

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

30TH JUNE 2016

SUBJECT:	CONSTITUENCY BUDGET 2016-17
WARD/S AFFECTED:	WARDS WITHIN THE WIRRAL WEST CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ GREASBY, FRANKBY AND IRBY▪ HOYLAKE AND MEOLS▪ PENSBY AND THINGWALL▪ WEST KIRBY AND THURSTASTON▪ UPTON
REPORT OF:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER (WIRRAL WEST)
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CABINET MEMBER – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 This report sets out considerations in respect of taking forward the Committee’s core budget for 2016-17, i.e. assessing the impact of the Committee’s core budget (Community Fund) to date. The report also makes suggestions for further improving the Community Fund should the Committee agree to again allocate its core budget on the same basis.

2.0 ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE COMMUNITY FUND

2.1 For the first 3 years of its operation, the Constituency Committee has invested its core budget of £50,000 into small grants for local groups and organisations to deliver quality of life improvements in each ward, with a maximum grant award of £1,000 for each project. Whilst it is recognised that sustaining and developing the work of larger voluntary organisations through the use of small grants presents challenges, much of the activity which has been funded by the Committee adds value to the core work of smaller community groups. The Community Fund has helped to extend the reach and scope of community organisations and provides an important mechanism for local networks to maximise their resources.

2.2 When groups and organisations apply for a grant from the Community Fund, they are asked to provide information about the total cost of their project. In Year 3, the estimated total cost of all projects equates to £100,000, i.e. double the total amount of Community Fund investment at just under £50,000. This effectively represents a 100% financial return on the Committee’s investment. This does not factor in the social value of the investment, which would help us to further understand the outcomes achieved by groups and organisations using the Committee’s funding.

2.3 To start to demonstrate the impact of the Committee's investment in a way that can be widely shared, it is proposed that a short film is produced (within existing resources) and presented to the next meeting of the Committee and that the opportunity to get involved in making this film is extended to local schools. This will also include the impact of Your Wirral grants awarded in October 2014 and October 2015.

3.0 PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY FUND

3.1 **Timetable** – to ensure that the networking event(s) can take place and that there is sufficient time for consultation and promotion, it is proposed that the timetable is brought forward and that the Fund re-opens in July 2016, with decisions by November 2016. Subject to agreement by the Committee as to this proposal, a detailed timetable will be circulated and published on the Council's website prior to the Fund being launched.

3.2 **Raising awareness of the Committee's contribution** – it is proposed that the Constituency Manager investigates how best to ensure that the contribution of the Committee via the Community Fund is recognised and that this is done within existing resources;

3.3 **Increasing scope for groups and organisations to apply for projects which will take place across ward boundaries** - it is noted that, in respect of the funding allocated on a ward by ward basis, for example Hoylake and Meols and West Kirby and Thurstaston wards where the ward boundary effectively runs through West Kirby centre town, that some projects work across ward boundaries and or benefit residents from neighbouring wards. It is therefore proposed that groups and organisations are allowed to apply across ward boundaries (i.e. to select 2 or more wards as part of the application process) and that the proportionate funding split between wards is calculated accordingly (retaining the maximum allocation of £10,000 for each ward and no more than £1,000 for each project). To mitigate against multiple applications, it is also proposed that, as a general principle, groups will only be eligible to apply for a maximum of 2 projects but with discretion to increase this where there are umbrella organisations in existence which oversee a range of groups and activities;

3.4 **Evaluating the impact** – it is proposed that more thought is given to how the social value of the Community Fund can be evaluated, over and above the individual progress reports that groups and organisations are asked to submit. This can be tested in respect of 2015 Community Funds which have now submitted their project reports, alongside the proposal to develop a short film as set out in 2.3 above, and reported to the next meeting of the Committee in October 2016.

4.0 RISKS

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

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 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.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 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.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

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

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

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

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 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>

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

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

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

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

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

13.1 That the Committee agrees to continue with the broad framework now established in respect of the Community Fund, i.e. £10,000 per ward allocated through small grants with an opportunity for residents and communities to show their support for project applications;

13.2 That, in line with the Committee's aspiration of continuous improvement, the process for allocating the Community Fund is improved as set out in Section 3 of this report.

13.3 That any remaining monies from the Community Fund continue to be allocated to local improvements at the discretion of ward councillors, supported by the Constituency Manager.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

REPORT AUTHOR: Jane Morgan, Constituency Manager (Wirral West)
Telephone: (0151) 929 7706
Email: janemorgan@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Meeting	Date
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	12 th December 2013
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	6 th March 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	3 rd July 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	16 th October 2014
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	26 th February 2015
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	16 th July 2015
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	12 th November 2015
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Report	11 th February 2016