

**Constituency Committee - Birkenhead**  
**Thursday, 28 July 2016**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Birkenhead Constituency Manager's Report</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Strategic Director: Transformation and Resources</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

Section 4.0 of this report provides an update on progress of projects funded by budgets devolved to Birkenhead Constituency Committee. A finance summary sheet for the Birkenhead Constituency Committee budget and expenditure can be found in Appendix 1.

**1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

**IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT**

- **Note the successful completion of:**
  - **Birkenhead in Bloom areas**
  - **Involve North West contract**
  - **Community clean ups and work by probation and the related spend on skips**
- **Agree that an invitation to tender be put out on the Chest for a further grotspots project, allocation amount to be agreed, to be overseen by the Environmental Task Group**
- **Allocate £5K to 2016-17 – skip fund**

**FEEDING BIRKENHEAD**

- **Note the progress of the Birkenhead food hubs**
- **Allocate an agreed amount of the 2016-17 Constituency Committee funds to the Feeding Birkenhead Task Group for expanding food related projects: eg. Can Cook, holiday food projects**

**YOUR WIRRAL**

- **Note the progress in relation to Your Wirral spend 2015-16**

- **Note 2015-16 Your Wirral funds, there remains £69,049 to match fund the community shop project**

#### **ROAD SAFETY**

- **Note the update from the Road Safety projects 2015-16**
- **Delegate the allocation of the £32,500 for 2016-17 road safety projects to the Road Safety Task Group to meet over the Summer**

#### **ASB**

- **Note that the integrated team have allocated the funds to:**
  - **Child Sexual Exploitation Project £1000**
  - **Sports Development Project at the tennis centre until 'The Hive' opens in February 2017 - £2136**

### **2.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

Reasons for recommendations are outlined in section 4.

### **3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Not applicable.

### **4.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **4.1 Keeping Birkenhead Clean**

In 2015-16 the Constituency Committee allocated £20,000 of environmental funds to projects, which has now been fully spent as follows:

- £14K Involve North West –Grotspot project
- £6K skip fund – Community Clean-ups

Involve North West successfully delivered the Grotspot project and reactive fly tipping contract. They have completed a series of clean-ups which are highlighted in Appendix 2 which will be tabled at the Committee. They have picked up fly tipping not under the Biffa contract and helped to join up the Council's environmental service. The Council's environmental offer has become more effective with no outstanding issues reported.

The Grotspot project has successfully tackled areas with historical fly tipping and uncleansed private land and has worked so well, it has now been mainstreamed across Wirral. Birkenhead has £10,000 to allocate to grotspots this year. Councillors have already submitted identified areas for the contractor to commence work on.

## North West In Bloom

The Royal Horticultural Society co-ordinate an 'North West In Bloom' competition for local neighbourhood groups to enter. Judging takes place on 19<sup>th</sup> July, against a set criteria of: impact of planting, community involvement, using sustainable methods, biodiversity etc. Involve has allocated £1K from the Grotspot project to each ward for Birkenhead in Bloom for planning schemes and planting up areas.

Wirral Environmental Network and other agencies have delivered community engagement and hanging basket days in each area. The eco-schools co-ordinator has delivered engagement afternoons with local schools. The police and probation teams have been involved in engagement days and clean-ups prior to 'In Bloom' judging. Big Local Beechwood has agreed to contribute £3K for Beechwood and Bidston village in Bloom. YMCA and Wirral Methodist Housing have secured £10K from Tesco's for their 'All Things bright and Beautiful' in bloom along Borough Road.

The following areas are focal points for Birkenhead in Bloom:

In Bloom Area	Jan 2016	March 2016	April 2016	July 2016
Beechwood Central area by shops/Rec Centre	Develop planting scheme and hanging baskets	Have an engagement Day involving schools and community in March 2016 led by WEN and eco-schools	Fill planters and baskets Supported by Involve	Do a clean-up before judging. Date to be agreed Big lunch celebration and promote in local media
North end of Birkenhead	Agree focus area possibly the Avenues off Gautby Road	Engage with residents at Gautby Rd Community Centre and Holy Cross school. Request funds from Park Hampers.	Involve Magenta to see if they can contribute brackets and put them up.	Do a clean-up before judging Date to be agreed Big lunch celebration and press release
Bidston Village	Develop planting scheme	Have an engagement Day involving schools and community in March 2016 led by WEN and eco-schools	Fill planters and baskets	Do a clean-up before judging Date to be agreed Big lunch celebration and promote in local media
Borough Road area	Develop planting scheme together with what YMCA are already doing	As above and including the Mosque, YMCA and retailers	Fill planters on railings and lamppost baskets	Do a clean-up before judging Date to be agreed Big lunch celebration and promote in local media
Rock Ferry One stop shop area	Develop planting scheme with community retailers and One Stop Shop	As above including library and One stop shop and Lidl.	Fill planters on railings and lamppost baskets	Do a clean-up before judging Date to be agreed Big lunch and promote in local

In Bloom Area	Jan 2016	March 2016	April 2016	July 2016
				media
Claughton Village	Develop planting scheme	As above including Cllr G Davies's retailers group.	Fill planters on railings and lamppost baskets	Do a clean-up before judging Date to be agreed Big lunch celebration and promote in local media
Livingstone Street Centre	Planting scheme, flower competition, horticultural activity with the community carried out by Livingstone St staff.	On-going engagement activity with the community. carried out by Livingstone St staff	Centre garden, horticultural activity in the area. carried out by Livingstone St staff	Do a clean-up before judging Date to be agreed Big lunch celebration and promote in local media
Oxton Village	Develop planting scheme with Oxton gateway and retailers	As above and expanding on current in bloom activity with community and retailers	Fill planters and baskets	Do a clean-up before judging Date to be agreed Big lunch celebration and promote in local media
Prenton By Sainsburys	Develop planting scheme with community and retailers	As above	Fill planters and baskets	Do a clean-up before judging Date to be agreed Big lunch celebration and promote in local media

### Skip Funds

£6K has been allocated for skips in 2015-16. 44 skips have been used for the following clean ups:

- Rodney Street 15<sup>th</sup> October – 4 skips
- Rock Park – 2 skips
- Beaconsfield Court 15<sup>th</sup> November – 2 skips
- Harrowby Street 16<sup>th</sup> January -2 skips
- Police action day North End 16<sup>th</sup> February – 6 skips
- Clifton residents 17<sup>th</sup> February – 2 skips
- Rock Park- 20<sup>th</sup> March – 1 skip
- Seymour Street clean up 16<sup>th</sup> February - 2 skip
- Elmswood 16<sup>th</sup> February – 2 skip
- Beechwood 2<sup>nd</sup> March - 5 skips
- Beechwood 27<sup>th</sup> April - 3 skips
- Ribble Street 13<sup>th</sup> May - 2 skips
- Raffles Road 26<sup>th</sup> May – 2 skips
- Patterson Street 14<sup>th</sup> June – 3 skips
- Woodlands 16<sup>th</sup> June - 3 skips
- Beechwood 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 3 skips

Almost £5000 has been used to hire 44 skips in Birkenhead so far and at least 33,000 tonnes of rubbish has been removed as a result of the clean-up days. Please see Appendix 3 for details.

The 'Community Pay Back' team have delivered a programme of alleyway weed clearing for Birkenhead 'In Bloom', clean ups, a range of other cleaning, clearing and painting, at the sites outlined below:

- 63 Woodlands clean up
- Weeds in entries in Claughton
- Oxtan Road painting the railings
- Gautby Road painting the front of the community centre and the railings
- Beechwood hub – painting the shutters on the shops
- 268 Claughton Road lady trapped in the house because alley way was tipped so cleared alleyway
- Hoylake Road entry removed flytipping
- Woodchurch Road entry removed flytipping
- Inglemore/Fieldway Rock Ferry cleared alleyways
- Bedford Place fly tipping removal
- Bedford Road/Byrne Ave flytipping removal
- Rock Ferry underpass flytipping removal
- Conway Street fence lanes flytipping removal
- Borough Road hoardings flytipping removal and cleanse
- Rendle Street off Cleveland Street flytipping removal and cleanse
- Devaney Medical Centre Oxtan Road painting the railings
- Rear Chestnut Grove flytipping removal and cleanse
- Underbridge Chamberlain Street flytipping removal and cleanse

#### **Recommendations:**

#### **IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT**

- **Note the successful completion of:**
  - **Birkenhead in Bloom areas**
  - **Involve North West contract**
  - **Community clean ups and work by probation and the related spend on skips**
- **Agree that the an invitation to tender be put out on the chest for a further grotspots project, allocation amount to be agreed, to be overseen by the Environmental Task Group**
- **Allocate £5K to 2016-17 – skip fund**

## **4.3 Feeding Birkenhead**

### **4.3.1 Food hubs**

#### **Rock Ferry Food Hub**

£15,000 was allocated to Neo Café in 2015-16 to develop a Rock Ferry food hub.

Rock Ferry food hub now has its own building at the Beaconsfield Community House which, with the support of Neo community café, has set its self-up as a Charity and the community are being supported to asset transfer the building from the Council.

The Feeding Birkenhead School provision has been running all School holidays since February of this year from Beaconsfield Community House and has now delivered a total of 1637 meals and snacks throughout the year of running the programme. Along with craft clubs, gardening, cookery, community clean up days, environmental days and loads of fun for children.

Rock Ferry Food hub also runs surplus food education courses and cookery clubs in Well Lane Primary school and is going to also run these projects in Mersey Park primary and Rock Ferry Primary School in September.

Rock Ferry food hub runs a weekly large social supermarket from the building using both intercepted foods and the subscription to Fare share, this is running on a Pay as you feel model which allows people to pay what they can in money, skills or time. Which allows the service to be open to everyone no matter their financial circumstance.

The other really positive group of people the social supermarket is being able to support is the 16-24 year olds living on very low incomes in the Beacon Project many of which have left care and now living independently, the social supermarket offers a low cost option for weekly shopping for the young people with the dignity of choosing what food they want and always being welcome in the centre and also offering projects that they can engage with and volunteer through. They now have two young men who help set up and stock the shelves. People are travelling from outside the area to use the services. Along with the weekly supermarket they have free bread, fruit and vegetable available daily.

#### **Beechwood Food Hub**

The Beechwood food hub was allocated £15,000 to set up and deliver a discounted supermarket, holiday food clubs, cookery workshops and develop their food bank. Beechwood Food Hub has provided 48 food hampers, weekly discounted food hubs to open to anyone from Beechwood. They have donated cereal to local schools (St Paul's, Manor, Bidston Village). They are working with the food bank and The Chapel to supply food to residents, many of whom are experiencing financial hardship. They are working with Rock Ferry food hub to share food. They have organised a pop up shop for Beechwood in Bloom engagement day.

They are working with Beechwood Community Centre which is currently being asset transferred, refurbished and a new kitchen installed. The playscheme and other partners, as part of the food hub, will deliver holiday food in the future.

## **Bidston and St James Food Hub**

### **School holiday activities**

St James Centre was allocated £15,000 of constituency funds 2015-16 to expand their food hub offer. They provide food and fun activities, which were delivered over school holidays from February – April 2016, providing meals to 134 children at the St James Centre.

### **His Church**

The St James Centre has ordered and received 4 beauty and household supplies from HIS Church. They have distributed these through their library coffee morning, using the St James Opp Shop, at the Community Celebrations (bingo & Queen's birthday lunch) and Community Market days.

### **Food poverty and welfare**

The St James Centre continues to be a part of the Wirral Foodbank (Trussel Trust) as a distribution point on a Monday evening. They welcome the support of Involve NorthWest benefit advisors at these sessions and together they have been able to address individual and family challenges around welfare blockages and budgeting. They have supported 4 families to access foodbank with whitegoods through the Birkenhead Relief in Sickness Grant.

### **Future plans**

St James Centre Summer programme starts on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July. Their offer includes family experiences out of area, jolly tots (under 3s session) & reading group (new), library craft, family and junior cooking, youth trips and park play (outdoor facilitated play with light snack). Funding from the constituency has enabled the St James Centre to provide additional staffing resources to these activities as well as cover material and ingredients costs. They have also drawn in funding from Prince of Wales Charitable Trust, Soroptimists, Inner Wheel, the Lions club, Lifelong Learning and internal fundraising.

Working with Lifelong Learning, from September they are hoping to utilise the teaching kitchen for adult cookery classes with an optional qualification in Food Hygiene (L2), Nutrition and Allergy Awareness (at L1). They also hope to work with Can Cook to deliver a range of Master Classes for children and young people aged 10-21 years in addition to our ongoing Family and Junior Chef School programmes.

## **Gautby Road Play and Community Centre**

Gautby Road Play and Community Centre have offered their discounted supermarket every week since January 2016. They have provided weekly intercepted food and cleansing products to local residents from Fareshare and also pallets of food from 'His Church'.

They have refurbished their kitchen with Your Wirral funds and are providing Holiday food alongside the playscheme holiday activity. They are looking to expand what their community shop offers and are visiting 'His Church' to look at providing a wider range of stock for local people.

## **Fare Share**

The Wirral Fare Share was launched before Christmas and is located in Wallasey Wheatland Road Business units. They intercept food from suppliers and outlets and distribute to charities at lower costs for redistribution to people as part of luncheon clubs, social food hubs and food banks.

Fareshare now has the following Birkenhead members:

- St James centre
- Bee Wirral
- Gautby Community Centre
- Christ the King
- Neo community (moving to Rock Ferry shortly)
- YMCA Birkenhead
- Wirral Elders
- Wirral Age
- Phoenix House
- Alpha Homes
- Caribbean luncheon Club
- St Catherine's Community Centre

Fareshare is also working with the Liberty Centre in Whetstone Lane and looking at delivering intercepted food to their newly established food hub there.

## **His Church**

Gautby Road Play and Community Centre is co-ordinating the delivery of food and cleaning material pallets to Birkenhead food hubs.

So far Feeding Birkenhead food hubs have received 31 pallets of food and cleansing products since January. It is estimated that the pallets are worth around £2,000 each



retail value, which means around £64,000 retail value of food has been distributed in Birkenhead so far this year. The food hubs are working together and have decided to increase their order and delivery from His Church from August 2016.

For more detailed information about the food hub activity please see Appendix 4.

**Recommendations:**

**The Constituency Committee is requested to:**

- **Note the progress of the Birkenhead food hubs**
- **Allocate an agreed amount of the 2016-17 committee funding to the Feeding Birkenhead Task Group for expanding food related projects: eg. Can Cook, holiday food projects**

**4.3.2 Your Wirral Birkenhead**

Since the last committee meeting 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016, a final round of Birkenhead Your Wirral Funding took place in February 2016. A total of £22,560 was awarded to 10 organisations to carry out projects to address food poverty and provide provision to children and young people in the school holidays. The projects funded were:

- Fare Share for the feeding vulnerable people in Wirral scheme
- Cook and taste for teens through Courtney Park Resident Association
- The Rotary Club of Mid Wirral to provide food storage at Charles Thompson Mission
- The Harvest Project with Birkenhead Lions
- Birkenhead Youth Club to provide holiday lunches
- A chicken coop at Woodchurch Road Primary School
- Friends of Birkenhead Library to install raised beds at the pocket park at Birkenhead Library
- The holiday fun and food project through Tranmere Community Project
- Gautby Road JMC to upgrade their kitchen facilities
- St Werburghs School to build raised beds and garden area

After all these projects were awarded, there remains a underspend of £69,049

It has been agreed that the remaining Your Wirral funds can be used as matchfunding for a community shop project located in the Pyramids, subject to securing lottery funds for the project.

**Recommendations:**

**The Constituency Committee is requested to:**

- **Note the progress in relation to Your Wirral spend 2015-16**

- **Note 2015-16 Your Wirral funds, there remains £69,049 to match fund the community shop project**

#### **4.4 Road Safety**

For 2015-16 an allocation of £25,000 was given to the Committee and delegated to the Road Safety Task Group to fund projects to address road safety issues in Birkenhead. The Road Safety Task Group met on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and considered 9 road safety proposals. Funds were allocated to the following:

- **Circular Road – One Way Traffic Regulation Order**
- **Hindertons Road - Two Vehicle Activated Signs**
- **Bidston Village - Two Vehicle Activated Signs**

The projects are currently being delivered by the Council's Highways and Road Safety Section.

A further £32,500 has been allocated to the Constituency Committees for 2016-17. The remaining unallocated proposals from last year's task group assessment will be reviewed along with any additional proposals which will be invited by the Road Safety Task Group.

#### **Recommendations:**

**The Constituency Committee is requested to:**

- **Note the update from the Road Safety projects 2015-16**
- **Delegate the allocation of the £32,500 for 2016-17 road safety projects to the Road Safety Task Group to meet over the Summer**

#### **4.5 Tackling ASB**

This 2015-16 the Constituency Committee had in total £54,000 to allocate to ASB projects.

- £3,779 YMCA to deliver their Summer activities
- £7,064 The LADS project which will be delivered by the Youth Services.
- £1700 Boxing project
- £7956 Sports development
- £2000 Youth sports
- £1500 Ridgeway bonfire night

• **Total spent: £23,999**

£30,034 remaining was agreed by the ASB task group and committee to go to the Integrated Approach where it would be allocated through the Police and the ASB team.

**Recommendations:**

**The Constituency Committee is requested to:**

- **Note that the integrated team have allocated the funds to:**
  - **Child Sexual Exploitation Project £1000**
  - **Sports Development Project at the tennis centre until 'The Hive' opens in February 2017 - £2136**

**5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The report reports on project expenditure incurred in 2015/16 and funded from the Constituency Committee's allocated budget. The report also recommends future project work to be funded from the 2016/17 Constituency Committee budget. There are no other financial implications.

**6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**None.**

**7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

**None.**

**8.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

**None.**

**9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

Engagement is being carried out throughout the delivery of the projects. Please see Appendix 5 for community engagement activity. Public questions and answers are in Appendix 6 and will be tabled at the committee.

**10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

**None.**

[Starting on a separate page]

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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### APPENDICES

**Appendix 1 – Finance Table**

**Appendix 2 – Involve ‘Grotspot’ Update (to be tabled at meeting)**

**Appendix 3- Clean-ups update**

**Appendix 4 – Food hub update: St James and Rock Ferry**

**Appendix 5 – Engagement Activities**

**Appendix 6 – Public Questions and Answers (to be tabled at meeting)**

### REFERENCE MATERIAL

#### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Birkenhead Constituency Committee</b>	<b>21.1.2016</b>