

**WIRRAL COUNCIL**  
**WALLASEY CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE**  
**28 JANUARY 2016**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>PROBLEM SOLVING FUND</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>LEASOWE &amp; MORETON EAST; LISCARD; MORETON WEST &amp; SAUGHALL MASSIE; NEW BRIGHTON; SEACOMBE AND WALLASEY.</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY MANAGER</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING &amp; ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

## **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1 This report provides an update on Problem Solving Fund spend.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Problem Solving Fund is set aside by the Committee 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.

2.2 The Committee Handbook states that the lead political party spokespeople for the Committee are authorised by the Committee to spend from the Problem Solving Fund in individual amounts of £500 or less through unanimous agreement. In such circumstances, all members of the Committee will be contacted by email for information and the decision reported to the next Constituency Committee.

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Relocation of a bench in Wallasey Village to enable a community group to restore a Victorian fountain which was obscured.	£146.96 (estimate)

2.4 This leaves a balance of £14,403.04 in the Problem Solving Fund.

## **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

3.1 The Problem Solving Fund enables a quick response to be provided to issues reducing risks and enabling the Committee to respond quickly to communities.

## **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Learning has been taken from the approach to spend throughout the Committee's operation and the process for authorising spend from the Problem Solving Fund adjusted.

## **5.0 CONSULTATION**

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

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

- 6.1 The Fund enables a quick and effective response to be provided to community issues.
- 6.2 The neighbourhood working model strengthens the Council's relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.

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

- 7.1 Regular budget monitoring with the finance department takes place to ensure that the expenditure incurred is accurate and complies with what has been agreed by the Committee.

## **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.

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

## **11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 Some spend through the Problem Solving fund has a direct and indirect positive impact upon community safety.

## **12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

12.1 The Committee notes the contents of this report.

## **13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

13.1 To comply with the Committee Handbook.

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## **REFERENCE PAPERS:**

None.

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
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 – Constituency Priorities and Spend	26 June 2014
Wallasey Constituency Committee – Constituency Budget and Spend	22 October 2015