



Constituency Committee - Wirral South

Date:	Thursday, 18 June 2015
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Mayer Hall, The Village, Bebington, Wirral, CH63 7PL

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AGENDA

1. 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.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE (Pages 1 - 14)

To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 January 2015.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

To elect the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

4. WIRRAL SOUTH IMPACT REVIEW 2014/15 (Pages 15 - 38)

This report by the Constituency Manager details the impact of the Wirral South Constituency Committee's various funding and priority activities throughout 2014/15 including details of budgetary spend.

5. WIRRAL SOUTH PROPOSALS REPORT 2015/16 (Pages 39 - 52)

This report by the Constituency Manager details proposed projects for 2015/16 and their associated budgetary spend. This agenda item also includes a presentation by Mark Camborne (Senior Manager – Health, Safety and Resilience) in relation to devolved anti-social behaviour budget for 2015/16.

6. WIRRAL SOUTH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES PROPOSALS 2015/16 (Pages 53 - 66)

Report by the Constituency Manager.

7. UPDATE FROM THE MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

To receive an oral report from Station Manager, Sean McGuinness.

8. UPDATE FROM MERSEYSIDE POLICE

To receive an oral report from the Neighbourhood Inspector, Ross Meredith.

9. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION (APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES)

Although it is possible to forward pre-notified questions to the Constituency Manager, questions will also be answered on the night via the Chair.

10. URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR

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

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee is reminded that its next meeting will be held at 6pm on Thursday, 15 October 2015 at Mayer Hall, Bebington.

CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE - WIRRAL SOUTH

Thursday, 22 January 2015

Present:

Councillor P Gilchrist (Chair)

Councillors	C Carubia	L Rowlands
	A Hodson	W Smith
	D Mitchell	A Sykes
	C Muspratt	I Williams
	S Niblock	KJ Williams
	T Pilgrim	

27 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Hodson, C Povall and J Walsh and from Mr M Wright and Ms L Longshaw Parr.

28 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors C Muspratt and W Smith declared non pecuniary interests because they were both friends of Mayer Park.

29 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE**

Further to Minute No. 22 it was reported that Councillor D Mitchell had requested the Neighbourhood Inspector to provide the costs of closing Bromborough Police Station and for refurbishing Bebington Police Station.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) **the Neighbourhood Inspector be requested to ascertain the costs of closing Bromborough Police Station and for refurbishing Bebington Police Station and inform the Constituency Manager accordingly who will in turn ensure that all Members of the Committee are informed of these costs; and**
- (2) **the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16 October 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.**

30 **ASSET BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE AND FIVE MINUTE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

The Committee had been informed that arrangements had been put in hand for it to receive a presentation by Chris Shaw, an Associate with Nurture Development on the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Public Health funded project's development.

The Constituency Manager reported that the Contractor had also been scheduled to make the same presentation to the Wallasey Constituency Committee which was also meeting this evening and due to unforeseen circumstances it had, unfortunately, not been possible to make both the presentations on the same evening. However, Chris Shaw had promised to attend the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for 16 April 2015 to make the presentation.

31 **WIRRAL SOUTH BUDGET AND SPEND UPDATE 2014/15**

A report by the Constituency Manager provided the Committee with an update on the current allocation of all budgets devolved to the Committee. This included:

- £50,000 Wirral South Health & Wellbeing Fund
- £38,720.50 core budget rolled over from 2013/14 (allocated £10,000 per ward)
- £50,000 Core budget allocated to three main priorities
- £77,750 Road Safety Money
- £35,000 “Your Wirral” funding
- £10,000 “Love Wirral” funding

Members were reminded that 18 projects had been funded from the Wirral South Health and Wellbeing Fund during 2014/15. This had cost £48,118.97 and had left £1,881.03. Many of these projects were at varying stages of completion and updates would be reported at the next meeting of the Committee on 16 April, 2015.

The report also informed that over £38,000 of the Committee’s 2013/14 devolved core budget had remained and had been carried over into 2014/15. Each ward had been allocated £10,000 each and spend continued. Further works had been programmed since the last meeting of the Committee held on 16 October 2014. Consequently the remaining amount had reduced. Although there were a number of projects in development Members were reminded to ensure this allocation was used expediently. Appendix 1 to the report showed the current rate of spend per ward.

The Committee was reminded that currently, its priorities were as follows:

- Improved Open Spaces; to increase the number of green flag parks in Wirral South year on year and ensure accessibility is improved in each chosen location.
- Gaps in Youth Provision; to work with the internal and external partners to identify and rectify any existing gaps in provision of youth services in Wirral South.
- Tackle Social Isolation; Identify the various groups affected by social isolation in Wirral South, establish the evident gaps in provision

throughout the Constituency and aim to either support existing providers or commission a new piece of work.

The Committee was also reminded that it had received £77,750 to address Road Safety issues within the constituency area. Consequently, it was reported that the “Local Transport Capital Funding/Integrated Transport Block (ITB) programme budget Task and Finish Group” for Wirral South had met for the first time on 13 August 2014 and the notes of the meeting were attached to the report as Appendix 2 for Members’ information. The Group had discussed possible options for distributing the relevant budget and had come to the following conclusion to utilise some of the £77,750 (£10,000 had been proposed) to carry out a constituency wide project to future proof a number of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). The remaining amount of funding would be split evenly between each ward.

Based upon this proposal Members had then been requested to submit a concise ‘wish list’ of schemes they would like to fund from their ward based budget (approximately £13,500) in order of preference. It was noted that these schemes could be programmed in for completion throughout the remainder of 2014/15.

The Constituency Manager reported that following receipt of ward based requests from Members he had been in consultation with the Road Safety and Traffic Sections and appropriate public notices had been released in respect of relevant proposed schemes. The Committee noted that the current projected spend against the overall budget of £77,750 was £76,100.

The Constituency Manager reported progress in respect of the Your Wirral funding that had been devolved to the Constituency Committees during 2014/15. This was a small grants programme that had been in operation since 2007. To be eligible for funding, applications had to fit within one or more of the following seven themes which had been agreed by the Joint Working Group in line with the charitable objectives of the Community Fund Deed:

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

The Constituency Manager also reported that the first tranche of the “Your Wirral Fund” for Wirral South had closed and it was reported that on 1 October 2014 a representative Task and Finish Group had met to assess the application received against an agreed criteria.

Following allocation based upon the recommendations of the task and finish group there was £11,886.28 left. The fund had reopened until 28 November 2014. The Task and Finish Group had met again on 7 January 2015 to assess one application which had been received. The Group had consisted of:

Councillor Phil Gilchrist (Chair)
Councillor Jerry Williams (Vice Chair)
Councillor Christina Muspratt (Bebington)
Councillor Irene Williams (Bromborough)
Councillor Tracey Pilgrim (Clatterbridge)
Councillor Les Rowlands (Heswall)
Ms Paula McGlynn (Magenta Living Rep)

Although a number of clarification questions had been requested of the applicant, the Task and Finish Group had agreed that the project should be funded on receipt of acceptable responses to the questions asked.

The Task and Finish Group had also proposed that the Wirral South “Your Wirral” fund be reopened on 23 January 2015 and closed at noon on 6 March 2015.

The Constituency Manager also reported that £10,000 had been devolved to the Committee in the form of “Love Wirral” funding. He informed that he was currently seeking clarification on whether this funding could be carried forward into 2015/16. Unlike previous “Love Wirral” allocations the Committee had complete control over how this funding was allocated, provided its use was linked to environmental quality. It was recommended that a “Love Wirral” Task and Finish Group be established to discuss the project and report back to the next meeting on 16 April 2015.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Members be requested to work closely with the Constituency Manager and other officers to ensure the remaining under spend from 2013/14 is allocated by the end of 2014/15;**
- (2) the Committee notes the progress in relation to spend of the “Local Transport Capital Funding/Integrated Transport Block (ITB) programme funding for 2014/15.**
- (3) the Committee notes the progress made in relation to further allocation of “Your Wirral” funding;**
- (4) the “Your Wirral” fund for Wirral South be reopened on 23 January 2015 for a six week period and close at noon on 6 March 2015; and**

- (5) a “Love Wirral” task and finish group be set up of the following Members:

Councillors P Gilchrist, C Muspratt, S Niblock, T Pilgrim and L Rowlands

to develop proposals in respect of the devolved £10,000 “Love Wirral” funding and report them to the Committee at its meeting on 16 April 2015.

32 WIRRAL SOUTH PRIORITIES UPDATE

A report by the Constituency Manager set out the progress on the Committee’s priorities for 2014/15 and beyond. The Committee’s three priorities were as set out in Minute No. 31 above. Each priority had been allocated £15,000 which left a core budget of £5,000 to support various engagement initiatives. Appended to the report were:

- Appendix 1 - ‘Parks Priority Task and Finish Group’ 11 Dec, 2014
- Appendix 2 - Projected Spend Against Parks Priority (as of Jan 2015)
- Appendix 3 - Update Spend Re. Gaps In Youth Provision
- Appendix 4 - Dementia Friendly Communities

In respect of the Improved Open Space priority the Committee was informed that the Parks Priority Task and Finish Group had met on two occasions to consider where to focus its efforts during 2015/16. The Committee noted that progress in Mayer Park included the following:

- A brand new entrance sign erected.
- Lines of sight improved by reducing height of existing hedges.
- New flower beds dug and planted up.
- Dead trees removed.
- New litter bins throughout.
- Work carried out on offending vegetation in roof of Mayer Hall/Pennant House.
- Stonework repaired on Mayer Hall/Pennant House Stumps removed.
- A fence at Ellen’s lane.
- Replacement of rose bed in Ormerod Gardens.
- Edging of all paths throughout.
- Disabled access swing installed.

The Committee was reminded that the Parks Priority Task and Finish Group had been given delegated authority to “...ensure budgetary spend can be agreed and improvements made as expediently as possible, thus maximising the potential for applying for the Green Flag Award within 2014/15” (Minute No. 21 refers). Consequently, the Task and Finish Group had been presented with the following two main improvement options for Mayer Park:

- the refurbishment of decorative gates and railings (at a cost of £5,400); and
- the installation of a round top, metal fence along the (currently open) grassed area on Ellen's Lane (at a cost of £3,700).

Following responses from a clarification question (relating to guarantee of work on gates and railings) the Task and Finish Group had approved both options.

It was reported that the Group had also considered the possible geographical location of focus for the Committee in 2015/16. This discussion not only considered the existing distribution of Green Flag Awards throughout Wirral South per ward but also the level of involvement of community/friends groups in relation to their local park. Based on this discussion it had been proposed that Dawstone Park in Heswall be recommended as the area of focus for 2015/16.

Appendix 1 to the report detailed the current projected spend against the Parks Priority for 2014/15. The Committee noted that if it agreed the recommendations set out in the report there would be £2496.10 remaining to spend in 2014/15. It was recommended that the Parks Priority Task and Finish Group should consider the views of both Parks' staff and the existing "Friends" Group for Mayer Park and expedite the spend of the remaining budget where necessary.

In respect of Gaps in Youth Provision the Committee was reminded of the proposals presented to it at its last meeting. (Minute No. 21 refers.) It noted that further work would be carried out with Youth Services to develop recommendations for the remaining budgetary spend and they would be presented to the Committee at its next meeting on 16 April 2015.

In respect of Social Isolation the Committee was informed that the Public Service Board had met on 4 September 2014 to discuss the opportunity of setting up "Dementia Friendly Communities" in Wirral South. Utilising existing evidence from the Wirral South Profile (produced by Public Health) and with support from the Alzheimer's Society, it had been agreed at the last meeting of the Committee on 16 October 2014 that Heswall be recommended as a pilot location for this initiative.

Consequently, an open meeting had been held in Heswall Library on 27 November 2014. This open meeting (entitled "Making Heswall a Dementia Friendly Community") had been well attended by a variety of community and partnering organisations. Initial pledges had been made by many organisations in attendance and a plan for action in 2015 was being developed. The Committee noted that a second meeting was scheduled to be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd (188 Telegraph Road, Heswall), at 6pm on 29 January 2015.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress made by the Committee's Parks Priority Task and Finish Group be noted;**
- (2) Dawstone Park in Heswall be agreed as the location of focus in relation to the parks priority for 2015/16;**
- (3) the progress made in relation to the Youth Priority and that previously identified gaps in youth provision in Wirral South are now being addressed be noted; and**
- (4) the progress made in relation to the "Dementia Friendly Communities" project in Heswall be noted.**

33 UPDATE FROM MERSEYSIDE POLICE

Ross Meredith, Neighbourhood Inspector, Wirral South introduced Sergeant Jim Steel and Kim Dawson, Community Engagement Officer – Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside's Office.

The Neighbourhood Inspector was in attendance to provide an oral report on crimes and anti-social behaviour that had taken place in Wirral South during December 2014 and January 2015. This included providing data particularly on auto crime, theft from vehicles, burglaries from, shops, sheds, houses, industrial premises etc. and comparing it with previous months and the same period a year earlier.

The Neighbourhood Inspector also reported on a planned major operation being run by Cheshire Police on Wirral's border with Ellesmere Port and Neston involving automatic number plate recognition. He invited Members to come along on the day and agreed to provide them with all of the details nearer the time.

Of particular concern was the number of thefts reported from unlocked vehicles. Surprisingly, some people tended to not lock the doors leaving their vehicles insecure. It was also noted that the current neighbourhood policing priorities were all associated with anti-social behaviour.

The Neighbourhood Inspector informed the Committee that in future it was the Police's intention to use Mayer Hall as the venue for 'Have Your Say' meetings.

Following the presentation the Inspector answered questions put by the Committee and it was noted that:

- Most auto crime occurred at night outside residents addresses.

- Members were interested to receive anonymised reports and statistics in respect of numbers of arrests made, crimes solved, what was being done to tackle crime and how successful the Police were with this.
- The Police had not received reports about anti-social behaviour in Mayer Park but they had in respect of New Ferry Park and the Oval.
- Members were interested in speeding statistics and actions taken against those who were caught speeding.
- PCSOs were able to carry out speed checks and advise motorists but were unable to be involved with enforcement. There was very little local enforcement with sanctions in Wirral compared with the rest of Merseyside.
- Traffic Police chose locations to target based on the statistics supplied by the five Merseyside local authorities.
- The Police monitored crime patterns having regard to prison releases.
- It was expected that the Police would move from Bromborough to Bebington Police Station once all the building work required had been completed. The timescale for this was one year.

RESOLVED:

That the Neighbourhood Inspector be thanked for his report.

34 UPDATE FROM THE MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The Heswall and Bromborough Fire Station Manager, Andy Forshaw provided the Committee with statistical information on nuisance type fires, deliberate vehicle fires, malicious false alarms, calls not to do with fire etc. and informed that after drilling down the data the figures were refreshingly reassuring.

The Station Manager also informed that the Fire and Rescue Service had been carrying out a significant amount of preventative work. His Service was also working with Wirral Metropolitan College on rural traffic awareness for youth and was involved in the Fire Fit Programme with Youth, the Mountain Bike Programme, Mental Health Awareness and was encouraging wellbeing.

The Station Manager then answered questions put by the Committee and it was noted that:

- There had been a serious incident in Eastham that had resulted in a fatality recently and the Fire and Rescue Service had carried out excellent work throughout. The post incident work had been well received in the local community and the family had been proactive in getting the message out to ensure this didn't happen to anyone else's family.
- The Fire and Rescue Service was currently working through a close familiarisation exercise with COMAH sites, it was in their interests to be

good partners with the Service and their emergency planning arrangements were excellent.

RESOLVED:

That the Station Manager be thanked for his report.

35 **PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION (APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES)**

Committee Members and members of the public in attendance at the meeting raised the following questions, issues and requests.

Number 1

A member of the public referred to anti-social behaviour and dog dirt in Mayer Park and to the sign on the beautiful gates and asked if Members knew what the sign said. He also referred to the Butterfly Park in New Ferry and to allotments in a very negative way.

A Member informed that dog fouling enforcement was a total priority for the Council and the Park was patrolled. Unfortunately, the Council had to make £27m worth of cuts this year and this had meant reduced funding for its Parks. The answer was to form partnerships and Friends Groups to help fill the gap in provision. A lot of good work had been carried out by the Friends of Mayer Park.

The allotments had closed in 1992 because of vandalism and it would seem that there was always going to be problems there. The Friends Group had carried out some good work and the Council wanted to work with it to bring about more improvements.

The Member did not know what the wording was on the sign on Mayer Park's gates but did inform that the refurbishment of the Park was important and a high priority for the Council and that the results would not be seen over night. People needed to feel safe in the Park.

Another Member informed that he had taken exception to the comment made about the Butterfly Park. He asked that it be withdrawn and informed that the Butterfly Park had received a Green Flag Award last year.

A Member made reference to inconsiderate dog owners and to the problem of dog fouling which was Borough wide. He considered that the introduction of a policy to keep dogs on leads in Parks with designated areas to let them off was the way forward.

Number 2

A written question had been received about the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Programme. A training and development session on this for Elected Members had been held on 10 November 2014 and the questioner wanted to know how many had attended.

The answer to the question was that two Elected Members had received the training. However, Members had asked if the session could be repeated for those who had been unable to attend on 10 November 2014 as they were aware that it was important that they received this training. Unfortunately, they had not yet received a reply.

It was **agreed** that the Constituency Manager would convey the Committee's request that the ABCD Programme training be repeated for those Members who had been unable to attend the previous event.

Number 3

There were concerns about Library opening hours being reduced to 18 hours per week and Members' support was canvassed. Reference was made to Bromborough Library that was well used by children, older people etc. and it was considered that help was required to get as much as possible out of the 18 hours it was proposed that it would be open. It was five weeks since the Cabinet had made this recommendation and Friends Groups were only now being told. There was no information about it on the Council's website and it was queried when people who went to libraries that did not have Friends Groups would find out about the reduced hours proposal.

A Member informed that the Council had been faced with unprecedented budgetary cuts of £27m. A Working Group had been set up to look at each and every library, obtain pen pictures and then send recommendations to the Cabinet. The Cabinet had made recommendations to the Council which it would consider at the Budget Council meeting on 10 February 2015. Members would then be able to propose amendments.

It was reported that the Director of Transformation and Resources had been in contact with Friends Groups and had provided a slide presentation that set out the proposed arrangements in respect of library openings but it was noted that other arrangements would need to be made in respect of those libraries that did not have Friends Groups.

It was reported that not all Members were in favour of the broad brush approach to reducing library hours and some considered the proposal neither appropriate nor acceptable.

When libraries were closed people who relied on using computers accessed via libraries to make payments etc. were unable to do so. A lot of people used libraries for this purpose and a Member considered that more thought should be given to this.

A Member informed that following consultation, opening hours of libraries should reflect their usage but instead opening hours depended on whether there was a one stop shop located in the library.

Another Member informed that the Council was trying to keep libraries open on reduced hours so that when austerity was over the libraries would still be there and their opening hours could be increased.

The Acting Chief Executive was in attendance at the meeting and informed that officers implemented the decisions that members made. There was a budget of a set amount and an instruction from Members to keep all libraries open. The best way to get this to work was to do what had been proposed. Personally, he hoped that this was a starting point and that the new arrangement would encourage people to step forward and support their libraries. The proposal was to run the libraries on set hours for a period of time and then review the arrangements. There needed to be tight timescales in relation to this so that library staff could deploy themselves between the libraries and help keep all 24 open.

The Acting Chief Executive informed that he had made a note about updating the Council's website and to publicise how people could feed in views in by emailing chiefexecutive@wirral.gov.uk

Number 4

A member of the public drew attention to the fact that there was very little privacy being afforded customers in the one stop shop in Bebington and described the situation as appalling and inappropriate, particularly as there were other rooms that could be used by the one stop shop.

The Acting Chief Executive informed the meeting that he had made a note of this unsatisfactory arrangement and would see what could be done to rectify it by identifying space in which to hold private conversations. He **agreed** to let the Constituency Manager know the outcome so that he could inform Members of the Committee.

Number 5

Concerns were raised over the future of Bebington Town Hall by a member of the public who lived in close proximity to it. She asked whether any proposals put forward would be subject to public consultation.

It was noted that the Town Hall was not in the conservation area.

The Acting Chief Executive informed that the lease for the Cheshire Lines building still had ten years left to run and it was possible to get a lot of staff in there. The Council needed to get the best it could out of it and relocating staff there freed up other building that it could make savings on.

It was noted that the Constituency Manager would be relocating to Pennant House and the Annexe would be emptied.

The Acting Chief Executive also informed that the Town Hall complex was not currently up for sale/disposal and a decision would need to be taken on whether to demolish it or sell it. He requested the member of the public's email address so that he could keep her informed. He considered that a view should be taken on the whole area, the Town Hall and its environs.

36 **UPDATES ON QUESTIONS ASKED PREVIOUSLY BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (MINUTE NO. 24 REFERS)**

(a) Question about the location of problem tenants in New Ferry

The Constituency Manager informed that he had dealt with this issue in a meeting focusing on the New Ferry Area.

(b) Question about Parking Enforcement Close to Schools

The Constituency Manager informed that he had spoken to colleagues in the Parking Enforcement Section particularly about Cross lane in Bebington and reported that it was already on its list of "hotspots". Since September 2014 there had been 68 visits and ten parking control notices had been given out.

Delavor Road in Heswall, near St Peter's C of E Primary School was not on the list. Two parking control notices had been issued for pulling up on double yellow lines in order to take children to school

Well Lane was not on the list. There had been three visits and four parking control notices had been issued for dropping off passengers at the bus stop.

In respect of Ascot Drive/Close, Bebington there had been three visits and four parking control notices had been issued.

(c) Question about Isolation and Loneliness of Elderly Men and Grit Bins

The Constituency Manager reported that a bin and grit had been purchased in the Clatterbridge ward. It had been delivered to the Church. Local people had been spreading the grit and were committed to refilling the bin.

37 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting had been advertised as taking place at 6pm on Thursday, 16 April 2015 at Mayer Hall, The Village, Bebington.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

18 JUNE 2015

SUBJECT:	WIRRAL SOUTH IMPACT REVIEW 2014/15
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>BEBINGTON</u>▪ <u>BROMBOROUGH</u>▪ <u>CLATTERBRIDGE</u>▪ <u>EASTHAM</u>▪ <u>HESWALL</u>
REPORT OF:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL SOUTH)
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING & ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides a review of the work carried out by the Wirral South Constituency Committee throughout 2014/15. The report will breakdown all the elements of work carried out (grants funds, priority based projects etc.) and offer indication of impact on the residents of Wirral South. This report will also detail the amounts of spend in relation to each strand of work carried out.

1.2 The 2014/15 Wirral South Constituency Committee budget was as detailed below:

- £50K Wirral South Health & Wellbeing Fund
- £38,720.50 core budget rolled over from 2013/14 (allocated £10k per ward)
- £50K Core budget allocated to three main priorities
- £77,750 Road Safety Money
- £35K "Your Wirral" funding
- £10k "Love Wirral" funding

2.0 PRIORITY SPEND AND ASSOCIATED IMPACT

2.1 *Improved Open Spaces; to increase the number of green flag parks in Wirral South year on year and ensure accessibility is improved in each chosen location*

2.1.1 During the Wirral South priority setting session (9 April 2014) it was identified that although Wirral South had large amounts of open space the number of 'Green Flag' awards was low (when compared on a percentage basis with other constituencies). The importance of outstanding parks and open spaces and their contribution to the health and wellbeing of residents was noted. Agreement was made to rotate focus by ward each year and start in the wards that had no 'Green Flags' in situ.

2.1.2 Throughout 2014/15 Wirral South's Constituency Manager has met with representatives from the Wirral South Park's Team, including the Senior Manager of Parks and Countryside Services. Discussions were held in an attempt to highlight the most suitable location on which to focus the Committee's efforts throughout 2014/15. Based upon this discussion and a subsequent site visit it was decided that Mayer Park was the most suitable location based upon a number of factors, not least the existence of an enthusiastic and active "Friends Of" group plus the overall infrastructure being in acceptable condition.

On 6 August 2014 a representative group of Elected Members for Wirral South were brought together forming the 'Parks Priority Task and Finish Group'. At this meeting the proposal to focus upon Mayer Park in 2014/15 was discussed. Members agreed that this proposal was both acceptable and logical. To add context to this decision the main judging criteria for the Green Flag Award are contained below:

- A welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Well maintained and clean
- Sustainability
- Conservation and heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing
- Management

2.1.3 The 'Parks Priority Task and Finish Group' met once again in December 2014 and based upon further agreement a list of progress was presented to the committee in January 2015. A list of progress to date (at time of writing this report) is shown below:

- Park management plan revised
- Application for green flag submitted
- A brand new main entrance sign erected (Beb Cllrs Core Budget)
- A secondary entrance sign erected at Ellen's Lane entrance
- Lines of sight improved by reducing height of existing hedges (Friends)
- New flower beds dug and planted up (Beb Cllrs Core Budget)
- Dead trees removed (Parks)

- New litter bins throughout (Constituency Budget)
- Work carried out on offending vegetation in roof of Mayer Hall/Pennant House (Asset Management)
- Stonework repaired on Mayer Hall/Pennant House (Asset Management)
- Stumps removed (Parks)
- A new fence at Ellen's lane (Constituency Budget)
- Replacement of rose bed in Ormerod gardens (Beb Cllrs Core Budget)
- Edging of all paths throughout (imminent Friends)
- Disabled access swing installed (Constituency Budget)
- 'Legacy Kit' donated to Friends Group consisting of tools etc. (imminent Constituency Budget)
- New play equipment installed (teen see-saw and nest swing)

2.1.4 At the time of publishing this report the green flag judging has taken place but no formal decision has been received. Although it is impossible to predict the outcome it is accurate to state that the park has benefitted from the increased attention from the Constituency Committee. Local residents have commented on the improvements made and the friends group are happy with both the physical improvements and the heightened partnership working with the local authority. A further update will be provided to the Committee following the completion of judging/decision.

2.2 *Gaps in Youth Provision; to work with internal and external partners to identify and rectify any existing gaps in provision of youth services in Wirral South*

2.2.1 During the Wirral South priority setting session (9 April 2014) elected members voiced a collective opinion that youth provision was somewhat under resourced in Wirral South compared with other constituencies. For example; there were no opportunities to access one to one youth counselling services outside Birkenhead. Evidence also suggested that pockets of youth related ASB were also becoming established and that the Wirral South Constituency Committee were best placed to apply some localised and targeted funding in an attempt to address these issues.

2.2.2 Throughout 2014/15 Wirral South's Constituency Manager engaged directly with the Youth Support Team Manager for Wirral South in an attempt to produce a list of proposals to present to the committee. Based upon the key parameters of the above priority (2.2) the following proposals were presented to and agreed by the committee in October 2014:

- **Diversionsary Activities**
2 x excursions to mountain biking facility in Delamere Forest for 14 young people to encourage engagement in focussed locations experiencing existing anti-social behaviour
- **Education in Theatre**
20 x themed performance/workshops aimed at equipping young people with the tools to deal with both abusive relationships and bullying
- **Extension of 'The Lads' engagement programme**
Doubling the provision for Wirral South from 14 to 28 for young Men completing the above development programme
- **One to One Counselling Services**

Offering a one to one counselling service to young people within the Wirral South Constituency footprint until 31 march 2015

2.2.3 The above proposals cost a total amount of £10,567, just slightly more than two thirds of the Committee’s youth budget for 2014/15. Impact reports from the various elements are included in this report (see appendix One, Two, Three and Four for detailed info). The infographic below (Figure 1) offers a snapshot of the impact achieved by the various constituency approaches to addressing the gaps in youth provision for Wirral South.

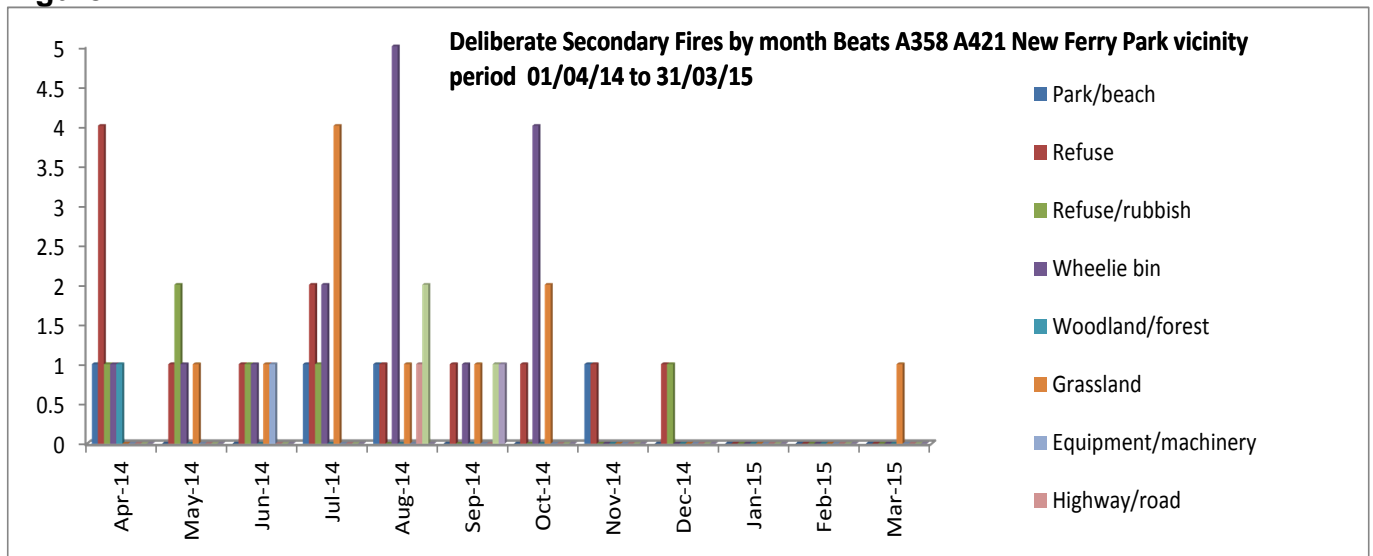
Figure 1:



2.2.4 One of the areas of focus for the constituency funded youth work was New Ferry Park. This location was experiencing higher levels of ASB than other areas in Wirral South, in particular a worrying trend for setting deliberate secondary fires.

Figure 2 below shows the incidents of deliberate secondary fires in the vicinity of New Ferry Park for the whole of 2014/15. The focussed outreach work began in this area following the October Committee in 2014.

Figure 2:



2.3 *Tackle Social Isolation; Identify the various groups affected by social isolation in Wirral South, establish the evident gaps in provision throughout the Constituency and aim to either support existing providers or commission a new piece of work*

2.3.1 Members of The Wirral South Public Service Board met on 4 September 2014 to discuss the opportunity of setting up “Dementia Friendly Communities” in Wirral South. Utilising existing evidence from the Wirral South Profile (produced by Public Health) and with support from the Alzheimer’s Society it was proposed at the Wirral South Constituency Committee 16 October 2014 that Heswall be recommended as a pilot location for this initiative.

2.3.2 Following the resolved recommendation (3.1.1 above) an open meeting was held in Heswall library 27 November 2014. This open meeting (entitled “Making Heswall a Dementia Friendly Community”) was well attended by a variety of community and partnering organisations. Initial pledges were made by many organisations in attendance and a plan for action in 2015 is soon to be developed.

2.3.3 Further meetings were held in Heswall and it was decided that the initial approach of this project should be to raise awareness and tackle stigma. In order to do this a number of Dementia Friends Sessions were held in Heswall throughout March 2015 (to find out more follow this link: <https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/>)

The following (hour long) sessions took place in March 2015:

- Monday, March 2, 2pm and 3.30pm, Heswall Hall, Telegraph Road, Heswall.
- Wednesday, March 4, 2pm, Heswall Library, Telegraph Road, Heswall.
- Thursday, March 5, 6.30pm, Church Of The Good Shepherd, Telegraph Road, Heswall.
- Thursday, March 12, 6.30pm, Church Of The Good Shepherd.
- Monday, March 16, 3pm and 4.30pm, Heswall Hall

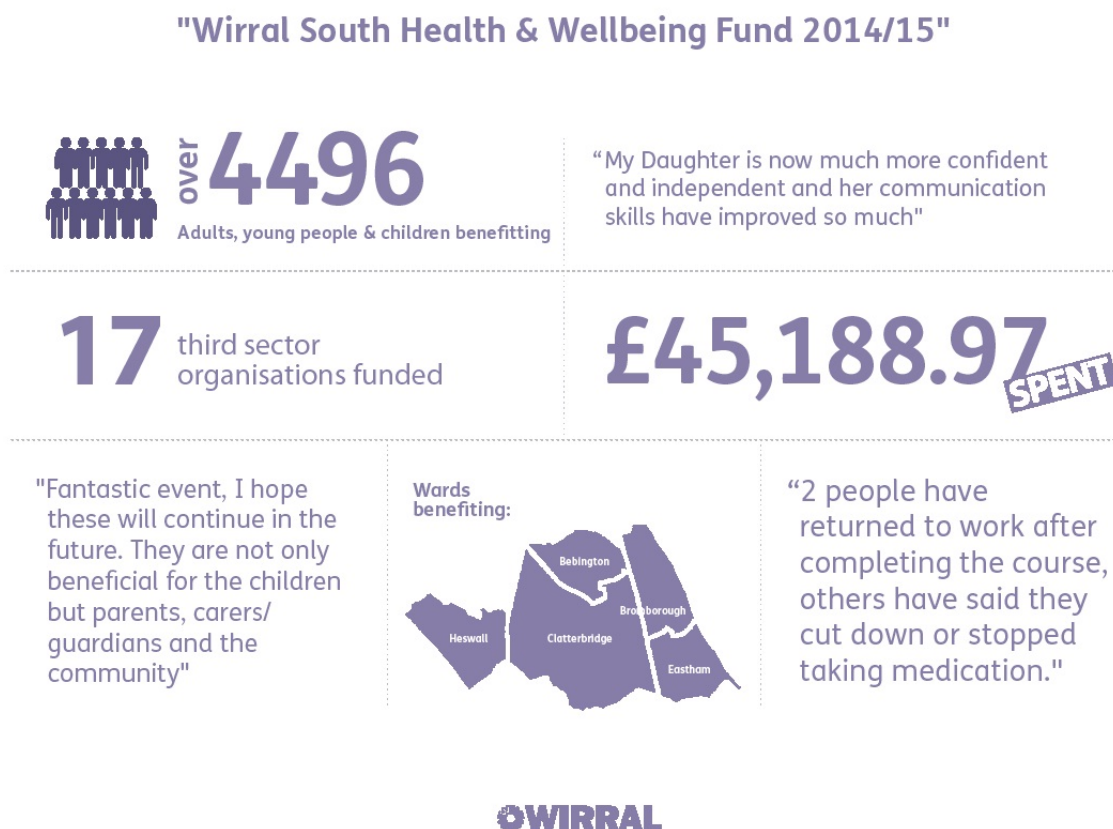
- 2.3.4 The pilot continues and a further meeting took place on Thursday 16 April 2015. This meeting discussed the various options for next steps to ensure the wider community (including businesses) are fully engaged.
- 2.3.5 The issue of social isolation is a particularly complex one. Social isolation affects a number of diverse strands within any one community. With this in mind it is proposed that a piece of commissioning work takes place to procure support for the Wirral South Constituency Committee to address social isolation in the future (see section 3.3 Wirral South Proposals report 2015/16).

3.0 WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE GRANTS PROGRAMMES 2014/15

3.1 Wirral South Health & Wellbeing Fund

- 3.1.1 17 projects have been funded from the Wirral South Health & Wellbeing Fund during 2014/15. The total amount awarded was £ 45168.97, leaving £4,831.03 remaining.
- 3.1.2 At the first Wirral South Constituency Committee of 2014/15 (June 25) the above outlined allocation (4.1.1) was recommended and resolved. Payments were subsequently made to the approved 17 projects (see figure 3 below for outline of impact). Over 4496 residents across Wirral South have been directly affected by the Wirral South Health & Wellbeing Fund throughout 2014/15.

Figure 3:



3.2 *Your Wirral*

3.2.1 Your Wirral funding was devolved to the Constituencies Committees for 2014/15. It is a small grants programme that has been in operation since 2007. To be eligible for funding, applications had to fit within one or more of the seven themes (below), which were agreed by the Joint Working Group in line with the charitable objectives of the Community Fund Deed:

- i. Creating an attractive and safe environment
- ii. Contributing to community economic regeneration
- iii. Preventing crime or reducing the fear of crime
- iv. Providing employment and training for local people
- v. Benefiting local people who face discrimination
- vi. Improving community facilities
- vii. Engaging communities to improve quality of life

3.2.2 Wirral South has allocated almost the full amount of its £35,000 budget for 2014/15 (£48.91 carried over into 2015/16). Wirral South has also allocated £5,000 of its £35,000 budget for 2015/16 (see appendix Five for full details of funded organisations).

4.0 **INTEGRATED TRANSPORT**

4.1 It was outlined at Wirral South's first Constituency Committee of 2014/15 that £77,750 had been devolved to Wirral South to address Road Safety issues within the constituency area.

4.2 The "Local Transport Capital Funding/Integrated Transport Block (ITB) programme budget Task & Finish Group" for Wirral South met for the first time, Wednesday 13 Aug (following Councillors attended: D Mitchell, C Muspratt, L Rowlands, T Pilgrim and J Walsh). This group discussed possible options for distributing the relevant budget and came to the following conclusion:

"Utilise some of the £77,750 (£10K suggested) to carry out a constituency wide project to future proof a number of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). The remaining amount to be split evenly per ward".

4.3 Delays in implementation (contractual, procurement and a small number of public objections to particular schemes) have meant that a significant amount of this budget will be carried over into 2015/16. Appendix Six details the various projects and their relevant stage of completion at the time of writing this report.

5.0 **REMAINING CORE BUDGET FROM 2013/14**

5.1 Over £38K of the 2013/14 devolved core budget for Wirral South remained and was carried over into 2014/15. Each ward was allocated £10k each and spend continued throughout the year. Further works have been programmed but not

actioned by the various services due to resource pressures. Appendix Seven shows the current allocated spend per ward.

6.0 LOVE WIRRAL

6.1 The full budgetary amount of £10K has been carried over into 2015/16. The Love Wirral Task and Finish Group for Wirral South (established at the committee 22 Jan, 2015) has remotely agreed to allocate £2k per ward and lists of proposed projects have been compiled. Implementation will commence as soon as is practicable in 2015/16.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

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

8.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

9.0 CONSULTATION

9.1 Extensive online literature was available to both promote and explain the "Your Wirral Fund" and support was offered from Community Action Wirral to aid those applying. Elected members have been consulted via various task & finish groups.

10.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

10.1 Both the "Your Wirral" and "Wirral South health & Wellbeing" funds offered a well needed injection of funds into the social sector within Wirral South.

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

11.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wirral South Constituency Committee.

11.2 Funding may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

12.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

13.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

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

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

14.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

14.1 Allocation of funds promoting localised services will have an impact on the Wirral South's overall carbon footprint

15.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

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

16.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

16.3 Note the progress made by the Wirral South Constituency Committee throughout 2014/15.

17.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

Wirral South Proposals report 2015/16

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

Appendix One: "Tracks" Mountain Biking Project Impact Report

Appendix Two: Response Counselling services in the South Wirral area

Appendix Three: South Wirral LADS Project Report

Appendix Four: Creative Youth Development Report for Wirral South

Appendix Five: Your Wirral Funded Projects

Appendix Six: Integrated Transport/Road Safety Budget Update

Appendix Seven: Projected Spend of Carried Over 2013/14 Core Budget

South Wirral Outreach Team Mountain Biking in Delamere Forest.

Aim

To engage hard to reach groups of young people and to reduce the anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the New Ferry area.

Methodology

South Wirral Youth Outreach Team targeted challenging groups of young people in New Ferry who have been causing ASB. During the summer of 2014 the outreach team were often met by verbal abuse from certain groups of young people which included being called "grasses." The young people thought that the team were stopping them from having fun and collecting personal details to inform the Police of their ASB. Engaging these groups was challenging but the team persevered. Initially the offer of the trip it was met with miss trust and the groups would not engage. The team targeted some of the ring leaders which eventually helped with signing other young people on to the trips.

Outcome

There were two mountain biking trips planned, one in January and one in February half term were taking groups of young people from New Ferry on the Saturday 24TH January and on the 28th February. 12 young people in all total took part in the trips with 8 young people did not turn up for the activities. Although these numbers seem small on the surface the impact of the trips and work the outreach team have been doing has been widespread. The team spoke to lots of young people about the trip and although not all turned up the stories that went back into the area made lots wish they had come along. Key young people from the groups that attended the trips gave the youth workers credibility and trust with the young people. Since the trips young people are more approachable often making contact with the youth workers to come over and discuss a variety of issues which has led to some targeted interventions.

Conclusion

"The behaviour of the young people was impeccable and this was commented on by the TRAX team at Delamere. They said the groups were some of the best they had worked with. All the young people where polite and grateful with not one incident on both trips.

The help that it has given to our relationship with the young people can be measured by their attitude towards us as Youth Workers. We hope to capitalise on this in the future and develop further our relationships and impact on the Community."

By Jason Chan South Wirral Outreach Manager

Appendix Two: Response Counselling services in the South Wirral area

Overview

In November 2014, a pilot project was launched to deliver counselling services in the South Wirral area. During the period from November to March 2015 the Response counsellor engaged with 25 unique individuals for therapeutic counselling, each receiving on average 6-8 sessions. Counselling sessions were delivered either through regular and planned one hour sessions or via a weekly 'drop-in' service, which can be accessed as and when required by the young person.

Referrals to the counselling service came from Response, School, GP, and South Wirral Youth Hub 'Drop-in'. The age of young people accessing the service are 12 to 17 years old. The two venues used for this project were Bebington Children's Centre and South Wirral Youth Hub.

The presenting issues included - Relationship issues; low self-esteem; Anger; self-harm; bereavement; low mood/depression; low confidence; learning difficulties; suicidal thoughts; self-image; stop smoking; bullying.

Response engaged with 68 young people to give advice, guidance and support on a weekly basis or as and when required at the Youth Hub. Response also delivered brief interventions, including advice on further support, to young people who attended the productions delivered by Wirral Youth Theatre.

Outcomes & Impact

The impact of counselling has included:

- A young person feeling more able to talk more about feelings and does not hide "real self" from the world.
- Young person has found alternative coping strategies to self-harm and has reported self-harm has reduced, and feeling more positive about the future
- Young person feeling more confident to make a new circle of friends and take up new hobbies as had previously felt isolated and unattached.
- Improved relationships at home with mum and siblings. Accepting self and attendance at school improved. Sleep improved with increased energy, concentration. Increased confidence and made new friends.

Case Study 1: Bebington Children's Centre

- Young Female aged 15
- Presented to the GP as was self-harming by cutting wrists, she was feeling angry, stressed and sad. GP suggested she attend Response for counselling.
- Young person attended 4 counselling sessions and talked about feelings of loneliness as doesn't feel accepted by society & 'not feeling good enough' Spoke about 'scary' suicidal thoughts at night when can't sleep, this affects attendance at school, and is often too tired from lack of sleep to attend.

- Worked on self-esteem, special qualities and focused on young person recognising what she's good at and being kind to self as well as developing relaxation techniques.
- YP attended last session and entered room by saying 'I'm back'. YP was now sleeping better which has increased her motivation & concentration in school. Attendance in school has improved and YP has been able to make new friends which has increased confidence and she is now looking forward to the future. Comment from YP following evaluation ***"all of this change from talking - Amazing!"***

Case study 2: South Wirral Hub – 'drop in'

- Young male aged 17
- Presented at South Wirral Hub 'drop- in' as was struggling with anger and finds it hard to control anger at home with Mum which is causing problems with the relationship and may result in him leaving home.
- YP referred to Response housing team for advice as under pressure to move home.
- YP uses drop-in service at South Wirral Hub when feels the need to. He has attended 5 times during Jan-Mar 2015 and uses the space to explore feelings as he recognises that he keeps these inside a lot and looks after others more than himself – working on self-esteem to improve this. Also working on anger management techniques in sessions.
- YP likes the flexibility of the drop in service and also knowing that there is a counsellor he can talk to on a weekly basis, if needed, as this helps him feel supported especially at this time of a lot of change and uncertainty.
- YP open to Response housing service and family accessing support through 'Team Around the Family'. YP is happy living with Dad at present.

Below are some comments from individuals whom have accessed the service:

"It's great I now feel I have got somewhere to come when I need to talk to someone, I'll definitely use the drop in service"

"Don't usually talk to anyone about how I'm feeling so being able to talk has helped me put things into perspective"

"I feel this is a space I am able to speak and explain how I feel"

"I'm getting to know myself better; I'm beginning to like myself"

"I now realise I ignore the good bits about me – there is lots of good things"

"It's been a journey"

"I never knew counselling would help me"

"I feel in a good place now"

"I'm beginning to accept me"

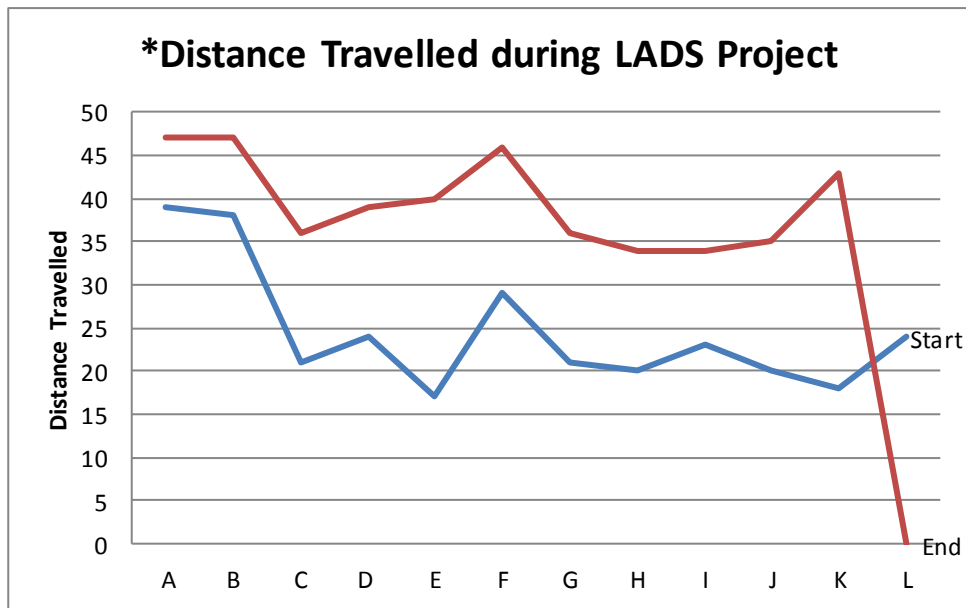
"I can finally sleep better, it's changed my life"

A mum of young person reported that young person has made a real change since coming to counselling and can't believe that she is the same girl.

Recommendations

- As part of the exit strategy, Response will work with Youth workers to bring young people to Response so they are aware of services available to them should they need to access in the future
- The pilot project will end at the end of May 2015, and time is given to review and evaluate the project

Appendix Three: South Wirral LADS Project Report



**Each young person filled in a distance travel tool at the beginning and end of the project.*

This tool is called the Star. It has 10 points, each point covers a subject area :-

- Relationships*
- Home Life*
- Alcohol*
- Risk Taking behaviour/Personal safety*
- Using substances*
- Social isolation*
- Confidence and self esteem*
- Sexual health*
- Resilience*
- Aspirations*

These are scored out of 5 (5 being really positive 1 being negative or doesn't have an understanding).

Young Person	Start	End
A	39	47
B	38	47
C	21	36
D	24	39
E	17	40
F	29	46
G	21	36
H	20	34
I	23	34
J	20	35
K	18	43
L	24	DNF

Topics covered in LADS project:

- Social Isolation
- Using Substances
- Risk taking behaviour
- Alcohol
- Home Life
- Aspirations
- Relationships
- Sexual Health
- Confidence
- Resilience

Young People's Feedback:

'The project helped me to look at how drugs and alcohol can hurt me and how it can make me act stupidly and in a dangerous way! We also talked about how we need to respect each other all of the time!'

'The trip to Oakland's was great! I was quite scared in the mine, when we had to slide down a big cliff. But I am glad I done it and would really like to do it again.'

'The lad's project was very enjoyable for me and I learned a lot. The good things I learned was about relationships that I have with my friends and family and that relationships are not just with my girlfriends.'

'From the project I found out how bad smoking is for your health and that keeping fit and eating healthy is very important. I found out a lot from, Adam, Naz and Kev and they were great fun at Oakland's.'

'I have taken so much from the sessions we done in the lads project. The fact that I got to organise and deliver some of the topics helped me a lot. The trip to Oaklands helped me realise that I want to work in outdoor ed.'

Report:

The LADS project at South Wirral Youth Hub saw young people from varying referral organisation's come together to engage in an 8 week programme looking at all areas listed above. The referral organisations were South Wirral High School, Family Support\Gateway, South Wirral Youth Hub and South Wirral Outreach Team. There were initially 15 young people on the course with 3 young people dropping out early on and 1 dropping out half way through. This left us with 11 young people completing the course right through to the Oakland's residential. The Young people were given a distance travelled tool looking at the 10 areas listed above. This was completed at the start and end of the course. The lower the number the less awareness/development they had in that area. This collated, as a whole, shows that all young people had a positive distance travelled throughout the project and gained awareness and personal development from the LADS project interventions. The young people gave positive feedback through evaluation as can be seen from some of the quotes provided.

Appendix Four: Creative Youth Development Report for Wirral South

Creative Youth Development were funded by South Wirral Constituency to deliver five performances each, of two existing theatre education packages, (total of 10 performances to young people across Wirral, at 5 outreach venues in South Wirral.

The two pieces were:

- **'If You Loved Me You Would'** (IYLMYW)– a play, which explored healthy and unhealthy relationships, and the spectrum of relationship abuse
- **'Because'** – an anti-bullying performance and interactive workshop, which explores a range of bullying scenarios and the consequences of bullying behaviour, originally 15 minutes long this was redevised to create a longer 40 minute piece.

The packages were commissioned to be delivered by Last Minute Theatre Company (LMT). LMT is also an in-house theatre company that provides a progression route for young people wishing to gain experience in delivering issue based theatre and peer education. Three of the performers who were recruited had been members/young people from WYT/CYD, and the technician who supported the Because /IYLMYW tour had also originally been a member and young person with the CYD tech team.

5 venues in South Wirral were identified to deliver the performances to:

- **South Wirral Youth Hub (Eastham)**
- **Jireh church**
- **Bebington Youth club**
- **Bromborough Civic Centre**
- **Heswell Hall**

What happened?

Because:

- Creation and devising of a new 40 minute piece exploring 4 key scenarios about bullying and the consequences of bullying behaviour, including homophobia, CSE and the risks of taking and sharing inappropriate images, consequences of bullying behaviour and the law
- Rehearsal over 4 weeks
- Partnership work with Bullybusters to make sure content and interactive activities current, correct and relevant
- The use of modern technology as a way to engage young people, the creation of interactive Q&A, using voting pads to answer questions. Young people were able to participate during the performance and after each trigger scenario. The voting pads were loaned by anti-social behaviour team
- Learning could be tested and measured using the Quizdom package, this enabled us to have interactive questions, and at the same time record the results of each performance/school/youth group and measure learning. We were able to develop a comprehensive picture of young people's understanding and learning and the culture towards bullying, by capturing individual responses to questions.

- We were able to get up-to-date stats about attitudes and experiences of young people towards bullying and in particular their personal experiences of bullying, for example
Question: 'I have been bullied in my life: never / a bit / a lot / all the time'.
This material was also useful for hosting organisations to get a picture of what was going on with their young people, and where they could offer support, and/or educate further.
- The performances were followed with a Q&A session for young people, offering an opportunity to ask questions about the issues, where to get help, the process etc. There were always many questions from young people, particularly around whether the actors had experienced bullying and how they had dealt with it.

IYLMYW:

- Originally re-scripted to a smaller cast of 6 in 2014, the script had to be rewritten again, and reduced to 5 cast members, when one of the company left for a full time job
- Re-rehearsing of play
- Adapting set and tech to make it portable for outreach tour

A counsellor from Response accompanied all of the South Wirral outreach tour performances of IYLMYW, and 'Because'. Their presence had been vital during the in-house productions of IYLMYW, to support individuals who were experiencing relationship abuse, who had witnessed it, or who knew someone who was going through it. The counsellor was able to offer immediate counselling and then sign posting to Response, or other agencies for further support.

What were the outcomes of the work?

- 10 outreach performances in community venues across South Wirral

Audience numbers varied depending on the location of the venue. The performances in the Bebington youth club, the Jireh church and South Wirral HUB were best attended and this was probably because there were established youth groups there to attend.

Audience numbers, all audience were age appropriate and between 11-19 years old:

Eastham Youth Hub:

- IYLMYW 21 MALE / 22 FEMALE
- BECAUSE 12 MALE/16 FEMALE

Bromborough Civic Hall

- IYLMYW 8 FEMALE
- BECAUSE 8 FEMALE

Jireh church

- IYLMYW – performance cancelled due to confusion over booking of venue, and premises not available.

Another theatre education piece will be done in 15/16 to make up for this.

- Because – 13 MALE / 16 FEMALE

Bebington Youth Club

- BECAUSE – 25 MALE / 20 FEMALE
- IYLMYW – 9 MALE / 14 FEMALE

Heswell Hall:

BECAUSE – 2 MALE / 4 FEMALE

IYLMYW – 2 MALE / 4 FEMALE

TOTAL numbers of young people who saw productions:

IYLMYW – 80

'Because' - 76

Specific Capability areas

PARTICIPATION:

- A young dynamic cast of actor/facilitators were able to relate to other young people and deliver key messages in a credible and engaging way. They were able to motivate their audiences, challenge inappropriate responses, answer questions and offer guidance on the issues raised
- Through performance they were able to demonstrate inappropriate behaviour, oppression of others, raise awareness and help understanding, about the impact of an individual's actions and behaviour

Extrinsic outcomes:

- Two high quality TIE pieces successfully delivered to young people aged 11+, in appropriate venues which helped to reduce risk taking behaviour and build resilience
- Positive engagement and participation of young people who attended, using modern technology and theatre
- Current and live data captured about young people's opinions, understanding and experiences of bullying. This information can be shared with schools as partners to create safer communities and tackle bullying as an issue
- Both performances were seen as a starting point for conversations with young people about personal safety, and the impact of bullying or controlling behaviours
- Positive partnership work with Bullybusters, Response, the Police, Safeguarding, schools, youth workers, ASBT, outreach community venues including youth clubs and the church
- Diverse groups of young people worked with including those who are severely disabled, socially excluded, emotionally vulnerable, or experiencing mental health difficulties.
- youth work support for personal issues which came out during the process
- positive impact on health and well-being as a result of being involved in the project
- improved confidence and self-esteem
- Participation in performances and facilitation of workshops and discussion

Intrinsic outcomes:

- The project links participants to the ECM outcomes to enjoy, achieve, participate, stay healthy, stay safe and make a positive contribution
- improved communication skills
- improved group work and team work skills
- improved confidence and self esteem
- high self-efficacy
- emotional resilience
- strategies to cope with bullying, including where to get help
- opportunities to develop creativity and self-expression
- opportunity for progression and integration into CYD provision
- improved understanding of the arts and performance
- reduced risk taking behaviour
- improved health and well being
- participating in positive activities
- improved social skills

What impact did the event have on participants or their community?

Although evaluation forms were prepared for the groups it proved very difficult to get young people to complete them, mainly due to them losing part of their 'club night' to the productions, and as soon as the play/workshop was finished they returned to their club night activity. Young people, did however stay the duration of the performances and youth workers have reported back that they have gone onto have very positive conversations with their groups about the issues raised in the play

Verbal feedback was very positive, with many young people indicating it was their first experience of seeing 'a proper play'. Several young people came and talked to the cast afterwards about the issues in the play.

The Quizdom results for each venue/youth group, for 'Because' anti bullying piece are available and gives a picture of young people's attitudes to bullying.

Appendix Five: Your Wirral Funded Projects

ID	Organisation name	Amount awarded	Budget Code	Ref	Ref
A478493	New Ferry Butterfly Park	2,500.00	B7554	R499	46500
AF79998	Heswall Arts Festival	2,500.00	B7554	R499	46500
AF81280	1st Bromborough Boys' Brigade	2,500.00	B7554	R499	46500
AF81317	Heswall & District Business Association	2,500.00	B7554	R499	46500
AF80573	Jireh Community Project	2,475.11	B7554	R499	46500
AF81135	The Residents of Brimstage Manor Nursing Home	840.00	B7554	R499	46500
AF81440	Bebington Village Retail Association	2,500.00	B7554	R499	46500
AF81250	Bebington Park Bowling Club	2,500.00	B7554	R499	46500
AF81443	SUEvivor Stroke Support	2,498.61	B7554	R499	46500
AF81522	Eastham Community Centre Limited	2,300.00	B7554	R499	46500
	Round Two:				
AF85421	Big Heritage CIC	2,357.00	B7554	R499	46500
	Round three				
AF90023	Bromborough Village Community Association	2,500.00	B7554	R499	46500
AF92543	Wirral Autistic Society	2,491.09	B7554	R499	46500
AF88406	Higher beb FC	2,490.00	B7554	R499	46500
AF88182	Friends of Dibbensdale	2,000.00	B7554	R499	46500
	Total	34,951.81			
	1st round of 2015/16				
AF80069	Heswall Hall Community Trust	2500	B7554	R499	46500
AF92333	5th Heswall (Methodist) Scout Group	2500	B7554	R499	46500
	Total	5000			

Appendix Six: Integrated Transport/Road Safety Budget Update

Constituency Committee	Location	Ward	Issue/ Proposal	Estimated Cost	Est Spend 14/15	Slip to 2015/16	Responsible Officer	Status
Wirral South	All ward areas	All	Upgrade a number of VAS speed indicator devices to use SD card technology	£10,000		£10,000	DJK	Advertised: No objections received Issue Instructions to contractor
Wirral South	Teahoy Lane / Kings Lane	Bobington	Introduction of pavement parking TRO	£4,300	£4,300		DJK	Advertised: No objections received Issue Instructions to contractor
Wirral South	Brookhurst Ave	Clatterbridge	Speed indicator device	£7,000		£7,000	PC/ DJK	With Procurement
Wirral South	Brookhurst Ave/Brookhurst Rd	Clatterbridge	Speed indicator device	£7,000		£7,000	PC/ DJK	With Procurement
Wirral South	A41/Bridle Road, Eastham	Eastham	30mph gateway (roundel) road marking	£400	£400		LB	Design in progress advertising not needed
Wirral South	Eastham Rake	Eastham	Introduction of parking restrictions	£2,000		£2,000	PB	Advertised - Objections received Refer back to Constituency Cttee & Highways Panel
Wirral South	Paisley Avenue, Eastham	Eastham	Dropped kerbs	£1,600		£1,600	GR / Design Team	Surveys in progress
Wirral South	Ronfrow Avenue, Eastham	Eastham	Dropped kerbs	£1,600		£1,600	GR / Design Team	Surveys in progress
Wirral South	Berwick Avenue, Eastham	Eastham	Dropped kerbs	£1,600		£1,600	GR / Design Team	Surveys in progress
Wirral South	Selkirk Avenue, Eastham	Eastham	Dropped kerbs	£1,600		£1,600	GR / Design Team	Surveys in progress
Wirral South	Mill Park Drive	Eastham	20mph speed limit restrictions	£3,800	£3,800		CA / IW / LB	Advertised: No objections received Issue Instructions to contractor
Wirral South	New Ferry Road	New Ferry	Speed indicator device	£7,000		£7,000	PC/ DJK	With Procurement
Wirral West/ Wirral South	Whitfield Lane / Downham Road North	Pensby & Thingwall / Heswall	Introduction of 20mph speed limit on residential roads adjacent to Heswall Primary School.	£16,300		£16,300	CA / IW / LB	Advertised - Objections received Refer back to Constituency Cttee & Highways Panel

Appendix Seven: Projected Spend of Carried Over 2013/14 Core Budget

Ward	Projected Spend
Bebington	£9,201.05
Bromborough	£9,812.50
Clatterbridge	£5,695.79
Eastham	£10,090.49
Heswall	£9,524.76
Total	£44,324.59

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

18 JUNE 2015

SUBJECT:	WIRRAL SOUTH PROPOSALS REPORT 2015/16
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>BEBINGTON</u>▪ <u>BROMBOROUGH</u>▪ <u>CLATTERBRIDGE</u>▪ <u>EASTHAM</u>▪ <u>HESWALL</u>
REPORT OF:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL SOUTH)
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING & ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details a number of proposals to progress the resolved priorities and allocated budget for the Wirral South Constituency Committee in 2015/16 and beyond.

2.0 BUDGET BREAKDOWN 2015/16

- 2.1 At its meeting on 24 February 2015, Council agreed to fund the four Constituency Committees with £50k each, see below:

“Constituency Committees - £200,000

Labour introduced Constituency Committees in 2013 as part of a new Neighbourhood Working agenda. We have been impressed with the work each committee has done to enable local people to have a greater influence over how the Council spends its funding at a local level. When we started this programme we allocated £50,000 for ‘seed corn’ funding, focussed on tackling poverty and deprivation, which we hoped would be matched by other public agencies. Cabinet

will continue to devolve funding to each Constituency Committee, however, we would request the Acting Chief Executive to undertake an evaluation of the work of Constituency Committees, and to report back to the Cabinet on what additional activities may be devolved and how far each Committee has tackled deprivation in the Borough and whether there is a case for weighting the funding going forward based on levels of deprivation.”

2.2 On Wednesday 9 April 2014 Wirral South’s Elected Members were invited to attend a priority setting session. The objective of this session was to produce a set of proposed themes that could be presented at the first Wirral South Constituency Committee of 2014/15 for consideration.

2.3 Based upon the findings of the above priority setting session three main priorities were proposed and resolved at Wirral South’s first Constituency Committee of 2014/15, 25 June.

2.4 These priorities are (amendment made to “Open Spaces” priority, see resolution 2 of minute 21 Wirral South Constituency Committee, 16 October 2014):

- Improved Open Spaces; to increase the number of green flag parks in Wirral South year on year and ensure accessibility is improved in each chosen location
- Gaps in Youth Provision; to work with the internal and external partners to identify and rectify any existing gaps in provision of youth services in Wirral South
- Tackle Social Isolation; Identify the various groups affected by social isolation in Wirral South, establish the evident gaps in provision throughout the Constituency and aim to either support existing providers or commission a new piece of work

It was resolved that each of the priorities above should be allocated £15k each, thus leaving £5k of core budget to support various engagement initiatives. The Priorities were agreed for 3-5 years.

2.5 Breakdown of confirmed budget for 2015/16:

- Core Budget (to be broken up into 15K per priority and 5K for general engagement)
£50K
- Operational Budget
£5K
- Your Wirral Fund
£35K
- Anti Social Behaviour (see 4.2)
£15K
- Community Clean Ups (see 4.3)
£10K
- Love Wirral (carried forward from 2014/15)
£10K

- Local Transport Capital Funding and the Integrated Transport Block (carried forward from 2014/15 much of this is committed)
£76,416
- Core budget from 2013/14 (much of this is committed)
£38,720.50
- Priority related budget carried forward from (2015/16)
£32,619.79
- General Engagement (carried over from 2014/15)
£5K

Total Budget 2014/15: **£277,756.29**

3.0 PRIORITY PROPOSALS 2015/16

3.1 Improved Open Spaces

3.1.1 At its last meeting of 2014/15 the Wirral South Constituency Committee resolved that Dawstone Park in Heswall be the location of focus in relation to this priority for 2015/16 (Minute 32, resolution 2 refers).

3.1.2 Since the aforementioned committee the Constituency Manager has met with the Wirral South Manager for the Parks and Countryside Services and the newly constituted “Friends of Dawstone Park”. The possible improvement items to be considered by the Parks Task and Finish Group for 2015/16 were discussed. Site visits have taken place and a “wish list” produced by the friends group. This “wish list” has been sent to Wirral’s Landscape Architect and approximate costings and relevant comments re. feasibility have been added (see figure one).

Figure One:

Dawstone Park Approximate Budget Projections		
Item	Cost	Status
		Await technical inspection form Landscape Architect to establish feasibility re. gradient and ability to adhere to Disability Discrimination Act
1. Path to play area	£2,500	
2. Park signs :-		
a) one large,	£860	
b) one small	£350	
3. Repairing gates (3 sets)	£5,500	
4. Waste bins (replace 4; relocate 1)	£1,800	4 new bins
5. Notice Board (similar to Heswall Hall)	£1,300	As per Mayer Park details
Total	12310	
Remaining	£2,690.00	

3.1.3 It is proposed (recommendation 13.1) that the Constituency Manager continues to work with colleagues in parks, the “Friends of Dawstone Park and the Wirral South Parks Task and Finish Group to progress the improvement works in the chosen location as expediently as possible.

3.2 Gaps in Youth Provision

3.2.1 In November 2014, a pilot project (funded via the Wirral South Constituency Committee) was launched to deliver counselling services Wirral South. The service was delivered via Youth Support by Response.

During the period from November to March 2015 the Response counsellor engaged with 25 unique individuals for therapeutic counselling, each receiving on average 6-8 sessions. Counselling sessions were delivered either through regular and planned one hour sessions or via a weekly ‘drop-in’ service, which can be accessed as and when required by the young person.

Referrals to the counselling service came from Response, Schools, GPs, and South Wirral Youth Hub ‘Drop-in’. The age of young people accessing the service was 12 to 17 years old. The two venues used for this project were Bebington Children’s Centre and South Wirral Youth Hub.

The presenting issues included - Relationship issues; low self-esteem; Anger; self-harm; bereavement; low mood/depression; low confidence; learning difficulties; suicidal thoughts; self-image; stop smoking; bullying.

Response engaged with 68 young people to give advice, guidance and support on a weekly basis or as and when required at the Youth Hub. Response also delivered brief interventions, including advice on further support, to young people who attended the productions delivered by Wirral Youth Theatre (see Appendix one for further detail).

3.2.2 The initial pilot was established to assess the uptake of the service and to highlight what the level of need was for the service in the future. Although the pilot has now ceased data suggests that there is an obvious need for the service to continue. The youth related priority for Wirral South states:

“...To work with internal and external partners to identify and rectify any existing gaps in provision of youth services in Wirral South”.

Evidence suggests that this particular initiative has done exactly what the priority was established to do for the young people of Wirral South. With that in mind it is proposed that the existing 2015/16 budget for gaps in youth provision be used to commission and establish an ongoing service reflecting that of the pilot project (see recommendation 13.2).

It is envisaged that (subject to approval) the commissioning project take place over the summer of 2015 with the objective of launching a service no later than October 2015. The service can be commissioned in such a way that there are possible extensions at end of term to allow continuation for a set period of time.

3.3 Social Isolation

3.3.1 Social isolation is a significant problem within our society and one that we should all be concerned about. Whilst most of us are fortunate enough to have family, friends and neighbours to provide us with a reliable social network, there are some for whom regular social interaction is non-existent.

There are a number of Groups that may be at higher risk of social isolation within our society but for the purpose of this contract the main areas of focus are:

- Older people
- People from black and ethnic minorities
- People who have substance misuse problems
- Carers

(for further information relating to social isolation and its effects on the above social groups see appendix one: SOCIAL ISOLATION ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR WIRRAL 2012-2013)

3.3.2 Since the last constituency committee (Jan 2015) the Constituency Manager has been in discussions with both the Director of Public Health for Wirral and the Senior Public Health Manager for Wirral South to establish a possible joint proposal to tackle social isolation in Wirral South. These discussions led to a commitment from the Director of Public Health to contribute £15k towards a jointly commissioned piece of work within Wirral South.

3.3.3 Total funding for the project is as follows: £50K to commission a service aimed at tackling social isolation in Wirral South (£15K Public Health, £30k Wirral South priority budget for 2014/15 and 2015/16 combined, £4,831.03 underspend from Public Health and Wellbeing Fund and £168.97 from Wirral South's operational budget).

3.3.4 Discussions continue in order to produce a draft Invitation to Tender document for the aforementioned piece of commissioning. The draft aims of the commissioned service are:

a) Tackle existing social isolation within the above strands of the communities in Wirral South

and

b) Prevent further social isolation within the above (3.3.1) strands of the communities in Wirral South

3.3.5 The draft outcomes of the proposed service are:

- An evidenced based reduction in existing levels of social isolation for the following groups within your relevant ward/wards:
 - Older people
 - People from black and ethnic minorities

- People who have substance misuse problems
 - Carers
- An evidence based programme of work to prevent further social isolation for the following groups within your relevant ward/wards:
 - Older people
 - People from black and ethnic minorities
 - People who have substance misuse problems
 - Carers
 - Develop new/support existing groups working towards becoming a dementia friendly community (at least one per ward). Utilising the 'Dementia Action Alliance' structure developed by the Alzheimer's society

3.3.6 In order to allow for an increased localised buy in to this tender and to encourage inclusion of smaller organisations with existing local knowledge it is proposed to break up the contract into five lots, one per ward.

Organisations can tender for lots relating to individual wards or a number of wards up to and including the total number of five.

Any tenderers bidding for more than one ward should graduate their tender so that a decision can be made during evaluation to award less than their total wards tendered for.

Collaborative applications will also be considered to ensure organisations that may specify in work relating to one particular element of the community are not excluded.

3.3.7 Recommendation 13.3 seeks approval for further development of this proposal. It is envisaged (if resolved) that the service could be in place by October 2015. The service will be commissioned for an initial 18 month period with the opportunity for extensions built in.

4.0 OTHER FUNDED WORKSTREAM PROPOSALS

4.1 Your Wirral

4.1.1 Further Your Wirral funding has been devolved to the Constituencies Committees for 2015/16. It is a small grants programme that has been in operation since 2007. It is 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.

4.1.2 It is important to note that 2015/16 is the final year of the Your Wirral funding and the no further allotment will be allocated to the constituency committee to administer.

4.1.3 Grants are available to voluntary and community sector (not for profit) groups across Wirral. The Fund rests with Magenta Living. A Joint Working Group acts

an accountable body for the Fund and is composed of representation from Wirral Council, Magenta Living, elected members and Board members of Magenta Living. Previous applications were evaluated by representatives from Magenta Living and Wirral Council then signed off for payment or withdrawn by the Joint Working Group. Payments were made to successful groups by Magenta Living.

- 4.1.4 Once again a total of £250,000 is available for 2015/16. The amount allocated is determined by the number of Magenta Living housing units within each Constituency (outlined below). £50,000 is available for projects or activities that are delivered in two or more constituencies or across Wirral.

Area	Number of units	Allocation
Birkenhead	4683	£75,000
Wallasey	3214	£50,000
Wirral West	2430	£40,000
Wirral South	1888	£35,000
Wirral Wide	12215 (Total)	£50,000

- 4.1.5 To be eligible for funding, applications must fit within one or more of the seven themes, which were agreed by the Joint Working Group in line with the charitable objectives of the Community Fund Deed they are:

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

- 4.1.6 It is recommended that the assessment and allocation process continues in 2015/16 as it did in 2014/15 (i.e. one councillor per ward plus a representative from Magenta Living sit upon an assessment panel. The fund for 2015/16 will open 20 July 2015 and close at noon 14 September 2015. This will allow time for assessment to be made and allocation to be reported at the following committee in October 2015.

4.2 Anti Social Behaviour

- 4.2.1 At its meeting on 24 February 2015 Council agreed to:

“Provide dedicated funding to Constituency Committees to tackle ASB - £60,000

In support of the constituency committee process and to engage the committees in tackling ASB in their areas, it is proposed to make available a fund of £60,000 to be split equally amongst the 4 Constituency Committees. The ASB team would work with the Constituency Committees and produce action plans to tackle ASB in their area. Constituency Committees will be offered a menu of ASB prevention and intervention activities to enable them to choose what they feel would benefit their areas. Some examples on this menu are – Youth alcohol testing programmes,

additional youth provision, sports development workers, enhanced household security campaigns, and increased CCTV camera provision.”

4.2.2 Initial discussions have taken place between the Constituency Manager and the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team. The ASB Team have been tasked with analysing historic evidence to highlight the various hotspots within Wirral South throughout the year. Based upon this analysis they have been requested to produce a number of recommendations aimed at addressing each one to add value utilising the devolved budget (£15K).

4.2.3 Recommendation 13.6 requests volunteers (preferably one per ward) to sit upon an ASB task and finish group for Wirral South to convene as expediently as possible to assess the proposals. It is also recommended that said group be given delegated powers to spend the relevant budget. The delegated decision is necessary to allow for projects to be implemented in time for the summer holidays.

4.3 Community Clean-ups

4.3.1 At its meeting on 24 February 2015 Council agreed to:

“Community Clean-ups - £40,000

There have been a number of examples during this year where individuals and communities have come together to help clean up their local areas. We applaud the commitment and pride shown by individuals and communities and would wish to support them to continue to do so. We therefore propose allocating £10,000 to each of the four constituency committees to enable local groups to pay for the cost of skips to be provided to support these local clean-ups. Constituency Committee managers will work with staff from the Council’s waste team to quickly develop processes for this option to be introduced.”

4.3.4 Similarly to the ASB budget (4.2) the Constituency Manager for Wirral South has met with colleagues in the Waste and Environment Team to discuss proposals for this devolved budget. A number of options are being developed currently and a “Shopping List” of items that will add value to current services is being developed. Recommendation 13.7 proposes that this budget be split evenly between the five wards and delegated decisions be made by each relevant group of members. Said decisions to be reported back to the constituency committee in October.

4.4 Love Wirral

At the last Constituency committee (Jan 2015) it was agreed that a “Love Wirral” task and finish group be set up (minute 31 refers), comprising the following members:

- Councillors P Gilchrist
- C Muspratt
- S Niblock
- T Pilgrim
- L Rowlands

The group was tasked with developing proposals in respect of the devolved £10K Love Wirral funding. It was agreed electronically that the budget be split evenly between the five wards. As such recommendation 13.8 proposes the constituency manager meet individually (where necessary) with each representative to finalise relevant projects and that the task and finish group have the delegated power to spend and report back to committee in October.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Existing evidence from the Wirral South Profile Document (produced by Public Health) has been used to inform the formulation of Wirral South's priorities. Feedback from communities to Elected Members has also factored into the priority setting process. Wirral South's Community Representatives have been consulted upon the proposals relating to their allocated theme.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 7.1 The overarching proposed model for neighbourhood working will strengthen the Council's relationship with the voluntary and community sector.
- 7.2 Tackling the priorities of the Constituency will benefit communities directly.

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

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

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

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

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

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

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

- 13.1 The Constituency Manager continues to work with colleagues in parks, the "Friends of Dawstone Park and the Wirral South Parks Task and Finish Group to progress the improvement works in the chosen location as expediently as possible (this includes delegated power to spend the relevant parks budget as in 2015/16).
- 13.2 Members agree that the existing 2015/16 budget for gaps in youth provision be used to commission and establish an ongoing service reflecting that of the pilot project (with the aim of launching the service in October 2015).
- 13.3 Members agree to the commissioning of a service aimed at tackling existing/preventing future social isolation in Wirral South based upon the outline in section 3.3 of this report.
- 13.4 The Your Wirral assessment and allocation process continues in 2015/16 as it did in 2014/15 (i.e. one councillor per ward plus a representative from Magenta Living sit upon an assessment panel).
- 13.5 Members note the Your Wirral fund for 2015/16 will open 20 July 2015 and close at noon 14 September 2015.
- 13.6 That a Wirral South Anti Social Behaviour Task and Finish Group be established (comprising of one member per ward) with power to make delegated decisions on spend re. the associated £15k budget for 2015/16. Volunteers required.
- 13.7 The "Community Clean Up" budget of £10K be split evenly between the five wards and power be given to make delegated decisions on spend to be reported back to the constituency committee in October 2015.
- 13.8 The members of the Love Wirral Task and Finish Group (see 4.4) work with the Constituency Manager to finalise relevant projects for the associated budget and that the task and finish group have power to make delegated decisions to spend power to spend and report back to committee in October.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

SOCIAL ISOLATION ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
FOR WIRRAL 2012-2013)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Wirral South Constituency Committee	25 June 2014
Budget Council	24 February 2015

Appendix One: Response Counselling services in Wirral South

Appendix One: Response Counselling services in Wirral South

Overview

In November 2014, a pilot project was launched to deliver counselling services in the South Wirral area. During the period from November to March 2015 the Response counsellor engaged with 25 unique individuals for therapeutic counselling, each receiving on average 6-8 sessions. Counselling sessions were delivered either through regular and planned one hour sessions or via a weekly 'drop-in' service, which can be accessed as and when required by the young person.

Referrals to the counselling service came from Response, School, GP, and South Wirral Youth Hub 'Drop-in'. The age of young people accessing the service are 12 to 17 years old. The two venues used for this project were Bebington Children's Centre and South Wirral Youth Hub.

The presenting issues included - Relationship issues; low self-esteem; Anger; self-harm; bereavement; low mood/depression; low confidence; learning difficulties; suicidal thoughts; self-image; stop smoking; bullying.

Response engaged with 68 young people to give advice, guidance and support on a weekly basis or as and when required at the Youth Hub. Response also delivered brief interventions, including advice on further support, to young people who attended the productions delivered by Wirral Youth Theatre.

Outcomes & Impact

The impact of counselling has included:

- A young person feeling more able to talk more about feelings and does not hide "real self" from the world.
- Young person has found alternative coping strategies to self-harm and has reported self-harm has reduced, and feeling more positive about the future
- Young person feeling more confident to make a new circle of friends and take up new hobbies as had previously felt isolated and unattached.
- Improved relationships at home with mum and siblings. Accepting self and attendance at school improved. Sleep improved with increased energy, concentration. Increased confidence and made new friends.

Case Study 1: Bebington Children's Centre

- Young Female aged 15
- Presented to the GP as was self-harming by cutting wrists, she was feeling angry, stressed and sad. GP suggested she attend Response for counselling.
- Young person attended 4 counselling sessions and talked about feelings of loneliness as doesn't feel accepted by society & 'not feeling good enough' Spoke about 'scary' suicidal thoughts at night when can't sleep, this affects attendance at school, and is often too tired from lack of sleep to attend.

- Worked on self-esteem, special qualities and focused on young person recognising what she's good at and being kind to self as well as developing relaxation techniques.
- YP attended last session and entered room by saying 'I'm back'. YP was now sleeping better which has increased her motivation & concentration in school. Attendance in school has improved and YP has been able to make new friends which has increased confidence and she is now looking forward to the future. Comment from YP following evaluation ***"all of this change from talking - Amazing!"***

Case study 2: South Wirral Hub – 'drop in'

- Young male aged 17
- Presented at South Wirral Hub 'drop- in' as was struggling with anger and finds it hard to control anger at home with Mum which is causing problems with the relationship and may result in him leaving home.
- YP referred to Response housing team for advice as under pressure to move home.
- YP uses drop-in service at South Wirral Hub when feels the need to. He has attended 5 times during Jan-Mar 2015 and uses the space to explore feelings as he recognises that he keeps these inside a lot and looks after others more than himself – working on self-esteem to improve this. Also working on anger management techniques in sessions.
- YP likes the flexibility of the drop in service and also knowing that there is a counsellor he can talk to on a weekly basis, if needed, as this helps him feel supported especially at this time of a lot of change and uncertainty.
- YP open to Response housing service and family accessing support through 'Team Around the Family'. YP is happy living with Dad at present.

Below are some comments from individuals whom have accessed the service:

"It's great I now feel I have got somewhere to come when I need to talk to someone, I'll definitely use the drop in service"

"Don't usually talk to anyone about how I'm feeling so being able to talk has helped me put things into perspective"

"I feel this is a space I am able to speak and explain how I feel"

"I'm getting to know myself better; I'm beginning to like myself"

"I now realise I ignore the good bits about me – there is lots of good things"

"It's been a journey"

"I never knew counselling would help me"

"I feel in a good place now"

"I'm beginning to accept me"

"I can finally sleep better, it's changed my life"

A mum of young person reported that young person has made a real change since coming to counselling and can't believe that she is the same girl.

Recommendations

- As part of the exit strategy, Response will work with Youth workers to bring young people to Response so they are aware of services available to them should they need to access in the future
- The pilot project will end at the end of May 2015, and time is given to review and evaluate the project

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

18 JUNE 2015

SUBJECT:	WIRRAL SOUTH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES PROPOSALS 2015/16
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>BEBINGTON</u>▪ <u>BROMBOROUGH</u>▪ <u>CLATTERBRIDGE</u>▪ <u>EASTHAM</u>▪ <u>HESWALL</u>
REPORT OF:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL SOUTH)
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING & ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report proposes a new approach to how the appointed community representatives interact with the Wirral South Constituency Committee. This report also proposes a timeline for re-recruiting community representatives in line with the amended structure and role specification (not excluding those community representatives currently in place).

2.0 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES; THE CURRENT APPROACH

2.1 On 25 June, 2014 six community representatives were co-opted onto the Wirral South Constituency Committee (minute 3 refers). That number dropped to 5 at the following Committee and as such there are currently 5 community representatives co-opted at this time.

2.2 Community representatives are free to make representation during committee (through the Chair) in exactly the same way as elected members, although they may not vote on financial matters. Wirral South Constituency Committee Handbook states:

“Whilst community representatives do not have a mandate to speak on behalf of the public, they do provide a level of expertise and/or knowledge to help inform the debate.

Role responsibilities:

- Proactively engage with residents and communities beyond those within their existing networks;
- Accurately reflect the community’s feedback and views in the discussions and decision making processes;
- Communicate with residents and communities, feeding back the work of the Committee;
- Be well informed and be clear about local priorities;
- Champion the Community Representative role ensuring it has value in the Constituency Committee process”

3.0 PROPOSED APPROACH FOR 2015/16

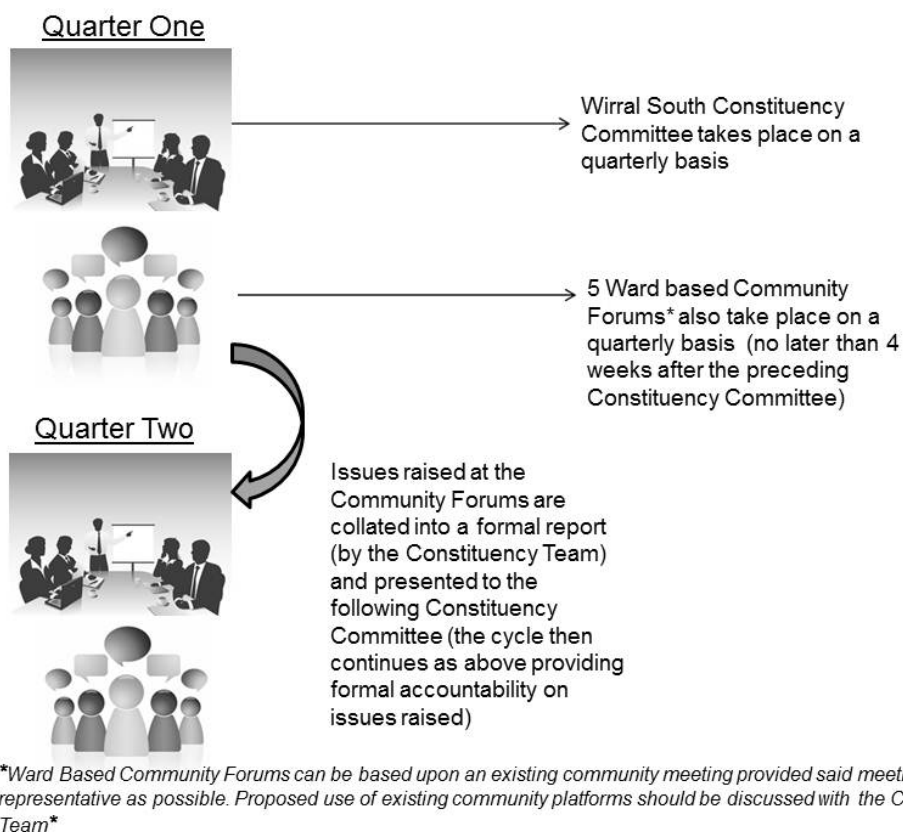
3.1 It is proposed that a new recruitment drive takes place with the objective of recruiting one community representative per electoral ward. This process would not exclude the five existing community representatives. It is important to acknowledge the contribution made by the five existing community representatives, Councillor Phil Gilchrist (Chair of the Wirral South Constituency Committee) would like the following statement noted:

“I would like to thank our community representatives for the advice, assistance and local knowledge they have brought to our work over the past year. It is important that our activity is informed and supported by the leading figures in our communities. Their perspective has been valuable.”

3.2 The community representative role specification and description (appendix one and two respectively) have been amended slightly to highlight the need for community representatives to hold a Community Forum (with support from the constituency team) within their ward. Figure 1 below outlines how this Community Forum would link with the Constituency Committee. The Community Forum may take the form of an existing community meeting.

3.3 The timeline for the proposed recruitment process should allow for those appointed to be co-opted during the October 15 committee.

Figure One:



4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 4.1 Failure to appoint community representatives with an agreed structure of interaction may result in lack of community engagement.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Careful consideration has been given to the best way to enhance the work of the Constituency Committee.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Discussions have taken place with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Wirral South Constituency Committee in relation to this proposal.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 7.1 The overarching proposed model for neighbourhood working will strengthen the Council's relationship with the voluntary and community sector.
- 7.2 Tackling the priorities of the Constituency will benefit communities directly.

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

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

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

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

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

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 None

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

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

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

- 13.1 A new recruitment of community representatives for the Wirral South Constituency Committee is commenced in a timely fashion to allow suitable applicants to be co-opted on October 15, 2015.
- 13.2 The newly proposed structure of engagement between community representatives and the Wirral South Constituency Committee (i.e. adopting Community Forums) be agreed.
- 13.3 The previous members of the community representative selection panel meet to assess applications following an agreed time period of advertisement.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Wirral South Constituency Committee	25 June 2014

Appendix one: Community Representative Role Specification

Appendix two: Community Representative Role Description

Appendix one: Community Representative Role Specification



Volunteer Specification Form

Post Number	NA
Job Title	Community Representative (Wirral South)
Prepared by and date	Fergus Adams 21/4/15

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Essential Personal Attributes	Stage d	Desirable Personal Attributes	Stage d
Qualifications NA		NA	
Experience Applicants must have experience of engaging in community meetings to highlight community issues	A	Working with or leading groups of volunteers	A
Knowledge and skills Knowledge of their community Communicate effectively (inter-personal, written, oral and presentation skills)	A A	Innovative approaches to problem solving Able to work effectively within a team and lead a team	A A
Special Requirements A successful applicant is expected to be an active member of a community group that operates within the Constituency, or has strong links within the voluntary, community and/or faith sector;	A	Proven success in working with groups/communities	A



Designation of Role	Community Representative
<p>Purpose of the Role: To act as a conduit between the communities within the ward you represent and the Wirral South Constituency Committee.</p> <p>Description of duties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To act as a link from the communities within the ward you represent to the Constituency Committee 2. To aid the Constituency Committee in connecting with communities in your chosen ward 3. To engage in a relevant, quarterly ward based Community Forum allowing issues to be communicated back to the Constituency Team and thus the Constituency Committee (the aforementioned Community Forum can be an existing meeting providing it is deemed representative by the Constituency Team). 4. Champion the Community Representative role ensuring it has value in the Constituency Committee process 5. To accurately reflect the community’s feedback and views in the discussions and decision making processes; 6. To be well informed and be clear about local priorities; 7. To support other neighbourhood volunteers <p>Date 21/04/15</p>	

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