

**Constituency Committee - Birkenhead**  
**Thursday, 3 November 2016**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Constituency Manager's Report</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Strategic Director: Families and Wellbeing</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

**UPDATE ON BUDGET FOR BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE**

Section 3 and 4 of this report provides an update on progress in relation to agreed schemes of work from the budget devolved to the Constituency Committee to date. A finance summary sheet for Constituency Committee budget and expenditure can be found in Appendix 1.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

**The Constituency Committee is requested to:**

- **Note the North West in Bloom awards that have been won by Birkenhead in Bloom projects**
- **Note the partnership work undertaken for clean-up days funded by the skip fund**
- **Note the contribution of probation to Birkenhead clean-ups**
- **Note the updates from the food hubs**
- **Note the Christmas hamper project update**
- **Note the updates regarding the Improving Life Chances community pilots**
- **Note the updates regarding tackling ASB**

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

Please see section 3.0 background information for details

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Please see section 3.0 background information for details

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **3.1 Keeping Birkenhead Clean**

In 2016-17 the constituency committee had £20,000 environmental funds which was delegated to the Environmental Task Group to allocate. The Environmental Task Group met on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016 and allocated the funds as follows:

- £5K allocated to skip funds
- £7K allocated to 'In Bloom' 2016-17
- £8K to a grotspot improvement/fly tipping project

The Council's Waste & Environment has awarded a graffiti and fly-posting removal contract to Continental Landscapes Ltd. The contract will also enable the Council to support the work of the Environmental Enforcement Team in managing and improving local grotspots and privately owned neglected land.

#### **North West In Bloom**

Birkenhead in Bloom was extremely successful this year. The following areas have been invited to receive an award at the North West in Bloom ceremony in Southport on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016:

- All things Bright and Beautiful – planters and hanging baskets in Borough Road and YMCA garden
- Beechwood in Bloom
- Bidston Village
- Gautby in Bloom
- Livingstone Street in Bloom
- Bidston Rise in Bloom/Blue wood/Jamesbrook Close
- Oxton in Bloom
- Williamson in Bloom
- Rock Ferry in Bloom

- Beaconsfield in Bloom
- Prenton in Bloom
- Claughton in bloom
- Epworth Grange in bloom

42 community members, partners and Councillors will be attending the ceremony and will start planning delivering next year's Birkenhead in Bloom projects. The projects were a great example of agencies putting in time and funds, working with schools and residents to improve their areas. Big Local, Magenta and Tesco's made valuable contribution with time and funds. Schools, Environmental Team, Involve North West and probation and residents allocated time and resources to the projects.

### **Skip Funds**

£6K was been allocated for skips in 2015-16 and further £5K was allocated in 2016-17. The 67 skips have been used for the following clean ups:

#### 2015

- Rodney Street 15<sup>th</sup> October – 4 skips
- Rock Park – 2 skips
- Beaconsfield Court 15<sup>th</sup> November – 2 skips

#### 2016

- 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
- Birkenhead Town Centre - 13<sup>th</sup> July – 4 skips
- Victoria Road – 15<sup>th</sup> September – 1 skips
- Beaconsfield Community Centre – 3<sup>rd</sup> October -1 skip
- Harrowby Road 18<sup>th</sup> November – 5 skips ordered
- Crossways, Avenues 26<sup>th</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> November - 12 skips ordered

Over £8000 has been used to hire 67 skips in Birkenhead so far and at least 70 tonnes of rubbish has been removed as a result of the clean-up days. The Police, Fire Service, Biffa, Involve North West, residents, Councillors and the Environmental Team have worked together to achieve the clean-ups above.

The 'Community Pay Back' team have delivered a programme of alleyway weed clearing for Birkenhead 'In Bloom' for clean ups and a range of other cleansing too, as 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

### **Birkenhead in Bloom 2016-17**

Preparations are already being made to improve areas and involve partners throughout Birkenhead as part of next years in Bloom competition. We are hoping to increase entrants and lever in further funds to build on the work carried out this Summer.

Please see Appendix 2 for further details of the Birkenhead Constituency's environmental works to date and planned for November 2016.

## **Recommendations:**

**The Constituency Committee is requested to:**

- **Note the awards that have been won for Birkenhead in Bloom**
- **Note the partnership work for clean-up days for the skip fund**
- **Note the contribution of probation to Birkenhead clean ups**

### **3.2 Feeding Birkenhead**

The Food Task group met on 14<sup>th</sup> September in order to allocate funds £35K to food projects in the area.

So far the task group has allocated:

- £1K – Tranmere Community Project – holiday food provision
- £6K – allocated to four Birkenhead areas to deliver food hampers and promote services Beechwood, St James & Gautby, Rock Ferry and Birkenhead & Tranmere

There is £28K remaining. The group are meeting on w/c 17<sup>th</sup> October to discuss allocating further funds. The task group is considering inviting applications from local groups to deliver holiday food for the next year. The approach will be confirmed at the next meeting.

## **Updates from the food hubs**

### **Beechwood Food Hub**

Beechwood Food Hub has a strong commitment to providing food to vulnerable people and families living on the estate either through its food bank supported by residents and members of Beechwood Chapel, it is not connected to the Trussell Trust.

Pallets purchased from HIS Church Christian charity are an integral part of food provision for Beechwood. At this point in time, supplies are being used to supplement the Food hub. Beechwood purchases 3 pallets every three weeks.

The asset transfer of Beechwood Play and Community Centre is underway with the exchange of contracts hopefully taking place in early November 2016. Once the refurbishment has taken place, cooked food will be available on a regular basis in early February 2017 with the use of food obtained from Fareshare and HIS Church.

Recruitment of volunteers is essential to ensure delivery. A new approach and management of volunteers with a possible rebranding of a title maybe 'Food Ambassadors' or 'Food Angels', we accept a new approach has to be adopted and we are receptive to this. The nature of volunteering is changing and we accept we have to do things differently if we are to attract local individuals who would like to volunteer and stay with us.

In the October 2016 half term we will provide meals (no charge) for 40 children at the Beechwood Play and Community Centre for three days per week. We work closely with the Neo Cafe at Beaconsfield Community House who will provide us with some food intercepted from supermarkets.

If you are interested in volunteering on the Beechwood please contact [georgethomas@beechwoodtrust.org](mailto:georgethomas@beechwoodtrust.org)

### **Rock Ferry Food Hub – Neo at Beaconsfield Centre**

Holiday provision went well and Neo worked with Birkenhead boys club. The Council have been making repairs to the Beaconsfield Centre building which is looking very good. The social supermarket is running throughout the week and crisis hampers are still going out every week.

Neo are delivering a community dinner every Monday and working with LIPA to give a community a voice on a Wednesday. Adult learning courses begin next week at the Beaconsfield Centre and half term provision, unfunded, will run for 3 days.

The Christmas hamper appeal is now live and going well and foot fall to the centre is increasing weekly. 'Wednesday advice day' has begun with environmental advice, money management, debt advice and cookery.

Early Years Trust has now moved into and lots of provision to begin for 0-5 year olds. Neo are doing well with fundraising for next year's building costs and have 50% for next year. Neo are very proud of welcoming Jeremy Corbyn to visit the centre and sample activities.

### **St James Food Hub**

Activities where food has been provided have been very successful. Families have appreciated the offer of toast during the morning sessions and the opportunity for children to make their own lunch and sit to eat it as a community.

The family cooking has been an ongoing success. St James' run these sessions throughout the year and have welcomed 27 families since October 2015.

Since the last committee meeting St James has provided the following:

### **Summer Programme**

- Total number of meals provided: 903
- Total number of sessions offered: 36 (excluding 5 days a week open access café for breakfast and lunch)
- Total number of participants: 387 (children only)\*
- please note: this excludes the 6 excursions provided. Over 250 individuals engaged accessing 325 places visiting Knowsley Safari Park, Gulliver's World, Monkey World, Apple Jack's Farm, The Story Barn (Reader Org) and Blackpool.
- Sessions offered:
- 4 library craft & breakfast
- 5 Monday play schemes and lunch (pasta, hot dogs, soup with homemade bread, wraps wedges, sandwiches)
- 5 Youth clubs and hot tea (pasta, homemade KFC chicken, pizza, wraps & wedges ,homemade burgers and wedges)
- 5 Park play and cold tea (sandwiches)
- Glitz and Glam party
- 5 family cooking sessions (various meals made with a 'food from around the world theme' including burgers, pasta, curry, fajitas and a pudding)
- 5 junior chef school sessions (fish cakes, spaghetti bolognese, burgers, curry, popcorn chicken and puddings including muffins, crumble, cold deserts)
- 4 sessions with Can Cook Studios
- 2 autism friendly library sessions with snack
- Glitz and Glam party (organised by Youth Volunteers for children aged 8 and under, disco, face painting, nail painting and party food)

- 145 hot and cold breakfasts provided by the Open Door Café (cereal, toast, sausage, egg or beans on toast)
- 50 lunches provided by the Open Door Café (toasties, sandwiches, pasta dishes)

St James provides these activities on an on-going basis along with their discounted supermarket, food bank, Reach Out advice, cookery workshops and accredited food training. They will be providing half term holiday provision, Christmas hampers and Christmas food.

### **Gautby Road Community Centre**

Gautby Road Community Centre has been offering a discounted supermarket to local residents since January 2016. They subscribe to Fareshare, His Church and get surplus food from Tesco's.

Gautby is ordering pallets from His Church and negotiated a good price from Fareshare for pallets for the Christmas hamper project. They are working in partnership with St James to deliver 1000 hampers. They are including a wide range of promotional material in the hampers and will offer other services to families in need Eg. winter warm pack, fire service smoke alarm fitting. The hamper project has levered in £500 from Magenta and £400 from local businesses. Park Group has contributed 1000 boxes and cellophane worth over £300. The police, ASB team, fire service and others will promote their work and help deliver the hampers.

The centre has recently refurbished the kitchen in order to offer holiday food to local children. They have ordered His Church rice krispies and corn flakes and contacted every primary school to offer breakfast cereals at discounted prices. They are working with local children to grow and cook their own vegetables as part of Gautby in Bloom 2017.

Every year Gautby has a Halloween and Christmas grotto that attracts over 300 people. Gautby is using events such as these to promote the food hub and other services. Gautby Road has close links with Holy Cross School and works together on a number of initiatives.



## **Christmas Hamper project**

The Birkenhead Food Hubs are all providing Christmas hampers this year. Each hub has secured funding and food from donations, businesses, housing providers and Big Local. Families in need will be referred to the food hubs and up to 3000 families will receive food, toys, cleansing products, winter warm packs and information about services available as part of the project. Fareshare and His church are providing the food, Park group are providing boxes and cellophane. If you are aware of any families in need, please let the constituency team know and we will forward it on to the appropriate food hub.

Please see Appendix 3 for further details of the work of the Food Hubs.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **The Constituency Committee is requested to:**

- **Note the updates on the food hubs**
- **Note the Christmas hamper update**

### **3.3 Road Safety**

The Road Safety task group met on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 11 proposals were submitted to the Road Safety Task group. The Road Safety team are currently costing out the proposals that the task group identified as the most achievable. The task group will meet again in week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> October to agree which of the proposals will be funded this financial year.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **The Constituency Committee is requested to:**

- **Note the update regarding the Road Safety Task group**

### **3.4 Improving Life Chances**

#### **Update for Improving Life Chances Community Pilots**

The Improving Life Chances Steering Group is working towards the following aims across Wirral:

- a. Improving life chances for children
- b. Supporting families to be financial resilient
- c. Tackling the immediate impacts of poverty
- d. Supporting parent into sustainable employment

Task groups in two wards have been set up to target specific areas experiencing high child poverty: Bidston and St James ward, and Seacombe ward. The areas have had their initial meetings and are now developing their respective action plans for the next year. Please see Appendix 4 for Improving Life Chances (ILC) strategy.

There has been a lot of enthusiasm of the ILC community pilots so far which is encouraging. People coming to the meetings include residents, community group representatives, Councillors and agencies.

Some generic aims have been established across the areas:

- Improve partnership working
- Improve sustainability of the food projects
- Improve joint work eg. energy week, loan shark awareness week
- Establish joint data collation to establish evidence base and increased evaluation
- Raise profile of food hubs and community centre
- Strengthen referrals to food hubs and community centre
- Promote other wider services as part of food project
- Increase volunteering and befriending in to services

Already some good outputs have been planned:

- Christmas holiday food hamper project across Birkenhead and in each community pilot, working together in partnership. We hope to deliver over 2000 hampers across the Birkenhead area. £8K has been levered in already throughout the areas and Gautby Road Community centre has negotiated a good deal with Fareshare for surplus food. The food hampers are an opportunity to promote services through an info pack inside each hamper.
- The project is galvanising partnership working. Information in food hampers will include reporting ASB/Crimestoppers, energy advice, magenta news, Fairforyou, credit unions, school uniform swaps etc.

- An info pack is being developed which will be tailored to each area and particular themes which can be distributed at the food hubs, in hampers, Halloween events etc.
- Beechwood has identified a need for a handyman service for the elderly – this is being explored through ‘unltd’ funding
- St James is doing a joint application to Warm Homes for an awareness raising event across the pilots
- Halloween and Christmas grotto in Beechwood and St James is being looked at as an opportunity for exploring promoting volunteering, promoting other services, befriending
- October and Christmas holiday food will be co-ordinated across Birkenhead and the pilot areas
- An action plan of events and activities over the year is being developed
- A volunteering/befriending project is being explored in Beechwood which has the potential to be replicated across other areas (hopefully with a portfolio for the volunteer that will lead to training or jobs)
- Beechwood will look at developing St Paul’s School community hub and offering a breakfast food club, possibly in partnership with Fareshare
- Beechwood and the North End are jointly bussing young people to the River of Light festival on bonfire night as part of Operation Banger
- Invite agencies like Job Centre Plus/Remploy/Reach Out/Health Connectors to discounted supermarkets to promote services
- Joint training and e-learning will be offered eg. child poverty e-learning, Energy Projects Plus training, Food Hygiene training
- Sharing of initiatives and learning across the areas

As the project develops, we will report back to the constituency committee with what the project is achieving.

**Recommendations:**

**The Constituency Committee is requested to:**

- **Note the updates on Improving Life Chances pilot projects**

### 3.5 Tackling ASB

This 2015-16 the Constituency Committee had in total £54,000 to allocate to ASB projects. Details of this 2015-16 allocations are set out in the finance summary sheet in Appendix 1.

- £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, who have allocated funds as follows:

• Youth Sport nights until March 2017	£4,850
• Youth outreach in North end around Bonfire Night	£500
• Child Sexual Exploitation Training	£1000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,350</b>

The Police and the ASB team have £17,649 to allocate.

#### **Bonfire Night and Halloween activities to tackle ASB**

Two Coaches to the River of Light festival have been arranged from Beechwood and St James and Gautby Road Community Centre. Tesco are providing goody bags for young people on the trip. The Police have funded additional PCSO shifts over Halloween period. The skip initiative is providing 12 skips in all, over Birkenhead, Tranmere and the North End on 26<sup>th</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> November. The project is in partnership with the Environmental Team, probation and the Fire Service. The aim is to pick up as much combustible material before bonfire night.

**Recommendations:**

The Constituency Committee is requested to:

- Note the updates on activities to tackle ASB in the area

**4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

**5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications.

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

There are no staffing implications.

**7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

There are no relevant risks.

**8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

The community engagement update can be found in Appendix 5.

**9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no equality implications.

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**APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1: Finance Table**

**Appendix 2: Environmental Update**

**Appendix 3: Updates from Food Hubs**

**Appendix 4: Improving Life Chances Strategy Community Pilots**

**Appendix 5: Engagement Update**

**REFERENCE MATERIAL**

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>