

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

22 JANUARY 2015

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| SUBJECT: | WIRRAL SOUTH BUDGET & SPEND UPDATE |
| WARD/S AFFECTED: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>BEBINGTON</u>▪ <u>BROMBOROUGH</u>▪ <u>CLATTERBRIDGE</u>▪ <u>EASTHAM</u>▪ <u>HESWALL</u> |
| REPORT OF: | CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL SOUTH) |
| RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER: | COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING & ENGAGEMENT |
| KEY DECISION? | NO |

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report gives an update on the current allocation of all budgets devolved to the Wirral South Constituency Committee. This includes:

- £50K Wirral South Health & Wellbeing Fund
- £38,720.50 core budget rolled over from 2013/14 (allocated £10k per ward)
- £50K Core budget allocated to three main priorities
- £77,750 Road Safety Money
- £35K “Your Wirral” funding
- £10k “Love Wirral” funding

2.0 WIRRAL SOUTH HEALTH & WELLBEING FUND

2.1 As outlined at previous Constituency Committees; 18 projects have been funded from the Wirral South Health & Wellbeing Fund during 2014/15. The total of funding the aforementioned projects was £48,118.97, leaving £1,881.03

2.2 At the first Wirral South Constituency Committee of 2014/15 (June 25) the above outlined allocation (2.1) was recommended and resolved. Payments were subsequently made to the approved 18 projects. Many of these projects are at varying stages of completion (some are complete and were one off events, others are yet to begin until later in the year). Further updates will be requested and reported at the final constituency committee of 2014/15 (16 April, 2015).

3.0 REMAINING CORE BUDGET FROM 2013/14

3.1 Over £38K of the 2013/14 devolved core budget for Wirral South remained and was carried over into 2014/15. Each ward was allocated £10k each and spend continues. Further works has been programmed since the last committee on 16th October which will see this remaining amount reduced. Although there are a number of projects in development members are reminded to ensure this allocation is used expediently (see recommendation 17.1). Appendix 1 shows the current rate of spend per ward.

4.0 2014/15 CORE BUDGET

4.1 At Wirral South's first Constituency Committee of 2014/15 three main priorities were proposed and resolved:

These priorities are (amendment made to "Open Spaces" priority, see resolution 2 of minute 21 Wirral South Constituency Committee, 16 October 2014):

- Improved Open Spaces; to increase the number of green flag parks in Wirral South year on year and ensure accessibility is improved in each chosen location
- 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

For further information relating to progress on this matter please see the report entitled "Wirral South Priorities update 2014/15" presented to the Wirral South Constituency Committee 22 January 2015.

5.0 ROAD SAFETY DEVOLVED BUDGET

5.1 It was outlined at Wirral South's first Constituency Committee of 2014/15 that £77,750 had been devolved to Wirral South to address Road Safety issues within the constituency area.

5.2 The "Local Transport Capital Funding/Integrated Transport Block (ITB) programme budget Task & Finish Group" for Wirral South met for the first time, Wednesday 13

Aug (see appendix 2 for meeting notes). This group discussed possible options for distributing the relevant budget and came to the following conclusion:

“Utilise some of the £77,750 (£10K suggested) to carry out a constituency wide project to future proof a number of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). The remaining amount to be split evenly per ward”.

- 5.3 Based upon the above proposal all members were requested to submit a concise “wish list” in order of preference stating schemes they would like to fund from their ward based budget (approximately £13.5K). The aforementioned schemes can be programmed in for completion throughout the remainder of 2014/15.
- 5.4 Following receipt of ward based requests from elected members the constituency manager has been in consultation with Road Safety and Traffic sections. Relevant public notices have now been released in respect of relevant proposed schemes. The current projected spend against the overall budget of £77,750 is £76,100. As such members are asked to note progress in relation to this matter (see recommendation 17.2).

6.0 “YOUR WIRRAL” BUDGET

- 6.1 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 To be eligible for funding, applications must fit within one or more of the seven themes (below), which were agreed by the Joint Working Group in line with the charitable objectives of the Community Fund Deed they are:
- i. Creating an attractive and safe environment
 - ii. Contributing to community economic regeneration
 - iii. Preventing crime or reducing the fear of crime
 - iv. Providing employment and training for local people
 - v. Benefiting local people who face discrimination
 - vi. Improving community facilities
 - vii. Engaging communities to improve quality of life
- 6.2 The first tranche of the “Your Wirral Fund” for Wirral South closed on. On 1 October 2014 a representative task and finish group met to assess the application received against an agreed criteria.

Following allocation based upon the recommendations of the aforementioned task and finish group in October there was £11,886.28 remaining. The fund reopened until November 28th to allow for applications to considered expediently by the already existing task and finish group. The task and finish group met once again (January 7, 2015) to assess one application which had been further received. The aforementioned group consisted of:

Cllr Phil Gilchrist (Chair)
Cllr Jerry Williams (Vice Chair)
Cllr Christina Muspratt (Bebington)
Cllr Irene Williams (Bromborough)
Cllr Tracey Smith (Clatterbridge)

Cllr Les Rowlands (Heswall)
Paula McGlynn (Magenta Living Rep)

- 6.3 Although a number of clarification questions were requested of the applicant, members of the task and finish group agreed that the project should be funded on receipt of acceptable responses to said questions (recommendation 17.3).
- 6.4 The task and finish group also propose the “Your Wirral” fund for Wirral South be reopened January 23 for 6 weeks, thus closing at noon on Friday March 6, 2015 (see recommendation 17.4).

7.0 LOVE WIRRAL FUNDING

- 7.1 £10K has been devolved to the Wirral South Constituency Committee in the form of “Love Wirral” funding. The constituency Manager is currently seeking clarification that this spend can be carried forward into 2015/16. Unlike previous “Love Wirral” allocations the committee have complete control over how they wish to see the monies allocated, provided the spend is linked to environmental quality. It is recommended that a “Love Wirral” task and finish group be established to discuss the project and report back to the final committee of 2014/15 (16 April, 2015). See recommendation 17.5.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

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

9.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 Careful consideration has been given to the best way to distribute this funding to help tackle the Constituency’s priorities.

10.0 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 Extensive online literature was available to both promote and explain the “Your Wirral Fund” and support was offered from Community Action Wirral to aid those applying. Elected members have been consulted via various task & finish groups.

11.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 11.1 The “Your Wirral” fund will offer a well needed injection of funds into the social sector within Wirral South.

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

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

13.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The arrangements will help the Council to deliver on the Localism Act 2011 and Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

14.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 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>

15.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 Allocation of funds promoting localised services will have an impact on the Wirral South's overall carbon footprint

16.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

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

17.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

- 17.1 Members work closely with the Constituency Manager and other officers to ensure the remaining under spend from 2013/14 is allocated by the end of 2014/15.
- 17.2 Members note the progress in relation to spend of the "Local Transport Capital Funding/Integrated Transport Block (ITB) programme funding for 2014/15.
- 17.3 Note the progress made in relation to further allocation of "Your Wirral" funding.
- 17.4 The "Your Wirral" fund for Wirral South be reopened January 23 for 6 weeks, thus closing at noon on Friday March 6, 2015.

17.5 Members form a “Love Wirral” task and finish group to develop proposals in relation to the devolved £10k budget and report back to the final committee of 2014/15 (16 April, 2015).

18.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

18.1 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)

| Council Meeting | Date |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Voluntary Sector Support Fund Wirral South Constituency Committee | 10 December 2013 25 June 2014 |

Appendix One: Projected Spend of Carried Over 2013/14 Core Budget

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| Ward | Projected Spend |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Bebington | £9,201.05 |
| Bromborough | £9,812.50 |
| Clatterbridge | £5,695.79 |
| Eastham | £10,090.49 |
| Heswall | £9,524.76 |
| | |
| Total | £44,324.59 |