

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

30TH OCTOBER 2013

SUBJECT:	DEVELOPING WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY PRIORITIES AND BUDGET EXPENDITURE PROCESS FOR 2013-14
WARD/S AFFECTED:	WARDS WITHIN THE WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ GREASBY, FRANKBY AND IRBY▪ HOYLAKE AND MEOLS▪ PENSBY AND THINGWALL▪ WEST KIRBY AND THURSTASTON▪ UPTON AND WOODCHURCH
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

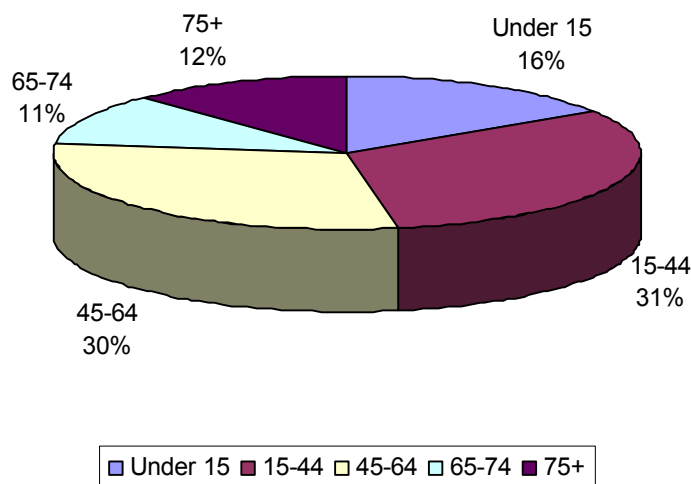
- 1.1 The report to Cabinet of the 23rd May 2013 setting out the proposed operating model for neighbourhood working included a proposal “that the primary role and function of the Constituency Committee will be to develop and agree a Constituency Plan for the area. This Constituency Plan will draw on robust data, including feedback from previous consultations, and the knowledge, expertise and experience of all Ward Members, partners and community groups as well as the Constituency Committee members themselves.”
- 1.2 As part of the same report, it was stated that the agreed devolution of £200,000 identified in the Council’s budget for 2013-14 for the constituency working model would be allocated on the basis of £50,000 per constituency area to ‘kickstart’ work on the new model with a focus on tackling inequalities. A more recent report to Cabinet (10th October 2014) agreed a further amount of £100,000 (£25,000 per area) to be devolved to the Constituency Committees for public health initiatives from a non-recurrent underspend identified within the public health grant for 2013-15. The Wirral West Constituency Committee is therefore being asked to determine expenditure in relation to a total of £75,000 by the end of the 2013-14 financial year.
- 1.3 This report sets out considerations and proposes an approach to identifying priorities for the remainder of 2013-14 for the Wirral West Constituency Committee and for developing a budget expenditure process in respect of the monies that have been allocated to the Constituency Committee.

2.0 CONSIDERATIONS – WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY PRIORITIES

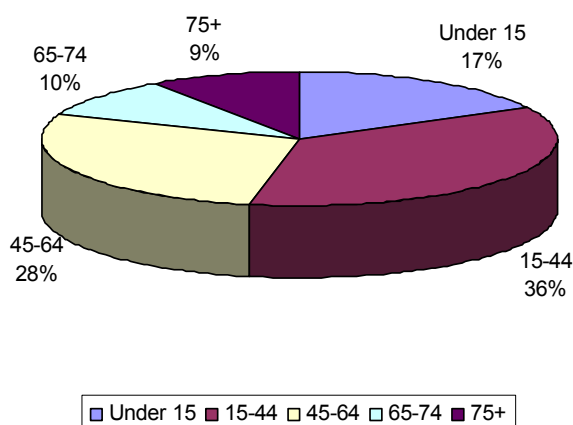
- 2.1 Neighbourhood Plans relating to the Council's 11 Area Forum areas were produced by the Council in 2011 further to a public consultation exercise. For those areas within the Wirral West constituency 'footprint' these plans highlighted a range of local issues, including:
- Neighbourhood issues (for example, anti-social behaviour; activities for children and young people; dog fouling, street cleansing);
 - Road maintenance and road safety;
 - Availability of and access to employment, training and skills opportunities;
 - Access to health and social care provision.
- 2.2 A workshop held with Wirral West councillors in July reaffirmed that these overarching issues are still valid whilst recognising that some of the detail may have changed. This workshop was as a key opportunity to gather the knowledge, expertise and experience of all West Wirral councillors regarding current priorities and needs of the Wirral West area.
- 2.3 Since taking up post in July, the Constituency Manager has engaged with local groups, councillors, Council services and partners to explore and discuss issues for the Wirral West area further to the initial points raised by councillors at the workshop mentioned in 2.1 and the content of the earlier Neighbourhood Plans. This engagement has highlighted:
- Resident concerns about a range of streetscene issues and maintaining the local environment given the backdrop of the Council's financial challenges;
 - The impact of the Open returning to Hoylake in 2014 and the proposals for a golf resort;
 - Finding further ways of encouraging local employment opportunities, e.g. mentoring or work experience for younger people;
 - Ensuring that there is focus on working together to maximise diversionary activities for young people to prevent anti-social behaviour;
 - Ensuring that access to health and other services for older people and those who are vulnerable is effective and takes into account the support available from other organisations;
 - The role that the community currently plays in delivering solutions and maximising local assets in all areas of Wirral West and has the potential to further develop, whilst recognising that accessing funding and other support is challenging.
- 2.4 Work is also being undertaken by the Public Health Intelligence Team to develop detailed profiles for each constituency area. The Wirral West constituency profile will be made available to support the approach proposed in section 4.0 of this report and

the development of a longer-term Constituency Plan for 2014 onwards. The profile will provide an up to date starting point for assessing local needs in Wirral West, and any particular challenges or disadvantages faced by communities in the constituency area. An example of the type of analysis that will be included in the profile is provided overleaf in respect of comparing the population breakdown for Wirral West to Wirral overall. This shows a number of differences, e.g. that the older population in Wirral West is proportionately higher than Wirral as a whole.

Wirral West Constituency Population Breakdown



Wirral Population Breakdown



2.5 As well as the constituency profile developed by Public Health, work will also be undertaken to ensure that data used by partners to set their priorities is made available to support the further discussions of the Constituency Committee and the proposed approach set out in 4.0 of this report.

3.0 CONSIDERATIONS - BUDGET EXPENDITURE PROCESS

3.1 As set out in 1.2 above, the Wirral West Constituency Committee is being asked to determine expenditure in relation to a total of £75,000 by the end of the 2013-14 financial year.

3.2 Based on initial feedback from councillors, there are a number of principles that will be key to determining a budget expenditure process relating to these monies, i.e. that:

- Expenditure should be determined in line with clearly identified priorities;
- Ideas and views from the community and members of the Constituency Committee as to how these priorities should be addressed and what activities should take place should be integral to the process;
- The process put in place should be straightforward and robust, with a focus on quality assurance and a clear criteria for assessing the suitability of any proposals made;
- Taking into account the need for good governance, transparency and accountability, consideration should be given as to whether a small proportion of the monies available should be allocated on a more flexible basis, i.e. to solve local issues in a very responsive, timely way.

3.3 It is also recognised that the Council has experience and learning to build on in respect of previous approaches to allocating Area Forum funding and this will be taken into account. It is also proposed that elements of best practice and what works elsewhere will be helpful in developing the budget process, and in ensuring community involvement.

4.0 PROPOSED APPROACH

4.1 Further to the consideration of the information set out in sections 2 and 3 of this report, councillors are asked to consider the following options for developing Wirral West constituency priorities and the budget expenditure process for 2013-14, i.e. that either:

4.1.1 A workshop session is scheduled for all councillors on the Wirral West Constituency Committee, and other stakeholders as appropriate e.g. prospective community representatives and partners, to discuss the constituency profile, priorities for the remainder of 2013-14 and the budget expenditure process and that this forms the basis of recommendations to be discussed at the next formal meeting of the Constituency Committee; or

4.1.2 A smaller 'task and finish' group (one member per ward and 2 prospective community representatives, supported by the Constituency Manager and partners acting in an advisory capacity) is established to undertake these discussions and make recommendations to the next formal meeting of the Constituency Committee in December.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

5.1 Community representatives will be part of the Constituency Committees and the voluntary, community and faith sector will be integral to constituency working.

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

6.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to the Wirral West Constituency Committee.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This report has no legal implications.

8.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 A Phase 1 EIA has been completed for the Neighbourhood Working Model and this can be found at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equalitydiversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/corporateservices>

9.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

9.1 This report may have carbon reduction implications dependent on the priorities identified by the Wirral West Constituency Committee.

10.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 This report may have planning and community safety implications dependent on the priorities identified by the Wirral West Constituency Committee.

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Constituency Committee members are asked to:

- Agree that the considerations set out in sections 2 and 3 of this report provide an appropriate starting point for further developing Wirral West constituency priorities and the budget expenditure process for 2013-14;
- Agree their preferred option for undertaking this further development, i.e. that either:
 - A workshop session is scheduled for all councillors on the Wirral West Constituency Committee, and other stakeholders as appropriate e.g. prospective community representatives, to discuss the constituency profile, priorities for the remainder of 2013-14 and the budget expenditure process and that the discussions at this workshop form the basis of recommendations to be discussed at the next formal meeting of the Constituency Committee; or
 - A smaller 'task and finish' group (one member per ward and 2 prospective community representatives, supported by the Constituency Manager and partners acting in an advisory capacity) is established to undertake these discussions and make recommendations to the next formal meeting of the Constituency Committee in December.

11.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

11.1 The recommendation at 11.1 is in respect of taking forward the functions of the Wirral West Constituency Committee in respect of developing a Constituency Plan and in determining budget expenditure allocated to the Committee.

REPORT AUTHOR: Jane Morgan, Constituency Manager (Wirral West)
Telephone: (0151) 691 8318
Email: janemorgan@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

N/A

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council – Budget	5 th March 2013
Cabinet – Neighbourhood Working – Proposed Operating Model	23 rd May 2013
Cabinet – Public Health Outcomes Funding	10 th October 2013