

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

26 FEBRUARY 2014

SUBJECT:	CONSTITUENCY PRIORITIES AND SPEND UPDATE
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>BEBINGTON</u>▪ <u>BROMBOROUGH</u>▪ <u>CLATTERBRIDGE</u>▪ <u>EASTHAM</u>▪ <u>HESWALL</u>
REPORT OF:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL SOUTH)
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING & ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report details the progress made in relation to priorities and processes regarding spend for Wirral South Constituency Committee for 2013/14.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 At its inaugural meeting (October 21 2013) Wirral South's Constituency Committee agreed to set up a 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group to set priorities for the remainder of the 2013-14 financial year (Minute 4 of said meeting - resolutions 2 & 3 refers). Said group consisted of five elected members (those nominated were Cllr P Gilchrist, Cllr L Rowlands, Cllr I Williams, Cllr J Williams and Cllr A Sykes).

2.2 At its second meeting on 18 December 2013 Wirral South's Constituency Committee approved £10k be allocated to each of the five wards (minute 12 of said meeting - resolution 1 refers). Said £10k per ward was to be spent upon a number of improvement ideas developed by elected members.

- 2.3 At the same meeting (18 December) it was also resolved that the aforementioned Task & Finish Group should meet once again in January 2014. The purpose of the January meeting being to develop recommendations to the final Constituency Committee of 2013/14 (February 26 2014) regarding spend of relevant Public Health allocations (appendix 1 Wirral South Constituency Budget Allocation 2013/14).

3.0 £10K PER WARD PROGRESS UPDATE

- 3.1 At its meeting on 18 December, 2013 the Committee approved the allocation of £10K per ward to be spent on various improvements work, highlighted by the ward members. A number of projects have so far been identified including; traffic surveying projects, footpath resurfacing work, drop kerb installation to enhance accessibility, installation of planters in retail areas and the reinvigoration of neglected horticultural locations.
- 3.2 Although the entire £50K allocation may not be spent by the end of the 2013/14 financial year it has been confirmed that the remainder can be carried over into 2014/15. Further reports will be made to this committee to update upon progress of said budget allocation.

4.0 PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGET ALLOCATION PROGRESS UPDATE

- 4.1 Since the Constituency Committee held on December 18, 2013 the allocation of monies from Public Health has increased. On December 10 2013 the Director of Public Health presented a report to Cabinet recommending a further £100K be "...administered through the Constituency Committees" aimed at supporting the voluntary sector in Wirral (minute 120 from said meeting refers).
- 4.1.1 As such the Wirral South Constituency Committee is now responsible for administering the original £25K provided by Public Health and the further £25K 'Voluntary Sector Support Fund' (see appendix one for a full breakdown of allocated budget).
- 4.2 The 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group met for the second time on Thursday 30 January 2014. During the meeting the new allocation (Voluntary Sector Support Fund) was discussed at length. The criteria for said fund clearly states that a transparent funding exercise be administered (by the Constituency Committees) to consider requests of up to £3K from the voluntary Sector only.
- 4.2.1 Elected members present at the 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group (Cllr P Gilchrist, Cllr L Rowlands, Cllr I Williams, Cllr J Williams and Cllr C Povall (standing in for Cllr A Sykes) proposed that the originally allocated £25K from Public Health could also be rolled into the allocation process outlined in section 4.2 above. This £25K would not simply be available to the voluntary sector. It was agreed that this element of the funding would also carry a cap of £3K to encourage a wide ranging cohort of applicants, covering as much of the Wirral South Constituency footprint as possible.

- 4.2.2 In depth documents detailing the mechanics of the above mentioned (£50K total) grants programme will be tabled at a further meeting of the Wirral South Task and Finish Group in March 2014 for approval (e.g. application form, terms and conditions). Said documents will then be shared with the remaining elected members for Wirral South. All successful applicants would need to clearly demonstrate how their project contributes towards the achievement of indicators from the Department of Health's Public Health outcomes framework (see appendix two).
- 4.2.3 The 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group highlighted the importance of mobilising interest in any such grants programme. It was agreed that drop in/workshops would be held in each ward throughout the application process. These sessions will not only offer practical help with completing application forms but will serve as a forum for any unanswered questions groups and individuals may have.
- 4.2.4 It is hoped that if recommendation 14.2 is agreed the grants programme could be released on April 1, 2014. Following the completion of a five week application window the requests received will be assessed and decisions made on funding allocation. All elected members will be invited to the assessment session (mid May). Successful applicants could then be informed and proposed projects revealed at the first Constituency Committee of 2014/15 on (June 25, 2014).
- 4.2.5 If all applicants were given nine months to spend their allocation then a full programme review could be presented to the final Constituency Committee of 2014/15. Said review would clearly demonstrate the impact that the funded projects had on the objectives highlighted in appendix two.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 Failure to agree project spend expediently may result in a loss of funding allocation in future years.

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 priority setting.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 The overarching proposed model for neighbourhood working will strengthen the Council's relationship with the voluntary and community sector.
- 8.2 Tackling the priorities of the Constituency will benefit communities directly.
- 8.3 The Voluntary Sector Support Fund itself will directly enhance the sector by adding some much needed financial stimulus.

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

- 9.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wirral South 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 an impact review can be found at the link below (Progressing Neighbourhood Working). A specific EIA related to the grants fund itself will be carried out should the relevant recommendation be approved.

<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 Focus on fuel poverty as a priority will encourage maximum efficiency in relation to residential energy usage and thus reduce carbon emissions.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 This report may have positive community safety implications dependent upon the allocation of spend determined by the Constituency Committee.

14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

- 14.1 The Committee note the progress made in relation to the allocation and spend of the previously agreed £10K per ward.
- 14.2 Committee agrees to support the proposal of the 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group to carry out a grants programme, administering a total of £50k contributing towards the achievement of indicators from the Department of Health's Public Health Outcomes Framework (appendix two).
- 14.3 Committee agrees that said grants programme be launched on April 1, 2014. The principles agreed by the Task and Finish Group aimed at ensuring the broadest geographical and social spread of the funding be approved.
- 14.4 Committee agrees that following a five week application window the 'Priority Setting' Task & Finish Group meet again (with an open invitation to all elected members for Wirral South) to assess all applications received.

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 to ensure projects commence as expediently as possible.

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

Improving Outcomes and Supporting Transparency: Part 1B: Public Health Outcomes Framework; Department of Health; Nov 2012; p4

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Wirral South Constituency Committee	21 October 2013
Cabinet – Public Health Outcomes Funding	10 October 2013
Voluntary Sector Support Fund	10 December 2013

Appendix one: Wirral South Constituency Budget Allocation 2013/14

Appendix two: Overview of Public Health Outcome Framework Indicators 2013-2016