

**WIRRAL COUNCIL**

**WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE**

**12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY MANAGER'S REPORT</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>WARDS WITHIN THE WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>GREASBY, FRANKBY AND IRBY</b></li><li>▪ <b>HOYLAKE AND MEOLS</b></li><li>▪ <b>PENSBY AND THINGWALL</b></li><li>▪ <b>WEST KIRBY AND THURSTASTON</b></li><li>▪ <b>UPTON</b></li></ul>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL WEST)</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>CABINET MEMBER – NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

1.1 This report sets out:

- Progress in relation to activities which are being delivered using the Committee's budget for 2015-16;
- Progress in relation to other activities being undertaken by the Wirral West constituency team;
- Items for noting in respect of local issues / consultations.

1.2 The report also sets out the status of outstanding actions raised by Committee Services as a result of previous Constituency Committee at **Appendix 1**. The Committee is asked to note that any completed actions have been removed.

**2.0 CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE BUDGET 2015-16**

2.1 The Constituency Manager's previous report of July 2015 provided a summary of how the Committee's budget had been allocated in 2013-14 and 2014-15. A separate report made recommendations as to the Committee's new budget allocations 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.

2.2 This report provides an update on the Committee's 2015-16 budget allocations along with a number of other areas of expenditure which relate to budgets carried over from previous years. The Committee is asked to note that the Your Wirral Fund is subject to a separate report and recommendations.

### **Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (referred to as ASB)**

2.3 As reported to the Committee on the 26th July, the Council's February 2015 budget made provision for dedicated funding for the ASB Team to work with the Constituency Committees to produce ASB action plans for each area.

2.4 The Constituency Committee resolved in July that an ASB Panel would be established (with representation from one member per ward, to be determined by the Committee) to make recommendations about the use of the Committee's budget and that it be used to augment services not replace them. The Committee delegated decision-making in respect of this budget to the ASB Panel in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee. The Committee also agreed that, given that Woodchurch is the constituency hotspot for ASB, the majority of funding (i.e. £10,000) should be utilised in Upton ward but with each ward having some resource to be deployed as necessary (i.e. £5,000 split between the remaining 4 wards).

2.5 Representation on the ASB Panel was subsequently requested and membership confirmed as follows:

- West Kirby and Thurstaston – Cllr Green (Chair);
- Hoylake and Meols Ward – Cllr Boulton;
- Greasby, Frankby and Irby Ward – Cllr Burgess-Joyce;
- Pensby and Thingwall Ward – Cllr Brightmore;
- Upton Ward – Cllr Patrick.

2.6 The Panel met on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015 and considered a range of options which might be explored in respect of allocating the funding. The Council's ASB Team Manager was in attendance at the meeting. The Panel reached a broad agreement on a number of items for possible expenditure:

In Upton / Woodchurch (£10,000):

- Target hardening / high visibility reassurance measures to reduce ASB / criminal damage up to a maximum of £2,500 (working with the ASB Governance Group and community stakeholders to identify vulnerable locations and residents);
- An offer of funding support to the local community to organise events to reduce levels of ASB / criminal damage over the bonfire period) up to a maximum of £500;
- A 'Dragon's Den' engagement project with young people to identify how they would like to spend an element of the budget up to a maximum of £750 (including the costs of organising the project);

- A Neighbourhood Watch/ Park Watch campaign (as part of a constituency-wide project with locations to be agreed in each ward for targeted activity to increase the number of new schemes and reinvigorate existing ones) funded up to a maximum of £750;
- Early intervention / preventive work with children in years 5 and 6 at risk of becoming engaged in ASB / criminal damage developed in conjunction with the school hub project up to a maximum of £5,000;
- A further £500 for additional engagement activities (and potentially more dependent on any underspend in respect of the above) linked to tackling anti-social behaviour.

In Greasby, Frankby and Irby, Hoylake and Meols, Pensby and Thingwall, and West Kirby and Thurstaston (£5,000):

- A Neighbourhood Watch / Park Watch campaign (with locations to be agreed in each ward for targeted activity) funded up to a maximum of £3,000 (this will allow for an overall project budget for this campaign of approximately £3,750 including the contribution from Upton / Woodchurch);
- Sports diversionary activities to be funded up a maximum of £2,000 (to be targeted as appropriate on a ward by ward basis).

2.7 The Panel requested that promoting community involvement and engagement (e.g. through using social media, working with existing residents groups) should be incorporated in all activities. In addition, the Panel emphasised that clear evaluation measures should be developed for all activities, recognising that the outcomes will vary from short-term impact to longer-term outcomes which are more difficult to quantify, and that progress should be reported to the Panel and the wider Committee.

2.8 The Constituency Manager has commenced working with the relevant officers, partner agencies and community stakeholders to progress these items of expenditure in conjunction with members of the ASB Panel.

### **Core Constituency Committee Budget (Community Fund)**

2.9 In relation to the Committee's core budget of £50,000, the Committee agreed in July that it would 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).

2.10 The proposed timetable for the Community Fund is as follows:

- Community Fund opens for applications – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015;
- Deadline for applications – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015;
- Networking event(s) and community voting – March 2015;
- Consideration by the Committee – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

- 2.11 The Community Fund process and terms and conditions are being reviewed in line with the Committee's aspiration of continuous improvement and to further develop the involvement of local communities in the decision-making process. There are a number of key considerations which are informing this review:
- Comparing previous take up of the Community Fund opportunity for grant funding with the recent response to the Your Wirral opportunity;
  - Ensuring that the community voting exercise is meaningful and is focused on creating a legacy of support for the work undertaken by local groups and volunteers;
  - Exploring the need to support groups to plan projects over a longer period, and develop sustainable activity using the Committee's investment – this was a clear finding of the evaluation of the 2014 Community Fund and Public Health grant programmes as report to the Committee in July.
- 2.12 The process and terms and conditions will be published in advance of the Community Fund being opened in January, following consultation with members of the Committee.

### **Environmental budget**

- 2.13 As reported previously to the Committee, at its meeting on 24th February 2015 Council allocated £40,000 to support communities to help clean up their neighbourhoods. The Committee resolved that the constituency team should undertake consultation with residents and community stakeholders to identify locations or issues in the constituency which might benefit from the use of this funding and develop possible options for expenditure. The intention was to present a report to this meeting of the Committee. However this area of activity has been subject to slippage given the constituency team's work to support recent engagement activities in respect of the proposals for alleviating flood risk in West Kirby.
- 2.14 The Committee is asked to note that the work to identify locations and options will now be prioritised to ensure that the funding can be allocated by the end of the financial year. A detailed report and recommendations will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee in February.

### **Update on areas of expenditure carried over from previous years**

- 2.15 Outcomes in relation to the **Stay, Safe, Warm and Well initiative** which took place from October to December 2014 (and was funded using underspend from the 2013-14 Public Health grants programme) were reported to the last Committee. Capacity to plan and deliver the targeted engagement to the same level as was undertaken in 2015 has been limited for a number of reasons, however plans are in place to use the remaining budget to:
- Secure further equipment for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service to allocate to vulnerable residents in the constituency;

- Deliver additional engagement activities in partnership with other agencies.
- 2.16 The constituency team also ensured that the Wirral event on the 4<sup>th</sup> November at the Floral Pavilion was widely publicised to existing contacts and support offered in respect of transport costs for groups wishing to attend.
- 2.17 The **Big Picnic** which took place in July 2015 (funded by 2014-15 Love Wirral allocation) was warmly received by the schools and community groups who attended. The project also provided an opportunity for Council officers from a variety of services to work together on a constituency initiative and to strengthen relationships. It is proposed that the remainder of the £5,000 Love Wirral budget allocated by the Committee for the Big Picnic (approximately £2,000) is used to fund similar events organised by schools and local communities across the five wards in Wirral. It is further proposed that, further to a recent request from the Lord Lieutenant, that local schools and communities should be invited to organise these events in tandem with The Patron's Lunch which will be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June in celebration of the charities and organisations to which HM The Queen acts as Patron.
- 2.18 The Committee agreed at its meeting in February to use the other £5,000 of the Love Wirral allocation to fund the **Special Places Project** aimed at celebrating places in all parts of Wirral West which are special to local people through the installation of benches. This project is now being launched.

### **3.0 CONSTITUENCY TEAM ACTIVITIES**

- 3.1 Over and above the implementation of the Constituency Committee's budget decisions and related projects, the Wirral West constituency team is involved in a range of activities to deliver outcomes for the constituency. The constituency team also works with ward councillors, resident groups and networks, Council services and partner agencies on an ongoing basis to respond to local issues.
- 3.2 The constituency team has recently co-ordinated a significant engagement project in conjunction with officers from Regeneration and Environment in respect of the Council's proposals to alleviate flood risk in West Kirby. The Committee is asked to note that, as well as resulting in slippage in relation to developing options for the Committee's environmental budget (see 2.13 above), the level of support that this engagement project has required from the constituency team has also caused slippage in the process for recruiting community representatives.

### **4.0 LOCAL ISSUES / CONSULTATIONS**

- 4.1 The Council is undertaking public drop-in events in Hoylake and West Kirby in relation to the Golf Resort proposals as follows:

At Melrose Hall, Hoylake:

- Wednesday 11th November – 1pm to 7pm;
- Thursday 12th November – 1pm to 7pm;
- Friday 13th November – 1pm to 7pm.

At Westbourne Hall, West Kirby:

- Wednesday 18th November – 1pm to 7pm;
- Thursday 19th November – 1pm to 7pm;
- Friday 20th November – 1pm to 7pm.

4.2 Details of these events are available on the Council's website.

## **5.0 RISKS**

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

## **6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

6.1 This report sets out activities undertaken in relation to actions agreed by the Committee, all of which have been progressed with due consideration to a range of options.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 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.

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

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

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

9.1 The activities set out in this report are being delivered via existing resources and utilising the constituency budget as determined by the Committee.

## **10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 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>

## **12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### 14.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 The Committee is requested to note the progress and updates set out in the Constituency Manager's report.

#### 15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

15.1 In order to ensure that actions requested by the Committee are being progressed as required.

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#### APPENDICES

##### Appendix 1: OUTSTANDING CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE ACTIONS

#### REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

#### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Meeting	Date
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager's Report	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2013
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager's Report	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager's Report	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager's Report	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager's Report	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2015
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager's Report	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2015

## APPENDIX 1: OUTSTANDING CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE ACTIONS (as at November 2015)

Action Identified by Committee Services	Meeting Date	Deadline	Officer Assigned	Status
Wirral West Big Picnic Project and Wirral West Special Places Project to be funded by Love Wirral budget	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	No deadline set	Jane Morgan	<b>Update: Big Picnic 2015 complete; Special Places being launched; projects will be delivered within budget</b>
Liaise with community centres in respect of constituency conference	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	No deadline set	Jane Morgan	<b>Update: Community centres will be used as venues for constituency-wide conference / campaign, focus for this activity to be linked to the production of Constituency Plans</b>
Submit updates to future committees in respect of developing the business case for neighbourhood working	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	No deadline set	Jane Morgan	<b>Update: see agenda item relating to the business case</b>
Report to future Committee on progress in respect of timescales and which local road safety schemes have been implemented	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	No deadline set	Jane Morgan	<b>Update: see agenda item relating to road safety budget</b>
A report be brought back to a future meeting on the progress of all Town Centre Plans for the constituency with an officer from the Regeneration and Environment Department present for this item	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	Jane Morgan	<b>Update: see agenda item relating to Town Centre Plans</b>
At future meetings, one of the projects which had received a grant from the Committee be invited to give a presentation	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	Jane Morgan	<b>Update: it is proposed that this will be a regular agenda item from February 2016 (with a presentation from a group / groups in the ward where the Constituency Committee meeting is being held)</b>