

**Constituency Committee - Birkenhead**  
**Thursday, 5 October 2017**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Birkenhead Constituency Committee</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Managing Director for Delivery</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

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

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

**The Constituency Committee is requested to:**

- **Note the partnership work undertaken and future clean-up days funded by the skip fund**
- **Note the contribution of probation to Birkenhead clean-ups**
- **Note the 2017 Birkenhead in Bloom applications that have been judged and are awaiting the outcome of the competition**
- **Note the updates from the food hubs and holiday food projects**
- **Note the updates regarding the Improving Life Chances community pilots**
- **Note the updates from BID team, Connectors and Assets update**

## **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**

##### **Birkenhead In Bloom 2017**

The judge from the Royal Horticultural Society visited Birkenhead on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July. He was very impressed with how the projects have developed and all groups have been invited to the North West in Bloom Awards in Southport on the 3rd November.

2017 'In Bloom' proposed projects include:

1. Birkenhead YMCA – planters and hanging baskets in Borough Road and YMCA garden
2. Beechwood in Bloom – partnership work transformed Beechwood
3. Ballantyne in Bloom - hanging baskets improve Ballantyne
4. The Beechwood Little Centre in bloom
5. Bidston Village in Bloom – hanging baskets improve Bidston Village
6. Gautby in Bloom – youth club, play scheme and staff flower up Gautby Road
7. Livingstone Street in Bloom – centre users grown vegetables and flowers
8. Bidston Rise in Bloom – residents and Magenta worked to have hanging baskets and planters.
9. Bluewood in Bloom – Magenta and residents planted up wild flower Areas
10. Oxtun in Bloom – secret gardens, Williamson and hanging baskets
11. Rock Ferry in Bloom – Neo and volunteers have worked to improve one stop shop area
12. Beaconsfield in Bloom – developing community garden next to the centre
13. Prenton in Bloom x 2– continued improvements on Woodchurch Road and Prenton Dell Road
14. Claughton in Bloom – working with retailers and the 6th Form College to have an Oxtun style hanging baskets.
15. The Lauries Centre – tenants improve the town centre landscaping
16. The Hive – development of a community garden
17. Alleyways behind Claughton Road – residents transform into an oasis of Flowers
18. Alleyways behind Water Street – residents and WMHA transform into an oasis of flowers
19. Birkenhead Park in Bloom (HYPE)
20. St Paul's Road Rock Ferry (HYPE)

The projects are great examples of agencies putting in time and funds, working with schools and residents to improve their areas. Big Local, probation, Magenta and Tesco are making valuable contributions to projects with their time and funds, along with residents, agencies, schools, the Environmental Team, probation and constituency team.

In Bloom projects have a number of positive outcomes:

- Makes retail areas more inviting so encourages local economic growth
- Provides volunteering opportunities
- Probation and residents will also give time and resources to the project
- Draws in external funds to Birkenhead and in kind contributions from other sectors
- Improves the environment through better landscaping
- Probation and Biffa cleanse, remove flytipping and paint areas
- Involves schools in teaching about recycling and growing
- Supports numerous Wirral pledges
- Provides an excellent platform for partnership working and a support network for volunteer groups in different areas to exchange ideas
- Provides a target to work towards – judging day - and an event to celebrate the good work done at the awards ceremony in Southport.

### **Skip Fund, Community Partnership days and Clean-ups**

In total the Birkenhead Constituency Committee has provided and planned (see next section) 98 skips and given officer support at more than 38 Community Clear Ups and Action Days at the cost of circa **£12720** from the skip fund budget.

While it is difficult to calculate exactly how much waste the constituency team has removed, a rough estimate based on information from the skip hire company and Biffa, **we estimate that it equates to at least 112 tonnes removed.**

The skip days bring local residents, Councillors, partner agencies like the police together. They improve the environment and provide a platform for closer working.

### **Additional Clean-up days since the last committee 2017**

We have the following community partnership days planned in March/April 2017:

- Rock Park clean - up 4th March 2017
- St Anne's Street - BID team, constituency team and Magenta on - 15th March
- YMCA, BID and McDonalds co-ordinate - clean up 5th April 2017
- Bentinck Street area - will take place during the first week of April, as the Hive is set to open on the - 8th April 2017
- Union Street Beaconsfield centre clean – up 19th May 2017
- Magenta Bidston Rise clean-up – 18th May 2017

- Rock Ferry police action days – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017
- Jamesbrook Close and Patten Street - 20<sup>th</sup> July
- Beaconsfield clean up 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> August

#### **Up and coming clean ups:**

- Noctorum clean up 22<sup>nd</sup> August
- North end clean up 26<sup>th</sup> August
- Northend 19<sup>th</sup> September
- Rock Ferry 21<sup>st</sup> September
- Marquis Street/Frodsham, Tranmere - clean up by residents date TBC
- Rodney Street Residents - date to be confirmed
- Clifton Park Residents – date to be confirmed
- Operation banger clean-ups in the run up to Bonfire Night

#### **The ‘Community Pay Back’ Team**

The ‘Community Pay Back’ team have delivered a programme of alleyway weed clearing and cleansing for Birkenhead. They have supported ‘In Bloom’ projects by doing clean ups and a range of other cleansing in each area. They have completed over 60 jobs for the Birkenhead Constituency Committee.

They have completed the following jobs also last quarter:

- Larch Road 21st March 2017 19/03/2017
- Strip of land by B and M 21st March 2017 23/03/2017
- Bhead library pocket park 21st March 2017 23/03/2017
- Castle Street/Water Street 21st March 2017 19/03/2017
- Holly Grove 21st March 2017 08/04/2017
- Holborn Road 21st March 2017 08/04/2017
- Central Hotel 10th April 2017 29/04/2017
- Elm Road and Woodchurch Road 10th April 2017 29/04/2017
- Allcot Avenue 18th April 2017 29/04/2017
- Arno Rd 2nd April 2017 04/05/2017
- Patton St Clean-up day 05/04/2017
- Flaybrick Cemetery 27th April 2017 05/06/2017
- 266 Claughton Rd 18th April 2017 06/05/2017
- Oxtan Village Old bank site 18th April 2017 TBC
- Byrne Ave and Bedford Rd 18th April 2017 TBC
- Sisters Way 19th April 2017 07/05/2017
- Larch Grove (Priority) 25th April 2017 17/05/2017
- Chistleton Close 7th May 2017 18/05/2017
- Byrne Ave and Bedford road 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017
- Pocket Park behind Birkenhead library 20<sup>th</sup> June
- Little Centre Beechwood 19<sup>th</sup> June
- Liberty Centre 30<sup>th</sup> June

Please see Appendix 2 for further details of the Birkenhead Constituency’s environmental works to date.

#### **Environmental Task Group**

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

- £5K allocated to skip funds
- £7K allocated to 'In Bloom' 2016-17
- £8K allocated to a grotspot improvement/fly tipping project has been reallocated to Rodney Street residents' parking scheme by the group in February 2017.

The work on grotspots has been delivered by the community pay back team. The Council's Waste & Environment Team has also awarded a graffiti and flyposting 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. We will have an update at the next committee.

### **Recommendations:**

**The Constituency Committee is requested to:**

- **Note the partnership work for clean-up days for the skip fund**
- **Note the contribution of probation to Birkenhead clean ups**
- **Note the 2017 Birkenhead in Bloom projects which have been judged**
- **Note the decisions of the Environmental task group**

### **3.2 Feeding Birkenhead**

The Food Task group met on 14th September and by email in January 2017 in order to allocate funds of £35K to food projects in the area.

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.
- £28K – Food holiday provision

The projects that have been funded have provided the update below.

#### **Update from the Food Hubs**

##### **St James Centre – North Birkenhead Development Trust**

Over the holidays we offer a full community program aimed at local families. This includes work around food, ensuring families have access to nutritious meals during the holidays.

**Feb half term 20<sup>th</sup> Feb – 24<sup>th</sup> Feb;** Monday Club, Geo Caching Trip, Youth Club, International Crafts in the library, Autism Friendly Library, Community Recipe and Meal Share, Street Art, Homework Club cooking special, Taste through Time community meal.

**Easter Holidays 3<sup>rd</sup> April – 18<sup>th</sup> April;** Monday Club, Youth Club, Autism Friendly Library, Open Play Days, Homework Club special, Llandudno + Blackpool Youth Club Trips, Community Bingo and Meal Shares, Radio City Search for the Sandman theatre trip.

**May half term 29<sup>th</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June;** Open Play Days, Homework Club Special, Youth Club, Youth Club trip Ice Skating.

**Summer Holidays 24<sup>th</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept;** Monday Club, Tuesdays + Thursdays Open Play Day on Ilchester Park, Friday Open Play in the centre, Wednesday Community Bingo + Meal Shares, Youth Club, Blackpool + Lazer Quest Trip, Weekly family trips to Gulliver's World, Monkey Forrest, Wels Mountain Zoo and Brimstage Maze Maize.

Alongside this we run a community program for adults including exercise classes, adult only trips, genealogy group and special themed meals.

Throughout Summer we have also worked with Louisa Blake a local teacher to deliver a project called Looby Lous Lovely Lunches. This was a Wirral wide project to ensure all those who needed access to lunches over the holidays had it, and provided upto 150 packed lunches a day.

We have recognised the value of Open Play sessions during the last few holidays. Having a day where children and families can come in to lots of different activities however parents stay with the children, means families are having fun together, and strengthening their relationships within their family unit and our relationships with both children and parents. It also means parents that may be lacking in confidence or support have other adults around them to support them in playing and having fun with their children. For families with children whose behaviour may be a challenge this is invaluable.

We believe this is valuable and unique as we do not offer a play scheme but aim to work with families as a whole and engage people from cradle to grave. It gives us the opportunity to work with parents to address any issues they may have. We realise people often need free lunch provision because of financial strains and this gives us the opportunity to offer support and advice.

Eve Barrett: [eve.barrett@corganisers.org.uk](mailto:eve.barrett@corganisers.org.uk)

## **Beechwood Update**

The refurbishment of the community centre, is taking longer than expected, but will be up and running in October. The centre had been asset transferred from Wirral Council to a Community Company, in December 2016, and renamed, from

Beechwood, Play & Community Centre to The Beechwood Centre. However, when applying for charitable status, the Charities Commission would not accept this name, and the centre was renamed again, to THE LITTLE CENTRE, Beechwood.



The new logo, was created, and the new signs all ordered for the front of building. Exciting times ahead!

The next stage of the business plan, is the recruitment of staff for the centre, which will include a Centre Manager, Cook, Apprentice, and ILM administrator.

Coinciding with the refurbishment at 'The Little Centre Beechwood' – further investment grants from the Big Local funding for state-of-the-art facilities are currently underway. Alongside the previous investment for a brand new soft play centre, new hall and P.A systems as well as Café equipment, and multi-use comfort areas have been granted, to enable the Centre to play a key role in the development of services for local people in the years ahead.

Beechwood, Ballantyne & Bidston Village are excited with the formation of a new Fishing Club aimed at promoting intergenerational learning within local residents. Fran Kane and Beechwood Community Trust have been working with young people across the estate for many years and following successful grants from Big Local and The High Sheriff's Fund, the club now has everything needed for their every growing and recently had a successful maiden outing. The club has been a real catch for local residents!

Big Community Trust are also moving forward, in facilitating, with the Neighbourhood Planning Forum and an consultation across the whole of Beechwood had taken place. Following further discussions, it was agreed by the Partnership, in consultation with Aecon, that Ballantyne should also be included. New boundary outlines will be mapped out and a revised constitution will be submitted to Wirral Council.

Beechwood Training Academy is an accredited training centre with VTCT and NCFE. The centre has two fully equipped hair and beauty salons as well as two networked computer suites and a training room that can take up to 15 learners. The training centre delivers accredited training in Sport, hair and beauty. The nursery within BCT, is making some exciting changes, now has three childcare places for 2, 3 and 4 years olds. New 30hr element for 3yr, fixed session time Mon-Fri 9-3 for working parents, subject to meeting the criteria. Brand new healthy menu, and are introducing new PE classes for all rooms in and outdoor fun physical activities. They have gone maths crazy, new structured learning and lesson plans in each room, with exciting learning journey and imaginative adventure play for all children.

Thanks for funding from Big Local, Fender Skate Park has been home to professional skate coaching sessions in late August / early September. Sessions were fully booked in record time and have been really popular with all age groups. Feedback from the Skate Park has been phenomenal! Harry Smith, the ex-Councillor and Chair of the Joint Management Committee for more than 20 years,

began the talks for the skateboard park many years ago and with, present Chair & resident, Linda Finn, will officially open the skateboard park in September. Linda, who is also Co-Chair of Big Local, and Chair of the Community Association said 'working with our Councillors, and all the Community groups, and hundreds of meetings, is now resulting in great outcomes for our community.'

Thanks to a joint venture between Big Local & LHT – A new youth community Boxing Club has been working with great success from Beechwood Recreation Centre on a weekly basis since May 2017. Following strong demand, a female only boxercise class has now been funded and will take place weekly from 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 until the end of the year.

Big Local are currently planning their first every Community Awards to celebrate the great work locally – from those in achievement at school to local organisations, all celebrated in one night...watch this space!

Big Local's Bright Ideas Fund has been approving applications to benefit the community, recently approved applications include support for an over 50's lunch club and a brand new 'Mums 2 Marathons' CIC aiming to improving the health of local people in a fun and exciting way.

The Big Local Partnership, and LHT have been working side-side to assist Resident, Jim Parsons and the current Management of Ballantyne, to form a new board of trustees to progress the potential reopening of the Ballantyne Centre. Following two successful meetings, potential trustees are currently engaging with local residents to gather their views on the future activities of the Centre with a view of forming legal group to tackle the barriers to re-opening. Everybody is focused and ready for the future challenges ahead!

## **Neighbourhood Planning**

The government is giving local communities the chance to shape development in their area through Neighbourhood Plans. The Neighbourhood plan for this area, will be called Shaping Beechwood. It will give the community a say in how the area develops. A partnership has been formed, and training provided, with support also from ACOM. The community have been invited to 'have their say', and leaflets inviting the community to various meetings have been distributed across the whole estate. Beechwood Community Trust will facilitate the Neighbourhood Plan.

## **Volunteering Programme**

At the Improving Life Chances meetings, the representatives of the groups within Beechwood agreed that a volunteer project needs to be developed, for the area and the planning is vital to its success. With this in mind, Big Local have agreed that part of the funding to be spent for this year, will be on a volunteer project. Debbie Veevrs from the DWP will attend the next Big Local meeting in June, for a question and answers session. She will particularly explain how voluntary works, sits with persons receiving benefits.

The Big Local Funding working in partnership, would also look to support with funding, the following:



- Xmas hamper project for 2017
- Learning for pleasure project
- Awards ceremony
- Bright Ideas fund for community groups
- Beechwood/ Ballantyne in Bloom

### **Community Boxing Club**

Following the successful pilot on mischief night, which was organised with Wirral Council and Police, Big Local and LHT joined forces with Venture Boxing Club to pilot a three month programme of activity for 6-18 year olds in/around the Big Local area. Woodchurch Boxing Club kindly loaned equipment for the pilot which again, proved to be a massive success for young people with regular attendance of more than 40. Discussions are taking place with Wirral Council, to see if the boxing club can be extended, because it supports the anti-social behaviour initiatives for the area.

Contact: George Thomas: [georgethomas@beechwoodtrust.org](mailto:georgethomas@beechwoodtrust.org), Karl Rooney: [Karl.Rooney@communityactionwirral.org.uk](mailto:Karl.Rooney@communityactionwirral.org.uk), and Sheila Henry: [sheilahenry@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:sheilahenry@wirral.gov.uk)

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

Summer holiday provision went well, it was brilliant to provide holiday food to kids from the local area. Neo had a big clean-up on July 2017. Magenta, the environmental team, recycling team, PCSOs, Biffa and skips from the constituency committee enabled to get ready for the in bloom judging. Local residents got rid of fly tipping locally and improved the area.

Neo developed the garden at the Beaconsfield Centre and is improving the area by Rock Ferry One Stop Shop. Neo have been working closely with the Labour party, Tranmere Rovers FC, Birkenhead Constituency Committee, and the Wirral Council ILM programme to employ of one of our former Volunteers Colin to a full time position, enabling him to attend meetings have been held between partners from Public Health and Fender Health Centre.

The meeting was extremely positive and a request has been made to Involve North West to investigate the feasibility of the Health and Wellbeing Connector at Fender Health Centre which the GP's can refer to. Overall the proactive partnership working approach is very positive for the future. Meetings had also been held with Joanne Chwalko from Wirral Community NHS Trust following a request from Dr Sim, as she is doing research with male parents on their support needs.

It has been agreed that the new Community centre, will be utilised for as many well being projects as possible to achieve, managing 9 traineeships and running our new surplus food storage and distribution unit. All is going well with Colin who is now nearly half way through his placement. The business plan is being developed to explore moving towards asset transfer which hopefully will take place within the next few months.

The new look purpose built social supermarket is going strong in Beaconsfield and will also be offering on-site training programmes including retail qualifications and customer services. Neo are continuing to deliver a community dinner every Monday and numbers are growing each week. Adult learning courses begun at the end of March in partnership with Crosby Training and the DWP, including a Job centre adviser working from the centre and having a drop in and appointment service on site each week.

Neo are doing well with attracting more external catering work and functions all adding to both the fundraising for building costs, opening up employment opportunities and redirecting more and more food away from landfill, we are averaging about 3-5 tonne of food a week now.

We are also very pleased that with the support of Peer Head Housing we have opened a community boutique and wellbeing centre in Hamilton Square. For further details please contact: Ema Wilkes: [neo.cafe@aol.com](mailto:neo.cafe@aol.com)

### **Gautby Road Community Centre**

Gautby Road Community Centre has been offering a discounted supermarket weekly to local residents since January 2016. The Centre subscribes to Fareshare, His Church and get surplus food from Tesco's through the icloud app. Gautby is ordering pallets from His Church and negotiated a good price from Fareshare for surplus food and received pallets.

The Centre has refurbished the kitchen in order to offer holiday food to local children and a food offer as part of the ASB project. They are working with local children to grow and cook their own vegetables as part of Gautby in Bloom 2017, building on the 'Thriving' award they received last year.

Gautby Road is working with St James, the police, YIP and the sports development team to provide food and activities across the North end for young people including a Saturday night disco. As part of the project Gautby has taken on two ILM work placements and updated its CCTV. Gautby has extended the ILM placements until January 2018.

A new mums and tots group has started and a course in functional skills will begin from April. A new community bingo sessions has been set up and a reptile room to show young people how to look after and respect animals. There has been a lot of support for these activities from the local community. English and Maths Lifelong learning has also started at the centre.

Gautby Road is providing 2 meals a day for local young people of all ages as part of its Fit and Fed project and Play scheme holiday food provision. Gautby Road has taken young people to the Hive, bowling and laser quest throughout the Summer. 3680 meals have been delivered to the local community.

The centre has also seen 2 chicks hatch: Shaun and Stewart to the delight of the young people in the centre.

Luke O'Dowd: [luke@gautbyroad.co.uk](mailto:luke@gautbyroad.co.uk)

## **Livingstone Street Centre – BEE Wirral Council**

The Livingstone Street Centre now has a mobile creche team which is available to book. Staffed by professional and experienced childcare workers and supervised by an early years professional. We've worked hard to keep charges low so that it is affordable.

Public access computers are in place. Anyone can come in and use them and we will provide support for those who are not particularly IT experienced.

Livingstone Street Centre is running Tea and Memories, a group for people over 65 who want to remember the good old days.

The food co-op is running well and is being used by Syrian refugee families who now live in Wirral.

We are running three days a week - Tuesdays 12 - 3, Wednesdays 10 - 1 and Thursdays 10 - 12. Both the Wednesday and Thursday sessions run into our afternoon baby groups and if children stay that's not a problem because the afternoon parents are bringing their own school age children with them.

Good attendance so far - we have 35 children registered to date. We have discovered the power of toasties which go down a storm, and parents can enjoy them as well.

Interestingly it's mostly different kids to the ones who come to the after school club.

The food coop is still working really well. Livingstone Street Centre has three new visitors yesterday who have just arrived in the country from China. We tried to find out how they knew about us but without much success!

Kath Shaughnessy: [kathshaughnessy@gmail.com](mailto:kathshaughnessy@gmail.com)

### **Holiday Food Provision**

Below are the projects that the Task Group have funded for 2017:

- Wirral Society for the Blind and Partially Sighted - £2500
- Neo Café - £4000
- North Birkenhead Development Trust - £3990
- St Pauls Primary School - £5000 for 2 applications for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2
- The Green Community Shop - £1500
- Wirral Play Council - £4000
- Tranmere Methodist Church - £2500
- Wirral Christian Centre - £3836

These food projects are being delivered over the 2016-17 year during school holidays, before or after school.

**Total amount awarded: £27,676**

### **3.3 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 first and second meetings and have developed their respective action plans for the next year.

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

The aims of the partnership are:

- Improve partnership working
- Improve sustainability of the food projects
- Improve joint work eg. energy week, loan shark awareness week
- Establish joint data 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 completed:

- Christmas holiday food hamper project across Birkenhead and in each community pilot, working together in partnership. Delivered over 2500 hampers across the Birkenhead area. The food hampers are an opportunity to promote services through an info pack inside each hamper.
- The project has galvanised partnership working. Information in food hampers includes reporting ASB/Crimestoppers, energy advice, magenta, Fairforyou credit unions, school uniform swaps etc.
- supplementary sheets has been developed which is tailored to each area and particular themes which can be distributed at the food hubs, in hampers, Halloween events etc.
- Beechwood and the North End have jointly bussed young people to the River of Light festival on bonfire night as part of Operation Banger
- St James has successfully secured funding for a joint Warm Home awareness event
- Christmas grotto in Gautby Road 17-18th December and in Beechwood on 20th December
- Christmas table decorations taken place in each pilot area delivered by Life

- Long Learning.
- Beechwood has developed St Paul's School community hub and will offer a breakfast food club, possibly in partnership with Fareshare
- North end ASB project set up and delivered across North end
- Addressing Fuel poverty event in Beechwood

### **ILC Actions for 2017-18:**

- Beechwood has identified a need for a handyman service for the elderly – this is being explored through 'unltd' funding
- 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)
- Invite agencies like Job Centre Plus/Remploy/Reach Out/Health Connectors to discounted supermarkets to promote services in each area
- 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
- In bloom projects to be delivered in each area
- Look at joint funding applications to fund increased activity
- Implementing data collation and evaluation tool
- Applications to the community funds

Please see appendix 3 for details.

### **Recommendations:**

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

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

### **3.4 Community Connectors Project**

The commission for community connectors is a joint commission between the Public Health and Investment teams from Wirral Council and was awarded to Involve North West for a period of two years, commencing the 1st February 2017. There are 13 community connectors employed across the east and north of the borough with 7 of the 13 connectors based within the Birkenhead Parliamentary Constituency. They are all in post and have been working hard to get to know their areas during the last quarter.

The following wards are covered by the contract based on insight research, worklessness and health inequality data; New Brighton, Moreton West and Saughall Massie, Leasowe and Moreton East, Wallasey, Liscard, Seacombe, Bromborough, Eastham, Bidston and St James, Cloughton, Oxton, Prenton, Birkenhead and Tranmere and Rock Ferry.

The connectors role is to provide support for individuals to access local community activity to improve their wellbeing and as appropriate their readiness for employment. Interventions will include providing them with up to date information regarding local opportunities available in relation to community activity as well as

signposting/referring participants to mainstream services as appropriate. They are tasked with building on the asset mapping exercise that has already been undertaken ensuring that it is kept up to date and provide a platform to identify gaps in community provision. They are enablers for people providing individuals with “hand holding” to community activities/groups or mainstream services and supporting participants to build/extend their individual personal networks and friendship groups and neighbourhood. Examples of this could include organising days out, environmental and/or community participation projects. The project has a target to engage with 1,885 across the specified wards, it is expected that 1,015 of the participants:

- Are at least 18 years old and of working age;
- In receipt of employment support allowance with priority given to those in the employment support allowance work related activity group (owing to the continued expansion of DWP’s Universal Credit payment system this eligibility may be subject to future expansion with prior agreement and at the absolute discretion of the commissioner),
- A minimum of 75% reside in the parliamentary constituency of Birkenhead (this figure can be subject to flexibility in consultation with and at the absolute discretion of the Commissioner).

### **3.5 Birkenhead First Activity Update: 2017**

The Business Improvement District Team are continuing their diverse town centre activity to support the retail area in Birkenhead and has set out the following programme of events for 2017:

#### **Date Time Title Location**

- 1-6 June Sgt - Peppers 50th Anniversary Various
- 23rd- 25th June - Mersey River Festival/ The Voyage Waterfront
- 24th June - All day Armed Forces Day Camell Lairds and Hamilton Square
- 28th June 9:15 - 13:00 - The Birkenhead Welcome Host Workshop The Lauries
- 5th July 09:15 - 12:30 Social Media Training Workshop at The Lauries

#### **Summer Sessions:**

- 4th August - Natalie Collins
- 11th August- Caroline England
- 18th August - Mark Kenny
- 25th August - Ian Cowell ( insanity beach duo )Hamilton Square
- 26th July - Be in Birkenhead Festival Hamilton Square
- 1st-15th October - All Day Wirral Arts Festival
- July 7th-9th - Wirral Beauty and Fashion week Various
- 30th Sept - 14<sup>th</sup> October Wirral Arts Festival
- November River of lights Hamilton Square Waterfront
- 17th, 18th, 19<sup>th</sup> November - Fabulous Frost Fair Birkenhead Town Hall
- 18th November - Pirate Day Tram museum and Pacific Road
- December Santa Special Tram ride and Christmas wonderland Tram museum and Pacific Road
- December Birkenhead Loves Christmas Hamilton Square
- December Santa's Post Office Town Centre

### **3.6 Birkenhead Assets update**

#### **The Beechwood Centre**

The Beechwood Centre signed the lease to take on the former Beechwood Community Centre, as an asset transfer, on 9th December 2016. The Directors of the Beechwood Centre formerly, members of the Joint Management Committee, have worked relentlessly for the past few years to develop a business plan, secure funds and run the building as a community interest company.

The building has been refurbished and will soon provide an expanded food hub, community café, soft play area, sports hall, community room, play scheme and much more for the local community. The group will appoint a Centre Manager and cook and assistant in September. The centre will host Improving Life Chances annual event in October 2017. A full update of their activities can be found in 3.2

#### **Beaconsfield Centre, Rock Ferry**

The Beaconsfield Centre is being operated by Neo café. They are providing office space for the Early Years Trust. They have a food hub, youth club, residents association, Bingo, advice and guidance, community garden and much more. They are developing their business plan and accessing funding whilst working towards asset transfer in the near future.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

### **4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications.

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

There are no staffing implications.

### **6.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

There are no relevant risks.

### **7.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

Please see Appendix 4 for details.

### **8.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no equality implications.

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### **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1: Finance Table**

**Appendix 2: Environmental Update**

**Appendix 3: ILC update**

**Appendix 4: Community Engagement update**