

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

26TH FEBRUARY 2015

SUBJECT:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER'S REPORT
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:	CABINET MEMBER – NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 This report sets out:

- An update on progress in relation to the activities being undertaken by the Wirral West constituency team. A summary is attached at **Appendix 1** and items for discussion are highlighted below in Section 2 of the report;
- Items for noting in respect of local issues / consultations (Section 3).

1.2 An update on the status of actions raised by Committee Services as a result of previous Constituency Committee meeting is also attached at **Appendix 3**.

2.0 CONSTITUENCY TEAM ACTIVITIES

2.1 Stay Safe, Warm and Well Project

2.1.1 At the Wirral West Constituency Committee on the 3rd July 2014, the Committee agreed that the Constituency Manager be given delegated authority to use the Committee's Public Health Outcomes Fund underspend from 2013-14 (just over £5,500) for a partnership project to work with the voluntary, community and faith sector to support older people.

2.1.2 The rationale for developing the Stay, Safe, Warm and Well project was that:

- Wirral West has the largest population aged 75+ compared with the other 3 constituency areas; a third (32.7%) of people aged over 65 years live alone in the constituency;

- Social isolation is recognised as key to people's wellbeing – older and vulnerable people are more at risk of being socially isolated wherever they live;
- Discussions between constituency partners had identified that many partners are working hard to support vulnerable older people and engage with them to intervene early before problems get worse and link them to appropriate support and community networks – all partners share a common aspiration to deliver better outcomes for older people and reduce the strain on public services and budgets, for example through reducing hospital admissions.

2.1.3 The constituency team has worked with the Council's housing team, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Age UK, Magenta Living and Energy Projects Plus to:

- Visit as many voluntary and community groups as possible in the constituency to promote the Stay Safe, Warm and Well campaign and identify and refer older and vulnerable people at risk who may benefit from additional support – the campaign materials used to do this have been leaflets and winter warmth packs (which include a fleece blanket, flask, torch, gloves, etc.) – 21 groups have been visited as part of the project, and a total of nearly 300 winter warmth packs given out to date.
- Provide more co-ordinated home visits and signposting to additional services for people referred as a result of the visits to voluntary and community groups, including providing equipment such as oil-filled radiators where needed – 182 referrals have already been made to additional services as a result of the project.

2.1.4 The outcomes have yet to be fully assessed but this work is now being undertaken with the findings to be presented at an evaluation event on the 20th March 2015. All members of the Committee are welcome to attend alongside partners and the co-ordinators of voluntary and community groups which have taken part. As well as providing more detail about the outcomes for the individuals supported as a result of the project, the evaluation will highlight how the campaign has resulted in:

- More older and vulnerable people have been linked into support networks in their communities through messages being cascaded by members of existing voluntary and community groups;
- A stronger partner and volunteer network in the constituency – a key feature of the project was to recruit existing Age UK volunteers to support the campaign;
- An up-to-date database of active voluntary, community and faith sector groups who work with older and vulnerable people in the constituency, which will provide a valuable resource in respect of working with local groups to develop and deliver services.

2.1.5 The Constituency Committee is asked to note that the funding has been used solely to provide the winter warmth packs used by the campaign team, project publicity and equipment for distribution by the Fire Service, with all staffing time and support provided 'in kind' by the agencies involved. Any remaining funding will be used to sustain the project into next winter (2015-16) and to develop further opportunities for

partnership working, including the proposed constituency conference as set out in 3 below.

Recommendation(s):

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the work undertaken to deliver the Stay Safe, Warm and Well project and to agree to receive a full report on the outcomes at a future meeting;**
- **Approve that any remaining funding from the project be used to sustain this activity into 2015-16.**

2.2 Constituency Road Safety Budget 2014-15

2.2.1 The Constituency Committee resolved the following when it last met in October 2014 in relation to the constituency budget allocation of £77,750 for road safety and active travel:

- To fund a series of local schemes costing an estimated £68,850 (see **Appendix 2**);
- To use the remaining £8,900 and any slippage from the local schemes agreed for dropped kerbs in the constituency.

2.2.2 Since the list of recommended Wirral West constituency schemes was approved by the Committee in October, any required statutory consultations have been taking place. Any unresolved objections to the schemes must be considered by the Highways and Traffic Representations Panel and, following this, by the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee on 23rd March 2015. The Constituency Committee's Road Safety Panel (Cllrs Clements, Ellis, Sullivan, Whittingham and Elderton) are being kept updated on this process.

2.2.3 Implementation of the schemes which were not subject to statutory consultation, or which received no objections as a result of statutory consultation, is underway. The Committee is asked to note that, due to the overall number of requests received for Vehicle Activated Signs from Wirral West, Wallasey and Wirral South Constituency Committees (with a total value of over £50,000) a formal tender process using the Council's procurement portal is being undertaken with a contract award expected during April.

Recommendation:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the progress in relation to implementing the local road safety schemes approved by the Committee in October (Appendix 3) and to agree to receive a further report on progress at a future meeting.**

2.3 Neighbourhood Working Business Case

2.3.1 At its meeting in July 2014, the Committee resolved that, in noting the priorities identified by local people as part of the Community Fund voting process which took

place earlier the year, these should be taken into account in respect of the work being undertaken by the Council and Executive to develop proposals for the further devolution of budgets, functions and responsibilities to the Constituency Committees. The Committee further requested that the Constituency Manager prepare a report for the next meeting of the Committee on how these proposals are progressing with a view to producing a business case thereafter.

2.3.2 The proposed business case will seek to establish that there is significant scope for the Constituency Committees to influence functions and budgets leading to more localised delivery of Council services. The proposed approach set out below reflects the need to undertake detailed analysis and consultation with stakeholders.

2.3.3 It is proposed that a staged approach for developing the business case should include:

1. Reviewing the decision-making and commissioning already undertaken on a constituency basis, highlighting issues and opportunities. Since the establishment of constituency working approach in July 2013, the Committee has taken decisions in respect of the following budgets and service areas:

- £50,000 in 2013-14 and again in 2014-15 for each Committee to ‘kickstart’ and develop neighbourhood working – £100,000 in total;
- £50,000 in 2013-14 to improve Public Health outcomes in each area;
- Over £75,000 for each area in 2014-15 for road safety and active travel improvements;
- Between £40,000 and £75,000 for Your Wirral grants to local groups in each area in 2014-15.

It is proposed that this review is undertaken during March – April 2015;

2. Researching the current policy context for devolving decision-making including examples from elsewhere – again during March - April 2015;
3. Mapping the options for the Committee to further influence functions and budgets – during April – May 2015;
4. Preparing an issues / consultation paper setting out the options, with clarity about which functions and budgets cannot be devolved – by end of May 2015;
5. Seeking views from a wide range of stakeholders on the options, including from local communities and partners – June – September 2015;
6. Establishing recommendations – by end 2015.

Recommendation:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the proposed approach to developing the business case and agree to receive updates at future meetings.**

2.4 Constituency Conference Proposal

- 2.4.1 A number of engagement events have taken place in Wirral West since the constituency approach was put in place, both as part of the Community Fund process and to allow partners and the community to discuss issues informally through a 'marketplace' approach. The success of these events has been varied, with feedback from participants generally positive, but with relatively low attendance from members of the public who are not already engaged in local groups or activities. However, as the high response to the Community Fund voting opportunity indicates, there is an appetite for local people to get involved in decision-making and shaping services.
- 2.4.2 To build on the lessons learnt to date in respect of engagement with the Wirral West community, it is proposed that the constituency team co-ordinates a constituency conference and campaign in June 2015. This will bring together the Constituency Committee, public service partners and the community to gather views about how the constituency approach to involving local people in decision-making and influencing priorities could be further developed.

Recommendation:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Support the proposal for a constituency conference.**

3.0 LOCAL ISSUES / CONSULTATIONS

3.1 Fire Station Consultation

- 3.1.1 A further 12-week consultation will run from the 2nd March to the 18th May 2015 on proposed changes to Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service's emergency response cover in West Wirral. More details of the consultation can be found at www.merseyfire.gov.uk
- 3.1.2 The consultation will include public meetings and a survey that people living in Wirral can complete, which will be available on the website. Paper versions of the survey will also be available at the public meetings. These will be held at St Mary's Centre, Saughall Massie Road on Monday evening of 20th April, Holy Cross Community Centre, Church Lane, Woodchurch on Tuesday evening of 28th April, and Hoylake Community Centre, Hoyle Road on Tuesday evening of the 5th May. Alternatively, comments can be sent by email to consultation2@merseyfire.gov.uk, or by writing to Wirral Consultation, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bridle Road, Bootle, L30 4YD, up until May 18.
- 3.1.4 The outcomes of the consultation will be reported back to the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority in June 2015.

3.2 Burbo Bank Community Fund

- 3.2.1 In December 2014 DONG Energy decided to construct the Burbo Bank Extension off shore wind farm. The site will be located west of the existing Burbo Bank operational

wind farm in Liverpool Bay. DONG Energy has now committed to a Community Fund, worth approximately £235,000 each year for the lifetime of the project. DONG Energy appointed GrantScape to carry out local consultation to seek views from all stakeholders on how the Fund should be set up.

3.2.2 The first stage of the consultation took the form of an online survey which was conducted from May to October 2014. GrantScape will now be holding a series of local public exhibitions for anyone who would like to know more about the Fund, discuss their project, or find out about the application process. The Wirral exhibition is being held on Tuesday, 10th March 2015 (2pm to 7pm) at The Parade Community Centre, Hoylake.

3.2.3 GrantScape has developed a map showing the proposed area of benefit that the Fund will cover. The proposed area of benefit follows a 5km line inland from the coast. The map and more details about the Fund are available at <http://grantscape.org.uk/bbecbf/>. The Fund will be reviewed annually by GrantScape, DONG Energy and other key local stakeholders.

3.2.4 GrantScape's current timeframe is that:

- The Fund will be launched to applications in May with a deadline date in September,
- First round decisions will be made by approximately December 2015.

4.0 RISKS

4.1 A detailed risk assessment has been developed to support the constituency working approach.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 This report sets out activities undertaken in relation to actions agreed by the Committee, all of which have been progressed with due consideration to a range of options.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation is undertaken with the members of the Constituency Committee as to the development and operation of the Committee. Ongoing consultation with the local community as to issues for the area is a clear objective of the constituency working approach.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 The constituency working approach has positive implications for voluntary, community and faith groups in Wirral West.

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

8.1 The activities set out in this report will be delivered via existing resources and utilising the constituency budget as determined by the Committee.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no legal implications relating to the activities set out in this report.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 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>

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct carbon reduction implications relating to this report.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no direct planning and community safety implications relating to this report.

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 The Committee is requested to approve the recommendations in relation to the particular items set out in the main body of the report.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 In order to ensure that actions requested by the Committee are being progressed as required.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY TEAM ACTIVITIES (as at February 2015)
Appendix 2: CONSTITUENCY ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES (approved October 2014)
Appendix 3: CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE ACTIONS (from July 2014 onwards)

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Meeting	Date
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	12th December 2013
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	6th March 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	3rd July 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	16th October 2014

APPENDIX 1: WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY TEAM ACTIVITIES (February 2015)

Activity	RAG Rating	Status	Consultation with Constituency Committee
1. Committee Handbook	Amber	Work on the Committee Handbook is ongoing. A draft will be circulated in due course.	Comments from Constituency Committee will be requested on the Handbook prior to publication.
2. Community Asset Audit / Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Project	Green	An ABCD project funded by Public Health is underway with the involvement of the Constituency Managers from all four areas. This activity is being delivered by an organisation called Nurture Development and the Committee and community stakeholders have been invited to training sessions and workshops organised by Nurture Development as part of the project.	A presentation about the outcomes of this work is presented to the Committee at its next meeting.
3. Wirral West Constituency Plan	Amber	Previous reports to the Committee have set out the initial considerations which have been given to developing a Constituency Plan. Planned workshops with councillors and community representatives to discuss the development of the Constituency Plan did not go ahead as planned due to capacity issues and it is therefore proposed that the proposed constituency conference provides an opportunity to take forward.	Consultation on the constituency conference proposal is being undertaken as part of this report.
4. Love Wirral	Green	A separate report on the Love Wirral budget allocation is at item 7.	Consultation on the Love Wirral budget for 2014-15 is being undertaken as part of this report.
5. Constituency Engagement	Green	The constituency conference proposal detailed in the main body of the report seeks to progress the constituency approach to engaging with local communities.	The Constituency Committee is updated on engagement activities as these are developed and implemented.
6. Wirral West Community Fund / Public Health Projects (2014)	Green	Community Fund and Public Health projects funded in 2014 are now largely complete and are being evaluated.	A detailed report on the outcomes of projects funded in 2014 will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.
7. Wirral West Community Fund 2015	Green	A separate report on the Community Fund grant programme is at item 6.	The Constituency Committee will be consulted on the future implementation of the Community Fund grant programme.

Activity	RAG Rating	Status	Consultation with Constituency Committee
8. Neighbourhood Working Business Case	Amber	An update on the development of the business case is included in section 2 of this report.	The Constituency Committee will be kept updated on progress.
9. Stay Safe, Warm and Well Project	Green	An update on the development of this project is included in section 2 of this report.	The Constituency Committee has been invited to proactively contribute to this project through identifying groups to be involved.
10. Your Wirral Grant Programme	Green	Wirral West groups and organisations which were awarded a Your Wirral grant in October 2014 have now received their funding. The Constituency Manager is also overseeing the Wirral-wide Your Wirral allocation. Magenta Living has indicated that there will be a further (final) year of Your Wirral which will provide a future funding opportunity for Wirral West groups.	The Constituency Committee will be consulted as appropriate on the ongoing administration of the Your Wirral grant programme.
11. Other Activities	Green	<p>The constituency team is involved in a wide range of other activities. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working with ward councillors to identify priorities for allocating 2013-14 Community Fund underspend in each ward; ▪ Responding to issues raised by ward councillors and community members and working with Council departments and partners to resolve issues; ▪ Supporting town centre action planning and other regeneration initiatives; ▪ Attending and supporting a range of community meetings relevant to the work of the Committee; ▪ Developing public sector partnerships in the constituency area, for example through contributing on the West Wirral Children's Centre Advisory Board. 	The constituency team works closely with members of the Committee on ward issues as required.

APPENDIX 2: CONSTITUENCY ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES (approved October 2014)

In Greasby, Frankby and Irby Ward:

- Arroe Road Pavement Parking Restrictions - £4,100
- Hillbark Road / Ferndale Avenue Vehicle Activated Sign - £7,000
- Glenwood Drive / Coombe Road Junction Parking Restrictions - £1,200

Total Estimated Cost of Greasby, Frankby and Irby proposals - £12,300

In Hoylake and Meols Ward:

- Birkenhead Road / Carlton Lane Parking Restrictions - £1,200
- Elwyn Road / Guffits Rake and Elwyn Road / Newlyn Road Parking / Waiting Restrictions (in line with school times) – £1,200
- School Lane Pedestrian 'Buildouts' at Meols Park Entrance - £10,000
- Banks Road / Victoria Drive Parking Restrictions - £2,000

Total Estimated Cost of Hoylake and Meols proposals - £14,400

In Pensby and Thingwall Ward:

- Downham Road North 20mph Zone – £3,300
- Ridgewood Drive Area 20mph Zone - £7,200
- Kylemore Drive Area 20mph Zone - £3,200
- Stanley School / Kentmere Drive Give Way Markings - £200
- Pensby Road Cycle Stands - £350

Total Estimated Cost of Pensby and Thingwall proposals - £14,250

In Upton Ward:

- New Hey Road / St Michael and All Angels Zebra Crossing - £14,000

Total Estimated Cost of Upton proposals - £14,000

In West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward:

- Saughall Massie Road (Newton) Pavement Parking Restrictions - £3,900
- Frankby Road (near Hilbre School) Vehicle Activated Sign - £7,000
- Avalon School Parking / Waiting Restrictions - £3,000

Total Estimated Cost of West Kirby and Thurstaston proposals - £13,900

APPENDIX 3: CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE ACTIONS (from July 2014 onwards)

Committee Action	Meeting (Minute Ref)	Deadline	Officer Assigned	Status
To consider the outcome of a review into parking in West Kirby and to consider the viability of a request from a member of the public to allow short term parking, where there are restrictions at present. A response to be provided to the questioner and to Members of the Wirral West Constituency Committee.	3 rd July 2014 (Minute Ref 8)	August 2014	David Rees	This was considered as part of the development of recommendations to the Committee as to the allocation of the constituency road safety budget; the subsequent report to the Committee on the 16th October 2014 gave a position on this issue, i.e. that the parking review instigated by local residents was incomplete and that significant officer and consultation resource would be required to engage with businesses, residents etc. Given that the implications at this stage are in respect of officer capacity to progress the review, the Committee requested that this piece of work be considered as appropriate should resources become available.
That a copy of the Coastal Management Plan be provided to Mr John Durrant in order that he may then raise any areas of concern with appropriate Council officers.	3 rd July 2014 (Minute Ref 8)	August 2014	Jane Morgan	A hard copy of the Coastal Management Plan was shared.
That feedback be provided to the Constituency Committee in relation to various issues raised by the Committee's Community Representatives.	3 rd July 2014 (Minute Ref 9)	August 2014	Jane Morgan	The key issues raised and feedback included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Derelict toilet block on Hoylake Promenade – planning permission has been in place for some time relating to the site. Asset Management are in contact with the developer. ▪ Closure of West Kirby Fire Station – the latest position with regard to the Fire Station consultation is set out in 3.1. ▪ Concerns about Dee Estuary drilling - a position statement on this was issued earlier in the year. The Council is aware that the Government granted a license to Cluff Natural Resources PLC for coal gasification on 15 January 2013 for a period of five years. The License covers an area stretching from Hoylake to West Kirby across Hilbre Island and over the Dee Estuary to the Welsh Coast. Before any work can begin, the licensee would need to obtain any necessary planning permission and the approvals required by other statutory bodies. There are complicated permitted development rights for development for Coal Authority Licenses which would need to be fully considered when any formal proposals come forward. ▪ West Kirby town centre parking – this is now being considered through the development of a town centre action plan being led by Regeneration. ▪ Council policy on Christmas lights – community groups were not asked to meet electricity costs in 2014.

Committee Action	Meeting (Minute Ref)	Deadline	Officer Assigned	Status
To liaise with Councillor Stuart Whittingham with regard to the suitability of a proposal from a member of the public to introduce a 20mph speed limit in parts of West Kirby.	3rd July 2014 (Minute Ref 10)	August 2014	David Rees	This was considered as part of the development of recommendations to the Committee as to the allocation of the constituency road safety budget; Cllr Whittingham was a member of the Road Safety Panel which developed the recommendations. The subsequent report to the Committee on the 16th October 2014 gave a position on this issue, i.e. that this was not recommended as a priority for funding given potential enforcement issues and budget limitations, however officers were requested to note in respect of ongoing monitoring of road safety issues and the proposal has again been discussed as part of the development of a town centre action plan for West Kirby.
That the request for cycle stands in the vicinity of shops on Pensby Road, near Fishers Lane be considered as part of the budget allocation process.	3rd July 2014 (Minute Ref 8)	August 2014	Jane Morgan	This considered as part of the development of recommendations to the Committee as to the allocation of the constituency road safety budget and subsequently recommended for funding.
To notify the Constituency Committee of the outcome of enquiries into the No 138 bus service no longer running.	3rd July 2014 (Minute Ref 8)	August 2014	Jane Morgan	<p>A member of the public (Mr Ian Gilmour) who was present at the meeting in July has been kindly updating the Constituency Manager with information about the 138/139 and subsequent changes - this had been replaced entirely in respect of the Newton area by the 77 (a service run by Avon Buses). Since early December the 77 service stops in Heswall and no longer serves West Kirby.</p> <p>However, a new West Kirby circular service (including Newton) is in place (the 80) along with two new additional routes which may be of interest to local people travelling between West Kirby, Heswall and Irby (the 82/88). The timetables are available at http://www.merseytravel.gov.uk/travelling-around/timetables/Pages/Bus-Timetables.aspx</p>

Committee Action	Meeting (Minute Ref)	Deadline	Officer Assigned	Status
That, in noting the priorities identified by local people, the Committee requests that these should be taken into account in respect of the work being undertaken by the Council and Executive to develop proposals for the further devolution of budgets, functions and responsibilities to the Constituency Committees. The Committee further requests that the Constituency Manager prepare a report for the next meeting of the Committee on how these proposals are progressing with a view to producing a business case thereafter.	3rd July 2014 (Minute Ref 7)	Before 6 October 2014	Jane Morgan	See Constituency Manager's report (item 5).
Actions list be included as an item on the agenda of forthcoming meetings in order that the progression of matters raised could be evaluated.	16 th October 2014 (Minute Ref 17)	No deadline set	Jane Morgan	The actions list will be included as part of all future Constituency Manager's reports to the Committee.
That the Your Wirral grants be awarded to the local organisations as set out within Appendix 1 of the report.	16 th October 2014 (Minute Ref 19)	No deadline set	Jane Morgan	Grants were awarded in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee; all payments to local organisations have now been processed.
Social media site set up by Upton Regeneration to be publicised as appropriate.	16 th October 2014 (Minute Ref 17)	No deadline set	Jane Morgan	The constituency team has met with Upton Regeneration to offer support for their activities; the group has made an application to the Wirral West Community Fund to take forward environmental improvements in Upton Village (see item 6)