

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

3RD JULY 2014

SUBJECT:	YOUR WIRRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME
WARD/S AFFECTED:	WARDS WITHIN THE WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ GREASBY, FRANKBY AND IRBY▪ HOYLAKE 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 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Your Wirral Fund is a small grants programme of £250,000 that has been in operation since 2007. Your Wirral 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. Your Wirral has been dormant for the last financial year and rests with Magenta Living.
- 1.2 A Joint Working Group acts as the accountable body for Your Wirral and is comprised of representation from Wirral Council and Magenta Living, including Councillors and Board members. Wirral Council and Magenta Living have agreed that the Your Wirral Fund should now be administered via the Constituency Committees given their role. The purpose of this report is to give an overview of Your Wirral and to seek views as to the Committee's role in the decision making process.
- 1.3 Magenta Living has determined the constituency allocation of the Your Wirral Fund on the basis of the number of housing units in each area. On this basis, the Wirral West Constituency Committee will be responsible for allocating £40,000 Your Wirral funding in the coming financial year. £50,000 has been ringfenced for Wirral wide projects (i.e. projects that will be delivered in two or more of the constituency areas). A summary of the allocation by constituency is provided in Table 1 overleaf.

Table 1

Area	Number of Units	Your Wirral Allocation
Birkenhead	4683	£75,000
Wallasey	3214	£50,000
Wirral West	2430	£40,000
Wirral South	1888	£35,000
Wirral Wide	12215 (Total)	£50,000

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Grants will be available to voluntary and community sector (not for profit) groups. 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. These themes 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
- 2.2 In respect of the grant programme being administered via the constituencies, a series of terms and conditions have been developed to ensure that the conditions of the Community Fund Deed are not compromised:
- All applications for funding must fit within the 7 themes but constituencies may prioritise a particular theme;
 - The same application form, as approved by Magenta Living, is to be used across all constituencies;
 - The same process for quality assuring and assessing applications, as approved by Magenta Living, is to be used across all four constituencies;
 - Recommendations as to which applications should receive funding in each constituency will be made by a Your Wirral constituency panel, with representation from Magenta Living;
 - Constituency Committees may determine the make up of the Your Wirral constituency panel;
 - Constituency staff will advertise arrange payments and monitor projects;
 - All materials must display the Your Wirral, Magenta Living and Wirral Council logos;
 - The funding allocation for each constituency is proportionate to the amount of housing units in the constituency;
 - Individual grants must not exceed £2,500;
 - The activity must take place within the boundaries of Wirral.
- 2.3 The Committee is asked to note that it has been proposed that Wirral wide applications will be assessed by a separate panel comprising the Chair or Vice Chair of each Constituency Committee and an officer from Magenta. This separate panel will make recommendations with regard to the £50,000 that has been ringfenced for Wirral wide projects (i.e. projects that will be delivered in two or more of the constituency areas). The recommendations of this panel with regards to Wirral wide applications will be referred to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Engagement for approval.
- 2.4 The Your Wirral Fund will be launched across the borough the week commencing 28th July 2014 (after the current cycle of Constituency Committees has taken place). The Fund will remain open throughout the year with 'cut off' dates advertised for each constituency by which applications need to be received to be considered by the Your Wirral Constituency Panel and referred for decision to the Constituency Committee. The Your Wirral Constituency Panel is therefore expected to meet up to

four times in this municipal year in advance of Constituency Committee meetings until the funding is spent.

2.5 The views of the Committee are therefore sought as to:

- Nominations for the Wirral West Your Wirral Constituency Panel which will make recommendations to the Constituency Committee with regard to the allocation of Your Wirral grants in Wirral West. Both councillors and community representatives can be nominated to sit on this panel;
- Whether the Wirral West Your Wirral Constituency Panel should give priority to one or more of the 7 themes listed in 2.1 above when they are considering their recommendations to the Committee.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 There is a risk of duplication with other grant programmes being delivered in the constituency dependent on the view of the Committee as to its budget allocation and this might have capacity issues for groups making applications. The Constituency Manager will seek to mitigate this risk by developing a timetable which gives due regard to avoiding such duplication.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 The administration of the Your Wirral Fund will be reviewed throughout the year to identify any areas that need revising or additional support needed.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 The changes to the administration of Your Wirral have been undertaken following discussions between Magenta Living and Wirral Council via the Joint Working Group. This report seeks to consult with the Constituency Committee as to its role in the process.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 The administration of the Your Wirral Fund via the Constituency Committees should have no negative implications for voluntary, community and faith groups. There is the potential for more groups to be made aware of the fund. The use of an online form with accompanying support available has the potential to increase the digital inclusion of small neighbourhood based groups.

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

7.1 The administration of the fund will be undertaken by the constituency teams. To reduce the amount of administration of Your Wirral an online application form is being developed by Wirral Council. Paper forms will also be available. Neighbourhood Engagement Officers will be responsible for making payments, monitoring spend and ensuring the projects/activities have met the desired outcomes.

7.2 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).

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The process has been reviewed by Internal Audit and there are no legal implications.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An impact review relating to neighbourhood working can be found at the link below:

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/chief-executives>

9.2 Support will be provided for residents that do not have internet facilities or have difficulty completing the application form (with hard copies available).

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The allocation of Your Wirral grants may create opportunities to encourage the sharing of community assets, therefore supporting carbon reduction.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The allocation of the Your Wirral grants may have a positive impact upon community safety.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee agrees:

12.1 Nominations for the Wirral West Your Wirral Constituency Panel which will make recommendations to the Constituency Committee with regard to the allocation of Your Wirral grants in the area. Both councillors and community representatives can be nominated to sit on the panel;

12.2 Whether the Wirral West Your Wirral Constituency Panel should give priority to one or more of the 7 themes listed in 2.1 above when they are considering their recommendations to the Committee;

12.3 That the Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee should represent the Wirral West Constituency Committee on the separate panel which will make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Housing and Engagement with regard to the allocation of Wirral wide Your Wirral grants.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

13.1 To consult on the Wirral West Constituency Committee's role in administering the Your Wirral Fund.

REPORT AUTHORS:

Nancy Kitch

Third Sector Officer

Tel: (0151) 691 8216)

Email: nancykitch@wirral.gov.uk

Jane Morgan

Constituency Manager (Wirral West)

Tel: (0151) 929 7706

Email: janemorgan@wirral.gov.uk