



Constituency Committee - Wallasey
Tuesday, 12 March 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Wallasey Constituency Committee Budget and Spend – Final Report
REPORT OF:	Corporate Director of Strategy & Partnerships

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Constituency Committee's completed projects and spend, drawing to a conclusion the Wallasey Constituency Committee's operation.

RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee notes the contents of this report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1 To conclude the spend made by the Constituency Committee.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 The Committee has adopted various approaches to the spend of its core and devolved budgets since commencement in operation in 2013.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 2015/16 Spend

3.1.1 Saving Lives in Wallasey: Defibrillators

3.1.2 Further to the report to Wallasey Constituency Committee on 28 September 2018 (minute 15 refers), which stated that the Committee's final Public Access Defibrillator was to be installed at a business in Hoylake Road, Moreton, this was subsequently installed at Deborah's Style House on Town Meadow Lane, Moreton. The details of the spend on this project was reported to the last Committee (minute 15 refers).

3.2 2016/17 Spend

3.2.1 Dementia Friendly project

3.2.2 At Wallasey Constituency Committee on 26 September 2018 an update was provided on the conclusion of the Committee's Dementia-Friendly Business project (minute 15 refers). Planned activity was also outlined with further sessions to be provided by the Alzheimer's Society, this time for members of the public to increase knowledge and understanding of dementia and positive ways of dealing with people with dementia. £5,513.08 had previously been held in reserves for this, following the suggestion from an elected member for a further community-based dementia project.

3.2.3 Six three-hour 'Step Inside Dementia' sessions took place in October, November and December 2018 at locations in Liscard, Seacombe, Moreton, Wallasey, New Brighton and Leasowe. The sessions were attended by residents from all six of the Committee's wards, totalling 132 people; the feedback from which was very positive. By way of example, an attendee from Leasowe fed back "This has been an invaluable experience, such an informative session with warmth, care & expertise. A fascinating, engaging workshop – thank you so much".

3.2.4 This project cost a total of £3,009, leaving an uncommitted underspend of **£2,504.08**.

3.3 2017/18 Spend

3.3.1 Transport Plan for Growth (devolved budget)

3.3.2 The Committee has throughout its operation agreed a number of highways related schemes to be funded through devolved budgets, namely the Integrated Transport Block Capital Fund and more recently the Transport Plan for Growth. Appendix 1 provides an update on the status of those schemes, for which the budget has been held and managed by colleagues in the Highways & Streetscene Service. There are 12 schemes requiring completion; work is ongoing by colleagues to bring these to a conclusion.

3.3.3 The Committee set aside £10,000 from its core budget (11 December 2013, minute 11 refers) for work to improve road safety and maintenance, which was subsequently added to the budget devolved to the Committee to fund the works noted above. Whilst there are schemes outstanding as noted above and the final costs of these therefore not known, it is clear that this Committee's contribution will no longer be required. There is therefore an uncommitted underspend of **£10,000**.

3.4 2018/19 Spend

3.4.1 Tackling Food Poverty

3.4.2 At Wallasey Constituency Committee on 11 December 2018 (minute 19 refers), it was agreed that an organisation would be sought for a 12-month project to work with existing providers to improve the response to tackling food poverty across Wallasey Constituency (taking advantage of economies of scale, etc.), addressing any gaps in provision and implementing an infrastructure that is joined up and sustainable following the conclusion of this contract.

3.4.3 The tender opportunity was released to the open market on 6 February 2019 and a delivery partner will be appointed by the end of March 2019. The project will run from the 1 April 2019 until 31 March 2020.

3.4.4 The contract will be managed by the Children's Services Partnership Manager as part of the wider Community Matters programme under the direction of the Assistant Director for Early Help & Prevention. £59,565 was set aside by the Committee and has been transferred to Children's Services. Members will be kept updated on the progress of this project following the ceasing of the Constituency Committee.

3.4.5 Community Cleans Ups (devolved budget)

3.4.6 At Wallasey Constituency Committee on 26 September 2018 (minute 14 refers) the Committee decided that £7,000 would be set aside for seven Environmental Action Days and £18,000 set aside for a small grants programme; this was from funding devolved to the Committee in 2017/18 and 2018/19 for environmental activity. The outcome of the small grants programme, Wallasey 'Love Where You Live' Fund is dealt with as a

separate agenda item at this meeting. Members will note however that the report highlights an uncommitted underspend of **£9,557.46** on the Wallasey 'Love Where You Live' Fund.

- 3.4.7 The first Environmental Action Day was undertaken in Seacombe on 1 November 2018, led by the Constituency's Engagement Officer, to support multi-agency activity to tackle issues around the Mischief, Halloween and Bonfire Night period. Over 250 leaflets were delivered to the local community (helped by two local families) in advance of the Action Day and 15 streets targeted for activity. Cleansing activity also took place in a play area, bowling green and two open spaces. More than 80 people participated on the day from members of the public, local groups and services; contributing over 300 'volunteer' hours. This included 18 children from St Joseph's Primary and Egremont Primary who litter-picked. Seacombe Social Club provided the hub for activity to be co-ordinated from and provide refreshment to the many volunteers. The rubbish collected filled three skips, three trucks and 76 bags, totally more than 12 tonnes of combustible waste ahead of Bonfire Night. In addition to cleansing and graffiti removal, other activity took place including visits to 75 households by Involve North West's Community Connectors and 21 households given advice by Energy Project Plus.
- 3.4.8 Seacombe has been a consistent 'hot-spot' for fires during this period year-on-year, with Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service attending 14 fires within this period in 2017. There were no fires reported in Demesne Street, the surrounding area or indeed the ward following this Action Day.
- 3.4.9 Six further events have been planned in each of the Committee's six wards. Each will follow a similar format but be tailored to the needs of each specific location targeted. The timetable is as follows and the specific locations have been agreed with the respective ward councillors. Most of these events will have been completed by the time this report is considered by the Committee. Taking into account activity on the day and the follow up of any pressing environmental matters, it is anticipated that this budget (£7,000) will be fully spent.

Date	Ward
7 February 2019	Leasowe & Moreton East
13 February 2019	New Brighton
21 February 2019	Seacombe
1 March 2019	Liscard
9 March 2019	Wallasey
21 March 2019	Moreton West & Saughall Massie

3.5 Problem Solving Fund

- 3.5.1 The Problem Solving Fund is set aside by the Committee for low spend items that will provide a quick response to issues and/or allow a new approach to be tested that may ultimately lead to improvements within the Constituency.
- 3.5.2 The Committee Handbook states that the Chair of Wallasey Constituency Committee is authorised by the Committee to spend from the Problem Solving

Fund in individual amounts of £500 or less (28 September 2016, minute 14 refers); reportable to the next Constituency Committee.

3.5.3 At Wallasey Constituency Committee on 28 September 2018 (minute 13 refers) spend from the Fund was noted which left a balance of **£7,368.78**.

3.5.4 Since the last meeting the following spend has been agreed from the Problem Solving Fund:

Item	Amount
Payment for the hire of a skip for a group of volunteers to clean an area of land in a small cul-de-sac, Priorsfield, Moreton, that is unregistered and not maintained, resulting in it being heavily overgrown and negatively affecting quality of life. Specialist contractors provided their services for free to use the heavy duty equipment required and a skip was required for the debris to be deposited in.	£155.00
Contribution to the cost of the replacement of a damaged bench in Green Lane, Wallasey. The seat is used by many elderly residents to and from the shops and could not be repaired from core budgets and was at the end of its lifespan risking removal altogether.	£500.00
Payment for the relocation of a bin within Atherton Street, New Brighton, which was sited outside business premises, causing restricted access to and from cars parking in the adjacent parking bay and creating odours for the nearby café. It was also creating a negative perception when full with litter for visitors alighting from the train station.	£182.46
Payment to registered charity KIND as a contribution towards Christmas hampers for families in Seacombe affected by food poverty. This activity was co-ordinated by the Seacombe Improving Life Chances Steering Group and was used as leverage to raise further funding, enabling hampers to be bought in bulk at a heavily discounted price – benefitting more vulnerable families.	£500.00
Payment for the production and installation of signage in Saughall Massie to designate the 'conservation area'. The signage had not been provided by the Council and could not be funded through core budgets; it was of pressing importance to Saughall Massie Village Conservation Society that visitors to the area were made aware of the area's status.	£250.00
Payment for the replacement of a barrier flower basket at Moreton Cross roundabout which had been damaged beyond repair in a road traffic collision. This had been previously funded through Town Team funding. Any reduction in the planters would have had a negative effect on the local environment, the morale of volunteers and the plans to compete in the 'In Bloom' competition.	£193.00
Payment for the supply and installation of a bin in Oxley Avenue, Leasowe. The area has high footfall due to the nearby Adventure Playground. There were repeated complaints from local residents about the level of littering in the area.	£441.15
Payment for the supply and installation of a replacement and relocated bin in Cross Lane, Wallasey. This was located by the rear garden of sheltered accommodation, resulting in long-standing complaints about odours from the bin. Whilst the Council acknowledged that the bin had reached the end of its life span, no	£346.14

commitment could be given as to a timescale for replacement which would likely have been many more months.	
Payment for the hire of a skip to an address in Poulton following a request by Merseyside Police (working in partnership with Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and other agencies) to help clear the house and garden of a vulnerable person who had been taken advantage of and whose property had become a fire hazard.	£155.00
	£2,722.75

3.5.5 Subject to a small number of other potential items of spend for which, at the time of writing this report, costings are being obtained to enable further consideration by the Chair, **£4,646.03** remains in the Problem Solving Fund.

3.6 Throughout the operation of the Constituency Committee, members have been updated through various reports presented at meetings as to the spend on each and every project and the outcomes that each project funded has delivered.

3.7 RECOMMENDATION: The Committee notes the content of this report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 A summary of the Committee's underspends are outlined below:

Item	Underspend
Dementia-Friendly project (2015/16)	£2,504.08
Road maintenance and safety (2015/16)	£10,000
Wallasey 'Love Where You Live' Fund (2018/19)	£9,557.46
Problem Solving Fund (2018/19)	£4,646.03
Total	£26,707.57

4.2 No new projects can be committed to by the Constituency Committee for delivery in 2019/20, due to the new approach to community engagement that will commence in the new Municipal Year; further information relating to this change is the subject of another agenda item for this Committee meeting.

4.3 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 has assisted in making 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.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Elected members have the opportunity to participate in all Constituency Committees and Working Group meetings dealing with budget and spend.
- 8.2 The neighbourhood working model strengthens the Council's relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 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

Appendix 1 – Status of ITB & TPfG Schemes

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	18 July 2016
Wallasey Constituency Committee – Constituency Budget and Spend	28 September 2016
Budget Council	6 March 2017
Devolved Budget: Transport Plan for Growth	6 April 2017
Wallasey Constituency Committee Budget and Spend	6 July 2017
Evaluation of Year 3 Wallasey Bright Ideas Fund (2016/17)	19 June 2018
Wallasey Constituency Committee Budget and Spend	28 September 2018
Problem Solving Fund: Update on Spend	28 September 2018