

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

1 SEPTEMBER 2011

SUBJECT	COMMUNITY BUDGETS
WARD/S AFFECTED	ALL
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER	COUNCILLOR STEVE FOULKES
KEY DECISION	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Community Budgets are seen by the Government as the means by which local public service partners work together to redesign services across boundaries to maximise the resources available to improve service delivery.
- 1.2 The Government has recently announced details of an expansion of the Community Budgets programme around Families With Multiple Problems and future more radical pilots giving communities greater control over services.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Cabinet is requested to consider whether Wirral should express an interest in becoming part of the Community Budgets programme.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Government is seeking expressions of interest in respect of Community Budgets for Families With Multiple Problems by 9 September 2011 and for the more radical Community Budgets pilots on giving communities greater control over services by late September 2011.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

COMMUNITY BUDGETS

- 4.1 The Spending Review 2010 included the announcement of Community Budgets which are seen as being key to delivering better services. These are to be achieved through local public service partners working together to redesign services across boundaries using the resources available to improve service delivery rather than being used to maintain separate service organisations.

FAMILIES WITH MULTIPLE PROBLEMS

- 4.2 In this area Community Budgets could create better public services by bringing together all local priorities and public money so that agencies can find the right solutions to issues in their area in a new and co-ordinated way.

- 4.3 These families represent less than 1% of the total population but can be seen by as many as 20 different public and voluntary sector professionals at a cost of £4 billion per year.
- 4.4 On 1 April 2011 16 Community Budgets were launched covering 28 local authorities and their partners. At the Local Government Association conference in June 2011 it was announced that a further 50 local authorities would receive Community Budgets in 2011/12 and, at least, 60 more in 2012/13.
- 4.5 Those authorities interested in being operational by 1 April 2012 are asked to inform the Government by 9 September 2011.
- 4.6 Funding will come from a wide range of local services all of which gain from reduced demands upon services through the benefits from pooling budgets, changing working practices and investing in service re-organisation.

OTHER LOCAL PRIORITIES

- 4.7 Some areas are using the Community Budgets approach to address other issues, and expressions of interest are invited. Lincolnshire which is cited as an example, is working on long term solutions to enable people to enjoy an active and happy later life as well as a programme to deliver value for money from flood risk, drainage and water management resources.

RADICAL OPTIONS PILOTS

- 4.8 Phase 2 of the Local Government Resource Review concerns Community Budgets. The Deputy Prime Minister also announced this at the Local Government Association conference.
- 4.9 The programmes include the launch of four new Community Budget pilots to explore how communities can have greater control over services through a single budget from Government.
 - a. Two areas to help co-design neighbourhood level Community Budgets giving residents the opportunity to say what services they want, how they should work and whether they want to run them.
 - b. Two areas to help co-design Community Budgets bringing all funding on local public services from the area into a single pot to test how to create the right local financial set-up to deliver better services that people want.
- 4.10 The Department for Communities and Local Government is to issue a prospectus in early September 2011 inviting areas to set out their case for being one of the four areas by the end of September. The selected areas will be advised by Christmas,

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

5.1 By engaging with the Community Budgets programme there is the opportunity to be supported through the Government network in delivering improvements to services by working across the sector.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 The options presented relate to either expressing, or not expressing, an interest to the Government in becoming a Community Budget area.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 There has been no specific consultation in respect of this report.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 There are none arising directly from this report. The Voluntary, Faith and Community Sectors will be integral to the approach identified

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 At this stage there are no financial, staffing or IT implications arising from this report.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

FNCE/183/11

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were none used in the preparation of this report.

REFERENCE MATERIAL / SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date