

WIRRAL COUNCIL
WALLASEY CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE
28 JANUARY 2016

SUBJECT:	EVALUATION OF YEAR 2 WALLASEY BRIGHT IDEAS FUND PROJECTS (2014/15)
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 evaluation of projects funded by Wallasey Constituency Committee through Year 2 Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund (2014/15).

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 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. For ease of reference the successful applicants and respective amount awarded are set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Groups were required to submit an evaluation report of their completed projects on or before 30 October 2015. Appendix 2 is a collation of the evaluation reports submitted by each group and includes the summary of each project as originally outlined by the respective applicant.
- 2.3 Details of any exceptions to the above process are outlined below, including any underspend returned to the Council.
- 2.4 WC43 Belvidere Centre requested an extension to the project deadline. The group undertook the majority of the project (to the value of £348.48) and has completed an evaluation report to this effect. They encountered problems arranging the final canal trip which were outside of the group's control and are outlined in the evaluation report. Permission has been granted for the group to retain the £151.52 underspend to undertake the final canal trip on 3 April 2016.

- 2.5 WC44 Heart of Egremont requested an extension to the project deadline. The group undertook the majority of the project (to the value of £576.04) and has completed an evaluation report to this effect. Some of the equipment to be purchased was unavailable from the manufacturers and no substitutes were available. Permission has been granted for the group to retain the £223.96 underspend to seek an alternative supplier and complete the final stage of this project by 31 March 2016.
- 2.6 WC57 Community Soul was unable to deliver its Community Corridor Operation project as the group had difficulties engaging neighbouring residents. The group has therefore returned its grant allocation of £500 to the Council.
- 2.7 WC69 Community Spirit Wirral requested an extension to the project deadline. The group undertook the majority of the project (to the value of £560) and has completed an evaluation report to this effect. However due to the relocation of the group to new premises and changes in operational practices they were unable to build the donation boxes by the deadline. Permission has been granted for the group to retain the £340 underspend to purchase the wood and tools and complete the final stage of this project by 31 March 2016.
- 2.8 The evaluation report requested by the Constituency Team also required all groups to provide a full breakdown of spend and provide receipts for each and every transaction. Whilst there is an audit requirement to dip sample a percentage of projects to ensure the legitimacy of spend, the Constituency Engagement Officer reviewed spend on all projects to ensure that this was within the parameters agreed by the Committee (i.e. in line with each original application) and to cross-reference the receipts provided.
- 2.9 As at the date of this report, a total of £14,693.29 has been spent on Year 2 Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund projects, with a further £715.48 to be spent in the next three months. A total of £500 has been repaid to the Council.
- 2.10 A headline evaluation of Year 2 projects, from the information provided by groups, can be found in the infographic at Appendix 3.
- 2.11 There will be an opportunity at the meeting for the Committee to hear from a number of funded groups about their projects in more detail.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 A robust approach to auditing the spend on projects helps to ensure the appropriate use of current and future grants allocated by the Constituency Committee.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Learning was taken from the approach to this spend in relation to earlier budgets and reflected upon since.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Elected members and community representatives have the opportunity to participate in all Constituency Committees and Working Group meetings.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 6.1 Funding has been allocated directly to voluntary, community and faith groups and 'not-for-profit' organisations.
- 6.2 The neighbourhood working model will strengthen the Council's relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.
- 6.3 Tackling the priorities of the Constituency, for which this funding was assigned by the Committee, will benefit communities directly.

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

- 7.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wallasey Constituency Committee.
- 7.2 The Committee agreed the funding of projects totalling £15,460.85. A total of £14,693.29 has been spent, with a further £715.48 to be spent in the next three months. £500 has been returned to the Council.
- 7.3 Funding may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The arrangements will help the Council to deliver on the Localism Act 2011 and Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.
- 8.2 Advice has been taken from Internal Audit regarding the operation of the small grants programmes.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 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>

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The funding creates opportunities to encourage the sharing of community assets, therefore supporting carbon reduction.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 None.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

12.1 The Committee notes this report.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 To enable the Constituency Committee to reflect on the support it has provided to local communities and impact upon its priorities.

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

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
Wallasey Constituency Committee Working Group – Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund 2014/15	17 September 2014
Wallasey Constituency Committee – Constituency Budget and Spend	25 June 2015