



## Constituency Committee - Wirral South

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, 6 March 2019</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>6.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	Eastham Centre, Eastham Rake, Eastham, Wirral. CH62 9AN

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### AGENDA

**1. 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.

**2. APOLOGIES**

**3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 12)**

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

Delivered by Constituency Manager (Fergus Adams) on behalf of Ritchie Clarke – Station Manager.

**5. UPDATE FROM MERSEYSIDE POLICE**

Neighbourhood Inspector – Georgina Minnery.

**6. WIRRAL SOUTH PRIORITY UPDATE (Pages 13 - 20)**

Constituency Manager – Fergus Adams.

**7. CONNECTING WIRRAL SOUTH - SOCIAL ISOLATION GRANTS FUND**

To receive a verbal update confirming details of confirmed funded projects from Constituency Manager – Fergus Adams.

**8. WIRRAL SOUTH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT (Pages 21 - 28)**

**9. GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT - IMPLEMENTING A NEW MODEL FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (Pages 29 - 44)**

**10. WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE: A POSITIVE LEGACY**

To receive a presentation by the Constituency Manager showing some of the positive outcomes from the Committee since its inception. Some details to be provided from the elected member workshop held in February in relation to future working.

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

Although it is possible to forward pre – notified questions to the Constituency Manager, questions will also be taken on the night via the Chair. Questions must be received at least 10 ten working days prior to Committee.

## CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE - WIRRAL SOUTH

Thursday, 4 October 2018

Present:

Councillors	J Bird	C Povall
	C Carubia	J Walsh
	T Cottier	I Williams
	P Gilchrist	KJ Williams
	K Hodson	
	M Jordan	
	D Mitchell	
	C Muspratt	

:	Com Reps	R Squire	K Sutton
		P Wright	M Wright

<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	A Hodson	A Sykes
		L Rowlands	

Com Reps	M Craig
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### 1 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No such declarations were made

### 2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Hodson, L Rowlands and A Sykes, Community Rep Mark Craig and David Armstrong, Assistant Chief Executive.

#### 2.1 CO - OPTING OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES AS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chair advised the Committee that this committee's Community Representatives were co-opted for a 12 month period at committee on 4th of October 2017. She advised that in order for them to remain and take part on the Committee their term of office must be extended.

The Chair proposed that the current Community Representatives continue to be co-opted until the next committee on the 6th of March 2019. Members were advised that by taking this approach, they could be informed in due course of the outcomes of the ongoing Neighbourhood Review. It was explained that, one of the potential outcomes of this approach is that the application process for community representatives be reopened, which will be a delegated decision taken by elected members.

In response to a question by a Member, the Community Representatives advised that they wished to remain as Members and queried timetabling elements.

The Constituency Manager reminded Community Representatives that the Neighbourhood Review Report regarding the future of Constituency Committees remains on the forward plan for Cabinet to consider, however, he did not have any further details as to when this decision would be taken.

It was moved by Councillor C Muspratt and seconded by Councillor J Williams and:

**Resolved (12:0) – That the current Community Representatives be appointed until 6 March 2019.**

3 **MINUTES**

The Legal Advisor to the Constituency Committee advised that a typographical error had been made in respect of the Community Representatives being referred to as Councillors in the attendance list in the minutes for the previous meeting. This error had been rectified in the minute record the Chair was asked to sign.

**Resolved – That subject to the amendment, the minutes be approved as a correct record.**

**Action arising** – Councillor P Gilchrist referred to minute 105 and explained that he had circulated a letter to Members in response to his query regarding public transport to Arrowe Park Hospital. He further advised that he had now received an additional letter from Frank Rodgers at Merseytravel that he would also circulate to Members.

4 **UPDATE PROVIDED BY MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

The Constituency Manager provided an update on behalf of Ritchie Clarke, Station Manager, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service for the period 1 May 2018 – 31 Aug 18.

Members heard how there had been 54 deliberate secondary fires ( rubbish, bins, grass etc), 8 deliberate vehicle fires and 9 accidental dwelling fires.

Councillor D Mitchell requested a map pinpointing locations of where incidents had taken place.

Councillor T Cottier requested details of trends from previous years.

The Constituency Manager advised that he would request this information and provide to Members in due course.

**Resolved – That members note the verbal update**

**5 UPDATE FROM MERSEYSIDE POLICE**

Sergeant A McKeown provided Members with a verbal update on behalf of Neighbourhood Inspector, Georgina Minnery.

It was reported that domestic burglaries had been a particular issue right across the Merseyside Police Force area and that properties had been targeted particularly to steal high powered vehicles. Members heard how the past month had seen a reduction in domestic burglaries due to a successful operation whereby a prolific burglar had been arrested. The use of AMPR facilities and increased patrols had also been utilised effectively.

Members were advised that a common 'Modus Operandi' of burglars had been to snap locks of domestic properties in order to obtain vehicle keys. This had been prominent in June/ July but had now decreased. It was reported that the A41 corridor had been particularly affected.

The Committee were then informed that there had been an increase in shed/ garage burglaries over the Summer, although, Wirral South Constituency had not been particularly affected by this. It was then reported that there had been a series of car burglaries due to vehicles being left unlocked and that only rarely had vehicles been damaged in order to gain entry.

With regards to anti social behaviour (ASB), the Committee were informed that some outreach work had been undertaken, and had proven to be successful in reducing ASB rates. He explained that there are plans to include similar schemes in Eastham Ward. The Committee heard that levels of ASB in Mayer Park had fallen in recent months.

Sergeant McKeown then responded to questions by Members.

**Questions and Answers**

Councillor J Walsh requested an update on the question raised by Mark Craig at the previous Committee regarding the number of incidents of speeding down New Chester Road as a result of the implementation of average speed

cameras down the New Ferry Bypass. Sergeant McKeown informed that he did not have the information at this time, but would provide it.

Councillor J Williams enquired into number of burglaries in Bebington Ward and was informed that figures remain the same as last year, Eastham had 3 fewer, Clatterbridge had 2 fewer and Heswall had 3 fewer.

Community Representative, Ray Squire enquired as to when the new Police Station in Heswall Ward would be commissioned. In response, the Committee heard how the library was up and running at the moment and outside, there is a TV screen with details of surgeries. Mr Squire then asked a supplemental question regarding whether residents could make appointments to speak to PCSOs and he was informed that this would be taken back as a suggestion.

Councillor C Carubia requested vehicle theft data and it was reported that Bebington had 3 fewer, Bromborough had 6 fewer, Eastham had 1 fewer, Clatterbridge had 2 fewer and Heswall had 2 more.

A question was raised by a member of the public who enquired about Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and whether any coordination or liaison was conducted by Merseyside Police. In response, the Committee were informed that there is no longer a Co-ordinator within the Police. Community Rep, Ray Squire reminded Members that as a member of the crime prevention panel, he circulates information on local crime figures to elected Members.

A member of the public queried reduced levels of ASB in Mayer Park and asked if this had occurred since the police station had opened in Bebington. In response, Sergeant McKeown felt that this could have been the reason and expressed his viewpoint that police presence does decrease crime levels.

Councillor J Williams enquired about issues surrounding people frequently parking on the pavement in Bebington and enquiring as to whether anything had been done to target this. In response, it was reported that he did not have specific data for the Bebington area to hand, however, in other areas letters had been left on windscreens to encourage drivers to stop parking on pavements.

A request was then made by Councillor P Gilchrist for relevant information to be made available prior to the meeting and the Constituency Manager advised that he would make the suggestion to the Neighbourhood Inspector.

**Resolved – That the verbal update be noted.**

6 **PLACE BASED CARE**

A verbal report was presented by Julian Eyre, Healthy Wirral Programme Manager regarding Place based Care. Apologies were received from David Hammond, Wirral NHS Community Trust.

Members heard how integrated care teams, including general practice serve 9 neighbourhoods of 25,000 – 50,000 people each. It was explained that the needs of the population we are serving is changing due to people living longer, resulting in complex care needed. Members were informed that Place Based Care is around providing health and social care more suited to needs. Other key elements and explanations of Place Based Care were as follows:

- More focused on Neighbourhood teams than organisations, better sharing of information, planning and care coordination.
- Greater understanding of people's needs through risk stratification.
- More proactive care in primary and community settings, strong links to secondary expertise.
- Helping people improve their lives with less reliance on statutory services
- A renewed focus on how we engage and listen.

An explanation was provided regarding Neighbourhood Teams and Members heard how the NHS is made up of many organisations that often do not join up as well as they should do. Members heard how there is evidence to prove that Neighbourhood Teams have been nationally proven to help to identify needs of people. It was explained that Multi – Agency and Multi – Disciplinary teams are made up of: GP's, Community Nurses and Matrons, Social Workers, Care Coordinators, Therapists, Voluntary/ Community Support workers.

The Healthy Wirral Programme Manager responded to questions by Members

### **Questions and Answers**

Councillor C Muspratt enquired into the IT systems, in particular, two systems software that are not integrated.

In response, Members heard how significant work is being undertaken to integrate IT systems and that systems are being developed to pull together key pieces of information.

In response to a question asked by Councillor D Mitchell, Members heard that the NHS are very conscious in terms of working with all community services, including Age UK in order to combat isolation and loneliness.

In response to a further question by Councillor D Mitchell. Members were informed that GP Surgeries are beginning to work much more closely and are much more integrated.

Councillor C Carubia enquired into support for frail people who need A & E and he was informed that the NHS are currently in a consultation period regarding Urgent Care so he could not comment at this time.

Councillor M Jordan enquired into new vacancies to the position of Care Co-ordinator and it was reported that people with the right set of skills are required in order to take some pressure from the GPs.

**Resolved – That the verbal report be noted**

## 7 **WIRRAL SOUTH PRIORITY UPDATE**

*Councillor K Hodson left the meeting at this point*

A Report by the Director for Health and Wellbeing provided Members with an update on the Constituency Committee's priorities for 2018/19. Members heard how 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.

A table was provided to Members outlining the current budget picture for the Wirral South Constituency Committee and Members were informed that progress is being made to spend against all budget lines

The Constituency Manager drew Members attention to paragraphs 3.2 – 3.6 of the report set out into the following headings:

- Social Isolation
- Gaps in Youth Provision
- Improved Open Spaces
- Wirral South Clean up Funding
- Remaining Anti-Social Behaviour Funding

The recommendations to the report were set out on page 17 of the agenda pack and were resolved as follows:

### **Recommendation One**

**Resolved (11:0) That the Committee Allocates £15,000 to the 'Connecting Wirral South – Social Isolation Fund'**

### **Recommendation Two**

**Resolved (11:0) – That the process begins to re-commission the Wirral South Youth Counselling Service to ensure the service continues at the**

end of the current service level agreement period, ending on 30 April 2019.

### **Recommendation Three**

**Resolved (11:0) That the Committee agrees to allocate the Improved Open Spaces funding of £15,000 to the ward, of Clatterbridge for 2018/19, specifically supporting the recreation area known locally as “The Chase”**

### **Recommendation Four**

**Resolved (11:0) – That the Committee allocate the indicative amounts of £6,000 towards six Environmental Action Days across the Constituency and £12,800 towards the Wirral South Love Where you Live small grants fund.**

### **Recommendation Five**

**Resolved (11:0) That the Committee allocated £5,000 to complete the Love Where you Live Dog Fouling initiative.**

### **Recommendation Six**

**Resolved (11:0) That the Committee spends the remaining £1, 100 anti-social behaviour funding on diversionary activities during “ Mischief/ Bonfire” period at the end of October/ beginning of November 2018 and the funding should be administered via the longstanding, multi – agency Operation Banger meetings, led by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and Merseyside Police.**

Following the approval of recommendations, Councillor Gilchrist moved a recommendation, seconded by Councillor C Muspratt and it was:

**Resolved - That Cabinet be requested to ensure that this and other Constituency Committees are given an operational budget for the next financial year to continue work at this level.”**

Councillor C Carubia then made a suggestion that the order of the agenda be amended for future meetings so that public questions appear at the beginning of the agenda so that members of the public do not have to wait any longer than necessary.

On a motion by Councillor C Carubia and seconded by Councillor J Bird it was:

**Resolved – That the order of the agenda be amended in future meetings so that public questions are at the beginning of the meeting**

8 **WIRRAL SOUTH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

A report by the Director for Health and Wellbeing detailed progress to date following the co-opting of five Community Representatives (Com Reps) to the Wirral South Constituency Committee (WSSC). The report also highlighted particular issues experienced by the communities within the five wards and sought to bring them formally to the attention of the Committee

The recommendations were set out on page 29 of the agenda.

Mr Kevin Sutton, Com Rep expressed his dissatisfaction and frustration with the lack of progress in developing a Wirral wide strategic Neighbourhood Development Plan which was approved by Cabinet in October 2015. He outlined the Community of Practice ( COP) proposal synopsis that had been drawn up by Com Reps.

Before moving to the recommendations a discussion was had over the possibility of postponing consideration of the report and accompanying recommendations to a future meeting so that Members and Com Reps could have a discussion over the proposals. Further discussions were had and it was agreed that Members would continue to vote and consider the recommendations as follows:

**Recommendation One –**

**“This Committee support the community proposal as detailed in 3.2 and appendix one”**

An amendment to the recommendation was proposed as follows:

“That Consideration of recommendation one be deferred to such time that Members of this Committee and Com Reps meet to discuss the community proposal as detailed in paragraph 3.2 and appendix one of the Wirral South Community Representatives Report”

On a motion by Councillor J Williams , seconded by Councillor J Walsh it was:

**Resolved ( 6:5) “That Consideration of recommendation one be deferred to such time that Members of this Committee and Com Reps meet to discuss the community proposal as detailed in paragraph 3.2 and appendix one of the Wirral South Community Representatives Report”**

**Recommendation Two –**

The Chair of this Committee request a meeting ( on behalf of the community representatives) with the Leader of the Council to discuss the proposal details in paragraph 3.2 and appendix one

The recommendation was put and lost ( 5:6)

### **Recommendation Three**

**Resolved (11:0) - That the Constituency Manager arranges a meeting with the relevant Council Officers/ Cabinet Member and Eastham Community Forum to consider the removal of parking charges in Eastham Country Park.**

### **Recommendation Four**

**Resolved ( 11:0) That the Constituency Manager arranges representation from the relevant Council Officers/ Cabinet Member at an appropriate Eastham Community Forum meeting to discuss how the local community can become more engaged in any planning proposals, including a formal consultation.**

### **Recommendation Five**

**Resolved (11:0) – That the Constituency Manager arranges representation from the relevant Council Officer/ Elected Member at an appropriate Eastham Community Forum meeting to discuss the proposal to ban dogs at Plymyard Playing Fields**

## **9 WIRRAL PLAN OVERVIEW UPDATE 2018 - 2019 QUARTER ONE**

Members had reference to Wirral Plan Overview Update 2018 – 19 Quarter one as below:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/wirral-plan-performance>

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

The Committee and members of the public in attendance at the meeting raised the following questions, issues, concerns and requests:

Approximately 50 members of the public were in attendance

### **Question One – Prof D P Gregg, Spital**

Prof D P Gregg addressed the Committee addressed the Committee to outline his concerns and explained how the new government household

projections for Wirral give a basic 15 year housing requirement of 5,923 houses. If this is scaled up by the forecast 2025 (mid plan) affordability factor of 1.07 we obtain 6,332 houses. He expressed how the committee will see that little or NO building on green belt land is needed at all.

He also stated that the Council green belt release plan covers ~4,900 acres, nearly 8 square miles. Under average densities, that could support in principle, 71,000 houses. Even under the worst basic case scenario only 1% of the release plan land would be needed.

**What is the Council's objective justification for threatening to remove from the green belt the other 99% of the land or ~4,800 acres?**

In response, Councillor C Muspratt also shared concerns and agreed that green belt/ green space must be protected.

#### **Question Two – Mr Lowsby**

**With regards to the Local Plan, the latest figures are out of date as the Council too readily accepted figures were correct. What is being done to rectify this?**

Councillor T Cottier responded by informing the resident that Councillors had put pressure on the Leadership to challenge the figures initially provided and circulated to residents. A letter has now been sent to the Govt Minister to further challenge figures.

#### **Question Three – Angela Mounsey , Heswall**

**If the figures are incorrect, why are you proceeding?**

It was explained by Councillor C Muspratt that it is a legal requirement to hold a public consultation on the local plan and this question would be referred to David Ball, AD Major Growth Projects & Hsg Delivery

#### **Question/ comment Four – Elizabeth Carberry, Heswall**

**Concerns were expressed over current overcrowding, particularly in Heswall where recent housing developments had added to increased traffic.**

Councillor J Williams explained that central government planning laws are beyond any local plan discussions.

#### **Question/ comment Five – P Gill, Clatterbridge**

The Council Leader circulated a letter to residents demonstrating the figures and producing net results of housing requirements. The figures have now been challenged and residents don't have any concept of real figures. Is it possible for the Council Leader to send out a revised letter so that residents have a full understanding of figures. A suggestion was then made by the resident that the consultation period be extended by at least three weeks so that the appropriate figures can be considered.

It was moved by Councillor T Cottier and seconded by Councillor C Carubia and:

**Resolved (11:0) –**

- (1) That in light of the new figures obtained in regards to housing requirements in Wirral, the period of consultation be extended by a period of at least three weeks; and**
- (2) revised figures be published on the council's website and appropriate social media outlet**

#### **Question Six – Lisa, Higher Bebington**

**Upon driving round Wirral, it is clear that many homes are boarded up and not in use. Why are these homes not being restored instead of plans to build on the green belt?**

In response, Councillor Gilchrist expressed how it was his belief that all Councillors would prefer to agree plans on brownfield sites and that plans are in place to target boarded up houses.

Councillor J Bird commented that New Ferry would benefit from regeneration.

#### **Question Seven – Mr Lancelyn Green, Bebington**

**Vineyard House, Spital is the area of the site of an ancient battleground, is there special protection?**

Councillor J Williams explained that he is the Council's Heritage Champion and there are priorities to move things forward in terms of protecting areas. He informed the resident that more evidence is coming to light and that the issue is regarded as massively important.

11 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee has been advertised as taking place at 6pm, Wednesday 6 March 2019 (Venue TBC)



**Constituency Committee - Wirral South  
Wednesday, 6 March 2019**

<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.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that this committee

- 1) Extend the existing service level agreement with Response to deliver the Wirral South Youth Counselling Service for the period 1 May 2019 to 30 April 2020
  
- 2) Note the content of 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 Current Budget Position (as off 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018)

Table One:

<b>Wirral South Current Budget Picture</b>			
Budget Theme	Current Amount	Projected spend by 31st March 2019	Projected Final Amount 18/19
Core (historic per ward)	£16,450	£12,000	£4,450
Improved Open Spaces	£16,964	£0	£16,964
Social Isolation	£16,500	£16,500	£0
Gaps in Youth Provision	26,700	£11,075	£15,625
Engagement	£6,169	£6,169	£0
Love Wirral (historic per ward)	£9,346	£0	£9,346
Love Where You Live	£22,246	£10,018.40	£12,227.60
Torr Park Section 106	£19,632	£0	£19,632

### 3.2 Social Isolation

#### 3.2.1 Connecting Wirral South - Social Isolation Grants Fund

In October 2018 committee agreed to allocate £15,000 to tackle social isolation in Wirral South. Committee resolved that the £15,000 be allocated to the 'Connecting Wirral South – Social Isolation Fund'.

The fund opened for application in November 2018 and remained open until the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2019 (see image one). The fund allowed community, voluntary and faith groups to apply for up to £3,000 each to address social isolation in Wirral South. At the time of writing this report the received applications were yet to be assessed by a panel of elected members. The

delegated decision and details of the projects funded will be reported to committee verbally, under a separate agenda item.

Image One:

**WIRRAL** Wirral South Constituency

## Connecting Wirral South Social Isolation Fund

The Wirral South Constituency Committee has made **£15k** available to tackle social isolation locally through the 'Connecting Wirral South Social Isolation Fund'.

The fund will allow community, voluntary and faith groups to apply for up to £3,000 each to address social isolation in Wirral South.

The fund is now open and will remain open until **12 noon on Friday 1st February 2019**. Applications will be assessed by a panel of elected members and payments to successful applicants will be made by the 1st of March 2019.

### Grant Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a grant you must be applying on behalf of one of the following organisations or groups below and your project must be based in the Wirral South Constituency area\*:

- Registered Charity or Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- Fully Constituted Community or Voluntary Group (including Parent Teacher Associations)
- Faith Group
- Social Enterprise or CIC

The application form, which includes guidance notes and more information, is available at: [www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/neighbourhoods/wirral-south-constituency/connecting-wirral-south](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/neighbourhoods/wirral-south-constituency/connecting-wirral-south).

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Shannon Kennedy on **0151 666 3076** or [shannonkennedy@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:shannonkennedy@wirral.gov.uk).

\*The Wirral South Constituency area covers the wards of Bebington, Bromborough, Clatterbridge, Eastham and Heswall.

### 3.2.2 Eastham Connects

Since the committee last met in October 2018 Eastham Connects has held a further event. The event took place on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of November in St David's Church Hall on Mill Park Drive. Various Christmas crafts were on offer and once again there was a strong turn out from the local community.

### 3.2.3 Christmas Together

The Wirral South Christmas Together initiative once again took place in December 2018. In this most recent initiative:

- Four venues were involved
- £930 worth of funding was allocated
- Over 230 individuals were engaged with (67 of which were previously unknown to project partners)
- 66 volunteers were involved (21 of which had not volunteered on the initiative before)

### 3.3 Gaps in Youth Provision

3.3.1 Table two outlines the level of service engagement at the time of writing this report (based upon the last available quarterly report Aug-Oct).

Table Two:

Area	Counselling	Waiting to be seen	Counselling ended	Attended drop in so far
Heswall	2	0	0	No drop-in
Bebington	3	2	1	7
Eastham	3	4	1	3

3.3.2 At committee in October 2018 it was resolved to “Begin the process to re-commission the Wirral South Youth Counselling Service to ensure the service continues at the end of the current service level agreement period, ending on 30 April 2019”. Following advice from colleagues in procurement it was not deemed necessary to go through a formal commissioning exercise to extend the existing service level agreement (SLA). The reason for this is that the SLA is currently delivered by an internal partner and as such extending it does not need to be put back out to tender (see recommendation one)

### 3.4 Improved Open Spaces

#### 3.4.1 The Chase

Since committee in October the neighbourhoods' team for Wirral South have been liaising with elected members for Clatterbridge and colleagues in Wirral's Parks team to produce a viable plan of improvements for The Chase Recreation Ground. Plans are currently being developed by the responsible landscape architect that will see a host of useful improvements installed. Improvement work is not likely to take place until the spring and as such the associated budget will need to be carried over into 2019/20. It is envisaged that these improvements will act as a conduit to engage further with local residents, in the hope of establishing a friends group.

#### 3.4.2 Torr Park

Work continues to install agreed improvement works at this location. Once again it is not envisaged that the desired works can occur until the spring and as such the relevant budget may need to be carried over into 2019/20

#### 3.4.3 New Ferry Park

Final spend has been agreed at this location and it is hoped the associated works will occur prior to the end of the municipal year. It has not been possible (at this stage) to establish a friends group but work in the area will continue towards that aspiration moving forward.

### 3.5 Wirral South Clean Up Funds

#### 3.5.1 Environmental Action Days

So far two environmental actions days have taken place, one in New Ferry in October 2018 and one in Bebington (Town Lane Estate) in December 2018. At the time of writing this report the next scheduled events are:

- Bromborough – The Rake, 12 March 2019
- Eastham – The Dales, 13 March 2019
- Clatterbridge – To be confirmed
- Heswall – Shrewsbury Road/Gorsehill Road, date to be confirmed

### 3.5.2 Love Where You Live Fund

The Love Where You Live Fund closed for applications at noon on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. In total eleven applications were received. The Love Where You Live Assessment Panel met on Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2019. The panel consisted of:

- Chair Cllr Irene Williams
- Cllr Phil Gilchrist
- Cllr Mary Jordan
- Cllr Christina Muspratt

The panel reached a delegated decision to fund all received applications (see Appendix One), although one application (Eastham Archive Group) was given a conditional offer, subject to receipt of further information. All successful application payments come to a total of £5018.40. At the time of writing this report, all payments (apart from the one detailed above) have been made.

## **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 Management 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.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 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.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 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: Love Where You Live Fund; Successful Applications**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NA

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Wirral South Constituency Committee</b>	<b>4 Oct 2018</b>

## Appendix One: Love Where You Live Fund; Successful Applications

ORGANISATION NAME	PROJECT NAME	APPLYING FOR	TOTAL PROJECT COST	EXTRA FUNDING FROM?	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Autism Together (For PSRP)	Biodiversity Improvements	£500.00	£500.95	Friends Group	Hire a tree surgeon to thin out an area to make it more habitable for new trees and local wildlife
Brighter Bebington	Brighter Bebington	£500.00	£750.00	Pre-raised funds	Replanting and replacing compost of village planters, troughs on barrier around new Christmas tree as well as small bushes and bulbs
Bromborough Village Community Association	Preparing for Summer	£155.00	£155.00	N/A	Growing plug plants in the village to keep costs down in the future
Eastham Archive Group	Time-Team Eastham	£500.00	£500.00	N/A	Putting in new display boards with information on for visitors to Eastham Country Park
Friends of Benty Hey Woods	Revival of Benty Hey Wood Community Orchard	£500.00	£604.00	Private donation	Providing three raised beds at wheelchair height to put fruit bushes in
Friends of Dawstone Park	Dawstone Park Seats	£500.00	£3,500.00	Donations from members, the public and fundraising events	Replacing broken or damaged benches in the park. Grant would go towards one in centre of park
Heswall In Bloom	Blooming Buses!	£500.00	£583.70	Funds raised locally	Put planters over railings at bus station to brighten the area
Friends of Mayer Park	Restore the Ormorod Drill Hall Memorial	£500.00	£500.00	N/A	Restore the memorial commemorating the Lad Brigade Drill Hall
Port Sunlight Village Trust (on behalf of Bridge Cottage)	Reconnecting with our recent past	£500.00	£2,000.00	Community fundraising	Repair broken mosaic marking placement of time capsule and hang in Bridge Cottage, as well as replacing mosaic with sustainable marker of time capsule
Sustrans Volunteers	Wirral South Sustrans	£500.00	£579.74	Community fundraising	Providing transport for tools so that more volunteer task days can take place to maintain Wirral cycle paths
Wirral Countryside Volunteers	Apple tree crafting and hedge bank enhancement	363.4	363.4	N/A	Host an apple crafting workshop at New Ferry Butterfly Park and plant more hedges on the hedge bank habitat



## Constituency Committee - Wirral South Wednesday, 6 March 2019

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

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report details progress to date following the co-opting of five Community Representatives (Com Reps) to the Wirral South Constituency Committee (WSSC) on 15 October 2015 and since the previous committee on 4th October 2018. This report also highlights 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:

- 1) The Chair liaises with the appropriate Council officers to ensure that the resolutions approved in the Com Rep report in November are actioned as a priority.

## **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 Alternative options were considered for direct community representation during the initial formation of the Wirral South Constituency Committee.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **3.1 COLLABORATIVE NOTE FROM COM REPS**

The Com Reps regret the demise of the Constituency Committees, particularly Wirral South Constituency Committee.

Unfortunately, from day one, the Com Reps believe the Constituency Committees did not receive the leadership or support they merited over a number of years by elected members and senior officers within the Council.

We, as Com Reps, are proud of our achievements over the last 5 years and the way we have “worked together” and with elected members in supporting our communities’ needs and aspirations. We also believe that elected members and officers of this committee have strived to make this model work, with some notable successes achieved by putting political differences aside for the good of the wider community.

However, we must reiterate the frustration, disappointment and concerns over the lack of progress in developing a Wirral wide strategic Neighbourhood Development Plan, which was approved by Cabinet in October 2015. This plan clearly embraced the principle of empowering locally by giving power and local responsibility to communities, and tailoring public services to meet the unique needs of local areas and neighbourhoods, but was never progressed further.

Empowering locally can only be done if “working together” is all inclusive with the desire to concentrate more on joint contribution with active participation as equals. We know it will be difficult but in view of this the Com Reps have decided to continue to “work together” going forward on improved community engagement and neighbourhood working.

#### **4.0 BEBINGTON WARD REPORT**

No report was submitted

#### **5.0 BROMBOROUGH WARD REPORT**

##### **5.1 NEW FERRY**

##### **5.1.1 Repercussions from the March 2017 explosion:**

Revised figures of the number of people injured have been released. Not only did victims end up in hospital on the night, others attended their GPs in the days afterwards with a variety of injuries which they didn't want to spend hours at A&E waiting to be seen for. The official number of those "physically injured" is now 81 as quoted in the court hearing recently.

The court case against Pascal Blasio was abandoned on Friday 1st February when the jury failed to reach a verdict. It was immediately announced, however, that it would go to a retrial with a new jury starting on Monday 23rd September. This may have repercussions for businesses and residents who had previously reported that their insurance companies have continued to drag their feet with regard to payouts; although the Council has offered to mediate with insurers where this has been an issue.

The Town Team has handed over the remainder of the monies donated to New Ferry (£8,088) to Community Action Wirral to administer. It is to be distributed amongst the traders who continue to be badly affected after the explosion, and application forms are being distributed shortly.

Several residents of the severely damaged properties at Underley Terrace and at the corner of Port Sunlight Village moved back into their homes just prior to Christmas. The last residents able to move back will be doing so in the coming weeks.

##### **5.1.2 Christmas Lights and Market:**

The Christmas Lights were repaired (with funding raised at the summer festival in the park) and the lights erected for free by North West Construction. A Christmas tree was also provided by the Council, for which the community was most grateful.

The New Ferry CLT, together with the Residents' Association and Traders' Association, held the first New Ferry Christmas Market on the second Saturday in December - on the same day as the Farmers' Market. Unfortunately, the extremely windy weather wrecked plans to hold the market in the precinct as planned, but the event was successfully relocated on the morning to inside the PHAB Community Hub (former Co-op building). Although half of the traders who promised to come stayed away because of the weather, all but one of the twelve traders who came were happy with the attendance and their takings, and said they would return to another event if it were to be held.

### **5.1.3 Regeneration Plans:**

The Council put the latest plans for regenerating New Ferry on public display on 30th and 31st January. From the feedback I am aware of (mostly comments on Facebook) and from the Traders' Association at its meeting on 5th February, reaction to the plans were mixed. There was almost universal agreement that residential development is much welcomed, but there was alarm from many traders about the scale of proposed reduction in car parking spaces. In the case of Woodhead Street Car Park which currently has 176 spaces, this would be reduced to between 45 spaces or 0 spaces. Many found this alarming, as the provision of parking spaces elsewhere around the district centre was not convincing, and the BDP representatives confessed that this would mostly be taken up by the residents of the 90 or so apartments to be built in the plans.

There was also some concern that the plans indicated no new or replacement retail space, particularly on the site of the former furniture store or the block opposite where many businesses including Lan's House Chinese Restaurant had previously stood. Some of those businesses lost want to move back (Lan's House, the Complete Works Dance School) but there are currently no premises in New Ferry suitable for them; whilst the new plans as presented had taken no account of this and there was no provision for building replacement premises for them. Not all the traders want to see new retail space created as they fear that businesses similar to their own could arrive and threaten their individual viability. However, they subsequently said that if any new space was provided, preventing businesses similar to those already here was imperative.

The existing businesses in New Ferry are still suffering a major downturn in footfall and takings since the explosion. For many this remains as much as 60% of times before the explosion. Although the influx of 90 or so new residential homes will be welcomed, this will not be enough to make the businesses sustainable. Most people will travel to the Croft (Asda, M&S) and only rely on New Ferry's shops for the forgotten loaf of bread, pint of milk, etc.

The district centre needs to attract new customers from further afield who choose to come to New Ferry; and for that, creating space for some new businesses is a necessity. New businesses will not currently come to New Ferry because of the poor quality and small size of the current building stock; owners are reluctant to refurbish their buildings, expecting new tenants to pay for refurbishment themselves. In New Ferry's dilapidated buildings, this means new heating, new electrics, replacing 1950's meagre kitchen facilities, and bringing toilets (currently in the back yards) actually inside the buildings! Nobody wants to rent a shop for their new business in the 21st century that resembles a relic of the late 19th century.

Therefore, the mantra of "it has so many empty shops it should be allowed to shrink" is unfair and irrelevant. One size does not fit all! If New Ferry had bright, newly created shops of varying sizes on the substantial sites created by the explosion on Bebington Road, these would represent the best opportunity New Ferry has had in generations to attract new businesses which it currently needs in order to rebuild its district centre. Without this new

retail investment, the district centre will continue to contract - threatening the jobs of 75 people in the precinct alone.

The community will be presenting its own plan to the Council which accommodates the requirement to bring a minimum of 85 new homes to New Ferry, whilst retaining a car park at Woodhead Street capable of providing 70 spaces, and allowing for some new and replacement retail/commercial space.

#### **5.1.4 New Ferry Community Land Trust:**

With the prospect of £500k of money coming to New Ferry through the Town Centre Investment Fund, it is hoped that some of this can be used to tackle the number of empty shops in the district centre, to purchase and refurbish them to make them suitable for either new businesses or relocation of existing businesses who need to be moved to facilitate the Council's regeneration proposals mentioned above. The vehicle to manage this is currently in the process of being set up - the New Ferry Community Land Trust. A board comprising of local residents and business people has been formed, and a bank account is currently opened.

#### **5.2 BROMBOROUGH VILLAGE**

The village had another successful Christmas. Bromborough Village Community Association (BVCA) replanted all the flower troughs and beds with winter planting; Christmas lights and trees were installed. With close links to St Barnabas Church, they also arranged lights for the institute, café and the Church and grounds. The Christmas Fair held on the 1st December was a great success again – this was linked in with the Church tree festival with entertainment and the Mayor attended – over 2 thousand visitors on that day at the events.

The Friends of Bromborough library are doing very well and are now covering an express library service on Tuesdays and Fridays when it is normally shut – run by volunteers.

Bromborough Village District Centre had a boost with several new shops having opened: a Mediterranean restaurant, 2 x barber shops with 2 other currently empty shops being refurbished ready for new people to set up.

A group of people are trying to set up a Neighbourhood Watch group. Two meetings have been held at the Bromborough Social Club but as yet not a great success.

One issue which the area has had is getting faulty lampposts and fixtures fixed. Since November, despite help by Councillor Irene Williams and Councillor Chris Carubia, nothing appears to have been fixed. Some of the lights and fixtures have not been working for three years and there is growing resentment in the community that other places get their lighting fixed whilst Bromborough is being ignored.

Parking remains an issue in Bromborough. People know there is no one around to enforce things, so vehicles are parking illegally all the time. Local

police pass by but don't appear to be interested and residents have become increasingly disheartened with the matter.

The BVCA spent a lot of time, money and effort highlighting the car park closure issue with a petition being handed in to the local council to hopefully stop any proposals for development on this much needed local resource that is needed by the business community.

## **6.0 CLATTERBRIDGE WARD REPORT**

The Clatterbridge Com Rep has nothing to report.

## **7.0 EASTHAM WARD REPORT**

### **7.1 Eastham Connects:**

The Eastham Connects project aimed at tackling social isolation has been identified as key to a much wider initiative across the borough as identified. The project is a unique bottom-up led community led approach and it has been recognised that it is essential that reducing social isolation is tackled on a locally led basis with the community being at the heart of developing the strategy and being an equal partner in the delivery of agreed approaches and solutions.

The project to tackle social isolation in Eastham has been beneficial in bringing groups and support organisations closer together through joint working and collaboration.

In November, 2018 a "Craft Fair" event was held in St Davids Church, and was organised through a task and finish group from the local steering group. The event was attended by over 70 local residents, and children, with limited funding made available to support the event. Funding for Showcase Events will continue to be an issue going forward as will be the resource requirements to continue to move the Eastham Connects project forward.

### **7.2 Christmas Events:**

Nearly 30 volunteers from St Marys Church, The Delamere Centre and elected members worked together to ensure that 32 local residents enjoyed a Christmas dinner on Christmas Day at the Delamere Centre. Gifts were donated by the public and local businesses and Home Instead Santa to a senior campaign. Everyone also received a food hamper, organised by Eastham Group Practice.

Other Christmas lunches were held in the local community leading up to Christmas, which were attended by over 100 local residents. There was also an organised Christmas party for over 60 children and parents.

## **8.0 HESWALL WARD REPORT**

The Heswall Com Rep had nothing to report.

## 9.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Effective engagement will maximise social return on any constituency investment

## 10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

## 11.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

Increased engagement may result in better use of community assets

## 12.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Failure to engage at a local level may limit the Committee's ability to effectively tackle its priorities.

## 13.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

13.1 Elected members, community representatives and members of the public have the opportunity to participate in all Constituency Committees.

13.2 The neighbourhood working model strengthens the Council's relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.

## 14.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

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## APPENDICES

None

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Wirral South Constituency Committee	4 Oct 2018

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**Wirral South Constituency Committee  
6 March 2019**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT - IMPLEMENTING A NEW MODEL FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Director of Governance &amp; Assurance</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

Following agreement at Council on 10 December 2018, endorsing the recommendation by Cabinet on 26 November 2018, to implement a new model of community engagement commencing in the municipal year 2019/2020 this report describes:

1. the distribution of funding across wards, according to a weighting based upon 75% per head of population, 15% deprivation, 5% under 5 years population and 5% over 75 years population (as set out in Appendix A to this report), and allocations in respect of each Ward Member.
2. The governance arrangements for the process of applications for Ward Member budget funding and; annual review and evaluation.
3. Member support arrangements to aid ward councillors.

In accordance with the recommendations approved by Council the deletion of the provisions of the Constitution relating to Constituency Committees determines that this meeting is the final convergence of the Constituency Committee. Members may therefore also wish to consider arrangements for collaborative working outside of formal governance conditions.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

- Elected members note the process and criteria as set out in the appendices attached to this report and the necessary officer delegations to administer the Ward Member budgets.
- Members consider opportunities for working together.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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

To progress the Council's agreed approach to community engagement and to establish Ward Member budgets as a means of enabling engagement with Wirral's residents.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

A range of options have been considered as part of the development of the new approach and in consultation with Elected Members and other relevant stakeholders.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

During 2017/18 a review took place led by the then Portfolio holder for community engagement. Following consideration, and ongoing consultation with Elected Members, a proposal was approved by Cabinet, at its meeting on 26 November 2018, to implement a new approach to community engagement. This approach is intended to enable a more focussed way to support Members in effective ways of engaging and working with Wirral's residents, businesses and partners – and giving local people a greater stake in community projects.

On 10 December 2018 Council agreed the recommendation of Cabinet:

- 1) *that a budget of £250,000 be distributed across the 22 wards, according to a weighting based upon 75% per head of population, 15% deprivation, 5% under 5 years population and 5% over 75 years population and allocated in respect of each Ward Member;*
- 2) *to delegate authority to the Director for Governance and Assurance to determine applications for Ward Member budget funding;*
- 3) *to delegate to the s151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader, authority to make any necessary changes to the process for awarding money from ward budgets, including changes to the officer responsible for determining applications for ward budget funding;*
- 4) *that there be an annual review and evaluation;*
- 5) *to recommend to the Council the deletion of the provisions of the Constitution relating to Constituency Committees as part of the Council's executive arrangements; and*
- 6) *that the new Ward Member budget model should be implemented in the new Municipal year.*

***Wirral Together Getting the basics right – a new model for community engagement, 26 November 2018***

To implement these recommendations arrangements have been established to ensure effective delivery and robust governance.

### **3.1 WARD BUDGET**

The key principles of how the Ward Member budgets will operate are:

(a) Acting as a catalyst: to equip Councillors to encourage resident-led activities that become autonomous and self-sustaining.

(b) Community leadership as a process not a transaction: while it will sometimes be beneficial to help resident-led initiatives get off the ground through seed funding, the Ward Member budgets are not exclusively a seed fund. The intention is that they are also used to support the process of community leadership, a process that involves bringing residents together, identifying priorities and developing resident-led solutions. The process of community leadership can potentially reach a wider range of community groups and inspire a greater number of autonomous community initiatives, than could be supported through the Ward Member budget used exclusively as a seed fund.

(c) A strategic, evidence based approach: Councillors need to be equipped to use their Ward Member budgets in a strategic way and focus on the most important issues in their wards. Councillors will have access to ward profiles and other sources of information about the pattern of need in their wards. They also need to have as much information as possible about the community assets within their wards – the community groups, networks of support and community champions that Councillors may look to lead, bring together and invite to develop new initiatives. The Ward Member budgets will enable Councillors to commission additional information gathering, surveys and asset mapping where it is required.

(d) By using the Ward Member budget to support a strategic process of community leadership, Councillors can seek and draw out initiatives where funding would be most valuable and then help to deliver a successful application. Those initiatives should be clearly linked to the Wirral 2020 plans to protect the most vulnerable, drive economic growth and improve the environment.

(e) Flexibility: Ward Member budgets should be flexible enough to enable different approaches to community leadership to take place in different wards. Members will be able to determine whether they work together within wards, across wards, and within, or across constituency boundaries.

The amount of funding allocated to local areas has increased to £250,000 across 22 wards. The amount allocated to each ward across Wirral has been determined using a formula based upon 75% per head of population, 15% deprivation, 5% under 5 years population and 5% over 75 years population. The allocation for each ward is included in Appendix A.

### **3.2 FUNDING APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS**

It is important that Ward Member budget activity is clearly communicated and transparent. Appendices B and C include the process, criteria and the necessary officer delegations to administer the Ward Member budgets.

Communications may produce feature articles on Ward Member budget projects using the Council's normal channels. Communications support to engage individual communities will be available through the use of local social media and website channels. The costs of any locally requested materials (posters or leaflets) would need to be paid for out of Ward Member budgets and will be sourced through the Council's procurement sources.

The impact and outcomes of the work and investments carried out at ward level through this funding will be reported annually through Council. Each elected member will be required to produce a report detailing where the money has been spent, and the impact it has made. These reports can be aggregated where Members have chosen to work together as a Ward or bigger footprint.

### **3.3 MEMBER SUPPORT**

Dedicated officer support will continue to be provided to directly support councillors in this approach aligned to the knowledge and existing relationships established as part of the Constituency Committee structure. This will include support to work alongside local communities, the process for considering and allocating ward budgets and developing local projects with local people and stakeholder organisations. Appendix D details the Officer support for each ward area.

### **3.4 WORKING TOGETHER**

This approach enables Members to work in a way that responds to their local community and Ward Member budgets provide an opportunity for Councillors to help foster community cohesion in local areas by encouraging different communities to work together to identify priorities and develop resident-led solutions to local issues.

Ward councillors therefore may choose to engage with their community singly, on a ward or area basis or through shared meetings on the continuing boundaries as they wish. Following dissolution of the Constituency Committee Members may wish to agree an approach to working within and across boundaries.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

A total annual budget of £250,000 has been allocated to be apportioned at ward level, with a third of each ward budget aligned to each Ward Member weighted by population in each ward, deprivation and those communities that are most vulnerable and which have the greatest contact with Council services.

Safeguards against inappropriate expenditure will be put in place, with officers authorising expenditure against the guidance provided

## **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Council has a discretionary power of general competence under s1 of the Localism Act 2011 which allows it to do anything that an individual can do, including the power to do anything for the benefit of the authority, the Wirral Borough area or persons resident or present in the area.

Decisions about the allocation of Ward Member budgets cannot be delegated either individually or collectively to Members per ward of the authority and therefore an officer will need to make decisions on awarding money these budgets on recommendations from ward councillors, based on the criteria set out in the attached appendices.

Ward-Member budgets comprise Council funds and must be spent in accordance with the relevant constitutional, financial and procurement rules.

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

Officer support will be dedicated to Ward Members to enable the implementation of this new approach. Appendix D outlines how staff will be aligned to ward councillors.

## **8.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

Funding is used inappropriately and not in line with the guidance. This risk will be mitigated by ensuring there is officer sign-off of any planned expenditure. Additionally, an annual report will be produced each year, and published detailing how the investment has been used and the impact it has made.

Communities are not engaged. Ward Members will be supported by the Member Support Team to support effective engagement with communities. This can take whatever appropriate form is relevant to local areas. Communications support will also be provided to ensure local communities are aware of events and opportunities in their areas.

## **9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

The recommendations included within this report have been informed by extensive engagement with a range of partners, led by Cllr Patrick, to explore how the Council and partners work with local people to deliver the Wirral Plan.

Commencing in Spring 2017, insight was gathered from stakeholders, including local residents, ward Members, community, voluntary and faith sector organisations, public service partner organisations and Council staff.

Surveys, interviews, focus groups and workshops were used to gather information which explored the challenges and opportunities for the Council and partners to work effectively with communities. The findings from this work were presented to all four Constituency Committees across Wirral in March 2018.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

An impact assessment relating to this model can be found at the link below:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impactassessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017/business>

It found that Ward Member budgets provide an opportunity for Councillors to help foster community cohesion in local areas by encouraging different communities to work together to identify priorities and develop resident-led solutions to local issues.

The EqIA identified a number of potential risks around the introduction of Ward Member budgets but also found that there is adequate mitigation in place to address these risks, such as equalities training for Councillors, support from the Council Communications team, a transparent process for distributing funds, and control in the form of senior officer confirmation of spending.

The EqIA recommended that an annual review be carried out to monitor the cumulative impact of Ward Member budgets and the effectiveness of any mitigation measures put in place.

### **REPORT AUTHORS:**

**Fergus Adams, Constituency Manager**

### **APPENDICES**

**Appendix A:** Ward Member Budget Allocations

**Appendix B:** Guidance on Ward Member Budgets

**Appendix C:** Ward Member Budget Application Form

**Appendix D:** Officer Support by Ward

## APPENIX A – WARD MEMBER BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

**Note:** these allocations have been calculated on the basis of data available at November 2018 and are therefore indicative. They will be re-calculated for each new Municipal year from 2019/20 onwards to ensure none of the underlying weighting figures have changed and to agree the final allocation within the Council's budget.

Ward	Weighted Allocation <sup>1</sup>	Individual Ward Member budget allocation
Bidston and St James	14,009	4,670
Birkenhead and Tranmere	15,161	5,054
Cloughton	11,667	3,889
Oxton	10,374	3,458
Prenton	10,885	3,628
Rock Ferry	12,772	4,257
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,868</b>	

Ward	Weighted Allocation	Individual Ward Member budget allocation
Leasowe and Moreton East	11,851	3,950
Liscard	12,639	4,213
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	10,420	3,473
New Brighton	11,561	3,854
Seacombe	13,856	4,619
Wallasey	10,671	3,557
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70,999</b>	

Ward	Weighted Allocation	Individual Ward Member budget allocation
Bebington	11,301	3,767
Bromborough	12,101	4,034
Clatterbridge	10,195	3,398
Eastham	10,331	3,444
Heswall	9,278	3,093
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53,206</b>	

Ward	Weighted Allocation <sup>2</sup>	Individual Ward Member budget allocation
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	9,739	3,246

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<sup>1</sup>75% per capita; 15% deprivation; 5% under 5 years population; 5% over 75 years population

Hoylake and Meols	9,502	3,167
Pensby and Thingwall	9,574	3,191
Upton	13,128	4,376
West Kirby and Thurstaston	8,984	2,995
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,927</b>	

## **Appendix B: Guidance on Ward Member Budgets**

### **DRAFT Subject to amendment**

Ward Member budgets are designed to act as a catalyst to encourage resident led activities that are autonomous and self-sustaining. Who should receive funds from Ward Member budgets?

Local community organisations, charities, statutory bodies (e.g. the police), businesses and sole traders can receive funds, either separately or in partnership. Ward Member budgets cannot be used to support any kind of political activity.

How will funds be awarded?

Ward Councillors, working together, will be responsible for agreeing proposals to be put forward for approval for the award of funding. Ward Members may wish to do this in different ways and will have the flexibility to do this in the way that best suits their ward.

Some suggestions are:

- Ward Councillors may wish to agree priorities, perhaps in consultation with the local community, at the start of the year and invite applications that will further that agenda (for instance, a focus on enhancing local high streets, or tackling social isolation).
- Ward Councillors may wish to maintain more flexibility and adopt a combination of seeking community groups to take forward specific initiatives, or to maintain complete flexibility to allow anyone to come forward with a proposition in line with the general aims of the ward budget.
- The frequency with which decisions are made on spending of the budget is for Ward Councillors to determine – and could be annual, quarterly or monthly, for instance. If awards are to be made at specific periods during the year, Councillors will wish to weigh up the benefits of speediness of decision making versus ensuring that the budget is not all spent within the first few months of the year.

What are the criteria for awarding funds from Ward Member budgets?

In order to ensure that there is transparency and clarity, it is suggested that a standard template is used across wards, and this will be provided.

Successful applications must:

- improve the well being of the local community in Wirral Borough, or its environment or economy, and be linked to the themes of the Wirral Plan (protecting the most vulnerable, driving economic growth, and improving the environment)
- be one off expenditure with no expectation of future funding
- be a minimum of £250, for applications from external organisations.

- (Applications from Ward Members, such as for room hire and printing, will not be subject to a minimum) and be for revenue or capital expenditure.

Examples of applications that are likely to meet the criteria are:

- providing access to tools for a community garden or impacting positively on resident engagement
- providing seed or match funding for a larger scale project. For example to help fund the painting of shop frontages in a particular street.
- funding to be used to engage a particular part of the community on a specific issue.
- funding to support ongoing and regular ward or community engagement and development
- Ward Member budgets can be used to fund joint projects between two or more wards providing each Member has identified the project as something that would benefit residents in all the participating wards.

Ward Member budgets cannot be used for the following purposes:

- Projects that would adversely impact the local community or environment
- Projects that would undermine Council approved priorities
- To fund existing, changing or decommissioned Council services
- To fund the mainstream activities of a commercial [or voluntary sector?] organisation.
- To fund retrospective applications (e.g., equipment etc., cannot be purchased and then an application submitted)
- Projects that are political in nature or campaign against the Council or its agreed priorities or funding for lobbying
- Must not have on-going revenue or capital implications
- Projects or proposals that would be unlawful for the Council to support

How will decisions about applications be made and when?

A named officer will have the delegated decision making authority to approve applications for money from Ward Member budgets. Members will make their recommendations on the spending of the Ward Member budgets to the named officer. Members are expected to make recommendations that meet all of the above criteria for awarding Ward Member budget spending. The named officer should then be able to agree spending without further information. The decision of the named officer will be final and is not subject to appeal. Unspent Ward Member budgets will not be rolled forward to the following financial year without Cabinet consent.

The decision making process

- Councillors, residents and organisations make applications
- Ward Member(s) determine which applications they recommend to be funded
- A final formal decision on spend is made by the named officer
- The Ward Member(s) is (are) notified of decisions
- Applicants are notified of decisions

- Funding is released and projects commence
- A list of all projects and spend will be published on a web-page

What rules apply to spending Ward Member budget funds?

Ward Member budget funds are public money and so the same rules apply as would apply to any other council spending. All spending is subject to the Council's Constitution, Contract Standing Orders and Financial regulations, as well as the appropriate scrutiny and accountability.

The Council will not be putting resources into checking that projects supported by a Ward Member budget have been delivered. There is an element of trust between the Ward Members and the applicant to ensure that the money is spent in accordance with the application. If Members believe at any point that the funds awarded have been used for different purposes than those applied for, they should notify the named officer who will make a decision on the most appropriate course of action. Ward Councillors must consider and identify any potential conflicts of interest in relation to proposals they are supporting.



signature/e-sign		signature/e-sign		signature/e-sign	
date:		date:		date:	

Approval / Declined		date:
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Please complete the following pages clearly and completely. Any omission may delay and in some cases disapprove the application.

### Proposal:-

Please explain what you are proposing to do, how much you are requesting and detail how the money will be spent. A full breakdown of proposed spending is necessary, including any VAT.

### Criteria:-

Please indicate how this application meets the ward budget criteria. Successful applications must:

- improve the well being of the local community in the Borough, or its environment or economy;
- be one off expenditure with no expectation of future funding;
- be for a minimum of £250 for applications from external organisations (Applications from Ward Members, such as for room hire and printing, will not be subject to a minimum).

If your application for ward budget funding is part of a larger project please explain how much will come from other sources and what those other sources are.

List any attached documents you are supplying in support of your project:

Certification by applicant (please ensure all fields are filled in):-

All necessary consents/insurance or permissions are in place	Yes	No
If not, please provide reasons and when it will be in place		

Please confirm that none of the prohibitions below applies			Yes	No
<p>Ward budgets <b>cannot</b> be used for the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Projects that would adversely impact the local community or environment like for example funding a parade for a socially excluded body</li> <li>■ Projects that would undermine council approved priorities</li> <li>■ To fund existing, changing or decommissioned council services</li> <li>■ To fund the core activities of a commercial or voluntary sector organisation.</li> <li>■ To fund retrospective applications (e.g. equipment etc cannot be purchased and then an application submitted)</li> <li>■ Projects that are political in nature or campaign against the council or its agreed priorities or funding for lobbying</li> <li>■ Must not have on going revenue or capital implications</li> <li>■ Projects/proposals that would be unlawful for the council to support</li> </ul>				

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the entries on this application form are true, accurate and complete.

I confirm that I am authorised to sign this application form on behalf of the organisation or group named within this application form.

		signature/e-sign
date:		

### Appendix D: Officer Support by Ward

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Senior Manager</b>	<b>Engagement Officer</b>
Bidston and St James	Jo Burrell	Andy Brannan
Birkenhead and Tranmere	Jo Burrell	Andy Brannan
Claughton	Jo Burrell	Andy Brannan
Oxton	Jo Burrell	Andy Brannan
Prenton	Jo Burrell	Andy Brannan
Rock Ferry	Jo Burrell	Andy Brannan

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Senior Manager</b>	<b>Engagement Officer</b>
Leasowe and Moreton East	Caroline Laing	Michelle Gray
Liscard	Caroline Laing	Michelle Gray
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	Caroline Laing	Michelle Gray
New Brighton	Caroline Laing	Michelle Gray
Seacombe	Caroline Laing	Michelle Gray
Wallasey	Caroline Laing	Michelle Gray

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Senior Manager</b>	<b>Engagement Officer</b>
Bebington	Fergus Adams	Shannon Kennedy
Bromborough	Fergus Adams	Shannon Kennedy
Clatterbridge	Fergus Adams	Shannon Kennedy
Eastham	Fergus Adams	Shannon Kennedy
Heswall	Fergus Adams	Shannon Kennedy

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Senior Manager</b>	<b>Engagement Officer</b>
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	Jo Burrell	Helen Gallagher
Hoylake and Meols	Caroline Laing	Helen Gallagher
Pensby and Thingwall	Fergus Adams	Helen Gallagher
Upton	Fergus Adams	Helen Gallagher
West Kirby and Thurstaston	Fergus Adams	Helen Gallagher

