

**WIRRAL COUNCIL**

**WALLASEY CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE**

**16 APRIL 2015**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>AN EVALUATION OF YEAR 1 WALLASEY BRIGHT IDEAS FUND PROJECTS (2013/14)</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>LEASOWE &amp; MORETON EAST; LISCARD; MORETON WEST &amp; SAUGHALL MASSIE; NEW BRIGHTON; SEACOMBE AND WALLASEY.</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY MANAGER</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING &amp; ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1 This report provides an evaluation of projects funded by Wallasey Constituency Committee through Year 1 Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund (2013/14).

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 A total of £40,000 was set aside by Wallasey Constituency Committee for bids from voluntary, community and faith groups and not-for-profit organisations to address the Committee's priorities. This consisted of £15,000 from the Committee's devolved budget and £25,000 from Public Health Outcomes Fund (Voluntary Sector Support Fund).

2.2 The fund was launched on 20 December 2013 and closed on 24 January 2014. 36 groups/not-for-profit organisations made applications to Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund; two groups withdrew their respective applications following submission. The Committee's 'Priorities and Spend' Task & Finish Group recommended funding 23 projects at a cost of £27,449; these were agreed by Wallasey Constituency Committee on 19 February 2014 (minute 18 refers). The list of successful projects is set out in Appendix 1. Groups were required to deliver their projects by 31 December 2014 and complete and submit an evaluation report on or before 3 January 2015. Appendix 2 is a collation of the evaluation reports submitted by each group and includes the summary of each project as originally outlined by the respective applicant.

2.3 Details of any exceptions to the above process are outlined below, including any underspend returned to the Council.

- 2.4 WC4 Hand in Hand Theatre requested an extension to the project deadline due to scheduling issues and prohibitive transportation costs identified by schools. The Constituency Team agreed that further free tickets could be offered to the target groups for a further planned production (which met the terms of the original application). £595 was subsequently returned to the Council for tickets not issued.
- 2.5 WC9 Brooke Community Association requested an extension to the deadline to deliver the project and wished to discuss delivery further amongst their group at their next meeting in early February 2015. This was agreed by the Constituency Team. The group however decided prior to this date that they were unable to deliver the project and returned the full funding allocation to the Council of £500.
- 2.6 WC15 FACT (Families & Communities Together) requested an extension to the deadline due to the cancellation of the training by the identified provider and unsuccessful attempts to reschedule. The Constituency Team agreed for the training to be delivered by an alternative provider on 22 April 2015 provided that the evaluation report for the remainder of the project delivery was completed and submitted in the interim. The group has returned £80 to the Council for resources/materials connected to the original training provider that is no longer required.
- 2.7 WC22 The Friends of Egremont has an underspend of £345.81. This has not been returned as the group has requested that the Committee considers whether this can be used by the group for a further gardening project. It is recommended due to the Purdah period that this decision is not taken by the Committee until its next meeting on 25 June 2015, however it should be noted that the Terms and Conditions of the grant state that groups must return any underspend to Wirral Council.
- 2.8 WC25 Women Helping Youth requested a potential change of agreed use for a £400 underspend. This was discussed and it was subsequently agreed by the Constituency Team that it could be used to provide additional hampers (as per the original application). This allocation was fully spent.
- 2.9 WC34 The New Brighton Residents' Association has been unable to provide an evaluation report and the reason for this has been accepted by the Constituency Team. The Team is satisfied however that the funding has been spent in line with the original application and supported the ongoing operation of the Association.
- 2.10 WC35 Momentary Art Project has returned an underspend of £350 to the Council, which occurred due to capacity issues within the school, meaning the second part of the project could not be delivered.
- 2.11 The evaluation report requested by the Constituency Team also required all groups to provide a full breakdown of spend and provide receipts for each and every transaction. Whilst there is an audit requirement to dip sample a percentage of projects to ensure the legitimacy of spend, the Constituency Engagement Officer reviewed spend on all projects to ensure that the spend was within the parameters agreed by the Committee (i.e. in line with each original application) and to cross-reference the receipts provided.

- 2.12 A total of £1,525 has been repaid to the Council and will be carried forward into 2015/16. A full update on the 2014/15 budget spend will be provided to the Constituency Committee at its meeting on 25 June 2015. Noting the outstanding underspend in 2.7 above, a total of £25,579 has been spent on Year 1 Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund projects.
- 2.13 A headline evaluation of Year 1 projects, from the information provided by groups, can be found in the infographic at Appendix 3.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 3.1 A robust approach to auditing the spend on projects helps to ensure the appropriate use of current and future grants allocated by the Constituency Committee.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Learning was taken from the approach to this spend in relation to 2014/15 budgets and will be reflected upon again in relation to 2015/16 budgets.

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Elected members and community representatives have the opportunity to participate in all Constituency Committees and Working Group meetings.

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 6.1 Funding has been allocated directly to voluntary, community and faith groups and 'not-for-profit' organisations.
- 6.2 The neighbourhood working model will strengthen the Council's relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.
- 6.3 Tackling the priorities of the Constituency, for which this funding was assigned by the Committee, will benefit communities directly.

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

- 7.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wallasey Constituency Committee.
- 7.2 The Committee agreed the funding of projects totalling £27,449. A total of £25,579 has been spent. Notwithstanding the request outlined in 2.7 above, £1,525 has been carried forward from this fund into 2015/16.
- 7.3 Funding may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

## **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The arrangements will help the Council to deliver on the Localism Act 2011 and Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.
- 8.2 Advice has been taken from Internal Audit regarding the operation of the small grants programmes.

## **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality? Yes and impact review can be found at the link below (Progressing Neighbourhood Working).  
<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/chief-executives>

## **10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The funding creates opportunities to encourage the sharing of community assets, therefore supporting carbon reduction.

## **11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 None.

## **12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

- 12.1 The Committee notes this report.
- 12.2 The Committee makes a decision at its next meeting (25 June 2015) in relation to the underspend of £345.81 by WC22 The Friends of Egremont, which is required to be returned in line with the Terms and Conditions of the grant.

## **13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 13.1 To continue to enable the work of the Constituency Committee to be focused upon the needs of the local area and spend to be distributed accordingly.

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## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

None.

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Cabinet – Neighbourhood Working	24 January 2013
Council – Neighbourhood Working	11 February 2013
Cabinet – Neighbourhood Working – Proposed Operating Model	23 May 2013
Cabinet – Public Health Outcomes Funding	10 October 2013
Wallasey Constituency Committee – Constituency Priorities and Spend	11 December 2013
Wallasey Constituency Committee – Constituency Priorities and Spend	19 February 2014