

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WALLASEY CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

11 DECEMBER 2013

SUBJECT:	CONSTITUENCY PRIORITIES AND SPEND
WARD/S AFFECTED:	LEASOWE & MORETON EAST; LISCARD; MORETON WEST & SAUGHALL MASSIE; NEW BRIGHTON; SEACOMBE AND WALLASEY.
REPORT OF:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING & ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report sets out proposed priorities and processes related to spend for Wallasey Constituency Committee for 2013/14.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Further to the first Constituency Committee for Wallasey on 17 October 2013, a 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group has met. This Group consists of six elected members (Cllr Ian Lewis, Cllr Leah Fraser, Cllr Rob Gregson, Cllr Anita Leech, Cllr Adrian Jones and Cllr Pat Hackett), two community representatives (Ken Harrison and Tony Jones) and the Constituency Manager (acting in an advisory capacity).

2.2 This Group considered priorities for 2013/14 from the information available and processes for spend against those priorities. These will be dealt with in turn.

3.0 CONSTITUENCY PRIORITIES

3.1 A range of information was taken into account by the 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group to determine proposed priorities for the Committee to concentrate on this financial year (2013/14). This included reviewing the Neighbourhood Plans (for the six wards that fall within the Constituency), information from partners and the initial Constituency Profile provided by analysts within Public Health.

3.2 After careful consideration, the Task & Finish Group is recommending that the Committee focuses upon the following priorities in 2013/14.

- road maintenance
- road safety
- impact of welfare reforms (including food and fuel poverty and other determinants of health)
- reducing social isolation
- supporting voluntary, community and faith sector groups

3.3 In relation to Public Health funding, which is outlined in 4.6 below, this funding is ring-fenced for tackling one or more priorities from a list of seven that were submitted as part of the bid. The Task & Finish Group recommends that the following five priorities are focused upon for this spend in 2013/14.

- reducing first time entrants into the youth justice system
- reducing 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training
- reducing re-offending levels
- improving older people's perception of community safety
- increasing the proportion of physically active adults.

3.4 The Task & Finish Group takes the view that the remaining two priorities (reducing children in poverty and reducing social isolation) should be impacted upon based on the priorities set out in 3.2 above.

4.0 CONSTITUENCY SPEND

4.1 The Committee has been delegated £50k by the Council for 2013/14; this must be committed by the end of this financial year. Notwithstanding Cabinet's recommendation that this funding is used to tackle inequalities, it is a matter for the Committee how this allocation is spent. Spend in relation to a number of the priorities identified above will help to tackle inequalities.

4.2 The Task & Finish Group has considered this allocation of funding and makes the following proposals in terms of how this is split. This is outlined below:

4.3 Constituency 'Problem Solving Fund'

4.3.1 It is proposed that the Constituency Committee devolves a sum of £5k to the 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group for problem solving within the Constituency.

4.3.2 This will be for low spend items (under £200) that will provide a quick response to issues and/or allow a new approach to be tested that may ultimately improve the Constituency.

4.3.3 Proposed process

4.3.4 It is proposed that the Constituency Manager submits a monthly report to the 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group (this may be by email if this group is not set to meet) outlining proposals for spend. This Group will consider the proposals and either agree, reject or request further information for reconsideration.

4.3.5 The Task & Finish Group will report any decisions made to the next Constituency Committee for noting by members.

4.4 **Constituency 'Small Grants Fund'**

4.4.1 It is proposed that a sum of £15k is set aside for voluntary, community and faith sector groups and 'not for profit' organisations to bid into for amounts up to £500 to help tackle the priorities set out in 3.2 above. It is suggested that this funding opportunity is marketed as 'Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund'. Whilst notwithstanding that this funding will provide financial support to groups, this branding will help to emphasise that the spend is focused upon the provision of activities, projects and/or initiatives by groups that will help tackle the priorities set by the Committee. An Application Form and Terms and Conditions have been shaped and agreed by the Task & Finish Group.

4.4.2 Proposed process

4.4.3 It is proposed that this fund is launched on Friday 20 December 2013, with a closing date of 24 January 2014. As noted at the Constituency Committee on 17 October 2013, the Constituency team is confident that this is sufficient time to advertise widely to groups and organisations that may be interested in submitting a bid.

4.4.4 During the week commencing 27 January 2014, the Constituency team will review all applications. This is with the purpose of filtering any that do not meet the criteria and ensuring the robustness of those that do. In order to ensure that groups that are not skilled in completing bids are not disadvantaged, further information will be sought where needed and groups supported to strengthen applications in terms of their content. The Constituency team will also provide advice and guidance to groups during the bidding process where requested.

4.4.5 During the week commencing 3 February 2014, the 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group will meet to review and discuss all eligible applications and draft recommended allocations for consideration by the Constituency Committee.

4.4.6 On 19 February 2014 a decision will be made by the Constituency Committee regarding the allocation of this spend.

4.4.7 On 27/28 February 2014 the Constituency team will write to all successful applicants with terms and conditions. The Constituency team will write to all unsuccessful applicants with the option to receive feedback.

4.4.8 Following receipt of signed terms and conditions, spend can be undertaken/projects commenced. The Constituency team will monitor spend and provide a report in late 2014/2015 to the Constituency Committee.

4.5 **'Constituency Options' spend**

4.5.1 It is proposed that a sum of £30k is set aside for the Committee to determine spend to help tackle the priorities set out in 3.2 above; this may include for example buying additional services.

4.5.2 Proposed process

4.5.3 Options will be considered by the 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group and recommendations made to the 19 February 2014 Constituency Committee.

4.5.4 On 19 February 2014 a decision will be made by the Constituency Committee regarding the allocation of this spend.

4.6 **Public Health Funding**

4.6.1 The Committee has also been allocated Public Health Funding in the amount of £25k; this must be committed by the end of this financial year.

4.6.2 It is proposed that spend is determined by the Constituency Committee based on the ring-fenced priorities set out in 3.3 above; this may include for example buying additional services.

4.6.3 Proposed process

4.6.4 Options will be considered by the 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group and recommendations made to the 19 February 2014 Constituency Committee.

4.6.5 On 19 February 2014 a decision will be made by the Constituency Committee regarding the allocation of this spend.

4.7 **Love Wirral Grant**

4.7.1 The Constituency area has been allocated £10k Love Wirral funding. This supports a borough wide campaign, launched in June 2013, to encourage people who live, work and visit Wirral to take pride in their local area. The grant scheme is open to applications from individuals, groups, schools and businesses for projects that must improve the appearance of the local environment; for amounts between £20 and £500. This funding launched on 28 October 2013 and closed on 6 December 2013. Eligible projects will be subject to online public voting between 13-24 January 2014.

4.7.2 Proposed process

4.7.3 It is proposed that the 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group meets w/c 3 February 2014 to consider the results of the online voting and make recommendations to the 19 February 2014 Constituency Committee.

4.7.4 On 19 February 2014 a decision will be made by the Constituency Committee regarding the awarding of Love Wirral grants.

5.0 **RELEVANT RISKS**

5.1 Failure to agree a process may result in a loss of funding allocation.

5.2 Processes agreed need to have good governance and be transparent and robust.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Residents were consulted about their priorities in the drafting of the Neighbourhood Plans (2012).
- 7.2 Feedback from communities to elected members has also factored into this priority setting.
- 7.3 Two community representatives are members of the 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 The neighbourhood working model will strengthen the Council's relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.
- 8.2 The proposals contained in this report create an opportunity for voluntary, community and faith groups and 'not-for-profit' organisations to access funding.
- 8.3 Tackling the priorities of the Constituency will benefit communities directly.

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

- 9.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wallasey Constituency Committee.
- 9.2 Funding may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

Yes and impact review can be found at the link below (Progressing Neighbourhood Working).

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

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The funding creates opportunities to encourage the sharing of community assets, therefore supporting carbon reduction.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 Work to tackle the priorities proposed in 3.3 will have a positive impact upon community safety.

14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

14.1 Committee agrees the priorities set out in Section 3 of this report.

14.2 Committee agrees the proposed processes set out in Section 4 of this report.

14.3 The 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group meets w/c 14 January 2014 and w/c 3 February 2014 in order to achieve the timescales set out in this report.

15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

15.1 To enable the work of the Constituency Committee to be focused upon the needs of the local area and spend to be distributed accordingly.

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

None.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet – Neighbourhood Working	24 January 2013
Council – Neighbourhood Working	11 February 2013
Cabinet – Neighbourhood Working – Proposed Operating Model	23 May 2013
Cabinet – Public Health Outcomes Funding	10 October 2013