

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### WALLASEY CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

25 JUNE 2015

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY BUDGET AND SPEND</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 update on the Constituency Committee's committed spend. It also details the Committee's budget for 2015/16 and outlines recommendations for a way forward regarding its spend, for decision by the Committee.

#### 2.0 CURRENT POSITION - 2013/14 BUDGET

##### 2.1 Devolved budget - 2013/14

2.1.1 Three projects were funded by Wallasey Constituency Committee through its devolved budget (Constituency Options Fund) on 19 February 2014 (minute 18 refers). These are listed below and the status of these projects is set out in Appendix 1.

- One Stop Shop maximization of disposable income pilot (£15,250)
- Promotion of WirralWell (£4,750)
- Improving road maintenance/road safety (£10,000).

Further information related to the One Stop Shop pilot is outlined in 2.1.2 below and spend around road maintenance/road safety outlined further in 3.3.1 below.

##### 2.1.2 One Stop Shop maximization of disposable income pilot

The status of this project is 'completed'. The pilot launched on 1 July 2014. The project was delivered from within existing resources. The project concluded on 31 April 2015. Further details of the project including an evaluation and breakdown of spend are set out in Appendix 2. A total of £1,110 was spent.

2.1.3 **The Council's One Stop Shop service is therefore releasing the remaining funding allocated for this project amounting to £14,150. This funding is now available for the Committee's reallocation**

2.1.4 Problem Solving Fund

2.1.5 The Committee agreed on 11 December 2013 (minute 11 refers) that a Problem Solving Fund would be set aside for low spend items that will provide a quick response to issues and/or allow a new approach to be tested that may ultimately lead to improvements within the Constituency.

2.1.6 On 26 June 2014 (minute 10 refers), the Committee funded from its devolved budget (Problem Solving Fund), initiatives to respond to increased tourism in and around Marine Point, New Brighton (£4,050). The status of this project is also set out in Appendix 1.

2.1.7 Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund (Year 1) – 2013/14

2.1.8 An evaluation of Year 1 Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund projects (2013/14) was presented to Wallasey Constituency Committee at its meeting on 16 April 2015 (minute 32 refers). The Friends of Egremont (project ref WC22) requested that the Committee consider whether its underspend of £345.81 could be used by the group for a further gardening project. The Committee was informed that the Terms and Conditions of the grant state that groups must return any underspend to Wirral Council. The Chair stated that because the meeting had fallen within the 'purdah' period, any decision relating to these funds would need to be deferred to this meeting of the Committee (minute 32 refers). In the interim however, The Friends of Egremont has provided Wirral Council with a cheque returning the full underspend. The Committee is therefore no longer required to make a decision on its return.

2.1.9 **This amount of £345.81 is now available for the Committee's reallocation.**

2.2 **Public Health Outcomes Fund - 2013/14**

2.2.1 Three projects were funded through the Public Health Outcomes Fund by Wallasey Constituency Committee on 19 February 2014 (minute 18 refers). These are listed below and the status of these projects is set out in Appendix 3.

- Rampworx Youth Village (£20,000)
- Reducing criminal damage by young people - behaviour change project (£3,500)
- Wallasey Community Safety Week (£1,500).

Further information related to the Rampworx project is outlined in 2.2.2 below.

2.2.2 Rampworx

The status of this project is 'not completed'. Wallasey Constituency Committee awarded Rampworx £20,000 as a contribution to the development of its proposed Youth Village in Seacombe (19 February 2014, minute 18 refers). This was planned to be a facility based in Kelvin Road, Seacombe, for extreme

wheeled sports, such as BMX, Inline Skates, Skateboard and Scootering, to cater for growing demand and lack of provision.

2.2.3 Circumstances in the Rampworx organisation have changed; this is due to increase in rent, the development of other similar facilities across the North West and the decrease in the availability of money available to fund new developments. To address these challenges, a new body of Trustees was recently formed and work is now in hand to develop a business plan for Rampworx for the next three years. This has resulted in the Trustees taking the difficult decision not to pursue the proposed developments in Wirral (both Bidston and Seacombe sites) and to return to Wirral Council any money that is owed after deductions of payment for approved works.

2.2.4 **Rampworx has therefore returned the £20,000 allocation from Wallasey Constituency Committee to Wirral Council. This funding is now available for the Committee's reallocation (within the parameters of the Public Health Outcomes Fund).**

2.2.5 For the Committee's information only, as this funding does not fall within the Committee's remit, agreement has been reached between the Council and Rampworx regarding previous funding allocated to support the development of the site in Seacombe by a number of the Council's former Area Forums. These contributions amounted to a total of £16,258.70 as outlined below.

<b>Former Area Forum</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Birkenhead Tranmere and Rock Ferry	£2,000
Heswall, Pensby and Thingwall	£1,758.70
Liscard & Seacombe	£8,000
New Brighton and Wallasey	£2,000
Oxton and Prenton	£2,500

2.2.6 Working alongside the Council's Youth Support Service, Rampworx will deliver outreach activity within the funding Constituencies to the amounts outlined above. A small amount of this funding may also be used to enable targeted young people to attend Rampworx's facility in Liverpool for free. Therefore activity to the value of £10,000 will be delivered within Wallasey Constituency and/or to the benefit of young people from the Constituency over the summer months.

### **3.0 CURRENT POSITION - 2014/15 BUDGET**

#### **3.1 Devolved budget - 2014/15**

3.1.1 Nine projects were funded by Wallasey Constituency Committee through its devolved budget (Constituency Options Fund) on 19 June 2014 (minute 18 refers). These are listed below and the status of these projects is set out in Appendix 4.

- Smokefree Community Champions (£500)
- Reducing Super Strength Alcohol Campaign (£2,500)
- Inspirational Community Volunteer Intergenerational Project (£5,000)
- Wallasey Little Sparks Fund (£2,000)

- LGBTI youth provision/Navajo Charter Mark status (£2,005)
- Young People's Community Clean Up Project (£830)
- Facilitating the provision of diversionary activities for young people (£2,505)
- Pop Up Talent events (£2,400)
- Winter Safe and Warm Campaign (Wallasey) (£1,500).

Further information related to Wallasey Little Sparks Fund is contained in Item 7 of this agenda. Further information related to the Winter Safe and Warm Campaign is in 3.1.2 below.

### 3.1.2 Winter Safe and Warm Campaign (Wallasey)

The status of this project is 'completed'. The project was led by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and was focused upon helping older people to stay safe and warm in their houses, reducing social isolation and protecting the most vulnerable as the weather temperatures dropped. Further details of the project including an evaluation and breakdown of spend are set out in Appendix 5. The £1,500 budget is fully spent.

### 3.1.3 Christmas Lighting

As reported to Wallasey Constituency Committee on 22 January 2015 (minute 25 refers), a total of £16,237.96 was spent on Christmas lighting in preparation for the 2014 festive period. This was funded in part by Love Wirral (2014/15) funding and in part by the Committee's devolved budget. The breakdown of spend per ward is contained in Appendix 6.

3.1.4 A proposal for further spend from the Committee's 2015/16 budget on Christmas lighting is set out in 5.3 below.

### 3.1.5 Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund (Year 2) - 2014/15

3.1.6 At Wallasey Constituency Committee's Working Group on 17 September 2014 (minute 14 refers), 27 voluntary, community and faith sector groups were funded to the amount of £15,460.85 to deliver projects to tackle the Committee's priorities/areas of focus. These groups are required to submit an evaluation report of their completed projects on or before 30 October 2015. A full evaluation of projects will be reported to the Constituency Committee on 28 January 2016.

## 3.2 **Your Wirral – 2014/15**

3.2.1 Your Wirral is a joint fund between Wirral Council and Magenta Living (see Wallasey Constituency Committee, June 26, 2014, minute 9 refers). At Wallasey Constituency Committee's Working Group on 1 October 2014 (minute 20 refers), 28 voluntary, community and faith sector groups and not-for-profit organisations were funded to the amount of £61,733.42 to deliver projects to tackle the Committee's priorities/areas of focus. The original £50,000 allocation for Your Wirral was subsequently supplemented with funding from both Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund and Public Health Outcomes Fund to enable projects amounting to £61,733.42 to be funded by the Committee (Wallasey Constituency Committee, 23 October 2014, minute 9 refers). These groups are required to submit an evaluation report of their

completed projects on or before 15 December 2015. A full evaluation of projects will be reported to the Constituency Committee on 14 April 2016.

### **3.3 Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme Fund – 2014/15**

3.3.1 At Wallasey Constituency Committee's Working Group on 1 October 2014 (minute 21 refers), a range of schemes across the Constituency were funded to improve road safety and/or promote active travel. The status of each scheme funded (as at 1 June 2015) is set out in Appendix 7.

### **3.4 Marketing and Engagement Budget – 2014/15**

3.4.1 £1,000 was allocated from the Neighbourhoods & Engagement Team's core budget to the Constituency Team to facilitate marketing and engagement activity (Wallasey Constituency Committee, 23 October 2014, Constituency Priorities and Spend, Paragraph 2.3).

3.4.2 Collaboration through Wallasey Public Service Board has seen the development of a 12-month project to co-ordinate public engagement and consultation activity across partners with the aim of reducing duplication, creating efficiencies and improving public access. Research was conducted by a student based with the Constituency Team over the previous summer and an online calendar identified which could be personalised for use by the local Public Service Board. £769.50 of this budget was spent on the purchase of 15 licences for services to access this shared calendar. This project launched on 29 May 2015 and will now enable partners operating across the Constituency to better co-ordinate public engagement and consultation activities. The project will be evaluated by Wallasey Public Service Board and if successful, there is a commitment from partners fund their respective licence fee after the conclusion of the pilot.

3.4.3 The remainder of this budget was spent on printing costs.

## **4.0 2015/16 BUDGET**

### **4.1 Devolved budget - 2015/16 (£50,000)**

4.1.1 Wirral Council has devolved a further £50,000 to Wallasey Constituency Committee for this financial year.

4.1.2 Proposals for an approach to this spend are outlined in 5.3-5.5 below.

### **4.2 Funding released for reallocation (£34,495.81)**

4.2.1 As stated 2.1.3, 2.1.9 and 2.2.4 above, funding amounting £34,495.81 has been returned to Wallasey Constituency Committee for its reallocation.

4.2.2 Proposals for an approach to this spend are outlined in 5.3-5.5 below.

### **4.3 Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (£15,000)**

4.3.1 At Budget Council on 24 February 2015 (minute 112 refers), £15,000 was devolved to each Constituency Committee to help tackle anti-social behaviour within each area. Item 10 on this agenda deals with this devolved funding.

#### 4.4 **Community Clean Ups (£10,000)**

4.4.1 At Budget Council on 24 February 2015 (minute 112 refers), £10,000 was devolved to each Constituency Committee to support communities to help clean up their neighbourhoods. Item 11 on this agenda deals with this devolved funding.

#### 4.5 **Problem Solving Fund (£7,156.73)**

4.5.1 Further to 2.1.6 above, there has been no further spend from this fund. £7,156.73 was carried over from 2014/15 into 2015/16.

#### 4.6 **Your Wirral 2015/16 (£50,000)**

4.6.1 £50,000 Your Wirral funding has been devolved to Wallasey Constituency Committee for applications to be invited from voluntary and community sector (not for profit) groups for bids of up to £2,500. Bids must meet one or more of seven themes (further details can be found in the report 'Constituency Priorities and Spend', Wallasey Constituency Committee, 26 June 2014).

4.6.2 A proposed process for this spend is outlined in 5.6 below.

#### 4.7 **Operational budget**

4.7.1 Previous costs associated with delivery of the neighbourhoods programme across the Constituencies have been met through different budgets. This included items of spend such as venue hire for Committee meetings, refreshments for events, photocopier hire, in-house printing charges, stationery and disposal of confidential waste. For the Committee's information, an operational budget of £5,000 for 2015/16 has been assigned to each Constituency Manager from the Neighbourhoods & Engagement Team's core budget for 2015/16 to cover such day-to-day administrative costs, including marketing and engagement activity.

### 5.0 **PROPOSALS FOR SPEND**

5.1 At Wallasey Constituency Committee on 26 June 2014 (minute 9 refers) the following 3-year priorities were agreed.

- improving personal wellbeing
- improving economic wellbeing
- improving neighbourhood wellbeing

5.2 £84,495.81 is available to Wallasey Constituency Committee for allocation (see 4.1.1 and 4.2.1 above). Proposals for an approach to this spend are outlined in 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 below and each satisfying one or more of the Committee's

priorities above. In addition, as noted in 4.5.1 above, £7,156.73 is set aside in its Problem Solving Fund.

### 5.3 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTING**

5.3.1 The erection of Christmas lighting displays and associated festive events can help drive footfall into town centres and shopping areas, contributing positively to the local economy and helping to improve community cohesion and wellbeing. Spend in this area therefore contributes to all of the Committee's priorities.

5.3.2 There is a need to build upon the support provided by the Committee last year to local groups, with further financial support this year to help ensure sustainability. A brief summary of requirements in each ward is noted below. Members may also wish to note that it is the Council's intention to continue to pay the energy costs of Christmas lighting this year, but groups will be charged from 2016 onwards.

#### 5.3.3 Liscard

The local traders have recently launched a 'Light Up Liscard' campaign (<http://spacehive.com/lightupliscard>) to fund festive lighting and decorations for this festive period and are seeking to raise approximately £25,000. A promotional event took place on 29 April 2015 whereby an early Christmas was staged in Liscard Town Centre, which received local, regional and national media coverage. The traders are seeking £7,000 from the Committee as a deposit to secure the services of a Christmas decorating company and to book the hire of the display materials. In the event that the campaign was to exceed its proposed fundraising target, this sum would be returned to the Constituency Committee for reallocation.

#### 5.3.4 New Brighton

Victoria Road has benefitted recently from a reinvigorated Traders' Association which will be seeking funding for this year's festive lights, which will include extension of existing lights (at Victoria Road) to Victoria Parade. Whilst not prejudging the outcome of any bid, an application to 'Your Wirral' (see 4.6 above) would meet a number of the themes set out in the terms and conditions; the maximum bid amount is £2,500.

#### 5.3.5 Wallasey

Additional lights are required to bridge the gap between Wallasey Village roundabout and the Green Lane end of Wallasey Village and extend the existing Christmas lighting provision slightly in both directions; this will include testing existing electrical sockets and possible new socket(s) installation. Further funding is also required this year to install and subsequently remove and store both existing and any new lighting. Wallasey Village Traders' Association is hoping to fundraise and as noted above, have the option to apply for funding to 'Your Wirral'.

#### 5.3.6 Moreton West & Saughall Massie and Leasowe & Moreton East

Moreton Community Lights Association will be seeking funding for this year's festive lights. As noted above, the Association has the option to apply for funding to 'Your Wirral'.

5.3.7 Seacombe

Due to the lampposts in and around the Mainwaring Road shopping area being made of concrete, which are not permitted to be drilled into to install the electrical sockets required, it remains not possible to install festive lighting in this location.

5.3.8 It is proposed that £20,000 is set aside by the Committee as a contribution towards festive lighting this year and that the Constituency Manager works alongside elected members and any local groups to facilitate this.

5.4 **PROBLEM SOLVING FUND**

5.4.1 As noted in 2.1.5, the fund is set aside by the Committee for low spend items that will provide a quick response to issues and/or allow a new approach to be tested that may ultimately lead to improvements within the Constituency.

5.4.2 In accordance with the Constituency Handbook, all spend must be agreed by the full Committee either at a formal Committee meeting or Working Group. Urgent decisions that cannot wait for a Working Group to be called may be made by email but must be signed off by the Chair of the Constituency Committee and the Head of Neighbourhoods & Engagement.

5.4.3 This approach has proved impractical and as a result there was no spend from the Problem Solving Fund in 2015/16. It is proposed that the Committee Handbook is revised and requests for use of the Problem Solving Fund (capped at a maximum of £500 per request) may be considered and decided upon by the lead spokesperson from each political party for the Committee through unanimous agreement. Following decision, all members of the Committee will be contacted by email for information and the decision reported to the next Constituency Committee. This will allow for greater flexibility in the process and the ability to respond more effectively to pressing issues.

5.4.4 It is further proposed that a further £7,843.27 from the Committee's 2015/16 budget is added to the £7,156.73 carried over into the Problem Solving Fund from 2014/15 (totalling £15,000). This does not preclude the Committee from deciding to reallocate some of this fund should the need arise.

5.5 **LARGE SCALE PROJECT BASED ACTIVITY**

5.5.1 There is benefit in the Committee focusing its budget on one or two larger scale projects that will assist the Committee in addressing its priorities, whilst taking the lead and driving forward activity to deliver sustainable improvements within its footprint.

5.5.2 Item 9 of this agenda considers this in more detail.



5.5.3 In the interim, it is proposed that the Committee keeps the remaining £56,652.54 uncommitted for the development of such a project/s. It should be noted that £20,000 of this funding must be spent on delivering public health outcome(s) as outlined in section 2.2.

## 5.6 **YOUR WIRRAL (2015/16)**

5.6.1 It is proposed that the Fund is launched on 20 July 2015 after the current cycle of Constituency Committees concludes.

5.6.2 It is proposed that the closing date for applications is noon on Monday 14 September 2015.

5.6.3 It is further proposed that Wallasey Constituency Committee makes a decision regarding applications submitted to the Fund (for Wallasey Constituency) at its next Constituency Committee meeting on 22 October 2015. The Fund will remain open for further bids if the full £50,000 is not awarded.

5.6.4 It is further proposed that due to this Fund being available this financial year that Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund is not operated in 2015/16.

## 6.0 **RELEVANT RISKS**

6.1 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.

## 7.0 **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

7.1 Learning has been taken from the approach to spend throughout its operation.

## 8.0 **CONSULTATION**

8.1 Elected members and community representatives have the opportunity to participate in all Constituency Committees and Working Group meetings dealing with budget and spend.

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

9.1 Your Wirral funding is available for applications from voluntary, community and faith groups and 'not-for-profit' organisations.

9.2 The neighbourhood working model strengthens the Council's relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.

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

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

10.1 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.

- 10.2 Grants allocated to groups through the Your Wirral Fund in particular may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

## **11.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

- 11.2 Advice has been taken from Internal Audit regarding the operation of small grants programmes.

## **12.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 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>

## **13.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 Funding available, particularly through the Your Wirral Fund, may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

## **14.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1 Spend in line with the Committee's priorities will likely have a positive impact upon community safety. Spend of the devolved Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour budget will impact positively upon community safety.

## **15.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- 15.1 The Committee allocates £20,000 as a contribution towards festive lighting and the Constituency Manager works alongside elected members and any local groups to facilitate this;

- 15.2 The Committee Handbook is amended to allow for the lead political party spokespeople for the Committee to authorise spend in individual amounts of £500 or less through unanimous agreement. The Handbook is also amended to require that in such circumstances, all members of the Committee will be contacted by email for information and the decision reported to the next Constituency Committee;

- 15.3 The Committee allocates a further £7,843.27 to its Problem Solving Fund (adding to the £7,156.73 carried over into this Fund from 2014/15 and bringing the total to £15,000);
- 15.4 The Committee sets aside £56,652.54 for the development of a larger scale project(s) that will contribute to addressing the Committee's priorities (£20,000 of this ring-fenced for delivering public health outcome/s);
- 15.5 The Your Wirral Fund (Wallasey – 2015/16) is launched 20 July 2015 with a closing date of noon on Monday 14 September 2015 and a decision is made regarding the awarding of funding at the next Constituency Committee meeting on 22 October 2015.

## 16.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 16.1 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 PAPERS:

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
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
Cabinet – Local Transport Capital Funding & The Integrated Transport Block (ITB) Programme 2014/15	13 May 2014
Wallasey Constituency Committee – Constituency Priorities and Spend	26 June 2014
Wallasey Constituency Committee Working Group – Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund	17 September 2014
Wallasey Constituency Committee Working Group – Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme Fund	1 October 2014
Wallasey Constituency Committee Working Group – Your Wirral	1 October 2014

Wallasey Constituency Committee – Your Wirral (Wallasey): Bid YW2 Striding Out CIC	22 January 2015
Wallasey Constituency Committee – An evaluation of Year 1 Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund Projects (2013/14)	16 April 2015