



Constituency Committee - Wirral West

Date:	Thursday, 11 February 2016
Time:	7.00 pm
Venue:	Hilbre High School, Frankby Road, West Kirby. CH48 6EQ

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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 (Pages 1 - 14)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2015.

**3. CONSTITUENCY MANAGER'S PROGRESS REPORT
(Pages 15 - 22)**

15 minutes will be allocated for this item / discussion.

4. UPDATE ON WEST KIRBY FLOOD ALLEVIATION PROPOSALS

Verbal Report / Presentation – 10 minutes will be allocated for this item / discussion.

5. UPDATES FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Verbal Report - 10 minutes will be allocated for this item / discussion.

6. WIRRAL WEST RESIDENT FEEDBACK AND DEVELOPMENT OF CONSTITUENCY BUSINESS CASE

Verbal Report / Presentation - 20 minutes will be allocated for this item / discussion.

7. GOLF RESORT - FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Verbal report – 20 minutes will be allocated for this item / discussion.

8. COMMUNITY QUESTION TIME

50 minutes will be allocated for this item / discussion.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Wirral West Constituency Committee is to be confirmed, dependent on the municipal calendar. The meeting scheduled for Thursday 21 April 2016 has been cancelled.

CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE - WIRRAL WEST

Thursday, 12 November 2015

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

Councillor M Sullivan sent his apologies in advance of the meeting stating that due to unforeseen circumstances he would be arriving late.

Twenty three members of the public were in attendance, with percentage attendance by ward of those who had signed in being as follows:

- Greasby, Frankby and Irby 17%
- Hoylake & Meols 13%
- Pensby & Thingwall 22%
- West Kirby & Thurstaston 26%
- Upton 22%

15 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

By virtue of his being a Board Member of Magenta Living, Councillor Jeff Green declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7 – 'Your Wirral Funding Allocation' (see Minute No 20 post).

16 **MINUTES**

Councillor Mathew Patrick asked that reference Minute No 10(1) on page 7 of the agenda the minute be amended to read "...recommendations about the use of the Committee's budget, *and that the £15,000 ASB funding be split - £10,000 to Upton ward and the remaining £5,000 being split between the other four wards* and that it is used to augment services not replace them."

Resolved – That subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2015 be approved.

17 **CONSTITUENCY MANAGER'S PROGRESS REPORT**

The Constituency Manager (Wirral West) presented her report on:

- Progress in relation to activities which are being delivered using the Committee's budget for 2015-16;
- Progress in relation to other activities being undertaken by the Wirral West constituency team;
- Items for noting in respect of local issues / consultations.

The report also set out the status of outstanding actions raised by Committee Services as a result of previous Constituency Committee meetings.

The Constituency Manager provided specific information on progress made on the Committee's 2015-16 budget allocations, and further informed the Committee that following its July meeting of the Committee, a request for representation on the ASB Panel had been actioned and membership had been agreed as follows:

- West Kirby and Thurstaston – Cllr Green (Chair);
- Hoylake and Meols Ward – Cllr Boulton;
- Greasby, Frankby and Irby Ward – Cllr Burgess-Joyce;
- Pensby and Thingwall Ward – Cllr Brightmore;
- Upton Ward – Cllr Patrick.

Members were informed that a detailed report on this expenditure, e.g. the development of a Neighbourhood Watch campaign to increase the number of new schemes and reinvigorate existing ones, was scheduled for the February 2016 meeting of the Committee.

Referring to a minor correction to the report, the Constituency Manager confirmed the proposed timetable for the Community Fund grants programme as follows:

- Community Fund opens for applications – Monday 11 January 2016;
- Deadline for applications – Friday 26 February 2016;
- Networking event(s) and community voting – March 2016;
- Consideration by the Committee – Thursday 21 April 2016.

The Committee were also apprised of the following key point of note, and that:

- Plans are now in place for the use of the remaining carried forward Public Health Grants Programme funds to secure further equipment for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service for allocation to vulnerable residents in the constituency and to deliver additional engagement activities in partnership with other agencies.
- The Big Picnic event had taken place in July 2015 (funded by 2014-15 Love Wirral allocation) and had been warmly received by the schools and community groups who attended.
- The Special Places Project aimed at celebrating places that are special to local people via the installation of benches was now being launched – utilising the remaining £5,000 of the Love Wirral Fund.

The Chair thanked the Officer for her report, and commented that the Wirral West Constituency Committee had demonstrated a maturity in respect of discussions about local devolution of powers and that this had been recognised. The Chair also commented that he hoped and believed that the 2020 Wirral Plan would provide further opportunities to take forward the desires, willingness and enthusiasm of the Committee in respect of devolution.

Resolved – That the progress and updates set out in the report be noted.

18 **BUSINESS CASE UPDATE**

The Constituency Manager (Wirral West) provided a short verbal update on the latest position regarding the developing business case as previously reported to the Committee (Minute No 11, 16 July 2015 refers).

Members were informed that the West Wirral Business Case document was now progressing through consideration by the Council's new Chief Executive, the Strategic Leadership Team and Cabinet in respect of the approach to developing the constituency working model i.e.

- Use of devolved budgets to deliver improved outcomes for local people set out in a Constituency Plan, with a focus on increasing the role played by communities in delivering the outcomes.

- Devolving aspects of decision-making where this affects the constituency area, which would, through the development of a 3 year Constituency Plan, allow Members to set priorities and identify activities of relevance to the area.
- Influencing the day-to-day delivery of services at the neighbourhood level to solve problems and targeting resources as effectively as possible.

The Constituency Manager further informed that an update on progression of the business case would be presented to the next Constituency Committee meeting.

The Chair thanked the Officer for her report, and commented that the Wirral West Constituency Committee had been seen to be a trail blazer in respect of the devolution of powers, and hoped that the 2020 Wirral Plan would further bolster the desires, willingness and enthusiasm of the Committee and Constituency Manager Team to take on the responsibilities afforded through greater devolution.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

19 **BUILDING ON OUR LOCAL ASSETS AND THE WORK OF FAITH ORGANISATIONS**

The Constituency Committee received a presentation on the subject of the work being undertaken by faith groups to reduce social isolation and loneliness via utilising Places of Welcome and efforts to address the issue of poverty and life expectancy through Church Pairing.

The Constituency Manager (Wirral West) introduced the presentation, informing the Committee regarding Places of Welcome, a network of small community organisations, including faith communities, who offer an unconditional welcome to local people for at least a few hours a week.

She informed that Places of Welcome developed out of the Birmingham Social Inclusion process 'Giving Hope Changing Lives', as a response to the question - Is Birmingham a welcoming city? Members were told that whilst Places of Welcome began in Birmingham, it was now developing further afield, as people responded to the challenge to make cities and neighbourhoods more welcoming.

The Committee was told that the network had developed a set of guiding principles, key elements of a Place of Welcome which were known as the 5P's, ultimately sharing experiences, resources and training via:

- Place: An accessible and hospitable building, open at the same time every week.
- People: Open to everyone regardless of their circumstances or situation, and staffed by volunteers.
- Presence: A place where people actively listen to one another.
- Provision: Offering free refreshments (at least a cup of tea and a biscuit) and basic local information.
- Participation: Recognising that every person coming to a Place of Welcome will bring talents, experiences and skills that they might be willing to share locally.

The presentation continued, led by Wendy Robertson, Project Co-ordinator Life Expectancy Wirral, who informed that the project had been developed by the Church of England Diocese of Chester in response to the fact that people living on the Dee side of the Wirral live, on average, nearly 12 years longer than those living on the Mersey side.

She informed that in 2009 the pilot brought together church communities from the two sides of the Wirral; Christ the King in Birkenhead and Church of the Good Shepherd in Heswall. This and other groups had been guided by a facilitator through a five stage programme in which issues of poverty and life expectancy were examined. As a result, the Churches had developed 8 key pledges to help address the issue of poverty, i.e.

- Make prayer central to all work in tackling poverty
- Share resources in a way that benefits the local community
- Be outward focused in a way that improves health, wellbeing and quality of life within communities
- Work together with other churches, creating opportunities to share with and encourage each other
- Keep poverty, health and inequality in heart and mind
- Engage with the political process and policy makers to promote God's justice and righteousness
- Work together with the Local Authority, NHS and community partners to develop mutual trust to better support communities
- Celebrate success

A Member questioned how individual organisations could register as a Place of Welcome. The Constituency Manager asked that all such registration requests be forwarded via the Constituency Office.

The Chair thanked both speakers for their informative presentation.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

20 **ACTION PLANS FOR RETAIL AREAS**

The Head of Regeneration and Planning provided an update on the action plan work undertaken within four retail areas within the Wirral West constituency - Hoylake, Irby, Upton and West Kirby.

He informed that the action plans addressed a wide range of issues pertinent to each area's individual circumstances and included matters such as; traffic management and parking, potential environmental improvements and options for local marketing of retail centres. He explained that the work had been led by a team of officers within the Council drawing on expertise in retail planning, transport and regeneration who had met with Members and local businesses to identify priorities. In addition to the action planning, a trader's online toolkit was developed, providing practical advice on how traders can support their local retail centre.

The Head of Regeneration and Planning advised that a further six retail areas within the constituency boundary were still work in progress, and that Members had identified other areas that might benefit from the action plan process. He pointed out that the plan template was available for use in further locations, finance permitting.

A Member informed that locations such as Greasby and Irby were already thriving, but suffered from parking problems as a result.

The Chair commented on the success of the project work, stating that people were keen to see the roll out in other areas. He thanked the officer for his report, and offered his help in promoting the activity.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

21 **YOUR WIRRAL FUNDING ALLOCATION**

By virtue of his being a Board Member of Magenta Living, Councillor Jeff Green declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7 – 'Your Wirral Funding Allocation'

The Constituency Manager (Wirral West) introduced her report that presented recommendations to the Committee in respect of the Constituency Committee's Your Wirral funding allocation for 2015-16.

Further to her report to the Committee on the 16 July 2015 (Minute No 10 refers), the Constituency Manager informed that the Wirral West Constituency Committee had been allocated £40,000 to award Your Wirral grants up to a

maximum of £2,500 to individual local voluntary and community sector (not for profit) groups. Members were informed that 36 applications for a Your Wirral grant from the Wirral West funding allocation were received by the deadline of 14 September 2015. Applications were shared in full with members of the Your Wirral Panel who met on Friday 9 October for consideration. Details of the

The Constituency Committee we advised that, taking into account the quality and diversity of the remaining applications received, the Panel had recommended that all eligible applications were at least part funded - equating to 32 of the 36 applications received (3 were deemed ineligible and 1 application was withdrawn).

Members considered the recommended grant awards at Appendix 1 to the report. The Chair noted that in terms of successful bids, all wards had been represented. A Member requested that for future reports the Ward be identified along with a short description and reference to the Council Plan priorities.

The Committee recorded their approval, noting that the entire funding allocation for 2015-16 would now be spent.

Resolved - That the award Your Wirral grants to local organisations as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be agreed.

22 ROAD SAFETY BUDGET 2015-16

The Constituency Manager (Wirral West) introduced her report that presented recommendations to the Committee in respect of the process for the allocation of the Constituency Committee's 2015-16 Integrated Transport Block (road safety) budget allocation (including 2014-15 underspend).

The report informed that the Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme for 2014/15 agreed by Cabinet on 13th March 2014 provided an allocation of £77,750 for each Constituency Committee to be distributed in relation to Improving Road Safety and Promoting Active Travel and Health.

Members noted the progress and expenditure in relation to the schemes approved for funding in October 2014 as attached at Appendix 1 to the report. Based on the information, the Committee noted the budget position relating to its road safety allocation of £77,750 for 2014-15 as follows:

Actual expenditure to date	£57,871.00
Further estimated expenditure	£7,000.00
Total estimated expenditure	£64,871.00
Estimated underspend	£12,879.00

It was proposed that the Committee's Road Safety Panel reconvene, to identify how the funding available might be allocated to local schemes taking into account the Committee's previous resolutions and any variations between the estimated and actual cost of the schemes agreed in October 2014 - ensuring that the funding continued to be allocated equitably over the five wards in Wirral West. It was proposed that the Panel again be supported by the Constituency Manager and Road Safety Manager.

Resolved – That

- 1) the Committee's Road Safety Panel reconvene to identify how the funding available might be allocated to local schemes taking into account the Committee's previous resolutions; and**
- 2) decision making in respect of the budget be delegated to the Road Safety Panel in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee.**

23 **UPDATES FROM COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

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

Hoylake and Meols Ward

Jackie Hall MBE informed that a 'Hoylake Forum' had been, with in the region of seventy residents in attendance at its first meeting. She informed that the Forum was meeting every three months, and due to the popularity wished to continue in its current format. The Constituency Committee was appraised of the Hoylake's success in welcoming new business and the development of the Hoylake Action Plan as reported in an earlier Agenda item (Minute No 20 refers). In addition to this work, the Committee was informed of recent local events that including the well-attended meetings / drop in sessions relating to plans for the Hoylake Golf Resort and the consultation on a Neighbourhood Plan for the area.

The Chair acknowledged and confirmed that the community forum concept was popular, mentioning that it was good to hear of the ongoing support from residents for this particular forum. He also stated his pleasure in respect of the positive feedback with regards to the Hoylake Golf Resort.

Greasby, Frankby and Irby Ward

John Smith referred to the development of of a Community Action Group and the Community Association following the local response to the fire station proposals.

Mr Smith informed the Constituency Committee about a number of successes and issues in the Ward, specifically regarding local businesses, Christmas lighting and support for the library. He further informed Members of the success of 'Celebrate Greasby Day' where he estimated that half the community had attended, supporting the Greasby Centre. Mention was made of local worries regarding the future of the Children's Centre.

Resolved – That the comments be noted.

24 COMMUNITY QUESTION TIME

The Chair invited questions from members of the public upon matters that were relevant to the Wirral West Constituency. No questions had been received in advance of the meeting –

- A resident, referring to an earlier item on the Agenda, commented that in relation to the future of the Irby Retail Area there appeared to be no mention within the parking proposals of facilities for delivery vehicles (a cause of congestion) and the introduction of time restricted parking (now 2 hours) which seemed to be an excessive amount of time, given that the restriction was introduced to stop business owners and employees taking up spaces for long periods of time. He stated that given the amount of space in the village, surely there was an opportunity to re-configure the parking completely.
 - The Head of Regeneration and Planning offered to continue dialogue with businesses, but informed that the time limit had taken into account the types of business and expected stays i.e. hairdressers, beauticians which, when including time for shopping was reasonable. He acknowledged that each area had its challenges and although highways had investigated a reconfiguration of the roadway already the Council would continue to welcome alternative proposals from residents.
 - Councillor Clements added that given the location of Irby Club and the local Church, there were occasions where parking was used for those attending funerals which could last in excess of 90 minutes.
- A resident commented that sadly the biggest project impacting on the area had not been included on the agenda, namely Hoylake Golf Resort.
 - The Chair informed that the item will be considered at the Constituency Committee in the future, but that as proposals had

only just gone out to consultation it would have been presumptive to review the topic with hearing the views of local people.

- The Head of Regeneration and Planning suggested that it would be helpful if feedback from the 6 sessions be prepared in the format of a composite report stating the number of attendees and listing individual comments.
- Councillor John Hale stated that within Hoylake Ward, as previously reported, seventy people had attended a forum which included a question period where views had been expressed, and that additional sessions had been arranged which too had been well attended. Outcome of consultation would be reported back, and public views on this major project continue to be welcomed.

Councillor Mike Sullivan entered the meeting, having earlier sent his apologies for his late arrival.

- A resident presented a complaint regarding the imposition of double yellow line parking restrictions at Upton Meadow. She stated that parking in the area concerned had not caused obstruction in the past, and with the imposition of the current restrictions, no public parking existed at the Meadow.
 - Councillor Tony Smith informed that one of the matters taken into consideration when introducing these restrictions was the illegal selling of motor vehicles on the highway at this location.
- A resident presented a complaint and information regarding the creation of off-street parking to the frontage of Edwardian properties in Trinity Road, Hoylake. She felt that the Planning laws had been circumvented by an out of area property developer destroying the architectural heritage of the area purely for profit.
 - The Head of Regeneration and Planning stated that he would discuss the matter personally with the complainant after the meeting, and look into the circumstances of this case.
- The Chair of the Woodchurch Trust expressed concern that the issue of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) was not specifically mentioned in the 2020 Wirral Plan and was concerned also that the previous plans which had been developed by the community, i.e. the Woodchurch Partnership Plan, were not being taken account of.

- The Constituency Manager (Wirral West) noted the comment regarding ABCD and local plans and commented that action identified by communities was central to the delivery of Wirral 2020.
- A resident commented on the condition of Hoole Road resurfacing, stating that the current repair was shoddy, and resembled nothing more than the equivalent of 'black paint'.
 - The Chair noted the information and stated that enquiries would be made as to why the work had not been completed satisfactorily.
- A resident commented on the subject of Woodchurch and the ABCD. They informed that it was their opinion that although the networking that had come out of the ABCD had been fantastic, the outcomes were in fact limited. They noted that this view may be corrected when the investment / results / outcomes were reported.
 - The Chair thanked the resident for their comments regarding ABCD and informed that this feedback would be passed on the information.
- A resident again passed comment that it was felt that a Plan for Woodchurch prepared 18 months ago, paid for by Magenta, had been effectively disregarded. This was in reference to the Hoylake Neighbourhood Plan which was mentioned by Jackie Hall.
 - The Constituency Manager (Wirral West) provided a point of clarification informing that the current Neighbourhood Plan was 'planning specific', however all plans combined to help community development, and there was no intention that any of the existing proposals would override the work of the community.
 - The Chair re-emphasised the point, informing that it was the 2020 Plan's desire to engage and involve communities and encourage further partnership working, and it was his personal intention and commitment to see that this happened. He agreed that such engagement had been patchy in the past, but both the Leader of Council and the new Chief Executive were fully committed to this approach, and ownership of the 'Plan' had cross party support and was to be driven from the bottom-up.
- A resident passed comment on his recent experience of what could be classed as a poor example of public consultation and engagement regarding a match fund project at Coronation Park Greasby. He

informed that only 10 properties appeared to have been consulted, and although the outcome agreed with his own view, he was disappointed at the lack of communication and lack of response to e-mails and telephone calls on the matter.

- The Constituency Manager (Wirral West) advised that the Council always did its best to achieve the standards of best practice in respect of consultation wherever possible. Lessons would be learnt from this particular case to ensure that the relevant amount of support would be provided when working together in the future. The Constituency Manager also mentioned the positive outcome in respect of the funding position for the project and that hopefully this would now proceed as quickly as possible.
- A resident informed that the electronic sign board in West Kirby (used for Golf Tournament traffic announcements) could be put to use in the advertising of Farmers Markets and promotion of local events, or as a 'Welcome to West Kirby' sign.
 - The Chair stated his agreement to the suggestion and advised that this would be investigated.
- A number of residents expressed concerns on the subject of global warming, rising sea levels and flood risk – particularly in the low lying and coastal areas of the constituency. A resident also passed comment on the matter of gasification, methane extraction and 'fracking', and the risk of contamination to the water table and the number of farmers in the area who relied upon bore holes as a water source. A resident queried Member's support on the matter of Fracking and Coal Gasification.
 - Led from the Chair, a series of Members expressed their individual opposition to Fracking and Coal Gasification. The Chair informed all present that the Council as a whole had unanimously opposed such plans for the area on a number of occasions, and was surprised that some members of the public were still under the impression that the Council felt otherwise.
 - Margaret Greenwood MP for Wirral West, who was in attendance at the meeting confirmed the Council's stance, stating that she and the other 3 Wirral MPs had met with the company concerned. She informed that at those discussions it was noted that the Wirral was not currently one of their 'priority areas', although test drilling had taken, or was taking place in the neighbouring Cheshire West and Chester Council area at Upton-by-Chester, Farndon and Ellesmere Port.

- The Chair made clear the position of the Council with regard to Fracking and thanked all those for their statements and clarity on their individual positions.
- Margaret Greenwood MP requested that the meeting take note of the proposed cuts to Police Budgets, expressing her concerns over the repercussions to individual service areas as a result.

The Chair thanked all attendees and contributors to the meeting.

25 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 11 February 2016, at Hilbre High School, West Kirby.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

11TH FEBRUARY 2016

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

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 This report sets out:

- Progress and recommendations in relation to activities which are being delivered using the Committee's budget for 2015-16;
- Progress in relation to other activities being undertaken by the Wirral West constituency team;
- Items for noting in respect of local issues / consultations.

2.0 CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE BUDGET 2015-16

2.1 This report provides an update on areas of expenditure relating to budgets carried over from previous years and the Committee's 2015-16 budget allocations. The report also makes a number of recommendations in order to facilitate effective budget expenditure in the coming months.

Update on areas of expenditure carried over from previous years

2.2 The Committee agreed at its meeting in February 2015 to use £5,000 of its Love Wirral allocation for 2014-15 to fund the **Special Places Project** aimed at celebrating places in all parts of Wirral West which are special to local people through the installation of benches. This project has been widely promoted and the response has been excellent to date. Over 30 suggestions have been put forward to the constituency team and an initial assessment by officers in Regeneration and Environment suggests that the majority of these would be feasible locations for benches.

- 2.3 The closing date for local people to submit their suggestions as to possible locations for benches is the end of February 2016. It is proposed that a Wirral West Special Places Panel is convened in March on the basis of one member per ward and that this Panel is given delegated authority by the Committee to agree which locations should be selected in conjunction with the Chair.
- 2.4 As noted in 2.2 above, the Committee made £5,000 available for this project and it was estimated at the outset of the project that this would fund around 10 benches in the constituency area. Once the locations have been fully assessed, it may be the case that there is a shortfall in the funding required given installation requirements. The proposal for meeting this shortfall to ring-fence a maximum of £2,000 from the Committee's environmental budget of £10,000 which has not yet been allocated to specific projects (see 2.16 below).
- 2.5 The Committee is asked to note that the budget previously allocated to the **Stay, Safe, Warm and Well Project** has now been used in its entirety in support of ongoing multi-agency working and the delivery of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service's Emergency Heating Programme. Over the winter months, MF&RS personnel are advising members of the public about safe heating methods, as well as providing equipment for vulnerable and elderly people to replace dangerous heating equipment. Vulnerable or elderly occupants who are identified as utilising dangerous or inadequate forms of heating are able to exchange this for an oil filled radiator from MF&RS as well as being given advice about staying safe and warm. MF&RS then provide a Home Fire Safety Check and other safety equipment as required and can refer occupants for help from partner agencies to deal with longer term issues, e.g. for help managing fuel bills, adaptations or other ongoing support. The project is also being supported by the British Red Cross, who have been providing out of hours service for vulnerable people identified by fire crews during the evenings, weekends and over the Christmas period. Information about the numbers of people supported will be made available in due course.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Budget

- 2.6 As previously reported to the Committee, the Council's February 2015 budget made provision for dedicated funding for Constituency Committees to identify actions for tackling issues of ASB.
- 2.7 The Constituency Committee resolved in July 2015 that an ASB Panel would be established (with representation from one member per ward, to be determined by the Committee) to make recommendations about the use of the Committee's budget. The Committee delegated decision-making in respect of this budget to the ASB Panel in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee and agreed that, given that Woodchurch is the constituency hotspot for ASB, the majority of funding (i.e. £10,000) should be utilised in Upton ward but with each ward having some resource to be deployed as necessary (i.e. £5,000 split between the remaining 4 wards).
- 2.8 The Panel met in September 2015 reached a broad agreement on a number of proposals for utilising the Committee's ASB which were set out in the Constituency Manager's report in November. Work is ongoing with the relevant officers, partner agencies and community stakeholders to progress these in conjunction with members of the ASB Panel and a detailed report will be brought to the next meeting

of the Committee. Amongst these proposals is work to re-invigorate and initiate Wirral West Neighbourhood Watch schemes by:

- Holding a workshop session with existing scheme co-ordinators to invite them to a workshop session to understand local challenges and opportunities;
- Developing a localised Neighbourhood Watch campaign to encourage new schemes;
- Working with councillors and partners to target particular areas and neighbourhoods as part of this campaign.

2.9 The Committee is asked to note that the Panel has authorised an item of expenditure from the £10,000 allocated to Upton (Woodchurch) at a cost of £1,200. This request was made as a result of ASB reports linked to the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Woodchurch which appeared to be peaking on Friday and Saturday evenings. Utilising the Committee's funding, a targeted intervention has been now been put in place to offer sports activities at the MUGA on alternate Fridays and Saturdays during the months of January and February. The anticipated outcomes of this intervention, which will be evaluated and reported to the ASB Panel and wider Committee, are:

- Positive engagement / early intervention with a group of young people in response to localised ASB issues;
- Intelligence gathering to support the work of the ASB team and other services;
- An understanding of how the MUGA might be utilised for future activities – the aspiration is to develop the use of this asset working with the local community.

2.10 The ASB Panel requested that promoting community involvement and engagement should be a clear focus for any activities delivered using the Committee's budget. In respect of Woodchurch, the Constituency Engagement Officer provides proactive support for the Woodchurch Partnership Community Safety group and co-ordinates multi-agency responses and action to issues identified by the residents who attend. This group will be kept updated on activities funded by the Committee and asked for feedback as to the impact of any local interventions.

2.11 In respect of ongoing partner activity to address ASB in Woodchurch over and above any interventions funded using the constituency budget, the Committee is asked to note that Merseyside Police patrols have increased in the area of Hoole Road because of complaints and issues with a small group of young people causing problems. Police patrols on foot, pedal cycles and quad bikes have been targeting this group and getting some good feedback from residents and businesses. As part of this action patrols are gathering evidence against a number of individuals with a view to using criminal anti-social behaviour orders against them.

2.12 A Dispersal Zone was also authorised for the area of Hoole Road on 26th January to 27th January and again from 30th January to 31st January. The Dispersal Zone (which can only be authorised for a maximum of 48 hours) gives police power to take young people home or order people who are causing problems to leave and not

return for 48 hours. Anyone breaching an order issued during a Dispersal Zone can be arrested. The Dispersal Zone is a strong piece of legislation and care needs to be taken to target it carefully. During the period of 26th – 27th January, 9 individuals were given direction to leave the area. Of these 7 were of the target group of young people and the other 2 were street drinkers who have previously caused issues in the area.

Core Constituency Committee Budget (Community Fund)

- 2.13 In relation to the Committee's core budget of £50,000, the Committee agreed in July 2015 that it would continue with the broad framework now established in respect of the Community Fund, i.e. £10,000 per ward with an opportunity for local groups to bid for funding (and any remaining monies to be allocated at the discretion of ward councillors).
- 2.14 The Community Fund is currently open for applications with a deadline of Friday 26th February 2016. As for previous rounds of the Community Fund, local people will be asked to show their support for eligible projects by participating in a voting survey which will be made available online and in hard copy from 7th March to 18th March. During this period, an event will take place on 17th March at West Kirby Library to allow groups to promote their activities and network. Votes submitted at this event will be counted and analysed separately from the overall analysis in the interests of fairness.
- 2.15 Since the next meeting of the Committee is cancelled due to considerations of purdah, it is proposed that delegated authority is given to ward councillors to review the outcomes of the community vote and agree which projects should receive funding in their ward.
- 2.16 A report on the projects funded will be presented to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee, alongside an evaluation of the projects which received Community Fund grants in early 2015 and an evaluation of the Your Wirral projects which received funding in October 2014.

Environmental Budget

- 2.17 As reported previously to the Committee, at its meeting on 24th February 2015 Council allocated £40,000 to support communities to help clean up their neighbourhoods (£10,000 for each constituency area). The Constituency Committee resolved that the constituency team should undertake consultation to identify locations or issues in the constituency which might benefit from the use of this funding and develop possible options for expenditure.
- 2.18 Members of the Committee have been asked to provide ideas for locations or issues in the constituency area and a number of suggestions have started to come forward. The request for ideas is also being extended to groups who are already or who may wish to take targeted action to improve the local environment.
- 2.19 It is proposed that a Wirral West Environmental Panel should be established (on the basis of one member per ward) and given delegated authority in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee to agree expenditure relating to action to address hotspots in

the constituency and/or to encourage community involvement in environmental initiatives. It is proposed that this Panel gives consideration to using this funding equitably across the five wards. Should to the Committee agreeing to ring-fence £2,000 of the environmental budget to support the Special Places project, the environmental budget available will stand at £8,000.

- 2.20 In the interim, the constituency team is currently promoting the national anti-litter campaign, 'Clean for The Queen' that takes place on March 4th – 6th 2016. Clean for The Queen is being led by a number of litter charities from all over Britain and has the backing of several high-profile companies. The aim is to acknowledge the Queen's 90th birthday this year by encouraging groups all over the country to clean up their local area. It is appropriate timing as the first ever nationwide litter campaign took place in 1953, the year of the Queen's coronation, and led to the establishment of Keep Britain Tidy. Details can be found online at www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk and groups can register on this website if they are planning community clean up events in conjunction with the campaign. Local groups who register will be able to access free clean up packs and advice and support from the Council.

Road Safety Budget

- 2.21 A detailed report to the Committee in November 2015 set out the position in respect of the Constituency Committee's 2015-16 Integrated Transport Block (road safety) budget allocation (including 2014-15 underspend). The Committee resolved that the Road Safety Panel established in 2014 to make recommendations about the 2014-15 allocation should reconvene to identify how the funding available might be allocated to local schemes and that decision making in respect of the budget should be delegated to the Panel in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee.

- 2.22 The Committee is asked to note that the overall road safety budget allocation is as follows:

2014-2015 Allocation:	£77,750
2015-2016 Allocation:	£25,000
Total Constituency Allocation:	£102,750

- 2.23 As the final costs of schemes approved in October 2014 are now available, the table below shows how much of the road safety budget has been spent and how much can now be allocated to new schemes. This is based on the total amount of road safety budget being distributed equitably across the five wards (i.e. £20,550 for each ward).

Ward	Expenditure	Remaining Budget
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	£10,582	£9,968
Hoylake and Meols	£8,707	£11,843
Pensby and Thingwall	£15,162	£5,388
Upton	£18,103	£2,447
West Kirby and Thurstaston	£9,317	£11,233
Total	£61,871	£40,879

2.24 This budget information was presented to the Road Safety Panel when it met on the 26th January 2016 along with an extensive list of possible schemes. This list comprised relevant requests held by the Council's Traffic Management team along with issues raised directly with the constituency team. A 'shortlist' of schemes has been identified by the Panel as requiring further investigation and costing before any final decision can be made as to the allocation of this budget. The Panel will therefore be reconvened at a future date and their subsequent recommendations reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

3.0 CONSTITUENCY TEAM ACTIVITIES

3.1 Over and above the implementation of the Constituency Committee's budget decisions and related projects, the constituency team works with ward councillors, resident groups and networks, Council services and partner agencies on an ongoing basis to respond to local issues.

4.0 LOCAL ISSUES / CONSULTATIONS

4.1 As reported to the Committee in November, the constituency team co-ordinated a significant engagement project in the Autumn of 2015 in conjunction with officers from Regeneration and Environment in respect of the Council's proposals to alleviate flood risk in West Kirby. The constituency team is continuing to support this work and is working with local residents who are seeking to establish a community forum focused on improving flood resilience.

4.2 A number of Wirral / Wirral West organisations were amongst the 14 groups which been awarded grants as part of the first round of DONG Energy's community benefit fund (CBF), while work continues on the company's latest offshore wind farm. The grants form part of the community support associated with DONG Energy's Burbo Bank Extension project, located off the coast of Wirral. Each year, approximately £225,000 will be made available for community projects for the expected 25 year lifetime of the wind farm, across coastal areas of Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wirral and Sefton. The second round of applications is now open. More details can be found at www.grantscape.org.uk and the closing date for applications is 7th March 2016.

5.0 RISKS

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

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Consultation is undertaken with the members of the Constituency Committee as to the development and operation of the Committee. Ongoing consultation with the

local community as to issues for the area is a clear objective of the constituency working approach.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

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

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

9.1 The activities set out in this report are being delivered via existing resources and utilising the constituency budget as determined by the Committee.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 An impact review relating to neighbourhood working can be found at the link below: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/chief-executives>

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

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

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

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

14.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

14.1 That the Committee notes the progress and updates set out in the Constituency Manager's report;

14.2 That the Committee establishes a Wirral West Special Places Panel on the basis of one member per ward which has delegated authority in conjunction with the Chair to agree locations for the installation of Special Places benches;

14.3 That the possible shortfall in the Special Places budget is met by ring-fencing a maximum of £2,000 from the Committee's 2015-16 environmental budget of £10,000;

14.4 That the Committee establishes a Wirral West Environmental Panel on the basis of one member per ward which has delegated authority in conjunction with the Chair to agree expenditure from the remaining environmental budget allocation and that the Environmental Panel gives consideration to allocating this funding equitably across the five wards;

14.4 That the Committee gives delegated authority to ward councillors to agree which projects should be awarded a Community Fund grant following the community vote.

15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

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APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Meeting	Date
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	12th December 2013
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	6th March 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	3rd July 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	16th October 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	26th February 2015
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	16th July 2015
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	12th November 2015