

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WALLASEY CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

19 FEBRUARY 2014

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 recommendations for spend for 2013/14 made by the 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group, for Wallasey Constituency Committee.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 On 11 December 2013, Wallasey Constituency Committee agreed its priorities for 2013/14 and processes for allocating its budget and funding. This is summarised in Appendix 1 for ease of reference.

2.2 The 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish 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).

2.3 This Group has considered the allocation of spend for 2013/14 and make a number of recommendations below.

3.0 CONSTITUENCY SPEND

3.1 The Task & Finish Group has considered this allocation of funding and recommends the proposals below.

3.2 'Constituency Options' spend (£30k)

3.2.1 Maximisation of disposable income pilot (£15,250)

3.2.2 This proposal is to operate a pilot scheme from Council One Stop Shops based within the Constituency, providing outreach advice delivered by experienced One Stop Shop Advisors three days per week. The Advisors would proactively target members of the public who would benefit from welfare benefits and money advice; through community based surgeries and the use of Council and partner data to target individuals. This project would also test the delivery of a holistic advice package ('Money MOT') to reduce individuals' expenditure through seeking the best energy tariffs, cheaper food shopping, affordable lending, etc. This 12-month pilot would be evaluated and used to inform future service delivery.

3.2.3 Further details are outlined in Appendix 2.

3.2.4 Promotion of WirralWell to help tackle social isolation (£4,750)

3.2.5 This proposal is to increase awareness across the Constituency of WirralWell (www.wirralwell.org), a health and wellbeing service directory operated by Voluntary & Community Action Wirral (VCAW), to help tackle social isolation. This includes marketing and promotion activity within each ward targeted at specific groups and in high footfall areas. By way of example, this may include window displays in empty shops; information in community newsletters (such as the various Messenger publications, WALRUS, etc); small business card size information; pop up information stands; email notifications and other targeted promotion.

3.2.6 Further details are outlined in Appendix 2.

3.2.7 Road maintenance and improving road safety (£10,000)

3.2.8 This proposal is to fund works (that are not listed to be undertaken as part of the Council's Structural Maintenance Programme for 2014/15 or Transportation Capital Programme for 2014/15). Locations will be determined following further discussion with elected members.

3.3 **Constituency Small Grants Fund - 'Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund' (£40k)**

3.3.1 A total of £40k was set aside for bids from voluntary, community and faith groups and not-for-profit organisations. The composition of this funding is set out in Appendix 1.

3.3.2 The fund was launched on 20 December 2013 and closed on 24 January 2014. This funding opportunity was communicated by Council press release; notifications on Twitter and Facebook; electronic bulletins/emails to over 1,100 individuals who signed up to receive information from the Council; leaflets for distribution by Council services and partners; recent Love Wirral applicants; over 100 groups recorded in the Constituency's List of Facilities & Organisations and through community representatives and elected members.

3.3.3 Drop-in surgeries for advice and guidance were conducted in each ward by the Constituency's Engagement Officer. In total 23 groups/not-for-profit organisations attended these sessions and received support with their applications. Additional

one-to-one support in person, via telephone and/or email was provided to 20 applicants.

- 3.3.4 36 groups/not-for-profit organisations made applications to Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund. Two groups withdrew their respective applications following submission. The chart below sets out the ways in which applicants reported that they found out about the funding.

Communication method	Number
Email	16
Local paper	3
Council officer	3
Drop-in session	2
Word of mouth	2
Twitter	2
Police Community Support & Traffic Officer	1
Housing Association (Registered Provider)	1
Council website	1
Elected member	1
Council mailing list	1
Leaflet	1
Letter	1

- 3.3.5 The 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group has reviewed carefully the 34 applications to this Fund; the total bids amounted to £48,013.98. The Task & Finish Group recommends funding 23 projects at a cost of £27,449. The recommendations of the Group are set out in Appendix 3; this does not identify the applicants. Following discussion and decision by the Committee, successful applicants will be announced at the meeting.

- 3.3.6 The underspend of £8,160 from the Public Health Outcomes Fund (Voluntary Sector Support Fund) will be carried over into 2014/15. This will provide support to voluntary, community and faith groups as agreed by Cabinet (10 December 2013, minute 120 refers).

- 3.3.7 The underspend of £4,391 from the (£50k) devolved budget will be carried forward into 2014/15.

3.4 **Constituency 'Problem Solving Fund' (£5k)**

- 3.4.1 No spend has been agreed by the 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group in relation to this Fund. Any underspend as at 31 March 2014 will be carried forward into 2014/15.

3.5 **Public Health Funding (£25k)**

3.5.1 Rampworx Youth Village (£20,000)

- 3.5.2 This proposal is to provide additional funding to enable Rampworx Youth Village to be created. This would be a facility based in Kelvin Road, Seacombe, for extreme wheeled sports, such as BMX, Inline Skates, Skateboard and Scootering, to cater

for growing demand and lack of provision. Planning permission has been granted for this site. The project anticipates working with up to 700 young people per week, creating 25 new jobs, creating 50 volunteering opportunities a year and offering approximately 150 residents a year the opportunity to learn transferrable skills through partnership with Wirral Vocational College.

3.5.3 Further details are outlined in Appendix 4.

3.5.4 In relation to this proposal, one elected member (on the Task & Finish Group) whilst noting her support for the allocation of funding to Rampworx, expressed the view that this should be phased, with an allocation of £10,000 in 2013/14 followed by a further allocation of £10,000 in 2014/15. This was on the basis of views expressed by some young people at Wirral Youth Parliament in November 2013 (in relation to a discussion about the proposed Wirral Youth Zone) that investment should also be made in other youth facilities. The elected member stated that the remaining £10,000 (2013/14) should be invested in two or three other youth facilities within the Constituency.

3.5.5 Reducing criminal damage by young people (£3,500)

3.5.6 This proposal is for the development of a behaviour change campaign targeted at young people and toolkit for use by practitioners with young people. The campaign would be based around social marketing techniques to change behaviour. The toolkit would be for use by a range practitioners, such as Police Community Support & Traffic Officers and Youth Workers and be delivered through outreach work, youth hubs and clubs, activity in schools, etc. This would be targeted at peak periods during the year such as the Operation Banger period

3.5.7 Further details are outlined in Appendix 4.

3.5.8 Wallasey Constituency Community Safety Week (£1,500)

3.5.9 This proposal is to undertake a multi-agency week of action in Wallasey Constituency focused upon tackling anti-social behaviour and crime and improving perceptions of community safety amongst older people in particular. The Week would include targeted enforcement activity, education and awareness and preventative activity in all six wards focused upon improving perceptions. This is anticipated to include environmental audits and clean ups, truancy sweeps, high visibility patrols, test purchases/proxy sales, advice surgeries and youth outreach.

3.5.10 Further details are outlined in Appendix 4.

3.6 **Love Wirral Grant**

3.6.1 Eligible projects were subject to online public voting between 13-24 January 2014. 2,785 individuals cast 11,016 votes for projects within Wallasey Constituency.

3.6.2 The 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group supports the results of the public vote. This would see 20 projects funded at a cost of £9,598.37. A further project could be part funded at a cost of £401.63, enabling full expenditure of the £10,000 allocation. The recommendations of the Task & Finish Group are set out in

Appendix 5; this does not identify the applicants. Following discussion and decision by the Committee, successful applicants will be announced at the meeting.

4.0 2014/15 funding

4.1 At the time of writing this report the Committee's budget for 2014/15 is not yet known. The Committee however needs to agree an approach to the allocation of this funding in order that recommended spend can be considered by the Constituency Committee at its next meeting on 26 June 2014. This includes whether the Committee continues to delegate responsibility for making recommendations to a 'Priorities & Spend' Task & Finish Group and, if so, the composition of its members. This proposed spend will be aligned with the 2014/15 Constituency Plan that will be taken to the same Committee meeting for consideration.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

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

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 Careful consideration has been given to the allocation of this funding by the 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Elected members and community representatives participated in the respective Task & Finish Group.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 It is recommended that funding is allocated to a number of voluntary, community and faith groups and 'not-for-profit' organisations.

8.2 The neighbourhood working model will strengthen the Council's relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.

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 a number of the priorities set out in Appendix 1 will have a positive impact upon community safety.

14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

- 14.1 Committee agrees the 'Constituency Options' spend as outlined in Section 3.2 of this report (£30k);
- 14.2 Committee agrees the allocation of Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund (incorporating the Public Health Outcomes Fund – Voluntary Sector Support Grant) as outlined in Section 3.3 of this report (£40k) and agrees a carry forward into 2014/15 of a total of £12,551;
- 14.3 Committee notes the update regarding the Problem Solving Fund as outlined in Section 3.4 of this report (£5k) and agrees a carry forward of any underspend into 2014/15;
- 14.4 Committee agrees the Public Health Outcomes Fund spend as outlined in Section 3.5 of this report (£25k);
- 14.5 Committee agrees the Love Wirral grant spend as outlined in Section 3.6 of this report (£10k);
- 14.6 Committee agrees an approach to the allocation of 2014/15 funding.

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
Wallasey Constituency Committee – Constituency Priorities and Spend	11 December 2013