

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WALLASEY CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

22 OCTOBER 2015

SUBJECT:	CONSTITUENCY BUDGET AND SPEND
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 provides an update on the Constituency Committee's committed spend. It also provides proposals for larger scale projects identified by the Committee, for decision by the Committee.

2.0 UPDATE ON CURRENT POSITION

2.1 Devolved budget - 2014/15

2.1.1 Reducing Super Strength Alcohol Campaign (£2,500)

2.1.1.1 On 19 June 2014 (minute 18 refers) Wallasey Constituency Committee funded nine projects including a Reducing Super Strength Alcohol Campaign (£2,500). This was to work with local licenced premises to support them to restrict their sale of high strength alcohol through voluntarily changing their licensing conditions. The Council's Public Health service has since funded this initiative across the borough and the funding committed by the Committee has therefore been returned for its reallocation.

2.1.1.2 It has been noted that Wallasey Constituency Committee's decision to support and fund the project, together with its recognition of the impact of super strength alcohol on anti-social behaviour, was instrumental in gaining borough-wide backing for the Scheme and pivotal to its growing success. Committee member support of the project is requested as it extends into Wallasey Constituency.

2.1.1.3 This £2,500 allocation has been added to the balance available to the Committee and referenced in 3.1.5 below.

2.2 Devolved budget – 2015/16

2.2.1 Problem Solving Fund

2.2.2 The Problem Solving Fund is 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. The Committee set aside £15,000 in its Problem Solving Fund at its meeting on 25 June 2015 (minute 8 refers).

2.2.3 It was also agreed at Wallasey Constituency Committee on 25 June 2015 (minute 8 refers) that the Committee Handbook be 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 from the Problem Solving Fund. In such circumstances, all members of the Committee will be contacted by email for information and the decision reported to the next Constituency Committee.

2.2.4 Since the last meeting the following spend has been agreed:

Item	Amount
CCTV signage for Seabank Road to support activity by Seabank Road Traders' Association	£450

2.2.5 £14,550 remains in the Problem Solving Fund.

2.3 Devolved budget: Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme Fund – 2015/16

2.3.1 At Cabinet on 20 July 2015 (minute 36 refers), £25,000 was devolved to each Constituency Committee for schemes to improve road safety and/or promote active travel.

2.3.2 It is proposed that elected members identify at this meeting their priority (priorities) for each respective ward. These will then be costed by officers in the Council's Traffic and Transport division, for decision by the Committee at a future Constituency Committee/Working Group meeting.

3.0 LARGE SCALE PROJECT BASED ACTIVITY

3.1.1 It was agreed at Wallasey Constituency Committee on 25 June 2015 (minute 8 refers) that 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.

3.1.2 The Constituency Manager presented a proposal around Timebanking; this is now being explored with colleagues and partners separately. The Committee members identified at the meeting the following projects for further exploration. These included:

- Dementia Friends/Dementia-Friendly Communities

- Defibrillators
- Handy Persons Service
- Reducing Social Isolation
- Safe Havens

3.1.3 Each of these potential projects will help tackle all of the Committee's priorities to varying degrees and a number of Wirral priorities set out in its 2020 Vision. Four of these projects have been considered in detail, giving consideration to existing provision, and proposals for potential funding by the Committee are outlined in Appendices 1-4.

3.1.4 The provision of a 'safe haven' Scheme ('Safe in Town' Scheme), can be pursued through existing resources and will be led by Merseyside Police (Wallasey neighbourhood). It has therefore not been considered any further in the context of this report.

3.1.5 £54,867.60 was set aside by Wallasey Constituency Committee as its meeting on 25 June 2015 (minute 8 refers) for the development of a larger scale project/s. The £2,500 released (referred to 2.1.1.3 above) brings this total to £57,367.60. £20,000 of this is ring-fenced for delivering public health outcome/s (minute 8 refers), however all projects identified will contribute to these outcomes.

3.1.6 The Committee is asked to give consideration to which project/s it wishes to fund.

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

6.0 CONSULTATION

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

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

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

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

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

8.1 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.

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.

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

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

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Spend in line with the Committee's priorities will likely have a positive impact upon community safety.

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

13.1 Potential projects for funding from the Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme Fund at the meeting are costed by officers in the Council's Traffic and Transport division, for decision by the Committee at a future Constituency Committee/Working Group meeting (as outlined in 2.3).

13.2 The Committee agrees which large scale project/s it funds (as outlined in section 3).

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

REPORT AUTHOR: Caroline Laing
 Constituency Manager (Wallasey)
 telephone: (0151) 666 4901
 email: carolinelaing@wirral.gov.uk

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
Wallasey Constituency Committee – Constituency Budget and Spend	25 June 2015
Wallasey Constituency Committee - Timebanking	25 June 2015