

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WALLASEY CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

25 JUNE 2015

SUBJECT:	WALLASEY LITTLE SPARKS FUND (2014/15)
WARD/S AFFECTED:	LEASOWE & MORETON EAST; LISCARD; MORETON WEST & SAUGHALL MASSIE; NEW BRIGHTON; SEACOMBE AND WALLASEY.
REPORT OF:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING & ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report sets out the details of applications made to Wallasey Little Sparks Fund for decision by Wallasey Constituency Committee.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Further to Wallasey Constituency Committee on 23 October 2014 (minute 20 refers), Wallasey Little Sparks Fund was launched on 28 January 2015. This small grants programme invited applications from groups of children and young people aged 18 or under for projects and initiatives that would help the Committee address one or more of its priorities and areas of focus for 2014/15, as below:

3-year priority	2014/15 Area of focus	Maximum bid amount
Personal wellbeing	Reducing health inequalities (i.e. helping people of any age to be healthier)	£500
Economic wellbeing	Raising the aspirations of young people (i.e. helping young people to achieve more)	£500
Neighbourhood wellbeing	Promoting community cohesion (i.e. helping to bring communities together)	£500

2.2 £2,000 was set aside by the Committee for this Fund from its devolved budget (minute 9 refers).

- 2.3 The terms and conditions required, amongst other things, that applications were supported by a professional 'sponsor', such as a youth worker or teacher.
- 2.4 This funding opportunity was communicated by Council press release; notifications on social media; electronic bulletins/emails to over 1,400 individuals who have signed up to receive information from the Council; previous Love Wirral applicants; over 150 groups recorded in the Constituency's List of Facilities & Organisations and through community representatives and elected members. Posters were distributed to venues including leisure centres, community centres, Wallasey Youth Hub and all primary, secondary and specialist schools within the Constituency. Appendix 1 contains a copy of the poster. The Constituency's Engagement Officer also provided advice and guidance on the completion of the application form to interested groups.
- 2.5 The Fund closed for applications on Wednesday 1 April 2015.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 8 applications were received seeking a total of £3,784.94. All applicants stated that their projects would meet two or more of the Committee's areas of focus (priorities). A summary of the contents of each application form is set out in Appendix 2.
- 3.2 The chart below sets out the methods by which applicants reported that they became aware of the funding opportunity.

Communication method	Number
Council Officer	2
Council e-bulletin/Constituency team email	1
Website	1
Constituency Committee	1
No response provided	3

- 3.3 As this is a fund for children and young people, young people have been involved in the reviewing and evaluation of the bids. This process has also enabled the participating young people to gain additional skills. Wallasey Youth Hub (Council's Youth Support Service) brought together a group of five young people (three female and two male) aged 17-18 to form an evaluation panel. The lead young person for one of the applications was participating as part of the panel. He declared a conflict of interest and did not participate in the discussion about that specific application.
- 3.4 The Youth Support Service designed an evaluation template for the panel to complete (see Appendix 3). The young people were supported by the Youth Work Team Leader and the Constituency Engagement Officer. The panel discussed and collectively scored each application. A total score was calculated and is noted in the second to last column of Appendix 2, together with the ranking of the applications by the panel of young people. All bids have been confirmed to have had young people's involvement in the writing of them. All applications were determined to be eligible in accordance with the terms and conditions.

3.5 Whilst all projects were considered worthy, having regard to the budget allocated to the Fund, the panel make the following recommendations to the Committee:

Ref	Group	Rank	Recommendation	Amount
LSF07	Junior NCS	1st	Funded	£490
LSF03	Leasowe Glee Club	2 nd /3 rd (joint)	Funded	£500
LSF06	New Horizons	2 nd /3 rd (joint)	Funded	£500
LSF05	Wallasey Sea Cadets	4 th	Funded	£294.94
LSF08	Eco Warriors at Sandbrook Primary School	5 th	Part Funded	£215.06
				Total £2,000
LSF02	Leasowe Positive Futures Group	6 th	Not funded	
LSF01	Charlotte's Brightside CLC	7 th	Not funded	
LSF04	17th Wallasey West Brownies and Rainbows	8 th	Not funded	

3.6 Successful applicants are required to deliver projects by 31 January 2016.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 Failure to agree the distribution of funding limits the Committee's ability to effectively tackle its priorities and may result in a loss of funding allocation.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Options for the allocation of spend were debated and discussed at Wallasey Constituency Committee on 23 October 2014.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Applications are from groups of children and/or young people based within communities.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 The Fund will directly support groups of children and/or young people from local communities.

7.2 Tackling the priorities of the Constituency will benefit communities directly.

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

8.1 Finance resource for this item has been identified in the 'Budget Book and Forecasts 2015/18'. Regular budget monitoring with the finance department will

take place to ensure that the expenditure incurred is accurate and complies with what has been agreed by the Committee.

8.2 Funding may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 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>

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 One project recommended for funding promotes sustainability.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 A number of the projects, if funded, may have a positive impact upon community safety.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

13.1 Wallasey Constituency Committee reviews the applications, giving consideration to the evaluation conducted by the panel of young people, and decides which applications to award funding.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 To help Wallasey Constituency Committee tackle its priorities/areas of focus working with local groups of children and young people.

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

None.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet – Neighbourhood Working	24 January 2013
Council – Neighbourhood Working	11 February 2013
Cabinet – Neighbourhood Working – Proposed Operating Model	23 May 2013
Wallasey Constituency Committee – Constituency Priorities and Spend	23 October 2014