



BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN HALL
DUKE STREET
BARROW-IN-FURNESS

24th February, 2014

To: The Members of Barrow Borough Council

Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

You are hereby summoned to attend an Extraordinary Meeting of BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL to be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER at the TOWN HALL, BARROW on TUESDAY the 4TH day of MARCH, 2014 COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM for the transaction of the business specified below.

Executive Director

Prior to the business of the meeting, Prayers will be offered.

Business

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

To receive declarations by Members and/or co-optees of interests in respect of items on this Agenda.

Members are reminded that, in accordance with the revised Code of Conduct, they are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registrable interests which have not already been declared in the Council's Register of Interests. (It is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest either in the Register or at the meeting).

Members may however, also decide, in the interests of clarity and transparency, to declare at this point in the meeting, any such disclosable pecuniary interests which they have already declared in the Register, as well as any other registrable or other interests.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

3. THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (STANDING ORDERS) (ENGLAND) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2014

To expedite the business of the meeting, Members are requested to give the Executive Director adequate notice of any Amendment which they propose to raise.

4. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN.
5. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2014-2015 AND THE OUTCOME OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE.
6. SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX FOR THE YEAR COMMENCING 1ST APRIL, 2014.
7. TO PASS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION, THAT IS TO SAY:

That the Council authorises the fixing of its Common Seal to any documents to give effect to the Minutes and proceedings of the Committees submitted to or approved by this meeting and any other matters dealt with at this meeting.

To expedite the business of the meeting, Members are requested to give the Executive Director adequate notice of any Amendment which they propose to raise.

COUNCIL	Agenda Item 3
Date of Meeting: 4th March, 2014	
Reporting Officer: Executive Director	
<p>REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</p> <p>The following recommendations are submitted for consideration by the Council.</p> <p><u>Executive Committee – 22nd January, 2014</u></p> <p>The recommendations set out below are those determined by the Executive Committee on 22nd January, 2014.</p> <p>1.0 The Housing Revenue Account 2014-15</p> <p>1.1 Recommendations:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">To recommend the Council:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the information at (1) of the report; 2. To note the information on balances and Voluntary Repayment Provision at (2) of the report; 3. To note the information in point (3) of the report and agree the 2014/15 budgets as shown in Appendix A of the report; 4. To agree the Dwelling Rent increase of 3.7% at (4) of the report and note the information in Appendix B of the report; 5. To agree the Garage increase of 3.7% at (5) of the report; and 6. To note the information at (6) of the report. <p>2.0 Budget Proposals 2014-15</p> <p>2.1 Recommendations:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree the proposed budget consultation process as referred to in the report; 2. To note that the Budget Council was to be held on 4th March, 2014 at 5.30 p.m; 3. To agree to contribute £5,000 a year for a period of three years to Keep Our Future Afloat Campaign (KOFAC) from reserves; and 	

Decision (Recommended to Council):

To recommend the Council:-

4. To approve the revised 2013-2014 General Fund revenue budget as £12,769,580 together with a contribution to reserves of £414,570;
5. To approve the creation of five Trainee posts, together with the required movements in reserves as set out in Section 3;
6. To set the 2014-2015 General Fund revenue budget as £10,638,490 including £93,640 for parish precepts, together with a contribution to reserves of £116,440 and a 1.9% increase in the borough element of the Council Tax;
7. To agree the items included within the 2014-2015 budget as set out in Sections 6.2, 6.6, 6.7 and 6.8;
8. To agree the prices increases referred to in Section 6.11 and that car parking prices were not increased for 2014-2015;
9. To agree the movements in reserves set out in Sections 6.12 and 6.13;
10. To decline the Council Tax Freeze Grant offered for 2014-2015 referred to in Section 6.15;
11. To approve the Housing Revenue Account budget and the individual recommendations contained in the report referred in Section B;
12. To approve the Capital Programme for 2013-2014 to 2016-2017 as referred to in Section D; and
13. To approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2014-2015 to 2016-2017 as referred to in Section E together with the borrowing Approval Limit of £55m.

3.0 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme - Uprating

3.1 Recommendations:-

To recommend the Council to approve the policy of applying the annual uprating issued for Housing Benefit, to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

4.0 Armed Forces Covenant – Long Term Empty Premium

4.1 Recommendations:-

To recommend the Council that the long term empty premium be not applied to properties owned by Armed Forces personnel that were liable for a long term empty premium and to apply that retrospectively from 1st April, 2013.

5.0 Establishment – Budget 2014-2015

5.1 Recommendations:-

Subject to consultation with recognised unions, to recommend the Council:-

- 1. To agree the voluntary redundancy of the Deputy Executive Director with an effective date of 31/08/2014;**
- 2. To approve the appointment of the Borough Treasurer to the post of Director of Resources effective from 01/04/2014;**
- 3. To approve the appointment of the Housing Manager to the post of Assistant Director – Housing effective from 01/04/2014;**
- 4. To approve the appointment of the Deputy Monitoring Officer (the Democratic Services Manager) as Monitoring Officer from 01/04/2014; and**
- 5. To approve the revised grades as set out within the report including the deletion and establishment of new posts.**

NOTE

Unison would like to request Council delay their decision regarding the new restructuring/regarding proposals until consultation between management and the union has been completed and both parties agree to the changes.

Unison and management attended a meeting on 27th January 2014 regarding the proposals in which Management referred to Item 14, Establishment - Budget 2014-15 from the Executive Committee report for 22nd January 2014. Unison felt that due to the volume and extent of changes proposed that management would need to provide additional information to support their proposal. It was agreed that management would provide the union with a copy of the existing and the proposed organisation structure and written confirmation on which posts are to be deleted, superseded and created together with copies of existing job descriptions and proposed new job descriptions. To-date no documentation has been received.

We are very aware that management want the changes to be implemented as soon and as smoothly as possible, with as little disruption as possible which, we wholly agree with. Our concern is that this process is carried out in an open and fair manner and within the agreed policies. We would also like to request management give the union sufficient notification to respond to committee/consultation deadlines.

COUNCIL	Agenda Item 4
Date of Meeting: 4th March, 2014	
Reporting Officer: Monitoring Officer	
<p>Title: The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014</p> <p>Summary:</p> <p>New regulations requiring named votes at Council meetings considering budget and Council Tax setting were introduced on 25th February, 2014.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>To agree to amend Article 11 of the Constitution by adding an additional subsection incorporating the requirements of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulation 2014 with immediate effect.</p>	

Report

New regulations as set out above become effective on 25th February, 2014. They require that Councils, as soon as practicable after they become effective, amend their Standing Orders to require recorded named votes at Budget meetings on agreeing the budget, setting Council Tax or issuing precepts. The same requirements would cover voting on any amendment proposed at the meeting.

COUNCIL	Agenda Item 5
Date of Meeting: 4th March, 2014	
Reporting Officer: Borough Treasurer	
<p>Title: General Fund Revenue Budget 2014-2015 and the Outcome of the Public Consultation Exercise</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>This report confirms the General Fund revenue budget after the Government financial settlement confirmation and the outcome of the public consultation process relating to the budget proposals.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>Members are recommended –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the decisions of the Executive Committee on 22nd January, 2014, in relation to approving the budget for 2014-2015; 2. To note that the split between the Parish precepts and the Council Tax Support grants has altered slightly and that there is no impact on the General Fund revenue budget. The Parish precepts included in the General Fund budget are £93,550; 3. To note the responses from the public consultation; and 4. To note Minute No. 32 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30th January, 2014. 	

Report

This report confirms the General Fund revenue budget, which has not been altered since it was presented to the Executive Committee on 22nd January, 2014, as £10,638,490.

The split between the Parish precepts and the Council Tax Support grants within the budget has altered slightly due to roundings when calculating the council tax bands. The Parish precepts have decreased by £90 and the Council Tax Support grant increased by £90. The Parish precepts included in the budget for 2014-2015 are £93,550.

The report also contains the outcome of the public consultation and the budget report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Public consultation

As agreed at the Executive Committee on 22nd January, 2014, a public consultation has been carried out from 23rd January, 2014 to 19th February, 2014 by publishing the Budget Proposals on the Council's website and contacting stakeholders.

There have been two responses to the consultation:

- Furness College – “It would be really good if we could be involved in the traineeships and access traineeship and apprenticeships funding.”
- Barrow-in-Furness Citizens Advice Bureau – “Barrow Citizens Advice would like to thank the Borough Council for the opportunity to comment on its budget proposals for the coming year. We welcome the proposals for the Housing Solutions Officer, and the Welfare Support Reserve, to help deliver vital support services to the most vulnerable people in Barrow district.”

Overview and Scrutiny

The budget proposals were reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30th January, 2014. At this meeting, Members of the Committee were supportive of the budget proposals. An extract of the Minutes referring to the budget proposals are attached at **Appendix 1**.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting, Thursday, 30th January, 2014
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Roberts (Chairman), Cassidy (Vice-Chairman) (Minute Nos. 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 32), Hamilton, Husband, Johnston, Maddox, C. Thomson, M. A. Thomson (Minute Nos. 26, 27, 28 and 32) and Wall.

REFERRED ITEMS

THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION

32 – Scrutiny of the Council Budget for the Year 2014-2015

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report stating that the Executive Committee on 22nd January, 2014 had considered the budget proposals for 2014-2015 and their recommendations would be before Council on 4th March, 2014. It was noted that the Executive Committee had recommended the Council to agree to contribute £5,000 a year for a period of three years to Keep Our Future Afloat Campaign (KOFAC) from reserves.

She invited Members of this Committee to scrutinise the budget proposals and raise any concerns to full Council at their meeting on 4th March, 2014.

For Members' information the Executive Committee report with the related appendices had been appended to her report.

The Borough Treasurer responded to Members' questions in relation to the budget proposals for 2014-15.

RECOMMENDED:- To agree that Members were satisfied with the budget proposals for 2014-2015 as approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 22nd January, 2014 and agreed to forward these proposals to full Council for approval at its meeting on 4th March, 2014.

COUNCIL	Agenda Item 6
Date of Meeting: 4th March, 2014	
Reporting Officer: Borough Treasurer	
<p>Title: Setting the Council Tax for the year commencing 1st April 2014</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to calculate and set the Council Tax for the year 2014-2015.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>Members are recommended –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria precept is subject to approval. Should the figures be changed, an update will be provided at the meeting; and 2. To approve the formal Council Tax resolutions as detailed in Section VII of the report. 	

Report

I. Calculating and setting the Council Tax for 2014-2015

i. Introduction

The calculation and setting of the Council Tax for the Borough area is closely prescribed by legislation. This report sets out the individual components of the calculation and concludes with the formal resolution in accordance with the statutory requirements.

ii. Budget

At this meeting the Council is considering the approval of the 2014-2015 General Fund revenue budget of £10,638,490; this includes £93,550 of Parish Council precepts.

The Council's budget is the amount required to meet the years estimated expenditure net of any income raised in fees and charges or service specific grant funding.

The budget includes the following precepts issued by the Parish Councils for 2014-2015:

Precept	£
Dalton with Newton Town Council	65,330
Askam and Ireleth Parish Council	24,880
Lindal and Marton Parish Council	3,340
Total parish precepts	93,550

The Council Tax Requirement for the Borough is £3,971,460 made up as follows:

Item	£
General Fund revenue budget	10,544,940
Less general grants	(6,647,310)
Less the Collection Fund deficit	(19,720)
Council Tax Requirement excluding parish precepts	3,877,910
Plus the parish precepts	93,550
The Council Tax Requirement	3,971,460

The legislation requires the Council's revenue budget to be grossed up to show the estimated total expenditure and income for 2014-2015:

Item	£
Total gross expenditure	58,289,700
Total gross income	(54,318,240)
The Council Tax Requirement	3,971,460

iii Council Tax Base

The following Council Tax Bases for the Borough and the parished areas have been set for 2014-2015 as notified to the Executive Committee on the 22nd January, 2014:

Whole Area	17,875.87
Dalton with Newton	2,204.79
Askam and Ireleth	1,029.11
Lindal and Marton	247.78

II. Calculation of the Basic Council Tax for the Borough Council

The Council's Basic Amount of Council Tax for Band D dwellings is calculated as follows:

The Council Tax Requirement excluding parishes	£3,877,910
Divided by the Council Tax Base for the Whole Area	17,875.87
Gives the Basic Amount of Council Tax	£216.94

This Band D rate of Council Tax is, in effect, an average across the parished and unparished areas of the Borough. The statutory calculation then arrives at the Basic Amounts of Council Tax (for Band D dwellings) for the individual areas as follows:

Area	Basic Amount
Barrow (unparished)	£216.94
Dalton with Newton Parish	£246.57
Askam and Ireleth Parish	£241.12
Lindal and Marton Parish	£230.42

Table 1 in Section VII.4 shows the tax amounts for each band and parish in the Council's area.

III. Cumbria County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria precepts and amounts of Council Tax

Cumbria County Council set its budget for 2014-2015 resulting in a precept of £20,762,823. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria set its budget with a precept of £3,729,264. See Table 2 in Section VIII.5 for the banded amounts of Council Tax.

IV. Setting the Council Tax

The calculated Borough, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria and Cumbria County Council elements are added to calculate the composite Council Tax. The Council Tax for each category of dwellings is shown in table 3 in Section VII.6. After setting the Council Tax, the Council is required to advertise the amounts within 21 days in at least one local newspaper.

V. Schedule of precept instalments

The precepts issued by Cumbria County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria are payable in equal monthly instalments on dates to be agreed with the two authorities. The Borough Council's demand will be paid to the General Fund by instalments on the same dates. The three parish precepts will be paid over in full on the April precept payment date.

VI. Instalment dates

Council Tax and NNDR bills are payable in ten instalments. The payment dates, which will maximise cash flow, are as follows; these may have to be adjusted in the event of any delay in issuing bills:

Instalment	Date	Instalment	Date
1	1 st April 2014	6	1 st September 2014
2	1 st May 2014	7	1 st October 2014
3	1 st June 2014	8	1 st November 2014
4	1 st July 2014	9	1 st December 2014
5	1 st August 2014	10	1 st January 2015

VII. Resolutions

Members are recommended to adopt the following resolutions:

1. It be noted that on the 22nd January, 2014, the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for the year 2014-2015 in accordance with Regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):

- a. for the whole Borough area as 17,875.87 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulation 1992, as its Council Tax Base for the year;
- b. for dwellings in those parts of the Borough area to which a Parish Precept relates:

Dalton with Newton	2,204.79
Askam and Ireleth	1,029.11
Lindal and Marton	247.78

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation, as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

2. That the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2014-2015 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £3,877,910.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2014-2015 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:
 - a. £58,289,700 being the aggregate of the amounts, which the Council estimates for the items, set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - b. £54,318,240 being the aggregate of the amounts, which the Council estimates for the items, set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act;
 - c. £3,971,460 being the amount, by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
 - d. £216.94 being the amount at 3(c) above, all divided by the item at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the Basic Amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Council precepts).

- e. £93,550 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Council precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- f. £216.94 being the Basic Amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates as set out in Section 52ZX of the Act.

4. **Table 1** – Council Tax for parts of the Council’s Area:

Band	Ratio	Barrow £.p	Dalton with Newton £.p	Askam and Ireleth £.p	Lindal and Marton £.p
A	6/9	144.63	164.38	160.75	153.61
B	7/9	168.73	191.78	187.54	179.22
C	8/9	192.84	219.17	214.33	204.82
D	9/9	216.94	246.57	241.12	230.42
E	11/9	265.15	301.36	294.70	281.62
F	13/9	313.36	356.16	348.28	332.83
G	15/9	361.57	410.95	401.87	384.03
H	18/9	433.88	493.14	482.24	460.84

5. That it be noted that for the year 2014-2015, Cumbria County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown in **Table 2** below:

Band	Cumbria County Council £.p	Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria £.p
A	774.33	139.08
B	903.39	162.26
C	1,032.44	185.44
D	1,161.50	208.62
E	1,419.61	254.98
F	1,677.72	301.34
G	1,935.83	347.70
H	2,323.00	417.24

6. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in **Table 3** below as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2014-2015 for each of the categories of dwellings:

Band	Barrow £.p	Dalton with Newton £.p	Askam and Ireleth £.p	Lindal and Marton £.p
A	1,058.04	1,077.79	1,074.16	1,067.02
B	1,234.38	1,257.43	1,253.19	1,244.87
C	1,410.72	1,437.05	1,432.21	1,422.70
D	1,587.06	1,616.69	1,611.24	1,600.54
E	1,939.74	1,975.95	1,969.29	1,956.21
F	2,292.42	2,335.22	2,327.34	2,311.89
G	2,645.10	2,694.48	2,685.40	2,667.56
H	3,174.12	3,233.38	3,222.48	3,201.08

7. Determine that, in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council's Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2014-2015 of £216.94 compared to £212.89 for the previous year (an increase of 1.9%) is not excessive.