

WIRRAL COUNCIL

BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

24TH JULY 2014

SUBJECT:	CONSTITUENCY BUDGET AND SPEND
WARD/S AFFECTED:	WARDS WITHIN THE BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY. BIRKENHEAD AND TRANMERE BIDSTON AND ST JAMES CLAUGHTON OXTON PRENTON ROCK FERRY
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

1.1 This report details an update on the budget allocation to Birkenhead Constituency Committee for 2013/14 and an overview of the budget available for 2014/15.

2.0 Budget Allocation 2013/14

2.1 Appendix 1 details the budget allocation for 2013/14. It details funding that has been committed to an identified project in 2013/14 or where it has been allocated to a specific project and carried into 2014/15 to be delivered.

3.0 Budget available for 2014/15

3.1 As well as the budget allocation carried over from 2013/14 Birkenhead Constituency Committee has the following funding available for 2014/15.

- £50,000 devolved budget
- £77,750 Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme Fund

This is summarised in Appendix 2 and expanded in further detail below, with recommendations of how to progress the spend with each budget allocation.

3.2 Wirral Council has devolved a further £50,000 to the Birkenhead Constituency Committee for 2014/15 to use to tackle priorities and reduce inequality. At the Birkenhead Constituency Committee meeting on 10th April 2014 it was agreed that £10,000 of this allocation would be allocated to fund the urgently needed repair works to the River Wall and Esplanade at Rock Park.

Recommendation: The Priorities Task and Finish Group work with the Constituency Manager to draft proposals for the remaining £40,000 allocation for 2014/15. The proposals for spend will be presented for discussion and approval at the Committee meeting on 30th October 2014.

- 3.3 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:

Improving Road Safety (£38,875)

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.

Promoting Active Travel and Health (£38,875).

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.

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.

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 3 outlines typical schemes that would be eligible for funding

- 3.4 The proposed process to manage this devolved budget is to form a Working Group. The 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.

A recommended scheme of works will be made by the Working Group and presented to the Constituency Committee on 30 October 2014 for discussion and approval regarding the allocation of this spend.

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.

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

4.1 This resource implications are in relation to the budget allocation for Birkenhead Constituency Committee in 2014/15.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has no legal implications.

6.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Not required as this is a research task.

7.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This report has no direct carbon reduction implications.

8.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 This report has no planning and community safety implications.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The Priorities Task and Finish Group work with the Constituency Manager to draft proposals for the remaining £40,000 allocation for 2014/15. The proposals for spend will be presented for discussion and approval at the Committee meeting on 30th October 2014.

9.2 A Working Group is established to manage a process of identifying and prioritising schemes of work to be carried out utilising the devolved budget for the Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme. The suggested schemes of work will be presented for discussion and approval at the Committee meeting on 30th October 2014.

10.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

10.1 To utilise the budget allocation (2014/15) for Birkenhead Constituency Committee to meet identified priorities.

REPORT AUTHOR: Dawn Tolcher, Constituency Manager (Birkenhead)

Telephone: (0151) 691 8295

Email: dawntolcher@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1- 2013/14 Budget Summary

APPENDIX 2- 2014/15 Budget Summary

APPENDIX 3- Examples of scheme eligible for funding (Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme Fund)

