

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

18 DECEMBER 2013

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|--|---|
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>  | <b>COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE<br/>RECRUITMENT PROCESS UPDATE</b>  |
| <b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b><u>BEBINGTON</u></b></li><li>▪ <b><u>BROMBOROUGH</u></b></li><li>▪ <b><u>CLATTERBRIDGE</u></b></li><li>▪ <b><u>EASTHAM</u></b></li><li>▪ <b><u>HESWALL</u></b></li></ul> |
| <b>REPORT OF:</b>  | <b>CONSTITUENCY MANAGER</b>   |
| <b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO<br/>HOLDER:</b>   | <b>COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES<br/>NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING &amp;<br/>ENGAGEMENT</b>  |
| <b>KEY DECISION?</b> <i>(Defined in<br/>paragraph 13.3 of Article 13<br/>'Decision Making' in the Council's<br/>Constitution.)</i> | <b>NO</b>   |

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report gives an update on the progress of Wirral South Constituency Committee's Community Representative Selection Group.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 On the 23 May 2013 Cabinet agreed that "Each Constituency Committee will have a number of community representatives, able to vote on policy and other matters as determined by the committee (acting in an advisory capacity)." Cabinet also agreed that "Community representatives will play a key role in working with Elected Members to develop priorities for the area and would have voting rights in this respect and other matters as determined by each committee. A generic set of criteria for the selection of community representatives will be developed to ensure that these representatives properly represent constituted groups (minute 250 refers).

2.2 At its meeting on the 21 October the Constituency Committee agreed that “The Constituency Manager be requested to write to Community Groups asking for nominations to be considered for co-option onto the Committee” (minute 6, resolution 2 refers).

2.3 The Constituency Committee also agreed that “The previously cancelled, Community Representative Selection Group, be convened prior to the next meeting of the Committee, to allow any appointments to be co-opted onto the Committee at the Committee’s next meeting...” (minute 6, resolution 3 refers).

### **3.0 PROGRESS SINCE OCTOBER’S COMMITTEE**

3.1 Since the previous Constituency Committee meeting (21 October) further contact has been made with a large number of community organisations throughout the constituency. This was in accordance with section 2.2 above. Said communication resulted in a further 6 community representative applications being submitted. As such the total number of applications received went from 5 to 11.

3.2 On Tuesday 26 November the Community Representative Selection Panel met, In accordance with section 2.3 above. Said Panel is made up of Councillor Phil Gilchrist, Councillor Christina Muspratt, Councillor Cherry Povall, Councillor Les Rowlands (in place of Councillor Andrew Hodson) and Councillor Irene Williams. All were in attendance and as such each electoral ward was represented.

3.3 It was proposed that the recruitment of Community Representatives should not go ahead this financial year based upon a view that the proposed process was not robust enough. It was also proposed that this process should be delayed to allow for successful applicants to be co-opted at the first committee of 2014/15. Said proposal was agreed by all elected members in attendance.

3.4 As such it was agreed that:

- All 11 existing applicants are contacted (as a matter of courtesy) by the constituency team to advise them of the above proposal. This should occur prior to the 18th of December to ensure they are aware of progress
- The existing contact database is sent to those present (broken down into ward) to allow for any additions/comments. This was circulated Monday 9 December with any additions/comments to be received by end of play 17th December.
- The application form is revised and circulated to the selection panel for comments. A set of essential and desirable criteria will also be produced to be used during the recruitment process. This will also be circulated for comments.
- The revised application form should stipulate membership of an existing, recognised community organisation and ask for said organisations to nominate one of their existing members (with signed approval from both group and individual)

3.5 Any decision to delay the appointment of Community Representatives will allow the recruitment process to gain from the proposed Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) work proposed within the constituency for 2014/15 (for further details please see appendix 1: ABCD Briefing Paper).

#### **4.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

4.1 Delay in appointment of Community Representatives may lead to the disengagement of the eleven individuals that have already applied.

#### **5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 To appoint for the remainder of the existing financial year based solely on the information contained in received application forms.

#### **6.0 CONSULTATION**

6.1 Existing applicants have been contacted to discuss progress.

#### **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

7.1 This provides an additional opportunity for groups to shape the work of the Committee.

#### **8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

8.1 This will be delivered within existing resources.

#### **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Neighbourhood working helps the Council to deliver on the Localism Act 2011 and Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

#### **10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 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>

#### **11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 The combining of forums for engagement, where appropriate, will help support carbon reduction.

## **12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 This will impact positively upon community safety and perceptions of community safety.

## **13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

13.1 The Committee agrees that the recruitment of Community Representatives should be delayed to allow for a full review of the process in line with section 3.4 above.

13.2 The Committee agrees that any review in line with section 3.4 above is completed in time to allow for successful applicants to be co-opted at the first committee of 2014/15.

13.3 The Committee notes the content of appendix 1: ABCD Briefing Paper.

## **14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

14.1 To help facilitate public engagement and participation.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** **Fergus Adams**  
Constituency Manager (Wirral South)  
telephone: (0151) 691 8428  
email: [fergusadams@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:fergusadams@wirral.gov.uk)

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

None.

## **APPENDIX 1: Wirral South Asset Based Community Development Briefing Paper**

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

| <b>Council Meeting</b>                                     | <b>Date</b>     |
|--|-----------------|
| Cabinet – Neighbourhood Working – Proposed Operating Model | 23 May 2013     |
| Wirral South Constituency Committee                        | 21 October 2013 |