

WIRRAL COUNCIL

BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

24TH SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGERS UPDATE
WARD/S AFFECTED:	WARDS WITHIN THE BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY. BIRKENHEAD AND TRANMERE BIDSTON AND ST JAMES CLAUGHTON OXTON PRENTON ROCK FERRY
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Section 2.0 of this report provides an update on progress in relation to agreed schemes of work from the budget devolved to the Constituency Committee to date. A finance summary sheet for Constituency Committee budget and expenditure can be found in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Section 3.0 of this report details 2015-16 budget allocations and makes recommendations around how they may be committed. Details of 2015-16 Constituency Committee available allocations are set out in the finance summary in Appendix 1. A summary of all projects delivered through the constituency committee can be found in Appendix 2.

2.0 UPDATE ON BUDGET FOR BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

2.1 Constituency Committee budget 2013-14 £50,000

The Committee was given a budget of £50,000 for the new neighbourhood working model with a focus on tackling inequalities. Below is an update on each of the schemes of work that were agreed by the committee to be developed utilising this budget allocation:

1. 'Town Talk' newsletter was allocated £20,000 to improve communication in the Birkenhead community. Lairdside Communities Together (LCT) secured the tender to deliver three publications over one year to 40,000 households in the Birkenhead constituency area.

LCT set up an editorial group made up of community representatives, constituency committee representatives and statutory partners. The first edition of 'Town Talk' went to print in February 2015. The content of the newsletter included details of local events, updates on community activities and services.

At the constituency meeting on 28th February 2015, there was both positive and negative feedback relating to the first edition of 'Town Talk'. There was a discussion around the format of the newsletter, content and long term sustainability.

Feedback was given to LCT after the meeting. Representatives from the Constituency Committee met with LCT as part of the editorial group and reviewed format, content, future support and contributions to the newsletter from other partners. Other public sector partners were invited to contribute to future editions to support financial sustainability. However, initial discussions were not fruitful.

At the Constituency Committee meeting on 28th May 2015, it was debated whether the funds allocated to the remaining editions of 'Town Talk' could be better spent on the extensive environmental issues in Birkenhead. The Environmental task group which includes Cllr McLaughlin, Cllr Doughty and Cllr Crabtree has responsibility for allocating environmental funds. The group liaised by email and met on 29th July and decided that the 'Town Talk' funds would be better allocated to the Grotspots 2 project.

Recommendations:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note that the funding for the remaining 'Town Talk' be used for the Grotspots 2 project**
2. 'Improving the Environment' or 'Grotspot1' project was allocated £20,000 to develop a service to improve sites in Birkenhead that have been left open, poorly maintained and disused, therefore looking unsightly in the area, often attracting litter and fly tipping.

Lairdside Communities Together (LCT) won the contract for one year, which ends in December 2015, to clean up a number of 'grotspot' areas around the Birkenhead constituency. Locations for clean ups have been identified by Local Councillors and have been prioritised by LCT following a site visit. LCT is undertaking clearance and will engage with nearby residents to complete satisfaction surveys.

LCT has provided an update report which can be found in Appendix 3. The report shows the clearances that have been completed so far. LCT has worked with site owners to put in place preventative measures to avoid problems recurring in the future.

Recommendation:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note progress made by the LCT ‘grotspot’ project as reported in Appendix 3.**

3. Anti-Social Behaviour Data Analysis was commissioned by the constituency Committee in 2014-15 and £10,000 was allocated for this purpose. At the last meeting on 28th May 2015, the Committee meeting heard a report on data collation and analysis, around Anti-Social Behaviour spending across agencies in Birkenhead. The report was made up of four elements:

- Executive Summary
- Briefing May 2015 Anti-Social Behaviour in Birkenhead
- Evidence Review of Anti-Social Behaviour Interventions
- Table reviewing ASB interventions

At the last Committee meeting 28th May 2015, the ASB task and finish group were set up to allocate the remaining ASB funds. The group is made up of Cllr Doughty, Cllr Meaden, Cllr Brighouse, Cllr G Davies and Cllr Cleary.

The group liaised by email and approved a Summer programme of activities delivered by the YMCA, details of which can be found in Appendix 4. The group also approved a LADS project will begin on 21st September 2015.

Recommendations:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the spend and activities delivered on the Summer activity project delivered by the YMCA**
- **Delegate the ASB task and finish group to allocate the remaining ASB funds, using the research collated, to inform how the funds will be allocated.**

2.2 Public Health outcome Fund 2013/14- £25,000

2.2.1 The Committee were given this budget allocation to deliver against specific priorities identified by Public Health. It was agreed by the Committee to utilise the funding to focus on one priority of ‘Reducing the Impact of Child Poverty’. It was agreed to develop a ‘Community Hub’ at a local primary school based on a model that has been delivered in two other sites in Wirral through the Child Poverty Working Group.

St Paul’s Roman Catholic Primary School in Beechwood was successful in their tender to develop a community hub focussing on school readiness. The Task and Finish group has made recommendations around the operating of the hub and ensuring the hub is linked with the already established hubs in Leasowe and Woodchurch.

The head teacher has submitted an action plan for the project attached in Appendix 5. The project has a steering group which is meeting on 14th September 2015 as part of the Big Local Group in Beechwood, chaired by the head teacher and they have now received their first tranche of funding.

Recommendation:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the action plan in Appendix 5 and progress made by St Paul's Community Hub.**

2.3 Voluntary Sector Support Fund- £25,000

2.3.1 Birkenhead received an allocation of £25,000. Below is an update on each of the schemes of work that were agreed by the Constituency Committee to be funded in 2014-15 through this allocation.

1. £15,000 was allocated to increase Breast Feeding initiation rates in Birkenhead by developing an antenatal support programme. The antenatal project has now successfully completed its work and the group would like to come and present the impact on local individuals in the area.
2. £5,000 was allocated to increase and develop the use of the Wirral Well website through improved and targeted promotion. The website (wirralwell.org) is designed to be an online directory for health, social care, well-being and local events.

The artwork and content has been agreed through market testing with residents and the following products have been purchased to promote the website:

- Banner stands
- Leaflet Vinyl's for shop windows
- Fold out credit card
- Stickers

Work has been ongoing with Community Action Wirral to agree a broad marketing plan and marketing materials have been designed by the Council's in-house Graphics Section. Posters and cards are being delivered to libraries, community centres and GPs to promote the website.

3. £5,000 was allocated to provide additional support with the development of the local publication 'Town Talk'.

At the constituency meeting on 28th May 2015, it was agreed that the £5,000 allocation should be reviewed and it was recommended that it is put towards the ASB allocation for 2015-16 in the light of the ASB data analysis that was presented at the same meeting.

Recommendation:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note progress on the Voluntary Sector Support fund projects above.**

2.4 Constituency Committee budget 2014/15- £50,000

2.4.1 The Constituency Committee were given a further £50,000 in 2014-15 to develop projects to deliver against agreed priorities. The following projects were agreed:

1. It was agreed by the committee to use £10,000 of this allocation to give a grant to Rock Park Trust Company to carry out the repairs to the Esplanade. The specification for the works has now been agreed and the Rock Park Trust Company has invited tenders and appointed their chosen contractor. The funds have been processed and the works are in progress to meet the objectives below:
 - Repair the damaged face of Esplanade river wall outside No 7 Rock Park to prevent further collapse.
 - Repair missing mortar joints between stonework on face of Esplanade river wall in selected areas most prone to further damage.
 - Work to be completed before onset of winter weather, i.e. by 30th November 2015.
 - Work will help ensure the continued public access to the Esplanade in accordance with Council Policy: *'preserve public access along the Esplanade and views across the Mersey Estuary'*.
2. An allocation of £2993.24 to improving the environment by increasing the signage in Birkenhead to act as a deterrent for environmental crime and increase awareness of enforcement proceedings. This project has commenced and signage has been installed across Birkenhead since March 2015.
3. An allocation of £35,000 was allocated to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour. £2000 of this funding was approved at the 26th February 2015 Constituency Committee to be spent on a youth engagement project with Liverpool Football Club and the Fire Service. The project has been running since May and football sessions have taken place on a Thursday night at Ridgeway School in Noctorum. Turnout so far has been positive with up to 14 young people per night. The remainder of this funding has been carried forward to 2015-16 so it can be allocated by the proposed ASB task and finish group. The ASB group have approved the Summer activities delivered by the YMCA £3,779 and the LADS project at £7,064 which will begin delivering activities from 21st September 2015. There remains £43,190 to allocate targeting ASB in Birkenhead.
4. An allocation of £2000 was committed to develop Community Researchers in Birkenhead to increase the engagement with residents. The Community Research project is being steered by the Handbook task and finish group. The community research task and finish group is meeting in September 2015 to review whether the

project is an effective way to gather data or whether it could more effectively be used by allocating it to one of the committee's other priorities.

Recommendation:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the progress on the projects above which have been funded by the Constituency Committee budget 2014-15**

2.5 'Love Wirral' Funding 2014/15- £10,000

It was agreed that for 2014/15 each Constituency Committee had an allocation of £10,000 of Love Wirral that they could use how they wished in order to improve the local environment.

It was discussed and agreed by the Priorities and Budget Task and Finish Group on 12th September 2014 to recommend to the Constituency Committee to utilise this funding to deliver a reactive fly tipping service to improve the environment. It was then approved at the Committee meeting on 30th October 2014. The aim was for Councillors to identify environmental issues and enter them on the CRM system for additional funds to support enhanced services.

However, none of the £10,000 was been spent because all requests for fly tipping or other clean ups were funded within the existing core service from Biffa. The £10,000 Love Wirral funding has now been carried forward to be spent on environmental projects in 2015-16. It was agreed at the meeting on 28th May 2015 that the LoveWirral funds be allocated to LCT for Grotspots 3.

Recommendation:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the allocations and progress of the Constituency Committee core budget projects.**

2.6 'Your Wirral' 2014/15- £75,000

Birkenhead Constituency Committee was given an allocation of £75,000 for 2014/15. After the meeting on 30th October 2014 and discussions with Magenta Living, it was agreed that the Birkenhead Constituency 'Your Wirral' funding 2014/15 should be allocated to feeding Birkenhead's children. The fund was open to schools and other interested groups, with the aim of supporting families.

In March 2015, £30,950 was awarded to 15 food poverty and cookery education projects. The remainder of the funding has been carried forward to 2015-16 'Your Wirral' allocation. The priorities of the fund continue as child poverty and feeding Birkenhead's hungry children.

2.7 Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme 2014/15- £77,500

The Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme for 2014/5 agreed by Cabinet on 13th March 2014 (minute 178 refers) provides an allocation of £77,750 to each Constituency Committee to be distributed in relation to two objectives; Improving Road Safety and Promoting Active Travel and Health (£38,875).

The Task and Finish group met on 19th January 2015 and agreed to spend £32,000 on dropped kerbs and to specifically focus on medical centres to improve access to wheel chair and motorbility users.

£29,000 was allocated to signs around local schools to try and reduce speeding. The remaining £10,000 was allocated to a larger £50,000 scheme to implement traffic calming measures around Birkenhead High School Academy, which will also impact on St Anselm's College and Red Court School.

3.0 ALLOCATION OF BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE FUNDS 2015-16

3.1 Anti-Social Behaviour Funding 2015-16

3.1.1 .This year the Constituency Committee had in total £54,000 to allocate to ASB projects. Details of this 2015-16 allocations are set out in the finance summary sheet in Appendix 1.

£3,779 has been allocated to the YMCA to deliver their Summer activities as set out in Appendix 4. The LADS project which will be delivered by the Youth Services team will start delivery on 21st September 2015 and will cost £7,064. There remains £43,190 for the ASN task and finish group to allocate.

Recommendations:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Utilise the ASB data analysis presented at the committee meeting of 28th May to develop projects to address specific issues;**
- **Delegate responsibility to the ASB task and finish group to allocate the remaining ASB funding 2015-16 and report back on spend and activity to the next Constituency Committee 21st January 2016**

3.2 Environmental Funding 2015-16

3.2.1 £10,000 has been allocated to Birkenhead Constituency Committee 2015-16 to improve the environment in the Birkenhead area. There was also an

underspend of £10,000 Love Wirral fund from last year which has now been carried forward. Therefore, in total there is £20,000 to allocate to 2015-16 environmental projects.

At the meeting on 28th May 2015, it was agreed that £14,000 would be allocated to Grotspots 3 and £6000 would be allocated for skips, £1000 for each ward in the constituency area. The nominated Environmental task group which includes Cllr Crabtree, Cllr Doughty, Cllr McLaughlin will oversee and direct the LCT Grotspots project and also work to ensure Birkenhead maximises its Biffa delivery alongside the Grotspot fly tipping delivery.

Recommendations:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Task the Environmental task and finish group to continue to review existing fly tipping and waste reporting and delivery to seek to improve efficiencies and report back to Constituency Committee on 21 January 2016**

3.3 Your Wirral 2015-16

3.3.1 For the final year, Birkenhead Constituency Committee has been allocated £75,000 of Your Wirral funding. The underspend from last year of circa £34,000 has been carried forward as agreed by Magenta Living. For 2015-16 the total allocation for Your Wirral was £109,000. After discussions at the previous meeting, it was agreed that the funding would continue to target child poverty and feeding hungry children in Birkenhead. The Your Wirral funding round took place in July 2015, 12 projects were funded over the Summer holidays feeding at least 1057 (based return evaluation forms from seven project) see appendix 6 for details. There is currently £94,926 of Your Wirral funds to allocate.

Recommendations:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Note the progress in relation to Your Wirral spend 2015-16 as set out in Appendix 6;**
- **Note 2015-16 Your Wirral funds, there remains of £94,926 which will be allocated against the same priorities.**

3.4 Birkenhead Constituency Committee Funds 2015-16

3.4.1 The Committee has been allocated a further £50,000 to be committed against identified priorities this year 2015-16.

Recommendation:

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- **Consider the allocation of the Constituency Committee funding at the 24th September 2015 meeting in the light of commissioned data analysis and project evaluation of existing projects as set out in Appendix 2.**

4.0 Other Updates

4.1 The third round of the Wirral Wide allocation of 'Your Wirral' funding of £20,000 in total had a deadline for submission of 14th September 2015. The panel which is made up of Local Councillors and Magenta Living representatives will assess the applications shortly.

4.2 There has been other community engagement activities taking in place in Birkenhead and some of these activities are detailed in Appendix 7.

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

5.1 All resource implications detailed within this report are related to budgets aligned or devolved to the Birkenhead Constituency Committee for their recommended use.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for each of the proposals.

8.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

8.0 This report has no direct carbon reduction implications.

9.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 This report has no planning and community safety implications.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee are asked to:

10.1 Note and approve the content of the updates detailed in Section 2 related to

schemes of work and approve for progress to continue.

- 10.2 Approve the ASB and Environmental task and finish groups, to delegate responsibility for allocating the remaining 2015-16 ASB and Environmental Funds, and also task the groups to report back to the Constituency Committee with an update on spend, activity and progress on 21st January 2016.
- 10.3 Note Your Wirral progress, and approve that the priorities of child poverty and feeding Birkenhead's children will continue 2015-16 for the allocation of the remaining Your Wirral funds.
- 10.4 Consider the allocation of the Constituency Committee funding at the 24th September 2015 meeting in the light of commissioned data analysis and project evaluation of existing projects.

11.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To continue to progress the targeted schemes of work identified within the constituency to develop the new approach to neighbourhood working.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - Constituency Committee Finance Summary

APPENDIX 2 – Project Table

APPENDIX 3 - 'Improving the Environment' LCT project update

APPENDIX 4 – YMCA Summer Activity details

APPENDIX 5 - St Paul's Community Hub Action Plan

APPENDIX 6 - Birkenhead Your Wirral Project Summary for Summer holidays

APPENDIX 7 - Community Engagement Activity

APPENDIX 8 – Public Questions and Answers