

# **Results of the Community Governance Review of the unparished area of Barrow**

At the meeting of the Shadow Westmorland and Furness Council on Monday 17 October, the final recommendations of a Community Governance Review of the unparished area of Barrow-in-Furness, undertaken by Barrow Borough Council, were considered.

Members discussed the recommendations and voted to support the creation of a new parish covering the whole of the unparished area of Barrow-in-Furness. This new parish will be called Barrow.

Under the powers of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, a Reorganisation Order, to create the new parish, has been made.

## **Reasons for the Creation of a new Parish in Barrow-in-Furness**

### **1. Local Representation after Local Government Reorganisation**

The decision to hold a review of governance arrangements in Barrow-in-Furness was taken in light of Government's decision to begin a process of local government reorganisation across Cumbria. This process will create two new unitary authorities in Cumbria. Barrow Borough Council will cease to exist on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, along with Cumbria County Council and the 5 other district/borough councils that currently make up Cumbria. Barrow borough will be part of a new authority called Westmorland and Furness Council and the only unparished part of the new authority was in Barrow.

### **2. The Community Support**

Barrow Borough Council debated the issue in 2021 and agreed that the people of Barrow should be consulted on whether they wished to have a local council to give them a stronger voice in how their town is run and other issues concerning the town. Council agreed that the matter should be put to the community via a Community Governance Review. This process included a two-stage public consultation process which returned a result strongly in favour of creating a new local council.

### **3. Support of the Shadow Westmorland and Furness Council**

It was not in the powers of Barrow Borough Council to create a new local authority for the unparished area of Barrow. The Shadow Westmorland and Furness Council had to be consulted and they ultimately had to decide. The Shadow Authority voted unanimously to create a new parish for Barrow. Their reasons were because they want to work in partnership with the town in the future and they saw a local council (as in towns such as Penrith, Kendal, Ulverston, Windermere) as playing a very important role future negotiations and discussions about the town.

end