

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

6TH MARCH 2014

SUBJECT:	WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY FUNDING 2013/2014
WARD/S AFFECTED:	WARDS WITHIN THE WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ GREASBY, FRANKBY AND IRBY▪ HOYLAKES AND MEOLS▪ PENSBY AND THINGWALL▪ WEST KIRBY AND THURSTASTON▪ UPTON
REPORT OF:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL WEST)
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING & ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out recommendations for allocating the Constituency Committee budget for 2013/14.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Committee's budget for 2013-14 is set out below:

Budget	Amount	Ward Allocation (as agreed by the Committee)
Council Allocation	£50,000	£10,000 per ward
Public Health Outcomes Fund (agreed by Cabinet on the 10 th October 2013)	£25,000	A minimum of £5,000 per ward
Additional Public Health Outcomes Fund (agreed by Cabinet on the 10 th December 2013)	£25,000	
Total	£100,000	-

- 2.2 At its first meeting in October, the Committee tasked the Constituency Manager to put in place an approach for allocating the Committee's budget with due regard to good governance. The Committee discussed an approach which would involve allocating the budget equitably across the five wards in Wirral West, asking local groups and organisations to put forward their ideas for projects, and which would also involve an element of participatory budgeting. Taking this into account alongside the need to utilise the Public Health element of the budget to address particular outcomes, two separate grant programmes and decision-making processes were developed and launched in late December 2013:

- **Wirral West Community Fund** – aimed at improving the quality of life in Wirral West through projects which impact positively on local people and places (a maximum of £1,000 per project, voted on by the community to inform the decisions of the Committee as to which will receive funding);
 - **Wirral West Public Health Grants Programme** - aimed at increasing the healthy life expectancy of local residents and reducing differences in healthy life expectancy between communities (a maximum of £3,000 per project, recommendations for funding made to the Committee by the Constituency Manager further to consultation with Public Health).
- 2.3 As referenced in the table at 2.1, it should be noted that discussions at the Committee's meeting in December as to the Public Health element of the budget led to a resolution that, whilst £25,000 of this should be split equitably between wards, the remaining £25,000 would be allocated on the basis of need as evidenced in the grant applications received from groups and organisations.
- 2.4 The two grant programmes were widely promoted via a range of mechanisms including Council press releases, emails to approximate 1,500 individuals in the Wirral West area who have signed up to receive information from the Council; flyers distributed across Wirral West and targeted communication with groups on the constituency database.
- 2.5 In advance of the closing date of the 31st January 2014 drop-in surgeries for advice and guidance were conducted in each ward by Wirral West's Engagement Officer. Around 40 groups and organisations attended these sessions and received support with their applications. Additional one-to-one support in person, via telephone and/or email was also available.

3.0 WIRRAL WEST COMMUNITY FUND

- 3.1 As set out in the published criteria, a successful Wirral West Community Fund application would:
- Address a community issue in the local area or neighbourhood;
 - Provide a long-term benefit to the community; and
 - Ideally be innovative in its approach.
- 3.2 Voluntary, community, faith and not for profit groups and organisations based in Wirral West could apply for a minimum of £100 and a maximum of £1,000 from the Fund. Groups and organisations could apply for funding for more than one project in their area, however these needed to be clearly identified as separate projects addressing different community issues. Multiple applications to deliver the same project but in different areas / wards would not be considered.
- 3.3 Applications were assessed on the basis of the eligibility criteria and reviewed by ward councillors. Of a total of 56 applications, 10 were assessed as ineligible and 2 applications were withdrawn.
- 3.4 Following this, a total of 44 projects were taken forward to be voted on by the public:

- Greasby, Frankby and Irby Ward – 9 projects
 - Hoylake and Meols – 4 projects
 - Pensby and Thingwall – 7 projects
 - Upton and Woodchurch – 9 projects
 - West Kirby and Thurstaston – 15 projects
- 3.5 The public have been asked to vote on the projects by attending a series of community events or by participating in the supplementary online or paper voting process. The online and paper voting process was developed further to feedback from ward councillors and community representatives about ensuring that the opportunity to support local projects was extended as widely as possible.
- 3.6 The events and voting process were promoted via email and on the Council's website, through posters and flyers being circulated across Wirral West, through the local press and through proactive work by the groups and organisations involved.
- 3.7 Given that the publication of this report is in advance of the closing date for the public vote, the outcomes of the process will be presented verbally to the Constituency Committee to inform their final decisions as to the allocation of the Community Fund in respect of which projects will receive funding. Consultation with ward councillors has also included consideration being given to the how any remaining budget from the £10,000 ward allocation should be allocated. The outcomes of this consultation with ward councillors will be presented verbally to the meeting alongside the results of the public vote.
- 3.8 Initial feedback from the groups involved in the process suggests that it would be helpful to undertake a full evaluation of the Community Fund process to inform future activities, and to make recommendations about how we can best build on our experience of community voting initiatives in Wirral West to continue to develop local people's involvement in decision making.

4.0 WIRRAL WEST PUBLIC HEALTH GRANTS PROGRAMME

- 4.1 As set out in the published criteria, a successful Public Health grant application would address one or more of the following issues in Wirral West:
- Older people who socially isolated or who are concerned about their safety in the community;
 - Young people who are socially isolated;
 - Adults who are physically inactive;
 - Children in poverty;
 - Young people who are at risk of offending or who are currently within the Youth Justice System;
 - 16-18 year olds Not in Employment, Education and Training.
- 4.2 Voluntary, community, faith and not for profit groups and organisations could apply for a maximum of £3,000 from the Fund. As for the Community Fund, groups and organisations could apply for funding for more than one project in their area.
- 4.3 The 23 Public Health grant applications received have been assessed and scored by the Constituency Manager in conjunction with Public Health on the basis of:

- How well the group or organisation set out the evidence as why the project is needed;
- The potential positive impact of the project on the health and wellbeing of participants and the wider community;
- What the group or organisation will do to work in partnership to deliver the project.

4.4 The Committee is asked to consider and agree the 18 projects being recommended for funding in Appendix 1. 4 applications have been declined on the basis of the assessment and 1 application has been withdrawn.

4.5 The Committee is asked to note that a decision to fund all of the projects set out in Appendix 1 would result in the following budget allocation across the five wards in Wirral West:

Ward	Greasby, Frankby & Irby	Hoylake & Meols	Pensby & Thingwall	Upton	West Kirby & Thurstaston	Total
Amount of Grant Awarded	£3,767.00	£12,773.25	£9,141.23	£11,421.95	£7,263.00	£44,366.43

4.6 Each ward would therefore receive in excess of the minimum of £5,000 per ward previously agreed by the Committee excepting Greasby, Frankby and Irby. It should be noted that the figures in the table above take into account where projects will take place across 2 wards through dividing the amount of grant awarded. It should also be recognised that many of the projects will impact on participants and /or the wider community outside of the ward specified in the application and the Constituency Manager will proactively seek to assess this through project monitoring.

4.7 The Committee is also asked to agree that the underspend of £5,633.57 remaining from the Public Health grant allocation is carried forward for the development of project activity for inclusion in the Constituency Plan aimed at building on community assets to improve health and wellbeing and tackle social isolation in Wirral West.

5.0 BUDGET AND PROJECT MONITORING

5.1 All projects funded as an outcome of this report need to be completed by December 2014. The Constituency Manager will ensure robust project monitoring is in place as set out in the published terms and conditions for both grant programmes. Over and above this, proactive support for the projects funded by the Committee will be undertaken by the constituency team with a focus on celebrating success and promoting sustainability.

5.2 Subject to the decisions of the Committee, the majority of the Committee's total budget allocation for 2013-14 should be committed by the end of the financial year. It has however been confirmed that any remaining budget from the Committee's 2013-14 budget allocation can be carried over into 2014-15 should this be necessary. This may particularly be the case for expenditure on service improvements identified by ward councillors in respect of budget remaining following the allocation of the Community Fund. It will also apply to the Public Health budget underspend referred to in 4.7 above.

6.0 CONSTITUENCY FUNDING 2014-15

- 6.1 The Council's budget for 2014/2015 includes a further allocation of £200,000 to be devolved to the Constituency Committees to enable neighbourhood working to be further developed (£50,000 per constituency area). The Committee is asked to consider the allocation of this budget alongside the Constituency Plan when it next meets.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The monitoring arrangements in place for the both grant programmes ensure that any risks in respect of allocating funding to community and voluntary groups are mitigated.

8.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Careful consideration has been given to the options for the approach to allocating constituency funding in line with the Committee's decisions.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Wirral West Constituency Committee members have been consulted at all stages of the process.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 This report will have positive implications in that it is recommended that funding is allocated to a number of voluntary, community and faith groups and organisations.

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

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

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no legal implications.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 An 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 projects recommended for funding may create opportunities to encourage the sharing of community assets, therefore supporting carbon reduction.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The projects recommended for funding may have a positive impact upon community safety.

14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

- 14.1 Committee agrees the allocation of the Wirral West Community Fund and any remaining ward allocation on the basis of the information presented at the meeting;
- 14.2 Committee agrees the allocation of Public Health Grants to the projects recommended for funding at Appendix 1;
- 14.3 Committee agrees that the £5,633.57 underspend from the Public Health allocation is taken forward as outlined in 4.7.
- 14.4 Committee agrees to consider the allocation of its budget for the next financial year when it next meets alongside the draft Wirral West Constituency Plan.

15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 15.1 To allocate the Committee's budget in accordance with the previous decisions of the Committee and with due regard to good governance.

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SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet – Neighbourhood Working – Proposed Operating Model	23 May 2013
Cabinet – Public Health Outcomes Funding	10 October 2013
Wirral West Constituency Committee	30 October 2013
Cabinet – Public Health Outcomes Fund	19 December 2013
Wirral West Constituency Committee	12 December 2013

APPENDIX 1: PUBLIC HEALTH PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

Project Ref	Project Name	Project Summary	Ward(s)	Grant Amount
WW14 PH45	Keep Fit for Over 60's in Irby	The funding would provide a weekly keep fit session for the over 60's at Irby Village Hall.	Greasby, Frankby & Irby	£2,752.00
WW14 PH13	Zumba and Chair-based Exercise	The grant would be used to offer chair-based exercise and Zumba classes for people with disabilities and people with mental health issues / learning disabilities. One venue for these activities would be the Walled Garden, Royden Park.	Greasby, Frankby & Irby / Pensby & Thingwall	£2,030.00
WW14 PH64	Mental Health Support Group	The project would provide a regular support group for people with mental health issues at the existing community facility at St Lukes's. The project would work with other agencies to signpost and support those who attend the group.	Hoylake & Meols	£3,000.00
WW14 PH60	Outdoor Gym Equipment for North Parade	The grant would be used to fund Phase 1 of a project to install free-to-use outdoor gym equipment along the North Parade of Hoylake. This project is recommended for funding, subject to the appropriate permissions being in place.	Hoylake & Meols	£3,000.00
WW14 PH28	Ways to Wellness – Meet, Talk, Do!	The project would train volunteers and carers in reminiscence therapy, and will then engage participants identified through a range of agencies to engage in a 'Sporting Memories' programme.	Hoylake & Meols	£2,340.00
WW14 PH47	Melrose Wednesday Club	The Wednesday Club would deliver weekly fun sessions for children and young people in Hoylake, with a focus on engaging local families affected by deprivation.	Hoylake & Meols	£3,000.00
WW14 PH43	St Hildeburgh's Lunch Club	The funding would allow for the continuation and expansion of monthly lunches for	Hoylake & Meols	£1,433.25

Project Ref	Project Name	Project Summary	Ward(s)	Grant Amount
		isolated older members of the community based on increasing levels of demand. The grant is to purchase food to meet the additional demand. The club is staffed by volunteers.		
WW14 PH46	Shed Heads	A large shed and equipment would be made available to the local community to undertake practical projects. "Lads & Dads" clubs would be offered, working in partnership with the Children's Centre. £5,000 has been secured to buy and install the shed, including planning permission. Funding sought is for equipment.	Pensby & Thingwall	£2,864.83
WW14 PH11	Improve your Wellbeing with Happy Times	Working in partnership with Magenta Living, the project would deliver fun 'musical movement' sessions for older people living in sheltered accommodation in Pensby and Woodchurch.	Pensby and Thingwall / Upton	£3,000.00
WW14 PH17	Domestic Abuse Outreach Service	The grant would fund an outreach support worker to deliver two weekly 2 hour domestic abuse drop-in services in Pensby and Ganney's Meadow, Woodchurch.	Pensby & Thingwall / Upton	£2,690.00
WW14 PH58 / WW14 PH59	Thingwall Community Allotments Site Development	The funding would support the development of the community allotments site by improving access to the site and a permanent water supply. Future plans include running educational activities on site for a variety of groups.	Pensby & Thingwall	£2,416.40
WW14 PH48	Ford Way Bucket Bog	The funding would allow for the installation of an "eco" toilet at the Ford Way Community Gardening Project. The facility would mean that the project can expand its work with volunteers and partner agencies.	Upton	£1,300.00

Project Ref	Project Name	Project Summary	Ward(s)	Grant Amount
WW14 PH40	Youth of Today	The project would establish a 'Youth of Today' group for young people from Upton and Woodchurch aged 14-19. The group will discuss topics including ASB, bullying and putting on local events.	Upton	£3,000.00
WW14 PH75	AFC Quays Woodchurch	The project would provide a weekly support network based around fitness and team building for people with addiction issues, with referrals coming from a range of agencies.	Upton	£1,600.00
WW14 PH38	Inspiring Young Entrepreneurs	The project would train children to establish and operate a healthy tuck shop business at Woodchurch High School. Once the business has been operating for three months the Woodchurch tuck shop managers would mentor their three feeder primary schools to establish their own tuck shop businesses.	Upton	£2,676.95
WW14 PH72	Cross Generational Skills Share	The project would offer handcraft and gardening skills sharing sessions, bringing together different groups within the community to reduce isolation. The project will work with Advocacy Wirral and Age UK to identify participants and provide advice.	West Kirby & Thurstaston	£2,655.00
WW14 PH27	Wirral Country Park Pond Access Project	The pond project would be the first phase of access improvements within Wirral Country Park to the freshwater pond habitat. The project would be delivered by Wirral Autistic Society service users and support staff	West Kirby & Thurstaston	£1,884.00
WW14 PH62	West Kirby Summer Play Scheme	The play scheme would offer local children a range of activities over a 4 week period during the summer.	West Kirby & Thurstaston	£2,724.00