

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

26TH FEBRUARY 2015

SUBJECT:	WIRRAL WEST COMMUNITY FUND
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 AND WOODCHURCH
REPORT OF:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL WEST)
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CABINET MEMBER – NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report and presentation is to set out the application and voting process which has been undertaken with regards to the Wirral West Community Fund since the last meeting of the Committee in October 2014.
- 1.2 The outcomes of the public vote and the Committee's subsequent recommendations about the allocation of funding to local projects will be presented separately by the Constituency Manager.

2.0 APPLYING AND VOTING PROCESS

- 2.1 The Committee recommended at its meeting of the 3rd July 2014 that the Constituency Manager be given delegated authority to develop the Community Fund grants programme for allocating the Committee's £50,000 core budget for 2014-15 on the basis of £10,000 per ward.
- 2.2 The timetable for the Community Fund was adjusted further to what was proposed at the last meeting to take into account feedback about giving groups more time to prepare their applications taking into the Christmas break and also as result of the Constituency Committee date being rescheduled. The timetable was therefore updated as follows:

Date	Milestones
Monday 3 rd November 2014	Community Fund launched
Friday 9 th January 2015	Deadline for applications

Monday 19 th January – Monday 9 th February	Funding events and online / paper voting
26 th February 2015 (Constituency Committee meeting)	Funding awarded for projects which will need to be completed by December 2015

2.3 The application and voting process was refined to reflect feedback from voluntary and community groups who participated in the first round of the Community Fund e.g.:

- Improvements were made to the online voting system to ensure that information about the projects and the options for voting were clear;
- The opportunity to vote was widely publicised within the limited resources available – there was a significant increase in the numbers voting year on year (from just over 1,500 in 2014 to almost 1,900 in 2015). Although this is partly due to the fact that the opportunity to vote was extended to 3 weeks rather than 2 as for last time, voting numbers were still comparatively higher at the end of the second week than in 2014;
- Different locations for the voting events were identified and used – with some areas joining up to encourage wider networking amongst groups. These events will however need to be further evaluated as attendance by residents was relatively low.

2.4 The maximum grant available was set at the £1,000 threshold previously put in place for the Community Fund, however applications for funding above this amount have been considered. The aim of this was to encourage exceptional projects which have a significant impact on local areas or the constituency as a whole.

3.0 OVERVIEW OF THE VOTING RESULTS

3.1 In summary:

- Almost 1,900 people voted;
- 123 of these were paper votes, the remainder were online;
- Over 300 were outside of Wirral West.

3.2 Participation from each of the 5 wards in Wirral West was as follows:

- Greasby, Frankby & Irby – 222 people voted (15.1% of Wirral West voters)
- Hoylake & Meols – 460 people voted (31.3%)
- Pensby & Thingwall – 179 people voted (12.2%)
- Upton & Woodchurch – 261 people voted (17.8%)
- West Kirby & Thurstaston – 348 people voted (23.7%)

3.3 Residents found out about the public vote as follows:

- 53% of voters via email;
- 31.3% of voters were a member of a voluntary or community group applying to the Wirral West Community Fund;
- 8.2% via a poster or flyer;

- 4.1% via other sources (e.g. word of mouth, at a Council building etc.);
- 3.4% via the local press.

3.4 Voters were also asked the following questions as part of the vote and a high proportion of people responded:

- If you were given a budget to spend on services or improvements which would benefit the local community, what would you spend it on? (997 responses; 52.7% of those who completed the voting survey);
- How do you think decisions about services and budgets could be made at a more local level? (834 responses; 44.1% of those who completed the survey).

3.5 An initial analysis of the themes emerging from the responses to these questions will be presented separately to the Committee. The information will then be further analysed and used to inform the development of constituency working and increasing the involvement in decision-making of local people. Should the Committee support the proposal for a constituency conference, a detailed analysis will be presented at this event.

4.0 RISKS

4.1 A detailed risk assessment in place to support the constituency working approach.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 The consideration of other options is not applicable in respect of the content of this report as it relates to the implementation of a previous decision by the Committee to allocate its budget through a Community Fund grant programme.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Local people have been proactively consulted to assess support for local projects seeking grants from the Community Fund.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 This report has positive implications for voluntary, community and faith groups in Wirral West.

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

8.1 Any funding awards resulting from this report will be within the Committee's available budget. The administration of the Community Fund is undertaken within existing resources.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no legal implications relating arising from 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 funding allocation for local projects in each ward which are 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

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Meeting	Date
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Budget 2014-15	3 rd July 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	16 th October 2014