

**WIRRAL COUNCIL**

**WALLASEY CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE**

**26 JUNE 2014**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY PRIORITIES AND SPEND</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>LEASOWE &amp; MORETON EAST; LISCARD; MORETON WEST &amp; SAUGHALL MASSIE; NEW BRIGHTON; SEACOMBE AND WALLASEY.</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY MANAGER</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 proposes priorities and areas of focus for 2014/15 and sets out the funding available to Wallasey Constituency Committee for 2014/15 and the decisions around process that need to be made.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The priorities for Wallasey Constituency Committee for 2014/15 need to be set in order that its work can be structured. This is considered further in section 3.0 below.
- 2.2 Wallasey Constituency Committee has the following funding available for 2014/15.
- £50,000 devolved budget
  - £77,750 Integrated Transport Block Capita Programme Fund
  - £50,000 Your Wirral
- 2.2 The Constituency Committee carried forward from 2013/14 the amounts below into this financial year (2014/15):
- £5,000 Problem Solving Fund
  - £10,000 devolved budget (for road maintenance and road safety)
  - £4,391 Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund (devolved budget)
  - £8,160 Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund (public health outcomes fund – voluntary sector support fund)
- 2.3 For ease of reference, this funding is summarised in Appendix 1, together with any conditions attached.
- 2.4 Each of these funding sources will be considered in turn in section 4.0 below.

### 3.0 CONSTITUENCY PRIORITIES

- 3.1 Work has been undertaken through Wallasey Public Service Board with wider services and agencies to collate and review their key priorities. The professional views of colleagues on the Board has been sought as to which of those priorities may be impacted through spend by the Committee.
- 3.2 A proposal from the Board is to group the priorities into three themes:
- **Personal well being**
  - **Economic well being**
  - **Neighbourhood well being**
- 3.3 The proposed areas of focus within these priority areas included:
- reducing social isolation
  - up-skilling those not in employment (through free and accessible training) and breaking generational cycles of unemployment
  - tackling anti-social behaviour and improving public perceptions.
- 3.4 It is proposed that a 3-year Constituency Plan is drafted. The Committee is asked to comment the use of the three priority groupings suggested by Wallasey Public Service Board as a basis for the Plan. It is further proposed that on an annual basis, the Committee determines specific areas of focus within these priorities around which its work for that year is structured. This approach will enable longer-term planning but also allow flexibility for a response to emerging/pressing issues.
- 3.5 Proposed below are three areas of focus for Wallasey Constituency Committee for 2014/15 within each of the three priority areas.

Area of focus	This may include	Rationale
Reducing health inequalities ( <b>Personal well being</b> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- life expectancy</li><li>- child poverty</li><li>- teenage pregnancy</li><li>- death rates</li><li>- alcohol related deaths</li><li>- mental health</li><li>- obesity 10/11 year olds</li><li>- immunisation uptake</li></ul>	Highlighted in Constituency Profile.  Links to Corporate Plan (vision).
Raising aspirations of young people ( <b>Economic well being</b> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- young people not in education, employment or training</li><li>- youth provision</li><li>- engagement and participation</li><li>- risk taking behaviour</li><li>- anti-social behaviour and crime</li><li>- teenage pregnancy</li></ul>	Highlighted in Constituency Profile.  Encompasses issues identified by Wallasey Public Service Board.  Encompasses quality of life issues identified by members of the public.

		<p>Key issue highlighted at Early Help multi-agency event led by the Council's Targeted Prevention Service (May 2014).</p> <p>Links to Corporate Plan (Driving Growth and Aspiration).</p>
<p>Promoting community cohesion <b>(Neighbourhood well being)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- social isolation</li> <li>- intergenerational activity</li> <li>- perceptions of young people</li> <li>- community safety</li> <li>- building resilience</li> <li>- community projects</li> <li>- troubled families</li> <li>- hate crime/incidents</li> <li>- pro-social behaviour</li> </ul>	<p>Links to work to develop Asset Based Community Development (ABCD).</p> <p>Encompasses issues identified by Wallasey Public Service Board.</p> <p>Encompasses quality of life issues identified by members of the public.</p> <p>2012-13 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health (published November 2013).</p> <p>Identified as a key area for focus within the Strategic Service Review of Community Safety.</p> <p>Links to Corporate Plan (Local Solutions, Local Decisions).</p>

#### **4.0 CONSTITUENCY SPEND**

##### **4.1 Devolved budget (£50,000)**

4.1.1 On 19 February 2014, Wallasey Constituency Committee agreed its approach to the allocation of its devolved budget for 2014/15. It agreed that the £50,000 funding would be split between Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund (small grants programme), Constituency Options Fund and Problem Solving Fund. These are each considered in turn below.

##### **4.1.2 Constituency Options Fund**

4.1.3 The Committee can determine spend to help tackle its priorities; this may include for example buying additional services. The Committee needs to allocate an amount to this Fund.

#### 4.1.4 Proposed process

4.1.5 Options will be considered by the Constituency Committee Working Group and recommendations for spend will be made to the 23 October 2014 Constituency Committee.

4.1.6 On 23 October 2014 a decision will be made by the Constituency Committee regarding the allocation of this spend.

#### 4.1.7 Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund

4.1.8 This is available for voluntary, community and faith sector groups and 'not for profit' organisations to help tackle the priorities set. The Committee needs to allocate an amount to this Fund. £4,391 carried forward from 2013/14 will also be added to this amount. The total amount allocated to this should give consideration to the £50,000 to be made available to groups through 'Your Wirral' (see 4.3 below).

4.1.9 The 2013/14 Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund had a maximum bid amount of £500 for the devolved budget element. The Committee may wish to reconsider the maximum bid amount for 2014/15.

4.1.10 The Application Form and Terms and Conditions previously used have been reviewed and small amendments made (these can be found at Appendices 2 and 3 respectively). Any changes of note are outlined below.

##### Application Form:

- Question 5 – includes an 'other' ('wider community') section that may benefit from the proposed project;
- Question 15 – requires the applicant to outline the anticipated breakdown of funding in more detail. A note has also been added that the failure to provide this may result in the application being deemed ineligible.

##### Terms and Conditions:

- Question 20 – requests details of social media accounts used by the groups to assist in publicity and marketing;
- The Committee needs to agree a final version of both the application form and terms and conditions for use.

#### 4.1.11 Proposed process

4.1.12 Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund will launch on 1 July 2014. It will be well publicised and drop-in surgeries will for advice and guidance (one in each ward) will be conducted in July. These were well attended when undertaken in 2013/14.

4.1.13 The Fund will close on 18 August 2014 (noon), allowing six weeks for applications to be submitted. This timescale factors in the launch date of 'Your Wirral' and work required in relation to the administration of that funding (outlined in 4.3 below).

4.1.14 During the weeks commencing 18 and 25 August 2014, the Constituency team will collate all applications and a summary will then be disseminated to all members of the Committee.

4.1.15 During the week commencing 8 September 2014 a Constituency Committee Working Group will meet to review and discuss all applications and draft recommended allocations for consideration by the 23 October 2014 Constituency Committee. Applications will be evaluated using the template set out in Appendix 4.

4.1.16 On 23 October 2014 a decision will be made by the Constituency Committee regarding the allocation of this spend.

4.1.17 Groups will be required to deliver their projects by 1 October 2015. The Constituency team will monitor spend and provide a report in late 2014/2015 to the Constituency Committee on outcomes.

#### 4.1.18 Problem Solving Fund

4.1.19 This is for low spend items (previously under £200) that will provide a quick response to issues and/or allow a new approach to be tested that may ultimately improve the Constituency.

4.1.20 The process previously agreed by the Constituency Committee (11 December 2013) is that the Constituency Manager submits a monthly report to the 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group outlining proposals for spend. This Group considers the proposals and either agrees, rejects or requests further information for reconsideration. The Task & Finish Group reports any decisions made to the next Constituency Committee for noting by members. This approach needs to be reconsidered following a review of the operation of all Constituency Committees in May 2014 and a proposed process is outlined at 4.1.25 below.

4.1.21 The Committee needs to allocate an amount to this Fund. £5,000 carried forward from 2013/14 will also be added to this amount, which was unspent. This was in part due to the infancy of the Constituency team's work and also because issues identified required a sum greater than £200 to address.

4.1.22 Members of the Constituency Committee are asked to reconsider the maximum amount that has previously been set for this fund, which has been restrictive and was in part set low as not all members of the Committee would be involved in the allocation of that spend.

4.1.23 A proposal for spend under this Fund is set out at Item 7 of the agenda for this Committee meeting.

4.1.24 The Committee may also wish to give consideration to allocating a small amount of funding to committee members for their allocation.

#### 4.1.25 Proposed process

4.1.26 The Constituency Manager will submit a report to all members of Wallasey Constituency Committee. For all non-urgent requests, a Constituency Committee Working Group will consider the proposals and either agree, reject or request further information for reconsideration. For all urgent matters, approval may be

given by the Chair of the Committee and the Head of Neighbourhoods & Engagement that a decision can be made by email.

- 4.1.27 No maximum amount is set and each item presented is considered on its individual merits within the context of the overall budget that has been set for this spend.

## **4.2 Public Health Outcomes Funding – Voluntary Sector Support Fund**

- 4.2.1 £8,160 is carried forward from the Public Health Outcomes Fund – Voluntary Sector Support Fund. In 2013/14 the £25,000 allocated was incorporated into Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund with different conditions attached. It is not practical to run a third grants scheme (in addition to Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund and Your Wirral for this small amount). Permission has been granted by Public Health that an appropriate project(s) or initiative(s) can be identified by the Committee without be required to run a grants programme (subject to any relevant procurement rules and provided that funding is allocated through a clear and transparent process). It must however be used to enhance health and wellbeing by at least one of the following:

- increasing healthy life expectancy
- reducing differences in the life expectancy and health life expectancy between communities.

### **4.2.2 Proposed process**

- 4.2.3 Options will be considered by a Constituency Committee Working Group and recommendations made to the 23 October 2014 Constituency Committee.

- 4.2.4 On 23 October 2014 a decision will be made by the Constituency Committee regarding the allocation of this spend.

## **4.3 Your Wirral Fund**

- 4.3.1 Your Wirral funding has been devolved to the Constituency 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.

- 4.3.2 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.

- 4.3.3 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

4.3.4 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

#### 4.3.5 Conditions of funding

4.3.6 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.

4.3.7 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).

- 4.3.8 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.
- 4.3.9 Proposed process
- 4.3.10 Wallasey Constituency Committee chooses all seven themes which fit within the priorities proposed at 3.0 above.
- 4.3.11 The fund launches across the borough the week commencing 28 July 2014 (after this cycle of Constituency Committee meetings has taken place).
- 4.3.12 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 the Constituency Committee Working Group to meet to consider applications and make recommendations to the Committee.
- 4.3.13 The Constituency Committee Working 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 (Wallasey) Constituency Committee.
- 4.3.14 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.

#### **4.4 Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme Fund**

- 4.4.1 The Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme for 2014/5 agreed by Cabinet on 13 March 2014 (minute 178 refers) provides an allocation of £77,750 to each Constituency Committee to be distributed in relation to two objectives:
- a) Improving Road Safety (£38,875)
  - b) Promoting Active Travel and Health (£38,875).
- These are considered in more detail below.
- 4.4.2 Improving Road Safety  
The Council has a statutory duty to provide road safety. Schemes to improve road safety need to be considered by suitably qualified officers and be deemed to make a positive contribution to road safety and not be detrimental to it.
- 4.4.3 Promoting Active Travel and Health  
Walking and cycling are important modes of travel, both in their own right and in the integration of all other modes such as public transport and private car. Active forms of transport such as walking and cycling can have significant positive



impacts on an individual's health and wellbeing; they have the potential to make an important contribution to quality of life, providing a generally accessible, clean, healthy and enjoyable way to travel short distances and to enjoy urban and rural public spaces. Also, by enabling access to employment, education and other life opportunities, improvements for active modes of transport can make significant improvements to people's economic, physical and social wellbeing.

4.4.4 Schemes identified by the Committee can address one or both of these objectives and should also align with the objectives set out in the agreed Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Merseyside. This alignment with the LTP is key to ensuring that the local authority is well placed to attract similar funding streams in the future.

4.4.5 The funding is to be used for capital expenditure schemes (as opposed to revenue expenditure), i.e. expenditure on the acquisition or creation of a tangible fixed asset or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing tangible fixed asset. Appendix 5 outlines typical schemes that would be eligible for funding

4.4.6 In 2013/14 an allocation of £10,000 for road safety and road maintenance was set aside from Wallasey Constituency Committee's devolved budget. This was carried forward into 2014/15. The Committee needs to decide how to add this funding to the ITB Capital Programme allocation.

4.4.7 The Committee also needs to decide whether schemes will be considered on a priority basis or an allocation made to each ward within the Constituency.

4.4.8 Proposed process

4.4.9 The Constituency Committee Working Group identifies potential schemes. The Group will be additionally supported by an officer from the Council's Traffic & Transportation Division who, together with other colleagues, will advise on the costs and feasibility of schemes, identify any public consultation requirements and assess links with central Local Safety Schemes (including dropped kerbs) and Safer Routes to Schools programmes.

4.4.10 A recommended scheme of works will be made by the Constituency Committee Working Group to the 23 October 2014 Constituency Committee.

4.4.11 On 23 October 2014 a decision will be made by the Constituency Committee regarding the allocation of this spend.

4.4.12 From November 2014 onwards the scheme of works will commence including statutory public consultation where necessary. The Constituency Team will work closely with colleagues in the Council's Traffic & Transportation Division to support the public consultation process as appropriate.

## **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 Learning has been taken from the approach to this spend in 2013.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Elected members and community representatives will have the opportunity to participate in all Constituency Committee Working Group meetings.

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

- 8.1 Through the operation of both Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund and Your Wirral funding will be 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.
- 10.2 Advice is being taken throughout this process from Internal Audit.

## **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 Subject to the priorities and areas of focus set by the Committee, there may be a positive impact upon community safety.

## 14.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 14.1 The Committee agrees its three **priorities and areas of focus** for 2014/15 as:
  - Personal wellbeing (focus: Reducing health inequalities)
  - Economic wellbeing (focus: Raising aspirations of young people)
  - Neighbourhood wellbeing (focus: Promoting community cohesion)
- 14.2 The Constituency Manager produces a 3-year Constituency Plan to be brought back to a future Committee;
- 14.3 The Committee allocates an amount from its £50k devolved budget to its **Constituency Options Fund** and agrees the proposed process for spend set out at 4.1.4 – 4.1.6;
- 14.4 The Committee allocates an amount from its £50k devolved budget to **Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund** (to be added to the £4,391 carry forward) and
  - agrees the maximum bid amount
  - agrees the final content of the application form and terms and conditions
  - agrees the proposed process for spend set out at 4.1.11 – 4.1.17;
- 14.5 The Committee allocates an amount to its **Problem Solving Fund** (to be added to the £5,000 carry forward) and agrees the proposed process for spend set out in at 4.1.25 – 4.1.27;
- 14.6 The Committee considers whether it wishes to allocate a small amount of funding to committee members for their allocation under this Fund.
- 14.7 The Committee agrees the proposed process set out at 4.2.2 – 4.2.4 in relation to the **Public Health Outcomes Fund (Voluntary Sector Support Fund)**;
- 14.8 The Committee agrees the proposed process set out at 4.3.9 – 4.3.14 for **Your Wirral** funding;
- 14.9 The Committee decides how the £10,000 carry forward for road safety and road maintenance is added to the **Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme Fund** and
  - decides the principles around the spend of the **Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme Fund**;
  - agrees the proposed process set out at 4.4.8 – 4.4.12.

## 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

2012-13 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health - November 2013  
Constituency Profile Wallasey – October 2013  
Wirral Corporate Plan 2013 – 2016

## 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
Wallasey Constituency Committee – Constituency Priorities and Spend	19 February 2014
Cabinet – Local Transport Capital Funding & The Integrated Transport Block (ITB) Programme 2014/15	13 May 2014