

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

25 JUNE 2014

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>WIRRAL SOUTH PRIORITIES, SPEND &amp; BUDGET UPDATE 2014/15</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 (WIRRAL SOUTH)</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING &amp; ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report details the proposed priorities for the Wirral South Constituency Committee for 2014/15 and beyond. This report also details the confirmed budget for 2014/15 and progress on spend thus far.

### 2.0 CONFIRMED BUDGET 2014/15

2.1 At its meeting on 25 February 2014, Council agreed to fund the four Constituency Committees with £50k each. This was to “enable the new approach to Neighbourhood Working to be further developed.”

2.2 On 13 March 2014 Cabinet approved a report covering the greater Local Transport Capital Funding and the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) programme for 2014/5. This report proposed an allocation of £77,750 for each Constituency Committee. Recommendation 13.1 requests discussion be had and a decision made by the Constituency Committee on how spend against this fund is allocated. Appendix one gives examples of the various ways this money could be spent and approximate costs of any such schemes.

2.3 Wirral Health and Wellbeing Fund. £50k in total has been allocated to the Wirral South Constituency Committee. This is being administered via the aforementioned fund and details can be found in the separate report entitled 'Wirral South Health and Wellbeing Fund' presented to the Wirral South Constituency Committee 25 June.

2.4 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 - resolution 1 refers). The agreed £10k per ward was to be spent upon a number of improvement ideas developed by elected members. As of 31 March 2014 £38,720.50 remained to be spent of this £50K. This amount was carried over into 2014/15 and those Elected Members with a balance are currently working with the Constituency Manager to deliver various projects utilising said budget.

## 2.5 Your Wirral Fund

2.5.1 Your Wirral funding has been devolved to the Constituencies Committees for 2014/15. It is a small grants programme that has been in operation since 2007. It is a strand of the Community Fund that came into being as a result of the Value Added Tax (VAT) return generated by the housing stock transfer from Wirral Council to Wirral Partnership Homes, now Magenta Living. From November 2007 to October 2012 a total of £1,835,585.85 was spent supporting 783 groups for projects and activities across Wirral. The fund has been dormant for the last financial year.

2.5.2 Grants are available to voluntary and community sector (not for profit) groups across Wirral. The Fund rests with Magenta Living. A Joint Working Group acts an accountable body for the Fund and is composed of representation from Wirral Council, Magenta Living, elected members and Board members of Magenta Living. Previous applications were evaluated by representatives from Magenta Living and Wirral Council then signed off for payment or withdrawn by the Joint Working Group. Payments were made to successful groups by Magenta Living.

2.5.3 A total of £250,000 is available for 2014/15. The amount allocated is determined by the number of Magenta Living housing units within each Constituency (outlined below). £50,000 is available for projects or activities that are delivered in two or more constituencies or across Wirral.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Number of units</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Birkenhead	4683	£75,000
Wallasey	3214	£50,000
Wirral West	2430	£40,000
Wirral South	1888	£35,000
Wirral Wide	12215 (Total)	£50,000

2.5.4 To be eligible for funding, applications must fit within one or more of the seven themes, which were agreed by the Joint Working Group in line with the charitable objectives of the Community Fund Deed they are:

1. Creating an attractive and safe environment
2. Contributing to community economic regeneration
3. Preventing crime or reducing the fear of crime
4. Providing employment and training for local people
5. Benefiting local people who face discrimination
6. Improving community facilities
7. Engaging communities to improve quality of life

#### 2.5.5 Conditions of funding

2.5.6 To ensure that the conditions of the Community Fund deed are not compromised the following conditions must be adhered to:

- All applications for funding must fit within the 7 themes but Constituency Committees may prioritise a particular theme;
- The same application form is to be across all Constituencies;
- The same assessment process of applications is to be used across all four Constituencies;
- Assessment will take place via a panel or equivalent with representation from Magenta Living; Constituency Committees may determine the make up of the panel;
- Constituency teams will advertise, arrange payments and monitor projects;
- All materials must display the Your Wirral, Magenta Living and Wirral Council logos;
- Individual grants must not exceed £2,500;
- The activity must take place within the boundaries of Wirral.

2.5.7 The Your Wirral fund will remain open all year until the allocation is spent. An online application form will be developed to save administration time and support will be provided for residents that do not have internet facilities or have difficulty completing the application form (with hard copies available). Wirral Council will pay successful groups and claim back the money quarterly from Magenta Living. An evaluation report will be presented to the Joint Working Group at the end of the funding. Currently there is no confirmation that the fund will be available in the forthcoming financial year (2015/16).

2.5.8 The application form and terms and conditions are currently being revised and an assessment template devised based on guidance from Internal Audit; the final versions of which will be signed off by Magenta Living.

#### 2.5.9 Proposed process

2.5.10 Wirral South Constituency Committee chooses all seven themes (2.5.4).

2.5.11 The fund launches across the borough the week commencing 28 July 2014 (after this cycle of Constituency Committees has taken place).

2.5.12 Whilst the fund must remain open, 'cut off' dates will be advertised for each Constituency by which applications need to be received to be considered for the next respective Constituency Committee meeting; also allowing time for a 'Your Wirral' Task & Finish Group to meet to consider applications and make recommendations to the Committee.

2.5.13 The Constituency team will review all applications for eligibility and robustness.

2.5.14 The 'Your Wirral' Task & Finish Group, to which all members of the Constituency Committee will be invited, together with a representative from Magenta Living, will meet to review and discuss all eligible applications and draft recommended allocations for consideration by the next available (Wirral South) Constituency Committee.

2.5.15 Borough-wide applications will again have a 'cut off' point that is in line with the Constituency Committee cycle of meetings. A Task and Finish Group consisting of the Chair or Deputy Chair of each Constituency Committee (unless there is a conflict of interest in which case another elected member from that Committee will be nominated) and a representative from Magenta Living, supported by a Constituency Manager, will consider all borough-wide applications. The Group's recommendations will be signed off by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing & Engagement.

2.6 Breakdown of confirmed budget for 2014/15:

- Core Budget (2.1)  
**£50K**
- Local Transport Capital Funding and the Integrated Transport Block (2.2)  
**£77,750**
- Wirral Health and Wellbeing Fund (2.3)  
**£50K**
- Remainder of Core budget from 2013/14 (2.4)  
**£38,720.50**
- Your Wirral Fund (2.5)  
**£35K**

Total Budget 2014/15: **£251,470.50**

### **3.0 CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE PRIORITIES 2014/15**

3.1 On Wednesday 9 April Wirral South's Elected Members were invited to attend a priority setting session. The objective of this session was to produce a set of proposed themes that could be presented at the first Wirral South Constituency Committee of 2014/15 for consideration. The discussions should also explore proposals for the allocation of the Committee's confirmed core budget for 2014/15.

3.2 At its meeting on 25 February 2014, Council agreed to fund the four Constituency Committees with £50k each. This was to "Enable the new approach to Neighbourhood Working to be further developed." Elected Members at the

aforementioned priority setting session (3.1) discussed how to allocate the £50K budget. 3.2.1 (below) outlines the proposed priorities and their proposed allocation of core budget.

3.2.1 It was proposed that each of the three priorities below should be allocated £15k each, thus leaving £5k of core budget remains to support various engagement initiatives:

- Improved Open Spaces; to increase the number of green flag parks in Wirral South year on year
- Gaps in Youth Provision; to work with the internal and external partners to identify and rectify any existing gaps in provision of youth services in Wirral South
- Tackle Social Isolation; Identify the various groups affected by social isolation in Wirral South, establish the evident gaps in provision throughout the Constituency and aim to either support existing providers or commission a new piece of work

#### **4.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

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

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

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

#### **6.0 CONSULTATION**

6.1 Existing evidence from the Wirral South Profile Document (produced by Public Health) has been used to inform the formulation of Wirral South's priorities. Feedback from communities to Elected Members has also factored into the priority setting process.

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

7.1 The overarching proposed model for neighbourhood working will strengthen the Council's relationship with the voluntary and community sector.

7.2 Tackling the priorities of the Constituency will benefit communities directly.

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

- 8.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wirral South Constituency Committee.
- 8.2 Funding may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

## **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The arrangements will help 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 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>

## **11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 None

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

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

## **13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

- 13.1 One Elected Member per ward is nominated to sit on a task and finish group to discuss directly with colleagues from Road Safety the various options for spending the Local Transport Capital Funding and the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) programme budget of £77,750. Said task and finish group will report their proposals to the next Wirral South Constituency Committee (8 October 2014) with a view to commencing work shortly thereafter.
- 13.2 Members continue to work with the Constituency Manager to spend the remaining core budget for 2013/14 as expediently as possible.
- 13.3 Note the establishment of the 'Your Wirral' fund and its associated processes..

13.4 Members approve the three themed priorities (3.2.1 above) and their associated budget allocation.

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

14.1 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**

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

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Wirral South Constituency Committee	18 December 2013
Budget Council	25 February 2014
Cabinet	13 March 2014

Appendix one: Approximate Costs of Schemes for Local Transport Capital Funding and the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) programme

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<b>Scheme / Costs</b>	<b>Estimated Costs*</b>	<b>Objective Addressed</b>	<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) - generally to prohibit parking (including verge or pavement parking)	Approx £1,000 to £4,000 depending on extend of scheme		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May assist with regulation of areas of concern</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Will need formal advertisement</li> <li>▪ Can have significant effect on businesses or residents</li> <li>▪ If too onerous, drivers may not willingly comply leading to enforcement burden</li> </ul>
Pedestrian refuge islands	Approx £13,000		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provides a staging area enabling pedestrians to cross roads in two 'bites'</li> <li>▪ Can contribute to speed management acting as a form of calming device.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Require a minimum road width (depending on traffic route e.g. buses)</li> <li>▪ Can restrict parking nearby and may need an additional TRO</li> </ul>
Dropped crossings				
Traffic Calming (Physical Measures)	Dependent on scheme area covered		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Variety of types can be used including road humps; cushions; chicanes; build outs</li> <li>▪ Self enforcing measure working 24/7</li> <li>▪ Effectively guarantees speed reduction and unlikely to need further (police) enforcement action in scheme area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Will need formal advertisement</li> </ul>
20mph Speed Limit	Dependent on		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ideally need to be</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Will need formal</li> </ul>



Orders	scheme area covered		<p>considered as part of an area approach to speed reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can reduce traffic speeds</li> <li>Not as costly as physical measures</li> </ul>	<p>advertisement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally not self enforcing and may need police presence to enforce</li> <li>Generally not as effective at reducing speeds as physical measures</li> </ul>
Traffic Signs and Road Markings	£200 - £3,000 but varies on scheme extent and type of signs/markings required		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comparatively inexpensive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some measures may need TROs</li> <li>Must comply with DfT regulations and need to be consistent with national policy/application</li> </ul>
Cycle Lane Marking			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comparatively inexpensive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require a minimum road width (depending on traffic route e.g. buses) and may need an additional TRO</li> </ul>
Vehicle Activated Signs	£7,000 – £9,000		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visually prominent</li> <li>Impactive on those drivers triggering the unit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need good location for solar power</li> <li>Need to comply with DfT regulations for type and settings</li> <li>Over provision dilutes impact of message</li> </ul>
Cycle Parking Provision	£250		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comparatively inexpensive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be difficult to site in some circumstances</li> </ul>
Bitumen cyclepath	£110 per metre		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists/encourages off road cycle use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be difficult to obtain a contiguous route</li> </ul>
Puffin/Toucan Crossings	£67,000 - £80,000		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists pedestrians to cross</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will need formal advertisement</li> <li>Can restrict parking due to controlled area</li> </ul>
Pedestrian dropped kerbs	£1,600 per pair		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists mobility for people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some locations may not</li> </ul>

			with mobility issues, the elderly and people with prams etc	be practicable and may need additional work
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\*It should be noted that the costs identified above are indicative estimates and are for guidance purposes only. There are a range of factors including unknown Statutory Undertakers costs that may not be apparent from an initial inspection. A full cost appraisal will determine the actual cost for a particular request. The list is not exclusive, and other measures can be considered.