



## Constituency Committee - Wirral South

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, 20 June 2018</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>6.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	Heswall Day Centre 268 Telegraph Rd Heswall Wirral Council CH60 7SG

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### AGENDA

**1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

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

**2. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**3. APOLOGIES**

**4. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 10)**

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Constituency Committee meeting held on 7 March, 2018 including response to questions raised during public question time

**5. UPDATE PROVIDED BY MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

To receive a verbal presentation delivered by Constituency Manager ( Fergus Adams) on behalf of Ritchie Clarke – Station Manager

**6. UPDATE FROM MERSEYSIDE POLICE**

To receive a verbal update from Neighbour hood Inspector, Georgina Minnery

**7. PLACE BASED CARE**

To receive a verbal presentation from David Hammond – Wirral NHS Community Trust

**8. WIRRAL SOUTH PRIORITY UPDATE (Pages 11 - 18)**

**9. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT (Pages 19 - 32)**

**10. WIRRAL PLAN OVERVIEW UPDATE 2017 -18 QUARTER THREE**

To receive a verbal update from Constituency Manager, Fergus Adams.

**11. PUBLIC QUESTION & ANSWER ( APPROX. 20 MINUTES) INCLUDING RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ASKED AT THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE**

Although it is possible to forward pre-notified questions to the Constituency Manager questions will also be taken on the night via the Chair. All questions will be collated at the start of item 11 and dealt with in turn by the Chair.

**12. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR**

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018.

## CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE - WIRRAL SOUTH

Wednesday, 7 March 2018

<u>Present:</u>	Councillors	C Carubia	J Walsh
		P Gilchrist	W Ward
		C Muspratt	I Williams
		C Povall	J Williams
		L Rowlands	
	Community Reps	P Wright K Sutton	M Wright M Craig
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	D Mitchell	T Pilgrim
		A Hodson	A Sykes
		K Hodson	R Squires

### 82 **MINUTE SILENCE**

All Present stood in silent tribute to Councillor Walter Smith, who had died since the last Committee Meeting.

### 83 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in connection with any items on the agenda and to state the nature of the interest.

A non- pecuniary interest was made by Councillor C Muspratt by virtue of one of her children working for Merseyside Police.

### 84 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Mitchell, A Hodson, K Hodson, T Pilgrim, A Sykes and R Squire (Community Rep) and D Armstrong (Officer).

### 85 **MINUTES**

The Assistant Director for Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 October 2017.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Committee held on 4 October 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.**

86 **UPDATE PROVIDED BY MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**

In the absence of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, the Constituency Manager provided the Committee with an update between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 and 4 March 2018

- Deliberate secondary fires – 33
- 
- Deliberate vehicle fires – 6 (2 x van, 2 x motorcycle, 1 x dumper truck & 1 x car)
- There is no particular fire hotspot in Wirral South however over the past few weeks there have been a number of deliberately started fires on Heswall Dales.
- Operation Banger – 41% reduction in deliberate secondary fires (Wirral wide) compared to 2016 There have been 3 deliberate secondary (ASB) fires in Wirral South

Cllr L Rowlands – major house fire caused by a washing machine urged everyone to check their electrical appliances.

Cllr P Gilchrist- No figures on house fires. Request that these figures to be included in the presentation for future constituency meetings.

**RESOLVED: - That Members note the update from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.**

87 **UPDATE FROM MERSEYSIDE POLICE**

Neighbourhood Inspector Georgina Minnery addressed the committee. Sergeant Mark Kennedy has been promoted so has moved departments. The new neighbourhood sergeant will be Angela Norstrom There is now a Police Facebook page.

Crime statistics October 2017- March 2018

- Burglaries have shot up in the affluent areas car keys been taken via letter boxes and entry via patio doors.

These cover the following criteria (acquisitive crime) - Burglary Other - Burglary Community/ Business- Burglary Dwelling + Residential – Theft of and Theft from.

- 1st April – 30th June 2017 -> 133 incidents
- 1st July - September 2016 -> 183 incidents
- 1st July - September 2017 -> 197 incidents  
(Increase of 14 incidents when comparing the two)

Updated on recent crimes

Car crash in the Tunnel 3 arrested and charged 1 a juvenile.

PCSO Phil Roberts (Bebington)

Gave an update on rewarding good behaviour, and events that had been organised; football competitions, Boxercise, Narrow boat trips and looking to provide dance/ drama events.

New mobile police station, with PlayStations games this can be sent to an area if requested.

Questions

Initiative Pedestrian Groups – damage caused to pavements, grass verges. Cards are put on vehicles to make drivers aware not to park on them. Is there anything you can do to stop this? Any incidents email Phil Roberts.

Thanks were expressed to Inspector Minnery and her hard pressed team which comprises of 4 neighbourhood sergeants, 4 police constables and 28 PCSO's.

Home Watch Scheme- contact Ray Squires for any information.

Using Facebook this is a good source to use to find information on any crime in your area.

**RESOLVED**:- That members note the update from Merseyside Police

## 88 **WIRRAL TOGETHER- WORKING WITH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

Rachael Musgrave- Consultant Public Health gave a presentation on the work commissioned last summer by Councillor M Fitzpatrick.

Presentation attached to the minutes.

The report has been used to reflect back on what has been done with the budgets allocated to Constituencies and focusing on the next steps to take forward.

#### Questions

Cllr. Rowlands- Interesting work gone into it not surprised Wirra South got best value for our money as collaboration between all parties focusing on the parks.

Cllr. Gilchrist – Residents survey 3 years ago 30,000 through Mori when will we receive the results- concerns. Careful management of the budget year ago to carry forward can't plan continuity unless know more money going forward?

Cllr Fitzpatrick has no proposal to cut on constituency committed to going forward.

Cllr Muspratt- Agreed a lot of work has been done. Any change in the funding? She felt it was important to note that Wirral South received better return on their investments.

## 89 **WIRRAL SOUTH PRIORITY UPDATE**

Fergus Adam's Constituency Manager presented the attached report which updated on the priorities for 2017/18 and made specific reference to the following issues or events.

3.1.2 Showcase Eastham Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018 between 1pm & 3pm at the Delamere Centre.  
Eastham Connect social Isolation Fund.

3.2.2 Gaps in Youth Provision - Recommendation 1.

3.3.2 Update on expenditure of the New Ferry Park's budget.

3.3.3 Update on expenditure of the Torr Park budget.

4.1 Love where you live anti dog fouling campaign - Recommendation 2.

4.2 Wirral South in Bloom applications closed 3pm Friday 2 March 2018.

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** Extend the current service level agreement with Response to provide a final twelve month period of service from the 1st of May 2018 to the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2019 at a cost of £11,093

**Resolved –** That the Councillor's agreed the recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** The Love Where You Live Task & Finish Group Members meet before the end of March 2018 to agree further spend against the remaining budget.

**Resolved-** That the Councillor's agreed the recommendation.

90 **WIRRAL SOUTH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Community Reps Report.

Proposed P Gilchrist seconded C Muspratt **defer consideration till next meeting to consider documents and take view on it (agreed).**"

91 **WIRRAL PLAN OVERVIEW UPDATE 2017-18 QUARTER THREE**

The Constituency Manager presented the Wirral Plan Overview Update 2017-18 Quarter One.

**Resolved :-** The report was unable to be sent out with the minutes so as the members have not had time to read the report this item is deferred till the next meeting.

92 **PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER(APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES) INCLUDING RESPONSES ASKED AT THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Chair reported to the meeting due to the number of emails relating specifically to Hoylake Golf Resort that a statement would go out with the minutes he opened the issues up for comments.

Councillor's who are on the Planning Committee as members or deputies noted an interest and didn't take part in the discussions.

1. New Ferry Disaster and the funding still required for the rebuild to properties. Where was the money going to come from?  
The major issues for existing traders trying to continuing to trade what can be done to help them survive?

2. Fouling by Horses why can't fixed penalty notices be issued?  
Ans. The make of the material is neither offensive nor toxic.

3. Road Flooding Issues- many areas's where highlighted by members and it was agreed that members would get together and draw up a list and approach North West water to address the issues collectively.

4. Susan Brown (Creative Arts) Promoted the Libraries in the communities and the difficulties they face with limited resources and a way to increase footfall for the libraries an new initiative of The Troll Trail asking everyone to make a troll with the salt dough provided and take to their local library and asked everyone present spread the word to all the residents in your communities to take part and use their Libraries.

Mr G Roberto

Q1. NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group and partners have decided to close the services at Eastham Walk in Centre and announced it 5 days before the ceasing of services. As far as I can tell they have not adhered to their Statutory Duty under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to fully engage with the public, patients, carers and service users. Can you supply list of stakeholders and patients, service user's reps, who have been involved, copies of governance papers and correspondence, related to this matter?

Q2. NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group and partners, have stated that the recent closure is only a "temporary measure" and therefore I would appreciate confirmation of when Eastham Walk in Centre will fully re-opening?

Q3. Can you set out your long-term plans for developing services at Wirral NHS Eastham Walk in Centre and at other Wirral South locations?

Mr D Bird

Q4. Closer cross party working on Eastham Walk in Centre he has organized a petition on change .org and also has a written petition, a face book page has been set up Friends of Eastham NHS Walk in Centre; please encourage people to make posts on it.

Mr L McDonald

Q5. The Delamere Centre Eastham provided an update in the Social Isolation Scheme met with Constituency Manager as Community Rep. K Sutton not well the launch date has been delayed.

Ms S Bramwell

Q6. Wirral Society of Arts an open invitation had been sent to all Councillors for 6 October very few responses, if unable to make that date group ward visits could be arranged.

Ms L Clyne

Q7. Cross party working this doesn't appear to be happening now over the New Ferry Disaster as the Conservatives are going back on the agreement to pursue funding from the Government.



The Council have used money from the reserves but more is still needed from Central Government.

It was brought up that the victims in the Grenfell Towers Fire all were given £5,000 but nothing given as New Ferry not seemed by Central Government a big enough disaster.

93 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Committee is 6pm, 20th June 2018, venue to be confirmed.

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Constituency Manager

[www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)

Date: 07 June 2018

Your Ref:

Our Ref: DB/AEH/HOYLAKEGOLF

Service: **Economic & Housing Growth Directorate**

Tel No: 0151 691 8395

Dear Constituency Committee Members

**HOYLAKE GOLF RESORT- QUESTIONS RAISED AT CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS**

Thank you for forwarding the constituent questions relating to the Hoylake Golf Resort. As you are aware many questions can only be answered once the Council is in receipt of the technical surveys and studies to be undertaken by the Nicklaus Joint Venture Group (NJVG) as part of the planning process. There will be further consultation with residents upon completion of the studies and prior to the submission of a planning application by the Developer. This will then be followed by the period of statutory consultation during the planning process.

The NJVG will also be providing a detailed economic assessment in support of the resort development that will highlight why this is an important economic project for Wirral and the many benefits it will bring to the locality should planning permission be granted.

For clarification it is also important to state that the Cabinet decision taken to move to the next stage of the project viewed the proposed future loan of £26 million to the project as a commercial investment from which the Council will receive a financial return that can be re-invested back into local service provision. It is not a sum of Council money that could in theory be re-directed to another location such as New Ferry. The Council are following a separate strategy for New Ferry which is making progress.

The references to the Wirral Waters development and the work of the Wirral Growth Company implies that the Council is prioritising the Hoylake Golf Resort project over the work on other development sites. This is not the case. The Council is deploying a growth strategy on a number of fronts where opportunities have been identified and can be delivered concurrently with the Golf Resort project.

In the meantime for people requiring clarification or further information many answers can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the Council's web site. People are encouraged to view this information by using the following link:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/hoylake-golf-resort/common-questions-about>

I hope this note clarifies matters for the Constituency Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Ball".

David Ball  
Assistant Director  
Major Growth Projects and Housing Delivery



## Constituency Committee - Wirral South Wednesday, 20 June 2018

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Wirral South Priority Update</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Director for Health and Wellbeing</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Constituency Committee's priorities for 2018/19.

The work of Wirral South Constituency Committee contributes to a range of Wirral Plan 2020 pledges and neighbourhood working is key to delivery of the Plan.

This report affects all Wards within the Wirral South Constituency (Bebington, Bromborough, Clatterbridge, Eastham and Heswall).

### RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

RECOMMENDATION 1: Committee members note the progress outlined in this report

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 To enable the work of the Wirral South Constituency Committee to be focussed upon the agreed priorities and spend to be distributed accordingly.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Learning has been taken from this committee's spend throughout its operation.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### 3.1 Social Isolation

##### 3.1.1 Eastham Connects

The 'Eastham Connects' social isolation initiative continues to have impact across the Eastham ward. After a successful partner launch in November 2017 (yielding over 50 partnership pledges) the first in a series of public 'Showcase Eastham' events took place on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 2018. The event was publicised locally and a bespoke door knock exercise also took place, delivered by the Involve Northwest Connectors.

The event itself was well attended with over 50 residents dropping by to see what the various groups and organisations, active in Eastham, had to offer.

Since the showcase event the steering group continues to meet, establishing a task a finish group to propose both planning and evaluation documents. This ensures that not only a clear strategy is developed, but the impact is captured and the potential for replication is increased.

Eastham Connects are also in the final stages of agreeing their involvement in a research project led by John Moores and Southampton University.

#### 3.2 Gaps in Youth Provision

Response continue to deliver the Wirral South Specific counselling sessions financed by this committee. In the last recorded quarter (Feb, Mar, Apr 2018)

thirteen young people accessed the therapeutic counselling sessions and a further ten used the youth club based drop in service.

Of the thirteen young people accessing regular counselling all remained in Education, Training or Employment during therapeutic intervention. Six of the thirteen reported self-harming during their initial session; all six reported a reduction as they completed their sessions.

In its second year of activity thirty seven young people accessed therapeutic counselling sessions and 118 accessed the drop in sessions at Eastham and New Ferry youth clubs.

### 3.3 Improved Open Spaces

#### 3.3.1 Torr Park

At the time of writing this report, a site visit is scheduled to confirm the final set of works for Torr Park. A total of £24,476.63 spent so far, with £34,663.87 remaining. Work so far includes new benches, bins, signage, play equipment and path resurfacing.

There is currently a very committed core group of community members involved, it is hoped they will form a Friends group at the end of the project. Conversations are also ongoing to discuss how the old toilet block will be used. Options include the potential to establish a modest catering provision run by a local organisation.

#### 3.3.2 New Ferry Park

The budget for New Ferry Park has now been allocated in principal. Work so far includes new benches, bins and signage. The play area has also been painted. Final plans include thermoplastic 'No Dog Fouling' signs, bulbs for volunteers to plant, more benches, and new floor activities in the play area.

There has been limited engagement from the local community in this project, it is hoped a larger group of volunteers can be involved with a planting project later on in the year with the aspiration being to form a Friends group from this.

### 3.3.3 Wirral South in Bloom

Wirral South In Bloom 2018 is a community based environmental project aimed at engaging Wirral South community groups in planting projects to brighten up their local areas.

There is a grants programme associated with this, with grants of up to £250 available. The window for applications was opened on the 9th February and closed on 2nd March. See appendix one for a list of successful applicants.

## 4.0 ONGOING PROJECTS

### 4.1 Love Where You Live

The 'Love Where You Live Task and Finish Group' met on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. The remaining budget was discussed and it was agreed to use the remaining budget (£11,250) to provide:

- Installation of new litter bins in locations to be used by dog walkers that currently lack adequate provision for disposal. In short this idea seeks to simplify the process of disposing of dog waste for dog walkers across Wirral South
- Dog waste disposal bag dispensers across a number of sites, working with existing partners (e.g. friends of parks groups) to ensure dispensers remain stocked

At the time of writing this report the finalised list and exact costings are still being collated. It is envisaged that this spend and its associated installations will take place during the summer of 2018.

### 4.2 Place Based Social Action Fund (PBSA)

New Ferry was chosen as one of twenty locations to receive support as part of phase one of the PBSA fund earlier this year. Phase one involves up to £5k development funding and some extra support from a facilitator allocated by the fund.

So far the allocated facilitator has been to the area and met with some members of the New Ferry Town Team. Next steps are to conduct a



workshop by the end of June and to agree some pilot projects to be delivered by October 2018.

If these pilots prove successful the New Ferry Town Team can apply for up to £240k as part of phase two of the PBSA (spread over three years) to continue to run the chosen projects.

#### 4.3 New Ferry Rangers Football Club (NFRFC) Community Clubhouse

Work continues with NFRFC to investigate the opportunity of asset transferring the local youth club, with a view to establishing a community clubhouse. No further details included at this stage due to pending planning application.

#### 4.4 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

At the time of writing this report all community contacts with names and e-mail addresses held on the 'Wirral South Engage' list have been contacted and asked to formally opt in to continue receiving information.

### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

5.2 Regular budget monitoring with Business Services takes place to ensure that the expenditure incurred is accurate and complies with what has been agreed by the Committee.

### **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

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

## **8.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 8.1 Failure to agree the distribution of funding limits the Committee's ability to effectively tackle its priorities and may result in a loss of funding allocation.

## **9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 9.1 Elected members, community representatives and members of the public have the opportunity to participate in all Constituency Committees.
- 9.2 The neighbourhood working model strengthens the Council's relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.

## **10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2010-14/chief>

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*Constituency Manager Wirral South*  
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## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix One: Wirral South in Bloom 2018 Successful Applicants**

## Appendix One: Wirral South in Bloom 2018 Successful Applicants

WIRRAL SOUTH IN BLOOM 2018 – SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS		
ORGANISATION	SUMMARY	AMOUNT
Autism Together	We will plant a large planted area and plant a contrast in flowers to enable a number 50 to be prominent amongst the planted area; we will fill with flowers and bulbs which enable the area to be full of colours and life all year round.	£250.00
Autism Together - PSRP	To plant up donated dinghy	£200.00
Boulders Youth Group	Plant up grounds around Christ Church	£200.00
Brighter Bebington	Plant up planters in Bebington Village	£250.00
Bromborough Village Community Association	Cost toward cleaning up precinct area, including hire of skips and planting costs	£250.00
Dale Farm	Continue Heswall In Bloom project	£250.00
Eastham Village Preservation Association	Provide more hanging baskets in village	£200.00
Friends of Benty Hey Woods	Focus on entrance to woods: noticeboard, triangular deep planting bulbs, wild flowering bulbs	£250.00
Friends of Dawstone Park	Summer bedding and shrubs in the park	£250.00
Friends of Dibbinsdale	Wildflower seeds and bulbs	£200.00
Heswall Society	Re-planting of Castle Building beds, new beds outside Cains and new raised planter	£250.00
New Beginnings New Ferry	Purchase, install and plant up planters outside centre with plants, herbs and vegetables	£250.00
St. David's Church Eastham	Plants to brighten garden for Easter Trail Story and buy gardening equipment	£150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£2,950.00</b>

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**Constituency Committee - Wirral South  
Wednesday, 20 June 2018**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Community Representative Report</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Director for Health and Wellbeing</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report gives the Wirral South Community Representatives the opportunity to highlight particular issues being experienced by the communities within the five wards and seeks to bring them formally to the attention of the committee.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

RECOMMENDATION ONE: "The previously deferred discussion relating to the community representatives' proposal and associated paper take place within this committee meeting, based upon the previously agreed resolution of the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2018"

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 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.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Learning has been taken from this committee's spend throughout its operation.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 At its last meeting (7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018) the Wirral South Community Representatives tabled a paper (appendix one) for consideration. Community representatives also tabled a number of recommendations:

- The proposal put forward by Com Reps for an alternative model for neighbourhood working be forwarded to the Cabinet Member Councillor Patrick for his consideration and views
- Elected members of this committee consider the Com Reps proposal and forward their views to the Lead Officer for the "Working with Wirral Communities" project before the end of March, 2018
- Elected members, Com Reps and the Lead Officer for "Working with Wirral Communities" form a Task and Finish Group to consider the Com Reps proposal, Elected Members views and any other initiatives to improve working with local communities
- The next meeting of this Constituency Committee considers a report on details of progress made by the Task and Finish group and feedback from the Cabinet Member and Elected Members

Committee members felt they had not been given sufficient time to consider the proposal and as such resolved to “defer further comment on the content of the community representative paper until the next committee meeting in June 2018”.

The proposal has therefore been included in this report, with the above resolution in mind (see recommendation one).

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wirral South Constituency Committee.
- 4.2 Regular budget monitoring with Business Services takes place to ensure that the expenditure incurred is accurate and complies with what has been agreed by the Committee.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 Funding available may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

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- 7.1 Failure to agree the distribution of funding limits the Committee’s ability to effectively tackle its priorities and may result in a loss of funding allocation.

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- 8.1 Elected members, community representatives and members of the public have the opportunity to participate in all Constituency Committees.
- 8.2 The neighbourhood working model strengthens the Council’s relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.

## 9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2010-14/chief>

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## APPENDICES

Appendix One: **Working Group; First Pass Proposals**

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Wirral South Constituency Committee	7/3/2018



## Introduction

**‘Nobody said it would be easy and if it was it would have been done already’.**

The Working Group operates under the auspices of the Community of Practice (CoP) and is a co-operation between the Wirral South Community Representatives (WSCR) and the CoP.

The WSCR were invited to fully participate in a review of Wirral’s neighbourhood working model and to consider alternative models for the attention of WBC.

These proposals represent the third stage of a five stage process to produce firm proposals for the attention of WBC.

## Aims and Objectives

In developing these proposals the Working Group want to see a model **‘that works for all and is fair to all’.**

To be clear **‘works’** represents a model that can be adopted across Wirral and yet can be flexible so that, at the most local level, it allows full participation and involvement in finding local solutions to local needs and challenges by residents and their communities.

**‘All’** means every single resident, their place, their community, their service provision, their health and wellbeing, their equality.

**‘Fair’** means that ‘all’ will have the same opportunity as a matter of choice.

The focus of this revision compared to the existing model is unchanged, it remains the needs and wishes of residents.

## Factors informing these proposals

Three key factors have been considered in developing these proposals,

- a. The reasons, perceived or otherwise, for the limited success of the current model.
- b. Current best practice as operated in the UK, particularly by metropolitan borough councils, WBC’s peer group, and as recommended by think tanks and national third sector organisations specialising in this area of activity.
- c. The views and opinions of all stakeholders as to what is needed.

This last point is of particular importance as the Working Group wants to ensure that all views and opinions are heard. A deep appreciation of the importance of place with an individual's identity is the striking main factor.

This, above all needs to be given full consideration. The obvious differences, between for example Eastham, Rock Ferry and West Kirby, need little explanation but a lot of local understanding that only the residents can provide.

Considering each in turn.

#### **a. The factors contributing to a lack of success with the current model**

WSCR have considered this and from first-hand experience have formed the view that the lack of success can be attributed to four main factors. Insufficient commitment to

- Providing resource
- Ownership
- Supporting continuous development and improvement
- Partnership working

A new approach that did not address and rectify these limitations is unlikely to be successful

#### **b. Current best practice**

Research indicates that practitioners have moved in two distinct directions but the approaches taken have a number of similarities.

Both approaches appreciate the need to mobilise a strong contribution from residents and communities to support the model and, through the model, to address communities' needs and wishes.

In each approach significant funding through the establishment of a Community Fund, in the range of £2million to £10 million, is provided to stimulate community activity.

Both approaches take a business approach to dispensing the main component of the community fund. A detailed business case is required in any application together with a prediction of outcomes and returns on the investment.

Funding will be provided where the investment risk is manageable and predicted outcomes and returns are seen to be good.

However it is at this point the approaches vary. One approach remains a top-down approach where community groups and community organisations are invited to apply for funding and if successful take the responsibility for the spend. Decisions are taken by the community organisations and community groups. These groups tend to be activity specific and are not representative of the community but acting within it.

The other approach is more a bottom-up approach, asking communities to participate and concentrating on building a partnership understanding with all key stakeholders and energising the local economy. The focus is on facilitating the establishment of strong community organisations with whom to do business and projects. The strong community organisation then takes the lead role based on the presumption that they will be able to mobilise resident resource where necessary.

### **c. The views and opinions of stakeholders**

Not surprisingly this tends to be a 'horses for courses' input and strongly influenced by the circumstances of each individual community. There is no favoured approach but there is a clear recognition that change is needed. As to what is finally adopted most stakeholders have not given the matter much thought trusting that whatever is presented will provide opportunity and hope.

### **Further considerations**

#### **a. What is a neighbourhood and/or a community?**

There is no definition that satisfactorily describes what constitutes either a community or neighbourhood area. For democratic reasons lines are drawn on maps as we are about to see with the boundary changes. These boundary changes will affect Eastham but will not change Eastham or the communities within Eastham. It will however change the local authority and the method of working.

It is our view that the residents determine their community as they consider it to be their place.

Without the resident input as to place, neighbourhood working seems to have a limited focus and ownership.

#### b. Additional Resourcing

Whilst both approaches concentrate on a community funding package to stimulate community activity, they neglect the need for a range of supporting and accessible skill sets to be also available, skill sets of sufficient quality that will give confidence to and help communities firstly to get up and running and then for advice and guidance when required.

Initial support should of necessity be time limited as if it is having little impact it can be redirected.

The assumption made is that the necessary skills are on hand within community. In many cases this is not so and to get something started help will be required. It is ironic that those communities that are most deprived and in greatest need are the ones who are unlikely to be able to find the skill sets that are needed within the community and these will need to be developed or brought in.

Careful consideration needs to be given as to how and through what organisation this help is provided.

Neither of the two approaches identified through research gives the two considerations above much prominence and yet they are crucial to success.

#### c. The role of Elected Members

In both the best practice approaches the role of the Elected Members is unchanged. They remain the representatives of residents.

Whereas in the current model they have significant responsibilities for developing local plans and constituency plans in support of the Wirral 20:20 Plan this responsibility is not seen in the best practice approaches. If the preparation of local plans and constituency plans is discontinued then careful consideration will need to be given to their future role.

There will be a role as a community champion with a key part to play in supporting, mentoring, monitoring as well as providing scrutiny of community activities and projects to ensure that all stakeholders meet their commitments

and obligations. They may well also have a role in the selection of the best projects for their wards and also in dispute resolution.

The role should be decided by the Elected Members themselves and they should determine how they wish it to be fulfilled.

It is optional and the extent to which they take up the role is a matter of choice.

#### d. The role of Finance and Procurement

As the best practice approaches have moved towards the provision of significant funding, measures have been taken to ensure that investments and projects give good returns.

Recipients of funding are required to enter into contracts and demonstrate in their applications for funding how they intend to spend the monies and measure the outcomes.

In their approach to awarding contracts and agreeing funding levels the simple principle of investing where the best returns are predicted needs to be adopted.

Because, by their very nature, investing in communities is principally aimed at improving health and wellbeing and addressing inequality, whether it be direct or indirect, the impact of the investment on social wellbeing is the key determinant.

The methodology and interpretation of social value outcomes is a relatively new and undoubtedly complex area when determining outcomes. This can lead to 'interpretation' as social values are not fixed values but vary from location to location.

This is a particularly challenging concept for Finance and Procurement and the methodology and interpretation of calculations and social values used in those calculations and submissions will need a lot of guidance and support in both preparing funding applications and awarding contracts.

A consistent, open and transparent approach in the interests of fairness and equality will need to be developed as will working directly in partnership with

'clients' if the best outcomes are to be achieved and the model to work dynamically.

e. Ownership

A key reason for the limited success of the existing model was the paucity of ownership. This cannot and must not be the case for whatever revised model is introduced.

Without ownership and a resolute commitment from all stakeholders it will inevitably fail. This is leadership with responsibility for success held with the decision makers and Chief Executives. It will not be sufficient to make a decision and then leave implementation to others.

Profile, communication, active participation to demonstrate 'ownership' is essential to ensure the link between words and actions is strong and unwavering.

This time up it has to be successful.

**First Pass Proposal** (with reference to the outline proposals)

**The Offer:**

The outline proposal was,

WBC create a new fund described as a **Community Fund**.

This fund is available annually to all communities within Wirral. The amount available to each defined community will be allocated on a per capita basis.

For example, if the fund is set at a per capita level of £5 and within the community there are 10,000 residents the community fund would be £50,000.

Note: This approach can easily be extended to Wirral Partners and to funding via Better Care finance.

The prime purpose of the fund is to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and access to the fund on a project by project basis will be determined by return on investment criteria.

We now take the view that this had its limitations and propose the revision below.

‘Wirral Partners create a **Community Investment Fund**. This fund be of sufficient value so that it is meaningful and that all areas of Wirral will have an opportunity to benefit.

The fund to have three separate components

- A component for community groups set up to represent their community
- A component for community organisations representing specific interests and activities within their community
- A component for small investments and start-ups with the aim of benefitting the community

The first funding stream to be available on a per capita basis.

For the second and third funding stream we recommend that the approach being taken by Wigan Council be adopted.

The prime purpose of the fund is to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and access to the funds on a project by project basis will be determined by social return on investment criteria’.

### **The Ask**

The outline proposal was.

WBC ask that communities come together to agree how they will respond to the **offer** in order to fully represent their residents and bring forward a plan as to how they will do so.

This will require the community to form a legal entity with a constitution for that purpose, so that the Council and its Officers, other service providers and the third sector can work effectively, together and in partnership with the community’s representatives.

The Council will provide help and support, if needed to communities wishing to become organised to take up the offer. The structure of the community organisation must ensure that it can fully represent all residents and reach formal undertakings with partner organisations.

We now propose the following amendment.

‘For the first part of the **Community Investment Fund** Wirral Partners ask that communities come together to agree how they will respond to the **offer** in

order to fully represent their residents and bring forward a plan as to how they will do so.

This will require the community to form a legal entity with a constitution for that purpose, so that the Council and its Officers, other service providers and the third sector can work effectively, together and in partnership with the community's representatives.

The Council will provide help and support, if needed to communities wishing to become organised to take up the offer. The structure of the community organisation must ensure that it can fully represent all residents and reach formal undertakings with partner organisations'.

The Ask will not apply to the second and third components of the Community Investment Fund.

### **The Choice**

The outline proposal was,

It is for any area to decide if they wish to respond positively to the 'ask' and the 'offer' or not. The community fund will be made available on a per capita basis once the community organisation is in place.

Communities can, if they wish, pool community funds through formal agreements and for specific projects.

We now propose the following amendment,

'It is for any area, as defined by the residents as being their community, to decide if they wish to respond positively to the 'ask' and the 'offer' associated with the first component of the Community Investment Fund or not. The fund will be made accessible on a per capita basis once a fully constituted organisation has been formed, an organisation which represents all the residents in their community.

Communities can, if they wish, pool community investment funding through formal agreements and for specific projects'.

### **The Management**

The outline proposal was,



'Management, scrutiny and oversight of projects to be the responsibility of local Elected Members. The Constituency Committees be partly restructured as forums for discussing ongoing projects, new projects, using their powers to secure additional funding, facilitate necessary inputs and resolve conflicts.

Meetings by Elected Members as part of the Constituency Committee structure are held at a frequency set by the needs of projects and partnership working.

The role of Community Representatives will need to be redefined.

Communities who choose not to take up the **offer** will need to continue to have appropriate representation and all communities will need to have a voice on matters not relating to health and wellbeing.

We now propose the following,

The responsibility for the management of projects funded by the first component of the Community Investment Fund to be held by the community organisation making the application for funding.

Full details as to how each project will be managed to be provided as a key part of the funding application.

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