

Constituency Committee - Wallasey
Wednesday, 26 September 2018

REPORT TITLE:	COMMUNITY CLEAN UPS BUDGET & SPEND
REPORT OF:	Corporate Director for Strategy & Partnerships

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Wallasey Constituency Committee's Community Clean Ups budget and seeks a decision on the proposal for allocation of the remaining funding.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee allocates the indicative amounts of £7,000 towards seven Environmental Action Days across the Constituency and £18,000 towards a Wallasey Constituency Committee 'Love Where You Live' small grants fund.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To enable the full spend of the budget devolved by Council.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The budget has been devolved to the Constituency Committee and is ring-fenced for activity to improve the local environment. Other options have been explored by the Committee as detailed below.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Wallasey Constituency Committee was allocated £10,000 'Community Clean Ups' funding for activity that encouraged waste prevention, increased recycling and/or encouraged behaviour change (Budget Council, 24 February 2015, minute 112 refers). It was agreed at Wallasey Constituency Committee on 25 June 2015 (minute 11 refers) that this funding would be committed to spend in wards suggested by Members (to be agreed at a future meeting) and a list of indicative prices for potential options was provided.
- 3.2 Proposals were not subsequently identified and at Wallasey Constituency Committee on 28 September 2016 (minute 14 refers) it was agreed that £3,000 would be spent on purchasing a range of litter-picking equipment (for free loan) and compostable bin bags to support community-based cleansing activity and environmental clean ups.
- 3.3 It was further agreed that for the remaining £7,000, suggestions for 'clean up' projects be forwarded to the Constituency Manager and a report be brought to the January 2017 Committee with those items costed. At Wallasey Constituency Committee on 26 January 2017, proposals amounting to a total of £2,752.47 were agreed (minute 25 refers), leaving a balance of £4,247.53.
- 3.4 At Wallasey Constituency Committee on 6 April 2017 (minute 34 refers) further spend of £316.70 for a litter bin was agreed. It was also agreed that enquiries would be made by the Constituency Manager with Keep Britain Tidy as to any recommendations they may have around the remaining allocation of £3,930.83.
- 3.5 At Wallasey Constituency Committee on 6 April 2017 (minute 7 refers) the proposals made by Keep Britain Tidy were presented, however Members expressed the view that they were not generally in favour of the recommendations and would rather the funding was spent to tackle local issues identified by Members. At the meeting the further spend of £320.56 on a litter bin was agreed. A balance of £3,610.27 therefore remained in this devolved budget.
- 3.6 At Wallasey Constituency Committee on 27 September 2017 (minute 20 refers) it was agreed that this funding would be used to support community groups with the hire of skips for activity connected to the 2017 local 'Love Where You Live' campaign. Further to the meeting two skips were hired to

support activity in Leasowe and Seacombe, amounting to £260. This therefore left a balance of £3,350.27.

- 3.7 Following a subsequent decision taken as part of the 'Loving Our Environment' Pledge (Wirral Plan 2020) to fund litter-picking equipment for a network of community-based hubs across the four Constituencies, the Committee was reimbursed £2,333 for the cost of the equipment (excluding the bags) purchased (outlined in 3.2 above). This therefore left a balance of £5,683.27.
- 3.8 At Budget Council on 6 March 2017 (minute 125 refers) it was agreed that £50,000 would be allocated to the four Constituency Committees, as a permanent budget, to help support local communities to clean up and improve their local areas ('Community Clean Ups'). This was split equally between the Constituencies, each being allocated £12,500 per annum. This funding is therefore available to the Committee for both 2017/18 and 2018/19
- 3.9 In July 2018 the Constituency Team was advised that due to additional funds being made available following the first year of this devolved funding, no underspends for any Constituencies were carried forward from the 2016/17 allocation. The remaining balance from 2016/17 of £5,683.27 is therefore no longer available for the Committee's use. The Committee has £25,000 (from 2017/18 and 2018/19) available for its use to improve the local environment.
- 3.10 Due to similar underspend in Wirral South, a way forward with this funding has been discussed and the proposed approach below developed to make maximum use of the allocation. Subject to Committee approval, this will see the Engagement Officers from the two Constituency areas work together to support activity in each of the Constituencies, bringing additional capacity and expertise.

4.0 PROPOSAL

- 4.1 It is proposed that the remaining funding of £25,000 is allocated to fund targeted environmental activity within local communities, through both 'Environmental Action Days' and a small grants programme for environmental improvements by local community, voluntary and faith groups. The suggested process for this is outlined below.
- 4.2 Environmental Action Days
- 4.2.1 It is proposed that the Constituency Engagement Officer co-ordinates an 'Environmental Action Day' within each of the Constituency's six wards in or around the Spring of 2019, in a location identified by elected members. Due to historic issues over the Mischief, Halloween and Bonfire Nights period, it is further proposed that an earlier and additional Environmental Action Day takes place in Seacombe/Egremont in late October/early November specifically to help reduce the amount of flammable material in this location during this time. The operation of the 'Days' will be similar to the 'Respect Action Days' previously co-ordinated by the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and the 'Blitz Days' currently conducted in Birkenhead Constituency. Each

Environmental Action Day will see the co-ordination of multi-agency and community activity to tackle environmental and quality of life issues.

4.2.2 Key partners will likely include, where applicable, Merseyside Police; Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service; Biffa; Community Action Wirral; Community Connectors; 'Community Payback' (Probation); Registered Providers of Social Housing (Housing Associations), plus internal services including the Commercial Management team; Environmental Enforcement; Environmental Health; Parks & Countryside; Private Sector Housing; Public Health; Streetscene; Waste & Recycling; Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Youth Support Service. The activity will be co-ordinated with the local community and community groups, organisations and businesses will be encouraged to participate and work undertaken with them in advance of the scheduled day.

4.2.3 Each Environmental Action Day will be focused upon:

- undertaking clean up activity;
- making small environmental improvements;
- engaging with local residents;
- preventative work (e.g. educational and awareness activity, fire safety checks, etc.);
- developing an action plan to address issues that are unable to be resolved on the day.

4.2.4 The costs incurred for each Environmental Action Day are likely to include, where applicable, resources and materials (e.g. paint, flowers, etc.), wheelie bin amnesty, skip hire, printing (leaflets) and refreshments for volunteers. An indicative cost for each day is up to £1,000.

4.3 'Love Where You Live' Fund

4.3.1 It is proposed that a Wallasey Constituency Committee 'Love Where You Live' Fund is launched week commencing 1 October 2018. This will be open to community, voluntary and faith groups to apply for funding of no more than £500 to make environmental improvements to any outdoor areas to which the general public has access. The closing date for bids (typed) will be Monday 3 December 2018, allowing around eight weeks for applications. As with previous rounds of the Committee's Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund an assessment of bids, based on the contents of the respective application form, will be undertaken by the Constituency Manager and the outcome of that assessment reported to the next available Wallasey Constituency Committee on 12 March 2019 for decision. Grants will be awarded to successful groups by early April 2019 and projects will be required to be completed and a short typed evaluation report (with receipts) submitted to the Constituency Team by no later than Friday 1 November 2019.

4.3.2 Due to the nature of the grant an abridged version of the application form for Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund will be drafted. Groups may only apply for one project and funding will not be permitted for core staff salaries and/or core administration costs. Applicants must demonstrate that their project will have a visible positive impact on an outdoor space; this may include (but not

exclusively) repainting benches and railings, clearing and planting, creating and installing artwork, by way of example.

- 4.4 **RECOMMENDATION: The Committee allocates the indicative amounts of £7,000 towards seven Environmental Action Days across the Constituency and £18,000 towards a Wallasey Constituency Committee 'Love Where You Live' small grants fund.**

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The recommendation relates to the allocations of the devolved Community Cleans Up funding as below:

Date	Amount
2016/17	Nil – balance of £5,683.27 not carried over
2017/18	£12,500
2018/19	£12,500
Total	£25,000

- 5.2 Regular budget monitoring with the finance department will take place to ensure that the expenditure incurred is accurate and complies with what has been agreed by the Committee.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 7.1 Spend will result in greater use of community assets and public spaces.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 8.1 A robust approach to auditing the spend on projects helps to ensure the appropriate use of grants allocated by the Constituency Committee.

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Elected members have the opportunity to participate in all Constituency Committees and Working Group meetings dealing with budget and spend.

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 An impact review relating to neighbourhood working can be found at the link below:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2010-14/chief>

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APPENDICES

None.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Wallasey Constituency Committee – Constituency Budget and Spend	28 September 2016
Wallasey Constituency Committee – Community Clean Ups Devolved Budget	26 January 2017
Wallasey Constituency Committee – Devolved Budget: Community Clean Ups	6 April 2017
Wallasey Constituency Committee Budget and Spend	6 July 2017
Budget Council	6 March 2017
Wallasey Constituency Committee – Any other urgent business approved by the Chair	27 September 2017