



**Constituency Committee - Wirral South**  
**Thursday, 2 February 2017**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>WIRRAL SOUTH PRIORITY UPDATE</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Fergus Adams (Constituency Manager)</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report provides an update on the Constituency Committee's priorities and their associated spend for 2016/17, seeking decisions in relation to priority driven spend.

The work of Wirral South Constituency Committee contributes to a range of Wirral Plan 2020 pledges and neighbourhood working is key to delivery of the Plan.

This report affects all Wards within the Wirral South Constituency (Bebington, Bromborough, Clatterbridge, Eastham and Heswall).

This is not a key decision.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

RECOMMENDATION 1: The Committee note the budget proposal delivering a one year reduction in spending in relation to Constituency Committees and its prospective impact upon priority delivery for 2017/18 (Cabinet, 8/12/16, minute 71 refers)

RECOMMENDATION 2: The progress made by and changes made to the Wirral South Social Isolation Service be noted

RECOMMENDATION 3: The progress made by the Wirral South Youth Counselling Service be noted

RECOMMENDATION 4: Volunteers (one elected member per ward) agree to sit upon an evaluation panel prior to the next committee to review the Wirral South Youth Counselling Service and agree (via delegated decision) if the contracted one year extension be adopted or not. Decision to be reported to the Committee on 27

April, 2016 and volunteers to be requested within this committee. Evaluation panel to convene no later than 4 weeks after the date of this committee.

RECOMMENDATION 5: The Committee note the progress made in providing the Wirral South National Citizenship Service Bursary

RECOMMENDATION 6: Should the budget proposal relating to the Committee's budget for 2017/18 be adopted the Open Spaces budget for 2016/17 (£15k) be allocated in its entirety to New Ferry Park, leaving Torr Park with £50k allocation via section 106 monies

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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

- 1.1 To enable the work of the Wirral South Constituency Committee to be focussed upon the agreed priorities and spend to be distributed accordingly.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Learning has been taken from this committee's spend throughout its operation.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION (surrounding narrative with refs to appendices etc.)**

- 3.1 Constituency Committee Budget Proposal 2017/18

- 3.1.1 In December a budget proposal was brought to cabinet suggesting a one year reduction in spend for constituency committees for 2017/18, totalling £250k in savings. Although at this stage the saving option is a proposal it is important that recommendations are made at this stage, in an attempt to mitigate any impact upon the ongoing work of the committee (see recommendation 2 above). Such recommendations are necessary at this stage to ensure work is ongoing between committees (2 Feb and 20 April).

Immediate implications of the proposal itself include (pre-budget decision):

- Social Isolation extension Panel Postponed (originally diarised 17/1/17). If 2017/18 budget proposal is adopted there will be no funding to extend and the contract will cease at the end of its current contracted period
- Delay in Improvements work re. Open Spaces priority locations

- 3.1.2 **See recommendation one.**

- 3.2 Social Isolation

- 3.2.1 The Wirral South Social Isolation Contract was subject to novation in October 2016. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2016 the GIFT Network has been managed by Retain Wellbeing and Chapel House (one of the original collaborative delivery organisations), following the absorption of ARCH into Kaleidoscope. At this time Kaleidoscope took the decision to transfer responsibility of this element of ARCH's previous portfolio. At the time of novation two new GIFT

COORDINATORS were also appointed (see <http://www.giftnetwork.co.uk/> for further information).

3.2.2 At the time of writing this report (Dec 2016) the GIFT Network was directly involved with 74 active beneficiaries (table one gives a breakdown of the individual levels of interaction).

Table One:

New Beneficiaries recruited since December	5
Existing beneficiaries who just attend lunches	10
Existing beneficiaries who attend lunch and have interaction with GIFT in between	8
Existing beneficiaries who GIFT contact and interact with depending on their current circumstances.	5
Beneficiaries who no longer wish for interaction (closed)	19
Beneficiaries contacted who wish to engage again after Christmas	46
Total active beneficiaries	74

In its most recent quarterly update the GIFT Network reports:

- 3 new volunteers currently being recruited (pending DBS checks)
- Further Dementia Friend awareness training has been completed (13<sup>th</sup> Bebington Scouts being the most recently trained up)
- New (more user friendly) marketing material has been actively distributed to shops and services in Bebington, Bromborough and Eastham with Clatterbridge and Heswall to follow
- 2 x monthly 'GIFT Lunches' are now held in Wirral South
- A presentation has now been given to staff at The Orchards Clinic in Bromborough with a view to establishing a stronger social prescription/referral pathway

3.2.3 **See recommendation two.**

3.2.4 The Wirral South Engagement Officer (Shannon Kennedy) has also worked tirelessly on the "2016 Christmas Together Project". This project is directly aimed at combating social isolation over the Christmas period in Wirral South.

At the time of writing this report preparations are complete and five service providers have been successfully identified and linked via this project, they are:

- Delamere Community Centre, Delamere Avenue, Eastham, CH62 9ED  
12.30pm - 3pm, Christmas Day 3 course meal, wine, tea and coffee, mince pie, visit from Santa.
- Age UK Wirral, Age UK Meadowcroft Centre, Spital Road, CH62 2DE  
12pm - 3pm, Boxing Day, Family games, festive film, Christmas buffet. Transport is available.
- Christ Church Community Centre, Kings Road, Higher Bebington, CH63 8LX, 12pm - 3.30pm, Christmas Day Traditional Christmas Lunch, Carol Singing, Raffle. Transport is available.
- Heswall Parish, St. Peter's Centre, Lower Heswall, CH60 0DZ, 12pm - 3pm, Christmas Day. Full Christmas Lunch. Transport is available.
- St. Mark's Church, St Mark's Church Hall, New Chester Road, New Ferry, CH62 1DG, 11.30am - 2.30pm, Christmas Day, Christmas Lunch and Carols. Limited transport is available.

A small amount of general engagement funding was used to facilitate some of the events and it is envisaged that many of those in attendance will be referred to the GIFT Network, thus ensuring an element of sustainability in the support offered. Work is already underway for 2017 Christmas Together.

### 3.3 Gaps in Youth Provision

3.3.1 The Wirral South One to One Youth Counselling Service continues to operate with great success (see previous agenda item 6 for service update). Table two gives a breakdown of the current demand at the time of writing this report (Dec 2016). Please note that appointments will now only be offered in Heswall should a young person from in or near Heswall be referred to the service.

Table two:

Area	Counselling so far	Waiting to be seen	Counselling ended	Attended drop in
Heswall	3	0	3	No drop-in
Bebington	7	3	4	33
Eastham	6	3	3	28

**3.3.2 See recommendation three.**

3.3.3 The Constituency Manager for Wirral South has identified sufficient, existing budget to extend the service past its current year (ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017) by the initial permitted one year. In order to assess the service and thus determine the appetite for an extension recommendation four requests one elected member volunteer per ward to put themselves forward (during this committee for the purpose of the minutes) to sit on a panel

3.3.4 At its meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 the Wirral South Constituency resolved to:

*“...Commit £3,097 (remaining gaps in youth provision budget for 2016/17) to provide a National Citizenship Service bursary for young people who are financially excluded in Wirral South (with further details to be reported to the next committee on 2 February 2017)”*  
(minute 21, resolution one refers)

The proposal was to utilise the underspend offering a bursary to young people from deprived areas in Wirral South, covering:

- Initial signup fee
- An agreed list of essential kit for residential elements
- Access to public transport for a 2 week period during social action element.

**3.3.5 See recommendation four.**

3.3.6 Work has been ongoing between the Constituency Manager, Wirral’s Sports Development team and Ingeus (Central Government’s delivery partner) to ensure the programme can be launched and assessed and

allocated in line with the wider recruitment timetable. A simple, online application form will be launched on Teen Wirral (in development at the time of writing this report). All relevant partners will be made aware of the process for referring/supporting individuals to apply. Close ties with the existing Wirral South Counselling service will be instrumental in ensuring those young people that stand to gain the most from the opportunity will be supported in their application.

**3.3.7 See recommendation five.**

**3.4 Improved Open Spaces**

3.4.1 Work continues in line with the committee's previous resolution and existing priority to support both New Ferry Park and Torr Park in 2016/17 and 2017/18. The Wirral South Engagement Officer has worked tirelessly to establish one advisory board for each of the aforementioned parks. These advisory boards consist of local residents and stakeholders and their objectives are not only to influence the decisions on spend for their respective open spaces but also to add built in sustainability in tow parks that although well-loved and used have no form of friends group in place.

3.4.2 In order to ensure work can continue with clarity and expediency following cabinet's budget decisions in February 2017 recommendation six seeks to mitigate the impact of loss of budget for 2017/18. The recommendation attempts to ensure work valuable work continues in both locations and that sufficient are in place for action.

**3.4.3 See recommendation six.**

**4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wirral South Constituency Committee.

4.2 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.

**5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The arrangements help the Council to deliver on the Localism Act 2011 and Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

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

6.1 Funding available, particularly through Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund, may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 Failure to agree the distribution of funding limits the Committee's ability to effectively tackle its priorities and may result in a loss of funding allocation.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 Elected members, community representatives and members of the public have the opportunity to participate in all Constituency Committees.

8.2 The neighbourhood working model strengthens the Council's relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impactassessments/>

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## **APPENDICES**

None

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

None

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

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>8/12/16</b>
<b>Wirral South Constituency Committee</b>	<b>5/10/16</b>