



**Constituency Committee - Wirral West
Thursday, 15 June 2017**

REPORT TITLE:	CONSTITUENCY MANAGER'S REPORT
REPORT OF:	Assistant Director: Health & Outcomes

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on constituency projects and activities, including those funded using the Wirral West Constituency Committee's budget allocations.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that that the Committee notes the updates detailed in the Constituency Manager's report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure that the budget decisions and work programme of the Constituency Committee are being progressed as required and that the Committee is updated on the work of the constituency team and other initiatives which impact on the constituency area.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

This report sets out activities undertaken in relation to the priorities of Constituency Committee, all of which have been progressed with due consideration to a range of options and in consultation with the Committee and relevant stakeholders.

3.0 CONSTITUENCY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Neighbourhood Working Review

Work is currently underway to understand the opportunities for delivering the Wirral Plan in partnership with communities. This will include reviewing the current neighbourhood working model. Members of the Constituency Committee and community stakeholders will be fully involved in the process. Two workshop dates have been scheduled for engagement with Elected Members, Thursday 13th July and Tuesday 25th July, both at Wallasey Town Hall.

Budget 2017-18

The Council's budget for 2017-18 included a one year pause in spending on Constituency Committees (i.e. a pause in respect of £50,000 core budget for each the four Committees), with an expectation that any underspends in

Constituency Committee budgets would be used in this financial year. The Council's budget also included an amount of £50,000 for allocation through the Constituency Committees to further support community clean ups and related activities. The details of this allocation have yet to be determined and the views of the Constituency Committee will be sought in this respect.

The constituency team has worked closely with the Commissioning and Finance Manager (Health and Wellbeing) to reconcile the Committee's funding position following the setting of the Council's budget. **Table 1** below provides a summary of the budget carried over for 2017-18 (and the purposes for which this has already been earmarked by the Committee). This amounts to just over £50,000 in total.

Table 1 – Wirral West Constituency Committee: Budget 2017-18

Budget Area	Amount Carried Over / Purpose
Core budget underspend (i.e. remaining monies carried forward from the Committee's annual £50,000 allocation following the award of grants via the Wirral West Community Fund)	<p>£20,758.83 for improvements at the discretion of ward councillors*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greasby, Frankby and Irby – £4,964.00 ▪ Hoylake and Meols – £176.60 ▪ Pensby and Thingwall – £4,961.46 ▪ Upton – £8,006.48 ▪ West Kirby and Thurstaston – £2,650.29 <p>*The underspend budget is constantly subject to variation given payments being processed etc. The amounts shown are accurate at the time of writing.</p>
Public Health Outcomes Fund (2013-14)	£3,000 in returned grant to be used for health and wellbeing activities in Hoylake and Meols (in line with the objectives and location of the original grant award)
Anti-Social Behaviour	£5,900 for activities in line with the broad recommendations of the Committee's ASB Panel
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2015-16 allocation - £5,000 for Big Difference grants and £3,000 for community / partnership clean ups (details set out later in this report) ▪ New allocation of £12,500 (see above ref: Council's budget 2017-18)

The Committee is asked to note that the road safety budget has been allocated in principle in its entirety to a series of local schemes and the monies for this have been carried over accordingly into the 2017-18 financial year. Progress on these schemes is highlighted as appropriate in the ward updates which appear later in this report.

Small Grant, Big Difference Grant Programme

As reported previously to the Committee, a budget of £10,000 was made available in 2015 to each constituency area to support communities to help clean up their neighbourhoods (£10,000 for each constituency area). It was agreed by the Constituency Committee that an Environmental Panel should be convened and given delegated authority in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee to agree expenditure relating to action to address hotspots in the constituency and/or to encourage community involvement in environmental initiatives. It was also agreed that £2,000 of this budget would be ring-fenced to meet the delivery costs of the Special Places budget should this be required, leaving £8,000 available to allocate to environmental initiatives.

A number of Constituency Committee members met to discuss developing proposals for utilising the remaining environmental budget of £8,000. Following this meeting, the Constituency Manager explored a number of options in conjunction with Waste and Recycling and other colleagues including the procurement of equipment for use by local groups. Given that the Waste and Recycling team is currently developing a 'love where you live' resource pack for communities who want to get involved in local clean ups and will be investing in equipment such as litter pick kits, it was agreed at the last meeting of the Committee that £5,000 of the environmental budget should be utilised to deliver a Small Grant, Big Difference initiative in Wirral West (allocated on the basis of £1,000 per ward) which will add value to Council and partner approaches to delivering the Wirral Plan environmental pledges.

The Wirral West Small Grant, Big Difference programme will be launched on Monday 26th June 2017, with a closing date of 12 noon on Friday 28th July 2017 (see poster at Appendix 1). Small grants of up to £200 will be available to bring to life all kinds of projects that spruce up local neighbourhoods. Groups and organisations can apply for projects like planting in communal areas or painting a community building – anything that makes a big difference to the local environment now or over time. The Big Difference initiative is also aimed at promoting and celebrating volunteering in Wirral West and encouraging more people to get involved. Application information is available at www.wirral.gov.uk/wirralwest and for updates follow the Wirral West constituency team on Twitter @teamwirralwest, search for #WWBigDifference or email helengallagher@wirral.gov.uk to be added to the Wirral West mailing list. Grant awards will be agreed by the Constituency Committee's Environmental Panel.

It was also agreed by the Committee at its last meeting that the remaining £3,000 environmental budget would be utilised to co-ordinate and promote clean up days aimed at bringing community groups together with the Council and partner agencies to make a big difference during the course of a single day in a number of locations. Planning and implementation of clean up days will be undertaken in consultation with local groups, e.g. the recently established Love Where You Live initiative in West Kirby, and may include procuring equipment for use by groups to tackle localised environmental issues (with associated training) and making available items for communities to use when undertaking environmental activities (e.g. 'hi vis' jackets).

Ward Updates

To highlight the local impact of the Committee's programmes and the work undertaken by the constituency team to support voluntary and community groups to address local issues, a summary of projects and activities in which the team is involved is set out below by ward.

Greasby, Frankby and Irby

- Community Fund projects awarded funding in November completed or underway – including Greasby Christmas Lights, Christmas activities organised by Greasby Over Sixties Club, Celebrate Greasby Day taking place on the 3rd June, nature sculptures in Coronation Park, defibrillator at Irby Cricket Club, Greasby Messenger, planting work by Green and Blooming Greasby, installation of Greasby name signs, facility improvements at Irby Library (Friends of Irby Library) and St Chad's and work at Greasby allotments;
- Work ongoing with residents and stakeholders to address numerous issues relating to Pump Lane pond in Greasby and improved access now in place to bench as part of the Committee's Special Places project;
- Engagement with local stakeholders as part of the Council's Resilient Parks Project in Coronation Park. The Council has facilitated a Work Based Learning placement for a student from Chester University who is investigating a number of issues included existing drainage features within the park and water flow paths during extreme rainfall events. This improved understanding will help build a business case to secure funding to reduce flood risk adjacent to the park;
- Work ongoing with residents and stakeholders to address issues relating to damaged trees, broken fences, grass cutting and fly tipping;
- Preparation being made to undertake consultation in mid-June with local residents as to proposed traffic calming measures (which would be funded using the Committee's road safety budget) to reduce speeding along Hillview Road. This feedback will be reviewed alongside traffic speed surveys to determine the feasibility of the scheme;

Hoylake and Meols

- Community Fund projects awarded funding in November completed or underway – a number of community health and wellbeing projects, improvements at Hoylake Parade, Festival of Firsts soon to get underway

with a fantastic and diverse programme, improvements at Hoylake Marine Bowls Club and activities at Hoylake allotments;

- New dropped crossings already in place at Groveside / Banks Road and Meols Drive / Riversdale Road junctions and work is underway to address parking issues at Meols Station. Detailed design work is being undertaken on kerbworks at Hoyle Road to improve road safety on North Parade (all funded using the Committee's road safety budget);
- Work ongoing with stakeholders to support and contribute to the development of community-led regeneration and projects as needed;
- Special Places benches in situ at Carr Lane and Grove Park.



Special Places bench, Grove Park, Hoylake

Pensby and Thingwall

- Community Fund projects awarded funding in November completed or underway – including Carers Get Together outings, Pensby Library improvements and activities led by Friends and volunteers, development of the Wirral FUSS initiative (Free Uniforms for Secondary School), and youth outreach from the Hope Centre;
- Planning is underway in partnership with Age UK Wirral for Great Wirral Door Knock to take place in Pensby on the 10th, 11th and 12th July 2017

building on previous successful door knocks in Eastham, Woodchurch and Rock Ferry. Key community assets in Pensby are being linked into the initiative via the constituency team;

- Road safety schemes funded by the Committee underway, e.g. junction protection at key points on Gills Lane, Portal Road and Whaley Lane and 20mph zone in the vicinity of Thingwall Primary subject to speed surveys;
- Building on work undertaken last year in response to localised issues, ongoing engagement with local young people by the Youth Support team, with funding available from the Committee's ASB budget to provide diversionary activities where appropriate (i.e. to reinforce positive behaviours);
- Special Places picnic bench in situ at Ridgewood Park, contributing to increased facilities for local families at this location.

Upton

- Community Fund projects awarded funding in November completed or underway – toilet and kitchen improvements at Holy Cross Parish Church, schools' yoga project, Upton Victory Hall facility improvements, Christmas activities at Salacre allotments and by the COGS craft group and the development of a community garden in Woodchurch (HYPE);
- New Woodchurch play area is now in use with positive feedback. This is the culmination of work undertaken by the Constituency Manager to secure funding for the scheme from monies which date back to 2005 when Wirral Council agreed to the sale of sites within the Beechwood and Woodchurch estates to Riverside and to Lowry Properties;
- Ongoing work with residents and agencies to address a wide range of issues in Woodchurch via the Woodchurch Community Safety Group – e.g. road safety, trees, grot spots and fly tipping;

- Production and circulation of a follow up leaflet to the Great Wirral Door Knock which took place in Woodchurch (see Appendix 2);
- Parking issues on Saughall Massie Lane in Upton being investigated in respect of a potential junction protection scheme funded using the Committee's road safety budget;
- Special Places bench in situ at Warwick Park, Upton and work to address recent anti-social behaviour at this location;
- Little Brothers mentoring project at Fender Primary funded using the Constituency Committee's ASB budget going from strength to strength, with positive outcomes for children involved. Youth Support and Sports Development working with young people on the estate, with funding from the ASB budget adding value to existing resources.

West Kirby and Thurstaston

- Community Fund projects awarded funding in November completed or underway – West Kirby Christmas lights, work by the Friends group at Sandlea Park, Love Where You Live clean up initiative, improvements by the Friends at Grange Community Park, West Kirby Arts Centre development, access improvements at Dawpool Nature Reserve (Autism Together), sports activities for young people (Wasps FC) and a new notice board at Newton Village Hall;
- Local community involved in planting as part of Merseytravel improvement works in West Kirby town centre, with new sign to be installed in recognition advertising the Farmer's Market;
- Working with stakeholders to help support key local events e.g. West Kirby Live;
- Liaising with residents and Council colleagues to successfully install a replica of the stolen brass plaque on Thurstaston Hill;

- Working with residents and Council colleagues to address issues relating to dog fouling on the Wirral Way;
- As well as additional measures on Caldby Road to address speeding, a number of schemes are now being explored in respect of using the Committee's road safety budget allocation in the ward in response to local priorities – including addressing parking issues along Greenbank Road and junction protection at key locations along Frankby Road;
- Special Places benches in situ at Cubbins Green and Grange Hill;
- Involvement in the Hilbre Management Committee alongside Elected Members, community stakeholders and Parks and Countryside to support initiatives as needed (e.g. bench building as part of Special Places).

The Committee is asked to note that there are a number of Community Fund projects which have, or are, delivering outcomes across ward boundaries, e.g. Irby, Thurstaston and Pensby Amenity Society's daffodils project and expansion of the FareShare surplus food initiative. Next Chapter's Best Foot Forward project, which received a Community Fund grant award to deliver its positive mental health programme for young people aged 7-11 in Wirral West, was the recent recipient of Project of the Year at the Wirral Third Sector Business Awards.

Constituency Team Update

As well as implementing the budget decisions and local priorities of the Constituency Committee, the constituency team works more widely to support community capacity building and key Council projects linked to neighbourhood working. The team also helps to develop local networks, raises awareness of what's happening through regular communications and secures external funding for the area where possible, for example:

- The constituency team is supporting the Connect Us project which has been commissioned by Health and Wellbeing and is being delivered by

Involve Northwest. Community connectors are working in local areas to reach out to people in receipt of Employment Support Allowance / Incapacity Benefit who may feel trapped, isolated or invisible, providing the missing link for them to access the things they need to achieve their aspirations. The constituency team is working in partnership with the connectors in Upton, Woodchurch and Overchurch to link them into existing groups and activities. The Constituency Manager is also involved in work to ensure that the impact of door knocking initiatives undertaken by public and third sectors is co-ordinated to make the best use of the resources available.

- The Constituency Manager is co-ordinating delivery planning for the Wirral Together volunteering strategy, which has been developed by a Steering Group which includes representation from voluntary and community groups as well as public and private sector organisations. The strategy recognises the vital role of residents and communities in achieving our Wirral 2020 pledges and sets out clear priorities for inspiring, encouraging and enabling volunteering to grow. As part of this, the Constituency Manager attends the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Wirral Community of Practice and other Wirral-wide forums to ensure that the valuable feedback from these networks informs partnership approaches.
- The constituency team has built up extensive mailing lists of groups and contacts active in Wirral West and contacts receive information about what's happening locally and a range of funding and other opportunities. The team is currently refreshing these mailing lists to ensure that information is targeted better dependent on people's interests. The team has also built up a Twitter following, focused on sharing information about Wirral West activities and groups.
- The Constituency Manager is a member of the Advisory Panel for the DONG Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund. To date, 5 Wirral West projects have received a total of £45,629 from the Fund (along with 12 projects elsewhere in Wirral at a total of £96,572).

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any financial implications of this report are in respect of the constituency budget currently available. There are no wider financial implications.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

The activities set out in this report are being delivered via existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Risk assessments are undertaken in respect of constituency projects and activities as necessary and appropriate.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

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 and proactive engagement with voluntary, community and faith groups is a clear objective of the neighbourhood working approach.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

An impact assessment 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>

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

Helen Gallagher, Constituency Engagement Officer
Telephone: (0151) 691 8650
Email: helengallagher@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Small Grant, Big Difference Poster
Appendix 2: Woodchurch Door Knock Feedback Leaflet

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 Progress and Budget Report	16 th July 2015
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Progress Report	12 th November 2015
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Progress Report	11 th February 2016
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Progress Report	30 th June 2016
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Progress and Budget Report	6 th October 2016
Wirral West Constituency Committee – Constituency Manager’s Progress and Budget Report	9 th February 2017