

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

16TH JULY 2015

SUBJECT:	CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE BUDGET 2015-16
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 recommendations in relation to taking forward the Committee's budget allocation for 2015-16, i.e.:

- £15,000 for tackling anti-social behaviour;
- £40,000 Your Wirral Fund;
- £50,000 core Constituency Committee budget;
- £10,000 environmental budget.

1.2 The Committee is also asked to note that, for 2015-16, the Constituency Manager has been allocated an operational budget of £5,000 to be used to support core constituency engagement activities and for general expenditure.

2.0 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR BUDGET

2.1 The Council's budget, as agreed on 24th February 2015, made provision for dedicated funding for the Constituency Committees to tackle anti-social behaviour as follows:

"In support of the Constituency Committee process and to engage the Committees in tackling ASB in their areas, it is proposed to make available a fund of £60,000 to be split equally amongst the 4 Constituency Committees. The ASB team would work with the Constituency Committees and produce action plans to tackle ASB in their area. Constituency Committees will be offered a menu of ASB prevention and

intervention activities to enable them to choose what they feel would benefit their areas. Some examples on this menu are – youth alcohol testing programmes, additional youth provision, sports development workers, enhanced household security campaigns, and increased CCTV camera provision.”

2.2 Data provided by the Community Safety team shows that for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015:

Anti-social behaviour

- There was a 2% decrease from 2013-14 in respect of anti-social behaviour incidents reported to Merseyside Police in Wirral West (compared to a 7% decrease overall in Wirral) – there were 35 fewer reported ASB incidents in 2014-15 (1,905 incidents) compared with 2013-14 (1,940 incidents);
- Woodchurch was the constituency hotspot for ASB with incidents peaking on Thursdays and Sundays (between 7pm and 11pm) but with a high frequency of ASB most days; incidents were higher during July, September and October. 57% of the incidents reported in Woodchurch during this period were youth related, and just under 10% were alcohol related;
- The latest data available (for 20/5/15 to 17/6/15) also identifies Woodchurch as the constituency hotspot for ASB.

Criminal damage

- There was an 7% increase from 2013-14 in criminal damage (crimes recorded by Merseyside Police) in Wirral West (compared to an 8.5% increase overall in Wirral);
- Woodchurch was the constituency hotspot for criminal damage, with incidents peaking on Wednesdays, followed by Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays (peak times 6pm to 11pm).

Secondary fires

- There was a 25% reduction in secondary fires (Merseyside Fire and Rescue data) in Wirral West – 30 fewer incidents in 2014-15 (88) compared with 2013-14 (118);
- Arrowe Country Park was the constituency hotspot for secondary fires and Woodchurch was a warmspot; peak days and times for incidents were Saturdays, Sundays and Thursdays (6pm to 7pm and 12am-2am) with incidents highest in the months of April and September.

2.3 It is proposed that, as with the Committee’s road safety allocation for 2014-15, a panel is established on the basis of one member per ward to explore the data, consider any additional local issues, and consider possible actions and interventions in more detail. It is further proposed that, taking into account that there are seasonal challenges in respect of ASB and the need to expedite decisions quickly, authority is

delegated to the Panel to take decisions as to this budget in conjunction with the Chair.

2.4 Recommendations:

- That the Committee establishes an ASB Panel (with representation from one member per ward, to be determined by the Committee) to make recommendations about the use of the Committee's budget;
- That the ASB Panel is supported by the Constituency Manager and attended by the Head of Corporate and Community Safety and partners as appropriate, including Merseyside Police;
- That the Committee delegates decision-making in respect of this budget to the ASB Panel in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee given the need to expedite decisions quickly taking into account seasonal factors;
- That a report on progress and expenditure to date is considered by the Committee when it next meets in October.

3.0 YOUR WIRRAL FUND

3.1 Your Wirral is a small grants programme which was established in 2007 as a result of the Value Added Tax (VAT) return generated by the housing stock transfer from Wirral Council to Wirral Partnership Homes, now Magenta Living. Wirral Council and Magenta Living agreed in 2014 that the Your Wirral Fund should be administered via the Constituency Committees given their role.

3.2 Magenta Living has now indicated that 2014-15 will be the final year of the Your Wirral Fund. The allocation to the Constituency Committee for 2015-16 is again £40,000, based on the number of Magenta Living housing units in the area.

3.3 The Committee is asked to note that £50,000 has again been ringfenced for Wirral wide projects (i.e. projects that will be delivered in two or more of the constituency areas).

3.4 Grants will be made available to voluntary and community sector (not for profit) groups and to be eligible for funding, applications must fit within one or more of the seven Your Wirral themes, i.e.:

- Creating an attractive and safe environment;
- Contributing to community economic regeneration;
- Preventing crime or reducing the fear of crime;
- Providing employment and training for local people;
- Benefiting local people who face discrimination;
- Improving community facilities;
- Engaging communities to improve quality of life.

3.5 In respect of the grant programme being administered via the constituencies, a series of terms and conditions were put in place by Magenta Living as follows:

- All applications for funding must fit within the 7 themes but constituencies may prioritise a particular theme;
- The same application form, as approved by Magenta Living, is to be used across all constituencies;
- The same process for quality assuring and assessing applications, as approved by Magenta Living, is to be used across all four constituencies;
- Recommendations as to which applications should receive funding in each constituency will be made by a Your Wirral constituency panel, with representation from Magenta Living;
- Constituency Committees may determine the make-up of the Your Wirral constituency panel;
- Constituency staff will advertise arrange payments and monitor projects;
- All materials must display the Your Wirral, Magenta Living and Wirral Council logos;
- The funding allocation for each constituency is proportionate to the amount of housing units in the constituency;
- Individual grants must not exceed £2,500;
- The activity must take place within the boundaries of Wirral.

3.6 At its meeting in July 2014, the Constituency Committee agreed that one councillor from each ward would be nominated to the Wirral West Your Wirral Panel, that applications would be welcome in respect of all seven Your Wirral themes and that the Chair of the Committee (or deputy) would represent the Wirral West Constituency Committee on the separate panel established to make recommendations as to the allocation of Wirral wide Your Wirral grants. Given the successful implementation of this process in 2014-15, which led to the Your Wirral Fund for Wirral West being allocated in its entirety to a range of local projects, it is proposed that this is again followed for 2015-16 and the Fund is opened for applications following this meeting of the Committee.

3.7 Members of the Committee may wish to note that the membership of the Wirral West Your Wirral Panel was as follows:

- Greasby, Frankby and Irby Ward – Cllr Clements
- Hoylake and Meols Ward – Cllr Hale
- Pensby and Thingwall Ward – Cllr Reecejones
- Upton Ward – Cllr Whittingham
- West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward – Cllr Green

Cllr Green has also participated in the Wirral-wide Your Wirral Panel as Chair of the Committee.

3.8 Recommendations:

- That the process for allocating the Your Wirral Fund is the same as adopted in 2014-15, i.e. that a Wirral West Your Wirral Panel is established comprising one councillor per ward, that applications are welcomed in respect of all seven Your Wirral themes, and that the Chair (or deputy) represents Wirral West on the Wirral-wide Panel;

- That the Your Wirral Fund is opened for applications on Monday 20th July with a closing date of Monday 14th September and that the Wirral West Your Wirral Panel meets subsequently to review these applications;
- That the Committee considers the recommendations of the Wirral West Your Wirral Panel in relation to which applications should be funded at its meeting in October.

4.0 CORE BUDGET

4.1 The Constituency Committee core budget of £50,000 in Years 1 and 2 has been allocated on the basis of £10,000 per ward through the Community Fund grants programme and at the discretion of ward councillors for local improvements. A detailed summary of this expenditure is set out in as part of agenda item 4. The Committee is asked to consider whether this approach is to be again adopted in 2015-16, i.e. an allocation of £10,000 per ward with an opportunity for local groups to bid in for funding.

4.2 Given the grant opportunities currently available to Wirral West groups, as detailed elsewhere (i.e. Your Wirral and the Burbo Bank Community Fund), it is proposed that the Constituency Committee defer the timetable for the Community Fund to take this into account (subject to the Committee's approval as to the continuation of the general approach set out in 4.1). This will enable groups to target their grant applications as effectively as possible working with the ongoing support of the constituency team. It is also proposed that a review of the process for allocating the Community Fund is undertaken to further develop the involvement of local communities in the decision-making process.

4.3 Recommendations:

- That the Committee agrees to continue with the broad framework now established in respect of the Community Fund, i.e. £10,000 per ward with an opportunity for local groups to bid for funding (and any remaining monies to be allocated at the discretion of ward councillors);
- That, in line with the Committee's aspiration of continuous improvement, the Constituency Manager and Constituency Engagement Officer review the process for allocating the Community Fund to further develop the involvement of local communities in the decision-making process;
- That the Committee is provided with an update on process and timescale for allocating the Community Fund when it next meets in October.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL BUDGET

5.1 At its meeting on 24th February 2015 Council allocated £40,000 to support communities to help clean up their neighbourhoods. The Constituency Manager has been advised that this funding may be used for any activity which encourages waste prevention, increases recycling and/or encourages behaviour change (such as reducing littering).

5.2 It is proposed that residents and community stakeholders are provided with an opportunity to identify particular locations or issues in the constituency which might benefit from the use of this funding and that these, along with options for expenditure, are considered by the Committee when it meets in October.

5.3 Recommendations:

- That the constituency team undertakes consultation with residents and community stakeholders to identify locations or issues in the constituency which might benefit from the use of this funding and that this information is presented to the Committee in October alongside possible options for expenditure.

6.0 RISKS

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

7.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 This report sets out recommendations relating to the use of the Committee's budget, all of which have been progressed with due consideration to a range of options.

8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 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.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

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

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

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

11.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

12.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1 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>

13.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

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

14.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

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

15.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 The Committee is requested to agree the following recommendations as set out in the main body of the report:

In relation to the Committee's anti-social behaviour budget (£15,000):

- That the Committee establishes an ASB Panel (with representation from one member per ward, to be determined by the Committee) to make recommendations about the use of the Committee's budget;
- That the ASB Panel is supported by the Constituency Manager and attended by the Head of Corporate and Community Safety and partners as appropriate, including Merseyside Police;
- That the Committee delegates decision-making in respect of this budget to the ASB Panel in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee given the need to expedite decisions quickly taking into account seasonal factors;
- That a report on progress and expenditure to date is considered by the Committee when it next meets in October.

In relation to the Committee's Your Wirral Fund allocation (£40,000):

- That the process for allocating the Your Wirral Fund is the same as adopted in 2014-15, i.e. that a Wirral West Your Wirral Panel is established comprising one councillor per ward, that applications are welcomed in respect of all seven Your Wirral themes, and that the Chair (or deputy) represents Wirral West on the Wirral-wide Panel;
- That the Your Wirral Fund is opened for applications on Monday 20th July with a closing date of Monday 14th September and that the Wirral West Your Wirral Panel meets subsequently to review these applications;
- That the Committee considers the recommendations of the Wirral West Your Wirral Panel in relation to which applications should be funded at its meeting in October.

In relation to the Committee's core budget (£50,000):

- That the Committee agrees to continue with the broad framework now established in respect of the Community Fund, i.e. £10,000 per ward with an opportunity for local groups to bid for funding (and any remaining monies to be allocated at the discretion of ward councillors);

- That, in line with the Committee's aspiration of continuous improvement, the Constituency Manager and Constituency Engagement Officer review the process for allocating the Community Fund to further develop the involvement of local communities in the decision-making process;
- That the Committee is provided with an update on process and timescale for allocating the Community Fund when it next meets in October.

In relation to the Committee's environmental budget (£10,000):

- That the constituency team undertakes consultation with residents and community stakeholders to identify locations or issues in the constituency which might benefit from the use of this funding and that this information is presented to the Committee in October alongside possible options for expenditure.

16.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

16.1 In order to provide a framework for the Committee's use of the budgets allocated to it in 2015-16.

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APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Meeting	Date
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Committee Budget 2014-15	3 rd July 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Your Wirral Report	3 rd July 2014
Budget Council	24 th February 2015