

WIRRAL TOGETHER

Working with our local communities

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

"We are setting out a plan to bring about real change - not just about what can be achieved, but in the manner in which we will deliver it."

Phil Davies
Cllr Phil Davies, Leader of Wirral Council

- ❑ **97% of residents** agree that their local communities could be improved if there was a greater input from residents. (LGIU).
- ❑ 51% of residents identified 'working closely with residents' as **the best possible solution** to the current concerns about public service funding. (LGIU).
- ❑ Half of Wirral residents (51%) **do not believe** that they can influence decisions affecting their area, a feeling which extends across all constituencies. (Residents' Survey).
- ❑ 75% of the Pledge Delivery Action Plans **require local working and resident involvement & action**, as do many of the new service delivery models.



WHAT WE'VE DONE

- ❑ During Summer 2017 Cllr Patrick led a review to explore how the Council, and the wider Wirral Partnership, currently works with local people. This looked at:
 - *Models of 'neighbourhood' working*
 - *The social value of investments made through Constituency Committees*
 - *Views from community groups/networks, staff, partners and elected members to identify opportunities to deliver the Wirral Plan with communities.*

- ❑ Visited other areas to explore how they work with communities.

- ❑ Work with our partners to develop ideas for working with local people.

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'NEIGHBOURHOOD' WORKING MODELS

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- Identified that most areas use a variety of different approaches and arrangements for how Council's work with residents and that these vary across the country.
- There are no formally evaluated models therefore evidence on whether some models have advantages over others is lacking.
- 'Success' factors: initial investment, different ways of engagement with local people, ownership and transparency.
- 'Challenging' factors: cultural change by residents and local authority staff, differing views on allocation of funds, finding ways to involve residents, pooling budgets and realising savings.
- There is an increasing move to engagement approaches away from disaggregated service models.

SOCIAL VALUE OF CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE INVESTMENTS

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- Appraised the core budget (e.g. £50k/Committee) expenditure only for the period 2013 – 2017.
- £566,000 has been spent on approximately 269 projects; 20 projects were funded in Birkenhead, 39 in Wallasey, 19 in Wirral South and 191 in Wirral West.
- Varied investment models operate in each Committee area e.g. small scale commissioning or grant schemes.
- Investments reflected the local priorities identified in the Residents Survey e.g. ASB and clean ups in Birkenhead and Wallasey and green space in Wirral South and Wirral West.
- An evaluation of a cross section of projects resulted in an estimated average social value of around £2.68 per £1 spent.
- Recommended that investments should continue to be evaluated, that there should be clarity on local and central investments and establish ways to sustain projects that have been tested locally.

SOCIAL VALUE OF WIRRAL WEST CC INVESTMENTS

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- 191 projects funded for the period 2013 – 2017.

Category	Birkenhead	Wallasey	Wirral South	Wirral West	Total
Antisocial behaviour	3,111	837			3,948
Cleanups e.g. Community cleanup days, fly tipping removal	26,954	2,489	1,063	2,000	32,506
Community projects eg small grants programme, celebration days	62,742	41,160	1,250	23,245	128,397
Projects to reduce food poverty such as food banks or community food hubs, and lunch clubs	47,800			5,347	53,147
Individual level programmes eg young people mental health, dementia support, playschemes	2,000	35,005	41,432	26,051	104,488
Information - eg noticeboards and local newsletters/papers	-	2,547		7,260	9,807
Insight - understanding more about population	-			1,000	1,000
Lighting (mainly Xmas)		56,737	2,750	8,457	67,944
Repairs and improvements, including workshop equipment, kitchens, floors, halls, furniture	10,000	357	15,367	35,874	61,599
Sports and sports clubs				14,466	14,466
Parks, green spaces, allotments, and plants			38,631	38,932	77,563
Other				12,737	12,737
Total	152,607	139,132	100,493	175,369	567,601

- Wirral West had a mixture of many different types of projects and had the highest spend on improvements, such as to community and church halls and outdoor shelters.
- Investment model was recognised for the involvement of citizens and accountability.

VIEWS FROM LOCAL PARTNERS*

* communities, staff, partner orgs and Cllrs

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- Collaborating with communities requires a partnership approach to be effective and is highly valued by all stakeholders. Examples cited; Improving Life Chances, Eastham Connects, litter picks, door knocks etc.
- Wirral communities are diverse and have varying assets, needs and interests. Better use of existing community networks and engagement through action was suggested. Constituency committees were not considered to be the right forum for engaging with local people for a variety of reasons.
- Small grant/seed funding was reported as enabling community action. Support for community groups to leverage external funding, skills for community organising and information about what's happening in local areas were all highlighted as ways to facilitate resident action.
- Dedicated officer support for Cllrs is valued to support speedy resolution of concerns in local areas. Views from community stakeholders suggested that 'community builder' support was needed to better connect local groups.
- Community insight highlighted apathy regarding the political system and that the relationship between residents and organisations is fragile.

NEXT STEPS

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- Feedback and engage with all Constituency Committees throughout March 2018
- Present a report to Cabinet reflecting the findings from this work in the new municipal year
- Continue to work with the Wirral Partnership to deliver the Wirral Plan with communities

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Thanks for listening

Any questions?