

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET – 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009

### REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE/ DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

#### **ALLOCATION OF 'YOU DECIDE'**

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#### **1. Executive Summary**

1.1. This report outlines the allocation of the 'You Decide' funding through area forums. It is recommended that Cabinet approve the allocation of £20,000 for extra council services as agreed with each area forum.

#### **2. Overview**

2.1. The 2008-09 Council budget, agreed a policy option to allocate £260,000 for the 'You Decide' initiative using participatory budgeting methods. This initiative sets out to deliver more choice for local people through the allocation of £20K for each area forum area. The range of services offered were identified from existing documents and sources such as the area forums, resident's surveys, area plans and Sustainable Community Strategy.

2.2. During September and the weeks leading up to the October round of area forums the community engagement team canvassed all wards of Wirral giving out leaflets and questionnaires to publicise You Decide. The consultation methods used were: on street interviews, postal questionnaires and an online questionnaire. 2118 people responded in total to the questionnaire.

2.3. Meetings were established to review the results from the consultation process. These meetings were attended by local councillors and community representatives who were provided with a clear set of results from the consultation. These results set out a ranked list of services for each forum highlighting the most selected suggestions at the top of each list. All forums selected services that demonstrated value for money and represented the maximum benefit to the community. Detailed below is the allocation of funding for the services.

<b>Area Forums</b>	<b>Sports and Youth Activity</b>	<b>Cleanliness</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<b>Environment</b>	<b>Road Signs</b>	<b>Education</b>
Oxton and Prenton	£10,000.00	£5,000.00		£5,000.00		
Bebington and Clatterbridge	£7,500.00	£4,000.00	£4,550.00	£1,400.00	£2, 520.00	
Liscard and Seacombe	£11,500.00	£3,700.00	£1,500.00		£2800.00	£500.00
Greasby Frankby Irby Upton	£8,000.00	£6,000.00	£6,000.00			
Bromborough and Eastham	£12,000.00	£8,000.00				
Heswall Pensby and Thingwall	£12,000.00	£5,000.00				£3,000.00
Leasowe Moreton and Saughall Massie	£11,000.00	£2,000.00		£3,500.00	£3,500.00	
New Brighton and Wallasey	£4,000.00	£10,000.00	£6,000.00			
Birkenhead and Tranmere/Rock Ferry	£10,500.00	£5,000.00	£4,500.00			
West Wirral	£12,000.00	£3,000.00			£5,000.00	
Bidston and Claughton	£6,500.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£1,000.00		

- 4. Older People's Parliament and Youth Parliament £20K:**
- 4.1. Council also allocated £20K each to the OPP and YPP. As these are much smaller amounts intended to cover the whole of the borough, it is suggested that allocation of this money takes place after Cabinet has approved the allocation from area forums. This will enable OPP and YPP to identify any gaps in relation to their areas of interest and ensure that services are purchased appropriately.
- 5. Evaluation:**
- 5.1. As a pilot project, evaluation of the process and its outcomes will form a key part of reporting. Focus groups took place in December 2008 with participants from You Decide to evaluate their experience of the process itself and assess the impact it has had on people's sense of involvement in their communities. This information has now been analysed and an evaluation report will be presented to Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> March.
- 8. Financial implications**
- 8.1. Council has agreed the sum of £20K per forum area, totalling £220K. This budget will be part of corporate policy and paid out to services when Cabinet has approved the allocation.
- 9. Staffing implications**
- 9.1. The cost of staffing involved in the provision of services was included in the 'menu prices on the questionnaire'. There are additional staffing implications for corporate policy in that workloads are already substantial and demanding and area coordinators are currently expected to deliver this programme within existing staff resources. Service areas will also be expected to ensure that staff time is included in the quote and costs.
- 10. Equal Opportunities implications**
- 10.1. Following equality impact assessment of the area forums, a risk has been identified that some sections of the community are not being engaged or are attending the forums. These groups were targeted giving them an equal chance to participate.
- 11. Community Safety implications**
- 11.1. There are potentially positive impacts for community safety as forums have chosen to purchase additional community safety services
- 12. Local Agenda 21**
- 12.1. There are potentially positive impacts for the environment as forums have chosen to purchase additional community safety services
- 13. Planning implications**
- 13.1. There may be potential planning implications related to some of the 'services for sale' that were selected in the questionnaires.

**14. Anti-poverty implications**

14.1. There are no anti-poverty implications arising from this report.

**15. Social inclusion implications**

15.1. There are potentially positive impacts for social inclusion as communities will have the option to purchase services that could promote social inclusion.

**16. Local Member Support implications**

16.1. The impact of this programme will be felt across the whole borough and regular communication with members will need to take place to keep them up to date on how the services are allocated.

**17. Background Papers**

17.1. This report has arisen from the minutes of the council budget meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> February

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/minute/viewmins.asp?mtg=2273#523> .

Another report was approved by Cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup> July in relation to the process for consulting on 'You Decide'

**18. Recommendations**

18.1. That the allocation of spending in each area forum area be approved and officers take the necessary steps to implement these proposals.

**J. WILKIE**

Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services

This report was prepared by:

Tracey Smith telephone number 691 8026