and St Helens mergers.

Mr Stephens provided details of the Greasby merger option. He advised that the new station was proposed to be sited on Frankby Road, that the station would be designed to fit the area, there would be two fire engines and included on the site there would be training facilities, community facilities and an integrated library and children's centre. He advised that the sites at Upton and West Kirby would be sold and that the move to one station would provide

significant savings in the region of £900,000. He reported that the alternative to the Greasby merger would be the outright closure of the West Kirby Station.

Mr Stephens advised that the number of incidents across Merseyside had reduced by 55% during the last ten years which was due to an extensive proactive intervention campaign. He provided figures detailing the average response times and advised that the move to Greasby would result in an average response time of 6 minutes 18 seconds which would be significantly quicker than the 10 minute standard response and the national average response time of 7 minutes 24 seconds.

In response to questions from Members, Mr Stephens advised that the Upton Station would be developed in the event that the Greasby merger could not be delivered. He advised that bids had had to be submitted in June and therefore were submitted on the basis of assumptions as no funding may be provided.

Mr Stephens indicated that Members and Council Officers had been briefed as to the intentions of the Authority regarding the site once it had been confirmed the site was an option. He also advised that the public consultation process was now underway.

The Chair reiterated that there would be a full consultation and public question time in due course and expressed gratitude for the work undertaken by the Fire Authority.

Resolved – That the Chief Fire Officer be thanked for his presentation.

16 THE OPEN

Mr Mark Camborne, Senior Manager, Health, Safety and Resilience, provided a verbal update regarding 'The Open'. He advised Members that he had been the lead officer for The Open and that the event had provided fantastic coverage for Wirral.

He reported that the event had attracted 60,000 more visitors than the Open Championship in 2013 and that 202,000 visitors had attended the event, which demonstrated a positive reflection of its popularity.

Mr Camborne informed Members that an office had been opened in Hoylake to support residents and that between 25-30 residents per day had visited the office during the period 2 June to 16 July. He advised that some remediation works had been necessary after the event and that every effort was being made to ensure that the land was restored to its former state.

The Chair thanked the staff who had been involved in The Open and announced that Mr Camborne would respond to questions during Public Question Time.

Resolved – That a presentation in respect of The Open be given to the next meeting of this Committee.

17 **UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

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

Upton Ward

Elise Wong reported that the lights at Salacre Lane were working well despite some build up of traffic due to the lights further down and referred to a Facebook page set up by the Upton Regeneration group to promote the area.

Hoylake and Meols Ward

Jackie Hall MBE raised concerns regarding placement of the bins in Hoylake since The Open event had ended. She advised that the majority of residents in Hoylake were proud of the area and had concerns regarding the budget cuts, in particular the fear of the library being under threat and were extremely concerned that services would not be maintained. She highlighted the fact that many residents were not able to go 'on line' and believed there must be an alternative way for residents to respond to the consultation document.

West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward

David Wade pointed out that residents were more concerned that they had not been consulted in respect of the fire station proposals than the loss of the fire station. On a positive note he reported that new toilets had been installed in Ashton Park and that Westbourne Hall would be hosting an Oktoberfest beer festival from 17 to 19 October.

Pensby and Thingwall Ward

Lynn Collier referred to ongoing parking problems which had been highlighted at the previous meeting.

Greasby, Frankby and Irby Ward

John Smith referred to the retail development underway in Greasby and expressed concern regarding the library and children's centre being under threat and the proposed fire station. He was pleased to announce that funding was in place for Christmas lighting.

Resolved –

- (1) That the comments be noted.**
- (2) That the social media site set up by Upton Regeneration be publicised as appropriate.**
- (3) That an actions list be included as an item on the agenda of forthcoming meetings in order that the progression of matters raised could be evaluated.**
- (4) That residents be encouraged to participate in the consultation exercise in respect of Future Council.**

18 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.

The Constituency Manager advised that particular items for noting had been highlighted within the report. She provided a proposed timetable for the Community Fund and informed Members that the application and voting process was currently being refined to reflect the suggestions from community groups who had responded to the evaluation questionnaire and that it had been proposed the terms and conditions of the Community Fund be refreshed. She reported that the maximum grant would remain at the £1,000 threshold but that applications for funding above this amount would be considered in order to encourage exceptional projects which would have a significant impact on local areas or the constituency as a whole.

The Constituency Manager referred to the second 'have your say' marketplace event that had taken place on 18 September and confirmed the scheduled dates for future marketplace engagement events. She reported that the constituency team were working proactively to support projects funded by the Committee in March 2014 and provided details regarding some of the project highlights.

The Constituency Manager reported that she had been given delegated authority to use the Committee's Public Health Outcomes Fund underspend from 2013-14 and advised that a partnership project to support older people was now being taken forward and that Members of the Committee would be regularly updated on the project as it developed.

In response to questions from Members, the Constituency Manager advised that funding was to be allocated by the end of the financial year and that the deadline could be extended to January.

The Chair expressed his gratitude in respect of the work undertaken to develop the business case and the ability of the Committee to influence services and projects.

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 Constituency Manager be thanked for the excellent work she had undertaken.**

19 **YOUR WIRRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME**

The Constituency Manager (Wirral West) reported upon the recommendations of the Your Wirral Panel in respect of the Constituency Committee's Your Wirral funding allocation.

It was reported that 31 applications for a Your Wirral grant from the Wirral West funding allocation had been received by the deadline of 12 September 2014 and the applications had been considered by the Members of the Your Wirral Panel. The recommendations of the Panel were appended to the report and Members were advised that seven applications which were not being recommended for a grant award were not included within the appendix.

Members were asked to note that £50,000 of the £250,000 available for Your Wirral grants had been 'ringfenced' for Wirral wide projects and that these applications would be considered by a Panel comprising of the Chair/Vice Chair (or nominated representative) of each of the four Constituency Committees with grant awards to be approved by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Engagement. Members were advised that they would be notified of these projects in due course.

In response to a Members' question, the Constituency Manager reported that that the Community Fund was due to be spent by December of this year and that she was confident all projects were underway. She also advised that new grants were to be spent within a year.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Your Wirral grants be awarded to the local organisations as set out within Appendix 1 of the report.**

- (2) **That the Constituency Manager and Members of the Your Wirral Panel be thanked for their work.**

20 **ROAD SAFETY BUDGET 2014-15**

The Constituency Manager (Wirral West) presented the recommendations of the Road Safety Panel in respect of the Constituency Committee's 2014-15 Integrated Transport Block (road safety) budget allocation.

The recommendations of the Panel in relation to each proposal were appended to the report and the Panel's recommendations as to which proposals should be prioritised for funding were included within the report.

It was reported that two options were considered in respect of the remaining budget of £8,900:

- A proposal made by the Road Safety Manager that consideration is given to upgrading existing Vehicle Activated Signs in the constituency. This would provide the Council with intelligence to work with Merseyside Police to target enforcement more effectively in the constituency where and when speeding hotspots / peaks are identified;
- Utilising the funding for dropped kerbs in the constituency, with reference to the list of existing requests held by the Traffic and Transportation team and with due regard to the need to allocate the funding equitably across the five wards.

The Constituency Manager reported that further to the Panel's deliberations, the Chair of the Committee raised a view that as the Road Safety Manager's proposal had been made as a result of the borough-wide contract / warranty relating to existing Vehicle Activated Signs coming to an end, it was preferable that this matter be considered on a borough-wide basis in the first instance. Taking this into account, the Panel recommended that the remaining budget, and any slippage from other schemes, be used for dropped kerbs in the constituency, again with due regard to the need to allocate the funding equitably across the five wards.

Members were asked to note that all proposals recommended for funding meet the criteria for road safety and/or active travel improvements in line with the requirements of the Integrated Transport Block (road safety) budget allocation.

Resolved –

- (1) That the local proposals set out within paragraph 2.4 of the report be agreed to be funded thereby allocating £68,850 of the constituency budget for road safety and active travel.**
- (2) That the £8,900 remaining budget allocation, and any slippage from other schemes, be used for dropped kerbs in the constituency with due regard to the need to allocate the funding equitably across the five wards.**
- (3) That delegated authority be given to the Road Safety Panel to identify appropriate locations.**
- (4) That any proposals which had not been recommended as a priority for funding at this time be noted by officers in respect of ongoing monitoring of road safety issues.**
- (5) That the Constituency Manager and Members of the Road Safety Panel be thanked for their work.**

21 FUTURE COUNCIL

Kevin MacCallum, Corporate Marketing Officer gave a presentation on Future Council and Members were provided with a copy of a report of the Chief Executive entitled Future Council: Chief Executive's Budget Proposals.

Members were informed that the purpose of the report was to provide Members of the Wirral West Constituency Committee with the opportunity to provide feedback on the Chief Executive's Budget Proposals which were currently out for public consultation.

Members were advised that the Future Council project had completed a full review process across every Council service. The information gathered had been used to redesign the Council through merging similar services, streamlining senior management and getting better value for contracts and goods purchased. This work had resulted in proposals being developed which would reduce the budget gap for 2015/16 from £18 million to £2.5 million as well as achieve the already agreed savings of £9.4 million through remodelling the Council.

Mr MacCallum reported that the options to bridge the remaining budget deficit of £2.5 million had been published for public consultation on 8 September 2014 and that detailed scrutiny work through focussed task and finish groups had been ongoing across all Policy and Performance Committees.

He advised that the consultation period ended on 31 October 2014 and that to date just over 6,200 responses had been received. The report provided Constituency Committees with a reminder of the options which were out for

public consultation and gave more detailed information as to the direct impact on the Wirral West constituency area should the option be accepted.

The Chair encouraged members of the public to take part in the consultation.

In response to questions from Members, Mr MacCallum provided further details in respect of 'Cold Calling Zones'. He advised that an interest had been expressed by residents to pay for this facility and that the option proposed that a charge of £10 per household be implemented where a community wished to implement a 'No Cold Calling Zone' in their street or area. He advised that residents would benefit from rapid response to reported instances of 'cold caller' activity.

The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment further advised that 'No Cold Calling Zones' would not be enforced upon people who did not wish to pay for this service.

Resolved –

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.**
- (2) That Kevin MacCallum be thanked for his presentation.**

22 WIRRAL WEST PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair invited questions from members of the public upon matters that were relevant to the Wirral West Constituency –

- A resident from Woodchurch asked whether there were there any figures on the profits of the R&A?
 - In response, the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment advised that this was not a question for the Council.
- A resident requested whether the proposals submitted by the Chief Executive in respect of Future Council still existed in view of his imminent retirement.
 - In response, the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment advised that the recommendations of the Chief Executive would be submitted in December when he would still be in post.
- A resident asked whether the Council had directly received any of the economic benefits from The Open.

- In response, the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment advised that the economic benefit referred to was the amount it would have cost the Council to provide media coverage should the Council have had to pay for it.

The Chair commented upon the success of The Open.

- A resident from Greasby suggested that it would be helpful to residents if figures could be provided as to the impact of the proposed fire station merger particularly in respect of the Children's Centre. She expressed concern that this would be at the expense of services currently provided.
 - In response, the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment advised that he would request for this information to be provided. Councillor T Smith (Cabinet Member, Children and Family Services) agreed that this information be provided.
- A resident from Greasby expressed concern regarding residents not having access to computers and therefore not having access to the proposals put forward in the Consultation and confusion in respect of the proposed fire station merger. Also that residents may have mobility problems and therefore would not be able to attend public meetings.
 - In response, a Fire Officer announced that he had delivered hundreds of leaflets to the immediate area and that any particular groups could be targeted.

The Chair commented that Ward Councillors were determined that the Consultation should be open and honest and that no-one should be excluded.

- A resident referred to the Inquiry into the Public Library Services that had been carried out by Sue Charteris as the independent person to lead the Inquiry. She advised that local residents had fought hard to save Woodchurch Library five years ago and that Sue Charteris had said that library services were vital to the elderly of Wirral. She asked what had changed and queried the exercise of the Consultation.
 - In response, the Chair stated that decisions would be made upon the results of the consultation and again urged members of the public to respond to the Consultation in order that rational decisions could be made.
- The resident then asked whether another enquiry by Sue Charteris would be required to be undertaken.

- The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment advised that a significant number of staff had been put at risk and that £9.5 million would be saved from staffing costs, however staff had not been advised that their jobs were at risk at any particular location. He stated that officer's proposals did not include the closure of libraries and decisions would be taken to Cabinet and Council. He advised that the overwhelming opposition to the closure of libraries had been taken into consideration by Members at the time.
- A resident indicated that he was told there would be a decision made regarding the golf resort proposals.
 - In response, the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment advised that final negotiations were underway prior to a report being provided to Members.
- A resident referred to the option in respect of pest control and expressed concerns that people would not pay for this service (for example a £25 charge to remove rats) which would result in public health implications. She asked what criteria were used to make decisions.
 - In response, the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment reported that equality impacts had been undertaken to mitigate against this.
- Mr Brace, resident, asked whether Members should have declared a personal interest in respect of the fire station merger.
 - Mr C Hughes, Solicitor, advised that Members were not affected personally and therefore were not required to declare an interest.
- A resident referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2014. He advised that he had requested a copy of the Constitution of this Committee, not the Constitution of the Council. He asked for an update on road repairs and that a presentation be given in respect of the golf.
 - The Constituency Manager responded in respect of the Constitution. She advised that she had provided a full copy of the Constitution and that Article 10 relates to Constituency Committees.
 - The Chair advised that a presentation would be given in respect of the golf.

- A resident expressed concern regarding the future viability of Constituency Committees and the possibility that money could be better spent elsewhere, for example, play facilities could be provided for disadvantaged areas.
 - In response, the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment referred to the options available in the Consultation.
 - The Chair reiterated that comments could be made in the Consultation and stated that the Committee took a fair approach in supporting projects.

- A resident asked what the cost of hosting The Open was.
 - In response, Mr Mark Camborne, Senior Manager, Health, Safety and Resilience advised that a presentation would be given, providing details of costing involved.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking members of the public for their contribution and attendance.

23 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for 5 February 2015 in the Hoylake and Meols Ward.

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

26TH FEBRUARY 2015

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

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 This report sets out:

- An update on progress in relation to the activities being undertaken by the Wirral West constituency team. A summary is attached at **Appendix 1** and items for discussion are highlighted below in Section 2 of the report;
- Items for noting in respect of local issues / consultations (Section 3).

1.2 An update on the status of actions raised by Committee Services as a result of previous Constituency Committee meeting is also attached at **Appendix 3**.

2.0 CONSTITUENCY TEAM ACTIVITIES

2.1 Stay Safe, Warm and Well Project

2.1.1 At the Wirral West Constituency Committee on the 3rd July 2014, the Committee agreed that the Constituency Manager be given delegated authority to use the Committee's Public Health Outcomes Fund underspend from 2013-14 (just over £5,500) for a partnership project to work with the voluntary, community and faith sector to support older people.

2.1.2 The rationale for developing the Stay, Safe, Warm and Well project was that:

- Wirral West has the largest population aged 75+ compared with the other 3 constituency areas; a third (32.7%) of people aged over 65 years live alone in the constituency;

- Social isolation is recognised as key to people's wellbeing – older and vulnerable people are more at risk of being socially isolated wherever they live;
- Discussions between constituency partners had identified that many partners are working hard to support vulnerable older people and engage with them to intervene early before problems get worse and link them to appropriate support and community networks – all partners share a common aspiration to deliver better outcomes for older people and reduce the strain on public services and budgets, for example through reducing hospital admissions.

2.1.3 The constituency team has worked with the Council's housing team, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Age UK, Magenta Living and Energy Projects Plus to:

- Visit as many voluntary and community groups as possible in the constituency to promote the Stay Safe, Warm and Well campaign and identify and refer older and vulnerable people at risk who may benefit from additional support – the campaign materials used to do this have been leaflets and winter warmth packs (which include a fleece blanket, flask, torch, gloves, etc.) – 21 groups have been visited as part of the project, and a total of nearly 300 winter warmth packs given out to date.
- Provide more co-ordinated home visits and signposting to additional services for people referred as a result of the visits to voluntary and community groups, including providing equipment such as oil-filled radiators where needed – 182 referrals have already been made to additional services as a result of the project.

2.1.4 The outcomes have yet to be fully assessed but this work is now being undertaken with the findings to be presented at an evaluation event on the 20th March 2015. All members of the Committee are welcome to attend alongside partners and the co-ordinators of voluntary and community groups which have taken part. As well as providing more detail about the outcomes for the individuals supported as a result of the project, the evaluation will highlight how the campaign has resulted in:

- More older and vulnerable people have been linked into support networks in their communities through messages being cascaded by members of existing voluntary and community groups;
- A stronger partner and volunteer network in the constituency – a key feature of the project was to recruit existing Age UK volunteers to support the campaign;
- An up-to-date database of active voluntary, community and faith sector groups who work with older and vulnerable people in the constituency, which will provide a valuable resource in respect of working with local groups to develop and deliver services.

2.1.5 The Constituency Committee is asked to note that the funding has been used solely to provide the winter warmth packs used by the campaign team, project publicity and equipment for distribution by the Fire Service, with all staffing time and support provided 'in kind' by the agencies involved. Any remaining funding will be used to sustain the project into next winter (2015-16) and to develop further opportunities for

partnership working, including the proposed constituency conference as set out in 3 below.

Recommendation(s):

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the work undertaken to deliver the Stay Safe, Warm and Well project and to agree to receive a full report on the outcomes at a future meeting;**
- **Approve that any remaining funding from the project be used to sustain this activity into 2015-16.**

2.2 Constituency Road Safety Budget 2014-15

2.2.1 The Constituency Committee resolved the following when it last met in October 2014 in relation to the constituency budget allocation of £77,750 for road safety and active travel:

- To fund a series of local schemes costing an estimated £68,850 (see **Appendix 2**);
- To use the remaining £8,900 and any slippage from the local schemes agreed for dropped kerbs in the constituency.

2.2.2 Since the list of recommended Wirral West constituency schemes was approved by the Committee in October, any required statutory consultations have been taking place. Any unresolved objections to the schemes must be considered by the Highways and Traffic Representations Panel and, following this, by the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee on 23rd March 2015. The Constituency Committee's Road Safety Panel (Cllrs Clements, Ellis, Sullivan, Whittingham and Elderton) are being kept updated on this process.

2.2.3 Implementation of the schemes which were not subject to statutory consultation, or which received no objections as a result of statutory consultation, is underway. The Committee is asked to note that, due to the overall number of requests received for Vehicle Activated Signs from Wirral West, Wallasey and Wirral South Constituency Committees (with a total value of over £50,000) a formal tender process using the Council's procurement portal is being undertaken with a contract award expected during April.

Recommendation:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the progress in relation to implementing the local road safety schemes approved by the Committee in October (Appendix 3) and to agree to receive a further report on progress at a future meeting.**

2.3 Neighbourhood Working Business Case

2.3.1 At its meeting in July 2014, the Committee resolved that, in noting the priorities identified by local people as part of the Community Fund voting process which took

place earlier the year, these should be taken into account in respect of the work being undertaken by the Council and Executive to develop proposals for the further devolution of budgets, functions and responsibilities to the Constituency Committees. The Committee further requested that the Constituency Manager prepare a report for the next meeting of the Committee on how these proposals are progressing with a view to producing a business case thereafter.

2.3.2 The proposed business case will seek to establish that there is significant scope for the Constituency Committees to influence functions and budgets leading to more localised delivery of Council services. The proposed approach set out below reflects the need to undertake detailed analysis and consultation with stakeholders.

2.3.3 It is proposed that a staged approach for developing the business case should include:

1. Reviewing the decision-making and commissioning already undertaken on a constituency basis, highlighting issues and opportunities. Since the establishment of constituency working approach in July 2013, the Committee has taken decisions in respect of the following budgets and service areas:

- £50,000 in 2013-14 and again in 2014-15 for each Committee to ‘kickstart’ and develop neighbourhood working – £100,000 in total;
- £50,000 in 2013-14 to improve Public Health outcomes in each area;
- Over £75,000 for each area in 2014-15 for road safety and active travel improvements;
- Between £40,000 and £75,000 for Your Wirral grants to local groups in each area in 2014-15.

It is proposed that this review is undertaken during March – April 2015;

2. Researching the current policy context for devolving decision-making including examples from elsewhere – again during March - April 2015;
3. Mapping the options for the Committee to further influence functions and budgets – during April – May 2015;
4. Preparing an issues / consultation paper setting out the options, with clarity about which functions and budgets cannot be devolved – by end of May 2015;
5. Seeking views from a wide range of stakeholders on the options, including from local communities and partners – June – September 2015;
6. Establishing recommendations – by end 2015.

Recommendation:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the proposed approach to developing the business case and agree to receive updates at future meetings.**

2.4 Constituency Conference Proposal

- 2.4.1 A number of engagement events have taken place in Wirral West since the constituency approach was put in place, both as part of the Community Fund process and to allow partners and the community to discuss issues informally through a 'marketplace' approach. The success of these events has been varied, with feedback from participants generally positive, but with relatively low attendance from members of the public who are not already engaged in local groups or activities. However, as the high response to the Community Fund voting opportunity indicates, there is an appetite for local people to get involved in decision-making and shaping services.
- 2.4.2 To build on the lessons learnt to date in respect of engagement with the Wirral West community, it is proposed that the constituency team co-ordinates a constituency conference and campaign in June 2015. This will bring together the Constituency Committee, public service partners and the community to gather views about how the constituency approach to involving local people in decision-making and influencing priorities could be further developed.

Recommendation:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Support the proposal for a constituency conference.**

3.0 LOCAL ISSUES / CONSULTATIONS

3.1 Fire Station Consultation

- 3.1.1 A further 12-week consultation will run from the 2nd March to the 18th May 2015 on proposed changes to Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service's emergency response cover in West Wirral. More details of the consultation can be found at www.merseyfire.gov.uk
- 3.1.2 The consultation will include public meetings and a survey that people living in Wirral can complete, which will be available on the website. Paper versions of the survey will also be available at the public meetings. These will be held at St Mary's Centre, Saughall Massie Road on Monday evening of 20th April, Holy Cross Community Centre, Church Lane, Woodchurch on Tuesday evening of 28th April, and Hoylake Community Centre, Hoyle Road on Tuesday evening of the 5th May. Alternatively, comments can be sent by email to consultation2@merseyfire.gov.uk, or by writing to Wirral Consultation, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bridle Road, Bootle, L30 4YD, up until May 18.
- 3.1.4 The outcomes of the consultation will be reported back to the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority in June 2015.

3.2 Burbo Bank Community Fund

- 3.2.1 In December 2014 DONG Energy decided to construct the Burbo Bank Extension off shore wind farm. The site will be located west of the existing Burbo Bank operational

wind farm in Liverpool Bay. DONG Energy has now committed to a Community Fund, worth approximately £235,000 each year for the lifetime of the project. DONG Energy appointed GrantScape to carry out local consultation to seek views from all stakeholders on how the Fund should be set up.

3.2.2 The first stage of the consultation took the form of an online survey which was conducted from May to October 2014. GrantScape will now be holding a series of local public exhibitions for anyone who would like to know more about the Fund, discuss their project, or find out about the application process. The Wirral exhibition is being held on Tuesday, 10th March 2015 (2pm to 7pm) at The Parade Community Centre, Hoylake.

3.2.3 GrantScape has developed a map showing the proposed area of benefit that the Fund will cover. The proposed area of benefit follows a 5km line inland from the coast. The map and more details about the Fund are available at <http://grantscape.org.uk/bbecbf/>. The Fund will be reviewed annually by GrantScape, DONG Energy and other key local stakeholders.

3.2.4 GrantScape's current timeframe is that:

- The Fund will be launched to applications in May with a deadline date in September,
- First round decisions will be made by approximately December 2015.

4.0 RISKS

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

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation is undertaken with the members of the Constituency Committee as to the development and operation of the Committee. Ongoing consultation with the local community as to issues for the area is a clear objective of the constituency working approach.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

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

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

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

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

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

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

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

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

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

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 The Committee is requested to approve the recommendations in relation to the particular items set out in the main body of the report.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY TEAM ACTIVITIES (as at February 2015)
Appendix 2: CONSTITUENCY ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES (approved October 2014)
Appendix 3: CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE ACTIONS (from July 2014 onwards)

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

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

APPENDIX 1: WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY TEAM ACTIVITIES (February 2015)

Activity	RAG Rating	Status	Consultation with Constituency Committee
1. Committee Handbook	Amber	Work on the Committee Handbook is ongoing. A draft will be circulated in due course.	Comments from Constituency Committee will be requested on the Handbook prior to publication.
2. Community Asset Audit / Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Project	Green	An ABCD project funded by Public Health is underway with the involvement of the Constituency Managers from all four areas. This activity is being delivered by an organisation called Nurture Development and the Committee and community stakeholders have been invited to training sessions and workshops organised by Nurture Development as part of the project.	A presentation about the outcomes of this work is presented to the Committee at its next meeting.
3. Wirral West Constituency Plan	Amber	Previous reports to the Committee have set out the initial considerations which have been given to developing a Constituency Plan. Planned workshops with councillors and community representatives to discuss the development of the Constituency Plan did not go ahead as planned due to capacity issues and it is therefore proposed that the proposed constituency conference provides an opportunity to take forward.	Consultation on the constituency conference proposal is being undertaken as part of this report.
4. Love Wirral	Green	A separate report on the Love Wirral budget allocation is at item 7.	Consultation on the Love Wirral budget for 2014-15 is being undertaken as part of this report.
5. Constituency Engagement	Green	The constituency conference proposal detailed in the main body of the report seeks to progress the constituency approach to engaging with local communities.	The Constituency Committee is updated on engagement activities as these are developed and implemented.
6. Wirral West Community Fund / Public Health Projects (2014)	Green	Community Fund and Public Health projects funded in 2014 are now largely complete and are being evaluated.	A detailed report on the outcomes of projects funded in 2014 will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.
7. Wirral West Community Fund 2015	Green	A separate report on the Community Fund grant programme is at item 6.	The Constituency Committee will be consulted on the future implementation of the Community Fund grant programme.

Activity	RAG Rating	Status	Consultation with Constituency Committee
8. Neighbourhood Working Business Case	Amber	An update on the development of the business case is included in section 2 of this report.	The Constituency Committee will be kept updated on progress.
9. Stay Safe, Warm and Well Project	Green	An update on the development of this project is included in section 2 of this report.	The Constituency Committee has been invited to proactively contribute to this project through identifying groups to be involved.
10. Your Wirral Grant Programme	Green	Wirral West groups and organisations which were awarded a Your Wirral grant in October 2014 have now received their funding. The Constituency Manager is also overseeing the Wirral-wide Your Wirral allocation. Magenta Living has indicated that there will be a further (final) year of Your Wirral which will provide a future funding opportunity for Wirral West groups.	The Constituency Committee will be consulted as appropriate on the ongoing administration of the Your Wirral grant programme.
11. Other Activities	Green	<p>The constituency team is involved in a wide range of other activities. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working with ward councillors to identify priorities for allocating 2013-14 Community Fund underspend in each ward; ▪ Responding to issues raised by ward councillors and community members and working with Council departments and partners to resolve issues; ▪ Supporting town centre action planning and other regeneration initiatives; ▪ Attending and supporting a range of community meetings relevant to the work of the Committee; ▪ Developing public sector partnerships in the constituency area, for example through contributing on the West Wirral Children's Centre Advisory Board. 	The constituency team works closely with members of the Committee on ward issues as required.

APPENDIX 2: CONSTITUENCY ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES (approved October 2014)

In Greasby, Frankby and Irby Ward:

- Arroe Road Pavement Parking Restrictions - £4,100
- Hillbark Road / Ferndale Avenue Vehicle Activated Sign - £7,000
- Glenwood Drive / Coombe Road Junction Parking Restrictions - £1,200

Total Estimated Cost of Greasby, Frankby and Irby proposals - £12,300

In Hoylake and Meols Ward:

- Birkenhead Road / Carlton Lane Parking Restrictions - £1,200
- Elwyn Road / Guffits Rake and Elwyn Road / Newlyn Road Parking / Waiting Restrictions (in line with school times) – £1,200
- School Lane Pedestrian 'Buildouts' at Meols Park Entrance - £10,000
- Banks Road / Victoria Drive Parking Restrictions - £2,000

Total Estimated Cost of Hoylake and Meols proposals - £14,400

In Pensby and Thingwall Ward:

- Downham Road North 20mph Zone – £3,300
- Ridgewood Drive Area 20mph Zone - £7,200
- Kylemore Drive Area 20mph Zone - £3,200
- Stanley School / Kentmere Drive Give Way Markings - £200
- Pensby Road Cycle Stands - £350

Total Estimated Cost of Pensby and Thingwall proposals - £14,250

In Upton Ward:

- New Hey Road / St Michael and All Angels Zebra Crossing - £14,000

Total Estimated Cost of Upton proposals - £14,000

In West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward:

- Saughall Massie Road (Newton) Pavement Parking Restrictions - £3,900
- Frankby Road (near Hilbre School) Vehicle Activated Sign - £7,000
- Avalon School Parking / Waiting Restrictions - £3,000

Total Estimated Cost of West Kirby and Thurstaston proposals - £13,900

APPENDIX 3: CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE ACTIONS (from July 2014 onwards)

Committee Action	Meeting (Minute Ref)	Deadline	Officer Assigned	Status
To consider the outcome of a review into parking in West Kirby and to consider the viability of a request from a member of the public to allow short term parking, where there are restrictions at present. A response to be provided to the questioner and to Members of the Wirral West Constituency Committee.	3 rd July 2014 (Minute Ref 8)	August 2014	David Rees	This was considered as part of the development of recommendations to the Committee as to the allocation of the constituency road safety budget; the subsequent report to the Committee on the 16th October 2014 gave a position on this issue, i.e. that the parking review instigated by local residents was incomplete and that significant officer and consultation resource would be required to engage with businesses, residents etc. Given that the implications at this stage are in respect of officer capacity to progress the review, the Committee requested that this piece of work be considered as appropriate should resources become available.
That a copy of the Coastal Management Plan be provided to Mr John Durrant in order that he may then raise any areas of concern with appropriate Council officers.	3 rd July 2014 (Minute Ref 8)	August 2014	Jane Morgan	A hard copy of the Coastal Management Plan was shared.
That feedback be provided to the Constituency Committee in relation to various issues raised by the Committee's Community Representatives.	3 rd July 2014 (Minute Ref 9)	August 2014	Jane Morgan	The key issues raised and feedback included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Derelict toilet block on Hoylake Promenade – planning permission has been in place for some time relating to the site. Asset Management are in contact with the developer. ▪ Closure of West Kirby Fire Station – the latest position with regard to the Fire Station consultation is set out in 3.1. ▪ Concerns about Dee Estuary drilling - a position statement on this was issued earlier in the year. The Council is aware that the Government granted a license to Cluff Natural Resources PLC for coal gasification on 15 January 2013 for a period of five years. The License covers an area stretching from Hoylake to West Kirby across Hilbre Island and over the Dee Estuary to the Welsh Coast. Before any work can begin, the licensee would need to obtain any necessary planning permission and the approvals required by other statutory bodies. There are complicated permitted development rights for development for Coal Authority Licenses which would need to be fully considered when any formal proposals come forward. ▪ West Kirby town centre parking – this is now being considered through the development of a town centre action plan being led by Regeneration. ▪ Council policy on Christmas lights – community groups were not asked to meet electricity costs in 2014.

Committee Action	Meeting (Minute Ref)	Deadline	Officer Assigned	Status
To liaise with Councillor Stuart Whittingham with regard to the suitability of a proposal from a member of the public to introduce a 20mph speed limit in parts of West Kirby.	3rd July 2014 (Minute Ref 10)	August 2014	David Rees	This was considered as part of the development of recommendations to the Committee as to the allocation of the constituency road safety budget; Cllr Whittingham was a member of the Road Safety Panel which developed the recommendations. The subsequent report to the Committee on the 16th October 2014 gave a position on this issue, i.e. that this was not recommended as a priority for funding given potential enforcement issues and budget limitations, however officers were requested to note in respect of ongoing monitoring of road safety issues and the proposal has again been discussed as part of the development of a town centre action plan for West Kirby.
That the request for cycle stands in the vicinity of shops on Pensby Road, near Fishers Lane be considered as part of the budget allocation process.	3rd July 2014 (Minute Ref 8)	August 2014	Jane Morgan	This considered as part of the development of recommendations to the Committee as to the allocation of the constituency road safety budget and subsequently recommended for funding.
To notify the Constituency Committee of the outcome of enquiries into the No 138 bus service no longer running.	3rd July 2014 (Minute Ref 8)	August 2014	Jane Morgan	<p>A member of the public (Mr Ian Gilmour) who was present at the meeting in July has been kindly updating the Constituency Manager with information about the 138/139 and subsequent changes - this had been replaced entirely in respect of the Newton area by the 77 (a service run by Avon Buses). Since early December the 77 service stops in Heswall and no longer serves West Kirby.</p> <p>However, a new West Kirby circular service (including Newton) is in place (the 80) along with two new additional routes which may be of interest to local people travelling between West Kirby, Heswall and Irby (the 82/88). The timetables are available at http://www.merseytravel.gov.uk/travelling-around/timetables/Pages/Bus-Timetables.aspx</p>

Committee Action	Meeting (Minute Ref)	Deadline	Officer Assigned	Status
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.	3rd July 2014 (Minute Ref 7)	Before 6 October 2014	Jane Morgan	See Constituency Manager's report (item 5).
Actions list be included as an item on the agenda of forthcoming meetings in order that the progression of matters raised could be evaluated.	16 th October 2014 (Minute Ref 17)	No deadline set	Jane Morgan	The actions list will be included as part of all future Constituency Manager's reports to the Committee.
That the Your Wirral grants be awarded to the local organisations as set out within Appendix 1 of the report.	16 th October 2014 (Minute Ref 19)	No deadline set	Jane Morgan	Grants were awarded in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee; all payments to local organisations have now been processed.
Social media site set up by Upton Regeneration to be publicised as appropriate.	16 th October 2014 (Minute Ref 17)	No deadline set	Jane Morgan	The constituency team has met with Upton Regeneration to offer support for their activities; the group has made an application to the Wirral West Community Fund to take forward environmental improvements in Upton Village (see item 6)

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

26TH FEBRUARY 2015

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

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report and presentation is to set out the application and voting process which has been undertaken with regards to the Wirral West Community Fund since the last meeting of the Committee in October 2014.
- 1.2 The outcomes of the public vote and the Committee’s subsequent recommendations about the allocation of funding to local projects will be presented separately by the Constituency Manager.

2.0 APPLYING AND VOTING PROCESS

- 2.1 The Committee recommended at its meeting of the 3rd July 2014 that the Constituency Manager be given delegated authority to develop the Community Fund grants programme for allocating the Committee’s £50,000 core budget for 2014-15 on the basis of £10,000 per ward.
- 2.2 The timetable for the Community Fund was adjusted further to what was proposed at the last meeting to take into account feedback about giving groups more time to prepare their applications taking into the Christmas break and also as result of the Constituency Committee date being rescheduled. The timetable was therefore updated as follows:

Date	Milestones
Monday 3 rd November 2014	Community Fund launched
Friday 9 th January 2015	Deadline for applications

Monday 19 th January – Monday 9 th February	Funding events and online / paper voting
26 th February 2015 (Constituency Committee meeting)	Funding awarded for projects which will need to be completed by December 2015

2.3 The application and voting process was refined to reflect feedback from voluntary and community groups who participated in the first round of the Community Fund e.g.:

- Improvements were made to the online voting system to ensure that information about the projects and the options for voting were clear;
- The opportunity to vote was widely publicised within the limited resources available – there was a significant increase in the numbers voting year on year (from just over 1,500 in 2014 to almost 1,900 in 2015). Although this is partly due to the fact that the opportunity to vote was extended to 3 weeks rather than 2 as for last time, voting numbers were still comparatively higher at the end of the second week than in 2014;
- Different locations for the voting events were identified and used – with some areas joining up to encourage wider networking amongst groups. These events will however need to be further evaluated as attendance by residents was relatively low.

2.4 The maximum grant available was set at the £1,000 threshold previously put in place for the Community Fund, however applications for funding above this amount have been considered. The aim of this was to encourage exceptional projects which have a significant impact on local areas or the constituency as a whole.

3.0 OVERVIEW OF THE VOTING RESULTS

3.1 In summary:

- Almost 1,900 people voted;
- 123 of these were paper votes, the remainder were online;
- Over 300 were outside of Wirral West.

3.2 Participation from each of the 5 wards in Wirral West was as follows:

- Greasby, Frankby & Irby – 222 people voted (15.1% of Wirral West voters)
- Hoylake & Meols – 460 people voted (31.3%)
- Pensby & Thingwall – 179 people voted (12.2%)
- Upton & Woodchurch – 261 people voted (17.8%)
- West Kirby & Thurstaston – 348 people voted (23.7%)

3.3 Residents found out about the public vote as follows:

- 53% of voters via email;
- 31.3% of voters were a member of a voluntary or community group applying to the Wirral West Community Fund;
- 8.2% via a poster or flyer;

- 4.1% via other sources (e.g. word of mouth, at a Council building etc.);
- 3.4% via the local press.

3.4 Voters were also asked the following questions as part of the vote and a high proportion of people responded:

- If you were given a budget to spend on services or improvements which would benefit the local community, what would you spend it on? (997 responses; 52.7% of those who completed the voting survey);
- How do you think decisions about services and budgets could be made at a more local level? (834 responses; 44.1% of those who completed the survey).

3.5 An initial analysis of the themes emerging from the responses to these questions will be presented separately to the Committee. The information will then be further analysed and used to inform the development of constituency working and increasing the involvement in decision-making of local people. Should the Committee support the proposal for a constituency conference, a detailed analysis will be presented at this event.

4.0 RISKS

4.1 A detailed risk assessment in place to support the constituency working approach.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 The consideration of other options is not applicable in respect of the content of this report as it relates to the implementation of a previous decision by the Committee to allocate its budget through a Community Fund grant programme.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Local people have been proactively consulted to assess support for local projects seeking grants from the Community Fund.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 This report has positive implications for voluntary, community and faith groups in Wirral West.

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

8.1 Any funding awards resulting from this report will be within the Committee's available budget. The administration of the Community Fund is undertaken within existing resources.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no legal implications relating arising from this report.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

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

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

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

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

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

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 The Committee is requested to approve the recommendations in relation to the funding allocation for local projects in each ward which are set out in the main body of the report.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

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APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Meeting	Date
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Budget 2014-15	3 rd July 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	16 th October 2014

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

26TH FEBRUARY 2015

SUBJECT:	LOVE WIRRAL BUDGET
WARD/S AFFECTED:	WARDS WITHIN THE WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GREASBY, FRANKBY AND IRBY ▪ HOYLAKE AND MEOLS ▪ PENSBY AND THINGWALL ▪ WEST KIRBY AND THURSTASTON ▪ UPTON
REPORT OF:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL WEST)
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING & ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present recommendations to the Committee in respect of the Constituency Committee's Love Wirral funding allocation for 2014-15.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 In 2013/14, each constituency area was allocated £10,000 Love Wirral funding. This was to support a borough wide campaign to encourage people who live, work and visit Wirral to take pride in the local area. This was distributed via a grant scheme which was open to applications from individuals, groups, schools and businesses for projects that improved the appearance of the local environment (for amounts between £20 and £500).

2.2 A further allocation of £10,000 was made available to each Constituency Committee for 2014/15. It is entirely at the discretion of each Committee as to how it allocates this funding within the broad aim of encouraging people who live, work and visit Wirral West to take pride in the area.

2.3 Wirral West has recently opened up an opportunity for local groups through the Community Fund to apply for funding for projects with criteria which broadly duplicates the aims of the Love Wirral campaign. It is therefore proposed that, instead of a grants programme as was the case previously, the £10,000 budget allocation is used to fund two constituency initiatives developed and delivered in partnership by the constituency team and other areas of the Council including the eco schools team and Parks and Countryside service. The proposed projects are:

- The Wirral West Big Picnic Project;
- The Wirral West Special Places Project.

2.4 Both projects would be delivered with due regard to allocate the funding equitably across the five wards in Wirral West.

3.0 PROJECT PROPOSALS

3.1 Project Proposal 1 - The Wirral West Big Picnic Project (Spring - Autumn 2015)

3.1.1 The Big Picnic Project would be aimed at encouraging and supporting schools and voluntary, community and faith sector groups in Wirral West to develop school and community gardens and grow their own produce, culminating in a Big Picnic at Wirral Country Park in Autumn 2015.

3.1.2 The initiative would be co-ordinated by the constituency and eco schools teams within existing staffing resources with the Love Wirral funding being used to:

- Purchase and distribute 'grow your own' baskets with seeds and basic gardening equipment to schools and voluntary, community and faith sector groups in Wirral West;
- Provide an opportunity for schools and groups to attend an 'introduction to growing' course;
- Put on a Big Picnic event in Autumn 2015 at Wirral Country Park where Wirral West schools and voluntary, community and faith sector groups would come together to share and celebrate their produce, with prizes for best in show. Partner organisations would be encouraged to support this event, for example by providing staffing resources on the day.

3.1.3 As a legacy of the project, schools would be encouraged to develop their relationships with Wirral Country Park to support their learning activities given its status as one of the borough's key environmental assets. A small amount of the funding available would be used for a schools competition to re-design and improve the Country Park's exhibition space.

3.1.4 Working with the eco schools team, the constituency team would seek to ensure that as many Wirral schools and community groups as possible engage in the project. Sharing best practice would be a key element of the initiative, recognising the work already undertaken by schools and groups in all parts of the constituency in line with the aims of the project. Schools and groups with the relevant expertise will for example be asked to contribute to the training courses provided as part of the project.

3.2 Project Proposal 2 – The Wirral West Special Places Project (Autumn 2015 – Spring 2016)

3.2.1 The Special Places project would be aimed at celebrating places in all parts of Wirral West which are special to local people through the installation of benches. The community would be asked to make suggestions about special places where a bench might encourage others to sit and appreciate them also. Special places could

include parks, open spaces, somewhere where there is a particular view which is worth celebrating or somewhere which is a natural meeting place for the community.

- 3.2.2 The Committee would review the ideas put forward by the community as to which special places should be selected and make recommendations as to the 'winning' suggestions. Due regard will be given to the proximity of other benches at the sites selected and the need to ensure that any installation meets health and safety and any other requirements. Funding awards made previously by the Constituency Committee in respect of the installation of benches at local sites will also be taken into account, as will any planned works by the Council in respect of the special places suggested.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 4.1 Should the above project proposals be agreed, full risk assessments for the projects will be put in place. There is a risk of losing this funding allocation should the budget be uncommitted by the end of the current financial year.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The Love Wirral funding is to be allocated at the Constituency Committee's discretion. The proposals set out above have been put forward to maximise the impact of the funding in respect of engagement with local people.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Consultation with local communities will be key to the successful delivery of the proposed projects. The proposed projects also seek to respond to the feedback from local people gathered as part of the Community Fund voting process.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 7.1 This report has positive implications for voluntary, community and faith groups in Wirral West.

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

- 8.1 Any activity resulting from this report will be funded within the Committee's available budget.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no legal implications relating arising from this report.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

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

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are potential positive carbon reduction implications relating to this report given the nature of the proposed activity.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

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

12.0 RECOMMENDATION

12.1 The Constituency Committee is requested to approve that the Committee's Love Wirral budget be used to fund the project proposals outlined in section 3 of this report.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

13.1 To ensure that the Committee's Love Wirral allocation is utilised within the broad aim of the Love Wirral campaign.

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APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Meeting	Date
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager's Report	12th December 2013