

# **BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS**

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting, Wednesday, 8th July, 2009  
at 2.00 p.m. (Committee Room No. 4)

**NOTE:** Group Meetings at 1.15 p.m.

## **A G E N D A**

### **PART ONE**

1. To note any items which the Chairman considers to be of an urgent nature.
2. To receive notice from Members who may wish to move any delegated matter non-delegated and which will be decided by a majority of Members present and voting at the meeting.

3. Admission of Public and Press

To consider whether the public and press should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the agenda.

4. Disclosure of Interests.

A Member with a personal interest in a matter to be considered at this meeting must either before the matter is discussed or when the interest becomes apparent disclose

1. ***The existence of that interest to the meeting.***
2. ***The nature of the interest.***
3. ***Decide whether they have a prejudicial interest.***

A note on declaring interests at meetings, which incorporates certain other aspects of the Code of Conduct and a pro-forma for completion where interests are disclosed accompanies the agenda and reports for this meeting.

5. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June, 2009 (copy attached).
6. Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members.

## **FOR DECISION**

- (D) 7. Recommendations of the Housing Management Forum, 25th June, 2009 – **TO FOLLOW.**
- (D) 8. Presentation by Furness Enterprise – Open for Business – Town Centre Business Support.
- (D) 9. Revenue Outturn for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2009.
- (D) 10. Funding for “Handyperson” Scheme
- (R) 11. Free access to “pay to play” leisure activities for Looked after Children.
- (R) 12. Application of funding received from Department of Health.
- (D) 13. Consultation on the potential change to the administration of Concessionary Travel from April 2011.
- (R) 14. Conversion of all-weather pitch into a Soccer Centre.

**NOTE (D) - Delegated  
(R) - For Referral to Council**

## **Membership of Committee**

Councillors Guselli (Chairman)  
Williams (Vice-Chairman)  
Barlow  
Flitcroft  
J. Hamezeian  
Marcus  
Millar  
Pemberton  
Pidduck  
Richardson  
Stephenson  
Waiting.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting: 10th June, 2009  
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Guselli (Chairman), Williams (Vice-Chairman), Barlow, Flitcroft, J. Hamezeian, Marcus, Millar, Pemberton, Pidduck, Richardson, Stephenson and Waiting.

### **1 – The Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 and Access to Information (Variation) Order 2006**

Discussion arising hereon it was

RESOLVED:- That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 (Minute No. 10) of Part One of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

### **2 – Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th April, 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

### **3 – Appointments on Outside Bodies, Panels, Working Groups etc.**

The Chief Executive reported that at the Annual meeting on 12th May, 2009 the allocation of seats in respect of Forums, Panels, Working Groups etc. and certain Outside Bodies had been agreed.

The Council was asked to recommend with the exception of the Housing Management Forum the allocation of seat on Outside Bodies, Forums, Panels, Working Groups etc. be delegated to the appropriate Committees to make the necessary appointments.

Group Leaders had supplied details of the recommended appointments for confirmation by this Committee.

RESOLVED:- (i) To approve the under-mentioned Outside Bodies in accordance with Notional Seats Allocations; and

(ii) To agree the under-mentioned appointments to Outside Bodies, Forums, Panels and Working Groups.

Allotments Liaison Committee (9 seats – 4:2:1:1:1)

Councillors Barlow, Bleasdale, Dawes, J Hamezeian, James, Jefferson, Maltman, Millar and M Roberts.

Barrow Local Committee – Highways Advisory Group (3 seats – 2:1:0:0:0)

Councillors Barlow, Bell and McClure.

Cumbria Branch LGA (3 seats – 2:1:0:0:0)

Councillors Pidduck, Richardson and Williams.

Local Joint Consultative Committee (9 seats – 4:2:1:2:0)

Councillors Begley, Bell, Garnett, Guselli, R Hamezeian, Pidduck, Richardson, Stephenson and Williams.

Cemeteries and Crematorium Liaison Committee (5 seats – 2:1:1:1:0)

Councillors R Hamezeian, Hammond, Irwin, James and Unwin.

Health and Safety Joint Sub-Committee (9 seats – 4:1:2:1:1)

Councillors Bell, Flitcroft, Garnett, Guselli, R Hamezeian, Hammond, Millar, Solloway and Williams.

Barrow Borough Sports Council (3 seats – 2:1:0:0:0)

Councillors Callister, Pemberton and Unwin.

Wildlife and Heritage Advisory Committee (9 seats – 4:2:1:1:1)

Councillors Barlow, J Hamezeian, Husband, James, Marcus, Pemberton, Stephenson Unwin and Wood.

Furness Strategic Partnership (2 seats – 1:1:0:0:0)

Councillors Pidduck and Richardson.

**REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES, ETC. 2009/2010**

- (1) AIR TRAINING CORPS (NO. 128 SQUADRON)  
The Mayor (Councillor Dawes).

- (2) ANCHOR STAYING PUT BARROW-IN-FURNESS ADVISORY GROUP  
Councillors Bell and Waiting.
- (3) ASKAM AND IRELETH REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP  
Councillor Heath and Unwin.
- (4) ASKAM COMMUNITY CENTRE LIMITED  
Director: Councillor Heath.
- (5) BARROW AND DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE  
Councillor Flitcroft.
- (6) BARROW AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ACTION SAFETY GROUP  
Councillors Bell and Flitcroft.
- (7) BARROW BOROUGH ARTS FORUM  
Councillors Marcus and Wood.
- (8) BARROW BOROUGH DISABILITY SPORT AND LEISURE FORUM:  
GENERAL COMMITTEE  
Councillors Flitcroft (Substitute: Councillor Marcus).
- (9) BARROW CHILDREN'S CENTRES ADVISORY GROUP  
Councillor Heath.
- (10) BARROW EARLY INTERVENTION DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
PROJECT: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Councillor M Roberts.
- (11) BARROW FOOD FORUM  
Councillor Bell.
- (12) BARROW-IN-FURNESS CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION  
PARTNERSHIP  
Councillors Pidduck and Williams.
- (13) BARROW-IN-FURNESS PUBLIC SAFETY SCHEME LOCAL LIAISON  
COMMITTEE  
Councillors Bell, Pidduck and Williams.
- (14) BARROW-IN-FURNESS SEA CADET CORPS COMMITTEE  
The Mayor (Councillor Dawes).
- (15) BARROW AREA COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUM  
Councillors Pidduck and Richardson.

- (16) BARROW TRANSPORT ADVISORY GROUP  
Councillor Guselli.
- (17) BARROW VISION BOARD  
The Leader and the Leader of the Opposition.
- (18) BILLINCOAT CHARITY TRUST  
Councillors Heath, James and Unwin and Former  
Councillors Maddox, F. G. Murray and L. Murray (until 2011).
- (19) BRITISH GAS HYDROCARBON RESOURCES LTD: LOCAL LIAISON  
COMMITTEE  
Councillors Bell, Pidduck and Wood.
- (20) BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS LIMITED: RAMSDEN DOCK TERMINAL  
STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
Councillors McClure, Pidduck and Wood.
- (21) BUCCLEUCH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Councillor Bleasdale.
- (22) CENTRAL AND HINDPOOL NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT BOARD  
Leader plus Councillors Irwin and Pidduck.
- (23) CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKING GROUP  
Councillor Heath.
- (24) CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU  
Councillors Flitcroft and Wood.

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### **COMMUNITY CENTRES**

- (25) ASKAM AND IRELETH COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE  
Councillors Guselli and Unwin and two Councillors representing Dalton  
North Ward (Councillors Bleasdale and Heath).
- (26) HAWCOAT COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Councillors Richardson and Guselli and one Councillor  
representing Hawcoat Ward (Councillor JD Roberts).
- (27) ROOSEGATE COMMUNITY HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Councillor Waiting.

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- (28) COUNTY/DISTRICT TRANSPORT LIAISON GROUP  
Councillors Bleasdale and Williams.
  - (29) CUMBRIA ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADVISORY SERVICE  
Councillor Flitcroft.
  - (30) CUMBRIA COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES PARTNERSHIP  
Councillor Pemberton.
  - (31) CUMBRIA HEALTH AND WELL BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
Councillor Heath.
  - (32) CUMBRIA PENSIONS FORUM  
Councillor Williams.
  - (33) CUMBRIA PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION  
Councillor Pemberton.
  - (34) CUMBRIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP  
Councillor Richardson (Substitute: Councillor Williams).
  - (35) CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP  
Councillor Williams.
  - (36) CUMBRIA SUB-REGIONAL HOUSING OFFICERS GROUP  
Councillor James.
  - (37) CUMBRIA SUPPORTING PEOPLE FORUM  
Councillor James.
  - (38) CUMBRIA TOURIST BOARD  
General Council: Councillor Williams.  
Deputy: Councillor Bell.
  - (39) CUMBRIA VALUATION TRIBUNAL  
Councillor D. Pidduck (Appointed to 31.3.2015).  
Mr R. A. Bedgar (Appointed to 31.3.2012).
  - (40) CUMBRIA VISION BOARD: BARROW/SOUTH LAKELAND  
Councillor Richardson.
  - (41) DALTON DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP  
Councillor Bell.

- (42) DUDDON ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP  
Councillors Bell and Bleasdale.
- (43) EQUALITIES WORKING PARTY  
Councillor Williams.
- (44) EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONING GROUP  
The Chairman of the Housing Management Forum (Councillor James).
- (45) FAIRTRADE WORKING GROUP  
Councillor Barlow and Stephenson.
- (46) FRIENDS OF WALNEY  
Councillor Pemberton.
- (47) FURNESS DRUG REFERENCE GROUP  
Councillor Flitcroft.
- (48) FURNESS ENTERPRISE: SUPERVISORY BOARD  
Non Executive Directors – Councillors Pidduck and Richardson and the Chief Executive.
- (49) FURNESS LOCAL PARTNERSHIP GROUP – SCHOOLS ORGANISATION  
Councillors Guselli and Williams.
- (50) FURNESS MARITIME TRUST  
Council of Trustees:- Councillors Dawes, Irwin, Unwin and Williams plus the Chief Executive and Borough Treasurer.
- (51) HEALTH SCRUTINY CROSS PARTY WORKING GROUP:  
(CUMBRIA HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE)  
Councillor Heath.
- Substitute 1: Councillor Dawes  
Substitute 2: Councillor Wood
- (52) HEART OF BARROW BOARD  
Councillor Richardson plus Chief Executive.
- (53) JOINT ICT PROJECT BOARD  
Councillor Williams, Director of Corporate Services and Borough Treasurer.
- (54) JOINT PROCEUREMENT WITH SLDC – REFUSE COLLECTION  
Councillor Williams.

- (55) JOINT RURAL PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT WORKER: ASKAM AND IRELETH AND DALTON STEERING GROUP  
Councillor Heath.
- (56) LAKES WORLD HERITAGE SITE STEERING GROUP  
Councillor Williams.
- (57) LANCASTER UNIVERSITY: COURT CLASS (F)(4)  
The Mayor.
- (58) LIBERATA PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
Councillors Richardson, Waiting and Williams.
- (59) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION: GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Councillor Richardson.
- (60) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NUCLEAR ISSUES SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP  
Leader of the Council: Councillor Richardson.  
Substitute: Councillor Williams.
- (61) LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Councillor Flitcroft.
- (62) NATIONAL PARKING ADJUDICATION SERVICE COMMITTEE  
Councillor Williams (Substitute: Councillor Dawes).
- (63) NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR CLEAN AIR  
Councillors James, McClure and Roberts and the Chief Environmental Health Officer or a member of his staff.
- (64) NORTH WEST COUNCILS AGAINST FLUORIDATION  
Councillor Pemberton.
- (65) NORTH WESTERN LOCAL AUTHORITIES' EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATION  
Councillor Williams  
Substitute: Councillor Guselli.
- (66) NORTH WEST RAIL STEERING GROUP  
Councillor Williams.

(67) PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETINGS

(1) Askam and Ireleth

Dalton North Ward Councillors (Councillors Bleasdale, Heath and Unwin).  
Executive Committee – Councillors Pidduck, Richardson and Williams.

(2) Dalton with Newton

Dalton North Ward Councillors (Councillors Bleasdale, Heath, and Unwin),  
Dalton South Ward Councillors (Councillors Bell, James and Millar).  
Executive Committee – Councillors Pidduck, Richardson and Williams.

(68) REPOSITORY SHADOW PARTNERSHIP

Councillor Williams.

(69) SCRUTINY OF LOCAL HEALTH

Councillor Flitcroft.

(70) SELLAFIELD LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE

Observer: Councillor Dawes.

(71) SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUBS: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Councillor Bleasdale and Flitcroft.

(72) SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING BODY

Councillor James and Housing Manager.

(73) WEST LAKES RENAISSANCE BOARD

Director: Councillor Richardson.

**MEMBERSHIP OF FORUMS, PANELS, WORKING GROUPS ETC. 2008/2009**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Medical Assessment/Housing Applications Appeals Panel

3 Members selected by Chief Executive in accordance with proportionality rules.

Review Board – Housing Register/Homeless Applicants

3 Members selected by Chief Executive in accordance with proportionality rules.

Private Rented Accommodation Group (Accredited Letting Scheme and Proposed Licensing)

3 Members selected by Chief Executive in accordance with proportionality rules.

Renovation Grants Panel (2:1:1:0:0)

Councillors James, Jefferson, J. R. Richardson and Waiting.

Planning Policy Working Group (3:1:1:1:0)

(Three Members Executive Committee and three Members Planning Committee).

Conservative – Councillors Bleasdale (Planning), McClure (Planning) and Williams (Executive)

Labour – Husband (Planning)

Independent Group – Stephenson (Executive)

Socialist People's Party – J Hamezeian (Executive)

Member Training Working Group (2:1:1:0:0)

Councillors Marcus, Pidduck, Stephenson and Williams.

Early Retirement Panel (2:1:1:0:0)

Councillors Pidduck, Richardson, Solloway and Williams.

Grading Appeals Panel (2:1:0:1:0)

Councillors J Hamezeian, Pidduck, Richardson and Williams.

Local Government Working Group (4:2:1:1:1)

Garnett, Guselli, Pidduck, Richardson, Roberts and Williams plus 1 Independent.

Socialist People's Party and 1 Barrow Borough Independent.

Health and Safety Management Board

Councillors Barlow, Bell, Callister, Guselli and Williams.

**4 – Capital Programme 2008-2009 Provisional Outturn and 2009-2010 to 2011-12 Monitoring Report to 31st May, 2009**

The Committee considered the provisional outturn of the Capital Programme for 2008/2009 which was summarised as follows:-

<b>Capital Programme</b>	<b>2008/2009 Budget as at 31/12/2008 reported 28/01/2009</b>	<b>2008/2009 Provisional Outturn As at 31/03/2009</b>
Public Housing	1,985,702	2,003,985
Private Housing	1,125,619	1,038,849
Housing Market Renewal	4,181,396	3,357,232
Public Buildings	1,538,250	1,011,357
Other Public Assets	7,704,318	8,047,322
Other Initiatives	2,063,323	299,470
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,598,608</b>	<b>15,758,215</b>

<b>Funded By</b>		
Borrowing	2,116,201	2,116,201
Grants	12,481,797	10,917,051
Major Repairs Reserve	1,951,210	1,977,994
Usable Capital Receipts	2,049,400	643,059
Revenue Funding	0	30,440
Earmarked Reserves	0	73,470
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>18,598,608</b>	<b>15,758,215</b>

The Committee also considered the three year Capital Programme 2009/2010 to 2011/2012 which was summarised as follows:-

<b>Capital Programme</b>	<b>2009/2010 Budget</b>	<b>2010/2011 Budget</b>	<b>2011/2012 Budget</b>
As at 31/12/2008	£12,598,261	£12,533,132	£7,209,116
As at 31/03/2009	£14,895,748	£11,648,267	£7,001,275
Difference	£2,297,487	£884,865	£207,841

	<b>2009/2010 Budget</b>	<b>2010/2011 Budget</b>	<b>2011/2012 Budget</b>
Total Programme	£14,895,748	£11,648,267	£7,001,275
<b>Funded by:</b>			
Borrowing	£2,000,000	£2,000,000	£2,000,000
Grants	£8,836,446	£7,195,278	£2,553,046
Major Repairs Reserve	£1,902,701	£1,955,489	£1,995,729
Earmarked Reserves	£142,860	£0	£0
Usable Capital Receipts	£2,013,741	£497,500	£452,500

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that the Council had received notification from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government that the Housing Capital Allocation had been reduced from £2.297M in 2008/9 to £1.493M in 2009/10 – a reduction of £804K or 35% of the allocation.

The Secretary of State had made that reduced award on the advice of the 4NW, the Regional Leaders Forum for the North West of England.

Having secured the decision making process of 4NW, he was of the opinion that the Officers of 4NW had acted beyond their authority in calculating and recommending awards to the Department for Communities and Local Government without proper consultation and transparency.

Officers of 4NW may have adjusted the weighting of calculations to avoid heavy reductions in allocations to Liverpool and Manchester without referring the matter back to the Leaders Forum for a decision.

A total of £108M had been allocated on the basis of the advice submitted by Officers of 4NW, and it was essential such a process should be transparent and authorised.

He believed that there was a strong enough case to ask the Secretary of State to set aside all allocations in the North West as unsafe, and issue new allocations based on robust transparent criteria.

**RESOLVED:-** (i) To note the provisional outturn for 2008/09 and approve the variations to the Capital Programme.

(ii) To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the Council's behalf and on behalf of other North West authorities who support the Council's position; and

(iii) To agree to take Counsel's opinion on the legality of advice given by 4NW and its effect on the Minister's decisions.

## **5 – Treasury Management Update**

The Borough Treasurer reported that the Treasury Management section of the budget reported to Committee on 28th January, 2009 had informed Members of the uncertainties in the banking sector and recommended that the Borough Treasurer would adopt a prudent strategy when investing surplus funds, including restricting the use of counterparties.

Over recent months the Council had accumulated over £12,000,000 in temporary surplus funds. That money had been kept in a deposit account at the HSBC. The Council had used the HSBC for normal banking transactions and it was considered,

by all the rating agencies and the financial markets, to be one of the most secure financial institutions.

However, given the size of the amounts involved, he had taken the decision to use £6,626,848 to repay part of the Council's long term debt. That action had reduced the counterparty exposure risk as well as making an annual saving on interest of £162,113; of which £118,990 related to the General Fund. That would also make up the expected shortfall on the budgeted interest earned of £150,000 which was set when interest rates were assumed to be around 2%. Current indications were that the Council may only realise 10% – 20% of the budgeted amount.

At the date of writing the report the temporary surplus funds deposited with the HSBC amounted to £6,700,000 earning 0.25% interest.

RESOLVED:- To note the information and agree that the Borough Treasurer continued the prudent strategy currently adopted.

## **8 – Inter Authority Agreement relating to the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership**

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services informed the Committee that an Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) had been developed by the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership for application between Cumbria County Council as Waste Disposal Authority and the constituent six District Councils in Cumbria as Waste Collection Authorities.

The principles of the IAA had been agreed by the Cumbria Local Authority Strategic Board (CLASB) and represented a more formalised partnership than that which currently existed under the terms of the extant Memorandum of Understanding.

Cumbria County Council, the Waste Disposal Authority, had entered into a contract with Shanks Waste Management Limited as the 'Strategic Partner' for services relating to the design, installation, operation and maintenance of waste management facilities for a period of twenty-five years.

It was intended that the IAA would operate for an initial period of seven years which could be extended by the parties, subject to agreement, for a further five year period.

The IAA was intended to ensure that the targets set out in the Cumbria Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy were achieved.

The IAA sets out the expectations and responsibilities of Cumbria County Council and the District Council's in Cumbria in relation to waste services. The agreement acknowledged that a District Council would deliver what was termed 'Contract Waste' to Cumbria County Council's strategic partner. A District Council had not to do anything which may put Cumbria County Council in breach of the agreement with

its strategic partner. District Council's would need to know the terms of the agreement subject to confidentiality issues, to enable that obligation to be met.

Schedule 4 of the IAA sets out District Council responsibilities in compliance with that agreement.

The Inter-Authority Agreement confirmed the principles agreed by the Cumbria Local Authority Strategic Board. It would enable the Council to have confidence that the waste disposal agreements were secure for the next twenty five years and it would secure long term financial support under the RRS for the Council's recycling and other waste collection services and for developments and initiatives arising from future contract arrangements and developments in waste services. A copy of the Inter Authority Agreement was considered by the Committee.

A Member asked whether plastic was being recycled by Cumbria County Council. The Chief Executive agreed to make direct enquiries with Cumbria County Council to see whether plastic was being held for recycling.

RESOLVED:- (i) To agree and endorse the principles of the Inter-Authority Agreement and authorise the Chief Executive to sign a final copy of the Inter-Authority Agreement on behalf of the Council at a future date; and

(ii) To congratulate the recycling team on the success of implementing the recycling strategy.

## **9 – Partnership Protocol**

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services reminded the Committee that the Council worked with a wide range of partnerships across many services. The Committee considered a protocol that provided a guide to the process and procedures that should be followed when establishing and maintaining effective partnerships. In particular, it recognised there were a variety of forms of partnership which present different challenges and opportunities to the Council, and that there needed to be a consistent approach to working with them. It sets out: the principles the Council would follow when working in partnership; the process to follow when establishing new partnerships and the process of reviewing partnerships.

The protocol had been based upon best practice developed by the Audit Commission.

Once agreed it would form one of the suite of governance documents for the Council.

RESOLVED:- To agree that the Partnership Protocol be adopted.

## **10 – Working Neighbourhoods Fund 2008/09 Provisional Out-turn and Programme for 2009/10 2010/11**

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services reminded the Committee that the Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) was a three year area based grant with a total value of £8.694m.

Members approved allocations from the fund, and the report set out the provisional out turn for 2008/9, the allocations made for the current financial year and 2010/11. A copy of the provisional out-turn was considered by the Committee. There was a positive balance of £73,415 on the overall programme.

In accordance with normal practice, projects supported in 2008/9 would be subject to audit.

RESOLVED:- To note the progress on the implementation of the Working Neighbourhood fund.

## **11 – Car Parking Concessions: Emlyn Street Car Park**

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services reminded the Committee that at its last meeting it had been agreed in principle to operate a car parking concession on Emlyn Street Car Park for a trial period subject to a further report on evaluation and implementation.

The purpose of the proposed concession was to support Town Centre business by increasing duration of stay in the Town Centre. Direct evaluation would prove difficult, given that Emlyn Street comprised just over 5% of the total pay and display car parking spaces in the Town Centre. It was unlikely that any additional expenditure due to the concession would be detected in retail premises without extensive primary research/survey work. In addition, it was likely that displacement from existing car parks would occur. Evaluation would, be restricted to monitoring usage of tickets supplemented by anecdotal information.

Implementation of the concession would require removal of the one hour tariff and reduction of the two hour tariff to one hour. For the period August, 2008 to March, 2009 one hour and two hour sales were almost equal comprising 77% of total sales.

Software changes to the machines would cost £200.00 and publicised legal notices would be required to ensure contraventions could be enforced.

He suggested that bearing in mind the above reservations about evaluating the initiative, it would be appropriate to operate the concession for a three month period, with a further report to this Committee at the end of that period.

The Chief Executive reminded the Committee that when the item was discussed at Council on 21<sup>st</sup> April, Councillor J. Hamezeian had moved an amendment which the Chairman agreed to refer for discussion at a future meeting of this Committee.

The amendment proposed was:-

*In order to encourage new job opportunities in the town centre area, the Council should offer small businesses wanting to open new shops, a 25% reduction in rent and business rates for 12 months; and*

*The Barrow Borough Council should also seriously consider a 10% rent and rate reduction for those small businesses that are in danger of closing down.”*

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that the Council owed a number of business premises in the town centre which were vacant. The Estates Manager had authority to offer up to three months (25%) rent free as proposed by Councillor J. Hamezeian.

All of the Council owned premises qualified for small business rates relief (SBRR) of 50%, provided the tenant did not have an interest in any other commercial property.

The Council contacted all potential recipients of SBRR each year to remind them and invited them to apply.

Arrangements would be made for the Estates Officer to issue SBRR applications to all new tenants along with their lease agreement.

The suggestion for a 10% rent and reduction for those small businesses that were in danger of closing down was difficult to accommodate as it was impossible to judge fairly as to whether a business was in danger of closing down.

He accepted that if a business tenant of the Council was in danger of closing down they would have fallen behind in their payment of their rent. In these circumstances the Council tried to ease them along that period rather than lose them as a tenant, and it was generally other creditors who forced closure of the business.

Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) currently supported an integrated package of business development and support for the long term unemployed delivered through Furness Enterprise (FE). An element of that package 'Open for Business' aimed to support new and existing businesses and had £363,000 allocated to it over the remaining two years of the WNF programme. At present Open for Business covered all businesses in the Borough. Discussions had taken place with FE about how the programme could be amended to provide an enhanced level of support for Town Centre retail businesses across the Borough, and FE were preparing a scheme for consideration by the Council.

The Council could also consider using additional WNF funding to promote and encourage Town Centre shopping. At present £73,415 of WNF remained uncommitted and could be reserved for that purpose.

That could be utilised in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Leader of the Opposition, following discussion with representatives of Town Centre businesses.

RESOLVED:- (i) To agree not to proceed with a concession on Emlyn Street Car Park at this time;

(ii) To agree up to three months rent free period be granted for new Town Centre Council Business Tenants until further notice;

(iii) To agree that new tenants be assisted to apply for small business rates relief;

(iv) To request Furness Enterprise to prepare a Town Centre 'Open for Business' Scheme to be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Committee; and

(v) To reserve £30,000 of Working Neighbourhood Fund to encourage and support Town Centre shopping to be used in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Leader of the Opposition following discussion with Town Centre retailers and traders.

## **12 – Write offs – Business Rates**

The Borough Treasurer informed the Committee that two Business Rates amounts had been written off due to bankruptcy in the sum of £37,104.32.

As both were over the £10,000 delegated authority, he requested Members retrospective approval for the write offs. These had to be done as part of the year end final accounts process and there wasn't an Executive Committee during March/April 2009.

RESOLVED:- To agree to retrospectively approve the amounts written off at the year end in the sum of £37,104.32.

The meeting closed at 4.00 p.m.

**BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**8<sup>th</sup> July, 2009**

**(D)/(R) AGENDA ITEM NO. 7**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**OF THE**

**HOUSING MANAGEMENT FORUM**

**25<sup>th</sup> June, 2009**

**\*Subject to the protocol agreed by Council**

The recommendations of the meeting of the Housing Management Forum held on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 are attached.

**COPIES OF THE DETAILED REPORTS ON THESE ITEMS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED PREVIOUSLY TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**

The Council has agreed that the following protocol should operate:-

- The Executive Committee shall automatically agree any such recommendation or refer it back for further consideration.
- If on re-submission the Executive Committee is still unwilling to approve the recommendation, it is automatically referred to full Council for decision.

<b>HOUSING MANAGEMENT FORUM</b>	<b>(D)</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2009</b>	<b>(i)</b>
<b>Reporting Officer: Chief Executive</b>	

**Title: Appointment of Representatives to Working Groups etc.**

**Summary and Conclusions:**

The report requested that Members make appointments to the following Outside Bodies, Working Groups etc:-

**Tenant Compact Working Party:-** Three Members (1:1:0:0:1) and Three Tenant Representatives.

**Homelessness Funding Working Party:-** Three Members (1:1:0:1:0) and Three Tenant Representatives.

**Homelink Service Review Group:-** Three Members (2:0:0:0:1) and Three Tenant Representatives.

Note:- (Conservative: Labour: Independent: Socialist People's Party: Barrow Borough Independent)

**Recommendations:**

- (i) That Members agree to the following nominations:-
  - (a) Tenant Compact Working Party:- Councillors James and Wood plus 1 Labour Representative and Tenant Representatives; Mrs P Charnley, Mrs K Hotchkiss and Mr Alan McIntosh.
  - (b) Homelessness Funding Working Party:- Councillors Flitcroft and J Hamezeian plus 1 Labour Representative and Tenant Representatives; Mrs P Charnley, Mrs K Hotchkiss and Mr Alan McIntosh.
  - (c) Homelink Service Review Group:- Councillors Dawes, Maltman and Wood and Tenant Representatives; Mrs P Charnley, Mr Alan McIntosh and Mr Bill Ward.
- (ii) That the Tenant's Constitution be brought back to the next meeting of the Housing Management Forum for review.

**HOUSING MANAGEMENT FORUM****(R)****Date of Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2009****(ii)****Reporting Officer: Housing Manager****Title: Homelessness Funding 2009/10****Summary and Conclusions:**

Communities and Local Government (CLG) has announced its intention to continue to provide funding to prevent homelessness and assist in implementing homelessness strategies.

The purpose of the Housing Manager's report was to agree a spend profile.

The report also advised that continued funding has been obtained to continue the Court Desk provision. At the meeting the Housing Manager also reported that an additional £10,000 had been awarded and suggested that this funding be invested through the same scheme.

As well as the above, the Housing Manager also reported that additional funding has been obtained for improving homelessness prevention work to avoid people losing their homes.

**Recommendation:**

That Members:-

(i) Agree the following spend profile:-

£5,000	Shelter: South Cumbria Offenders Scheme
£12,100	Deposit Guarantee Scheme (DIGS)
£2, 500	Barrow Borough Council Sanctuary Scheme
£10,000	Barrow Borough Council Refurbishment of Temporary Accommodation
£19,400	CADAS Mediation Service
£11,000	Destin (Performance Management System)

-----  
£60,000  
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(ii) Continue the Court Desk provision by use of £10,000 awarded by CLG and agree that the additional £10,000 funding awarded also be invested through the same scheme.

(iii) Note the Prevention Repossession funding of £28,500 awarded by CLG.

(iv) Agree the proposal to implement a Homeless Prevention fund with £10,000 Housing Options funding awarded by CLG.

<b>HOUSING MANAGEMENT FORUM</b>	<b>(D)</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2009</b>	<b>(iii)</b>
<b>Reporting Officer: Housing Manager</b>	

**Title: Housing Maintenance Investment Programme  
2009/2010**

**Summary and Conclusions:**

The purpose of the Housing Manager's report was to consider an opportunity to bring forward Major Repairs Allowance funding of £300,000 for the year 2010/11 to spend in the current financial year 2009/10.

**Recommendations:**

That Members agree to:-

- (i) Endorse the Housing Manager's action in submitting a bid for Major Repairs Allowance funding to be brought forward.
- (ii) The Council taking up the opportunity to bring forward Major Repairs Allowance funding from 2010/11 to 2009/10.
- (iii) The funding being used to accelerate investment being determined through Cumbria Housing Partners as follows:-
  - £100,000: Kitchen upgrades
  - £100,000: Bathroom upgrades
  - £100,000: Central Heating upgrades.

<b>HOUSING MANAGEMENT FORUM</b>	<b>(D)</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2009</b>	<b>(iv)</b>
<b>Reporting Officer: Housing Manager</b>	
<p><b>Title: Maintenance Contract</b></p> <p><b>Summary and Conclusions:</b></p> <p>The Housing Manager submitted a report which sought Members to agree to an extension to the Maintenance contract with Integral.</p> <p>The contract was awarded on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2005 on the basis of an initial four year term, with an option to extend for a further two.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>That Members agree to an extension of the current contract arrangements from 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 for a further two years.</p>	

<b>HOUSING MANAGEMENT FORUM</b>	<b>(D)</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2009</b>	<b>(v)</b>
<b>Reporting Officer: Housing Manager</b>	
<p><b>Title:     Housing Service: Strategic Aims</b></p> <p><b>Summary and Conclusions:</b></p> <p>The Housing Manager submitted a report which updated Members on the work being carried out in the Department with regard to “Preparing for Inspection: Improving our Services”.</p> <p>It also sought Members approval to reaffirm the guiding principles on which the Service’s work should be developed.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>That Members agree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i)     Note the progress with Mike Schirwing;</li> <li>(ii)    The Housing Service’s vision: “to provide well maintained homes and estates where people choose to live”;</li> <li>(iii)   Note action regarding the Annual Service Plan.</li> </ul>	

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>		<b>Part One (D) Agenda Item 8</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> July, 2009</b>	
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	<b>Director of Regeneration and Community Services</b>	
<p><b>Title: Presentation by Furness Enterprise – Open for Business – Town Centre Business Support</b></p> <p><b>Summary and Conclusions:</b></p> <p>The Chief Executive of Furness Enterprise will make a presentation to your Committee on how the “Open for Business” initiative can be tailored to support town centre businesses.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>That Members consider approving the revised “Open for Business” scheme.</p>		

## **Report**

### Background

At your last meeting (minute 11 refers) Members requested Furness Enterprise prepare an “Open for Business” scheme focussed upon support for Town Centre enterprises using existing allocations of Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF).

Harry Knowles, the Chief Executive of Furness Enterprise, will attend your meeting to give a brief overview of the use of WNF to support Employment and Enterprise during the 2008/09 financial year and set out the Town Centre proposals requested at your last meeting.

(i) Legal Implications

Expenditure of WNF by Furness Enterprise is controlled through an annual offer letter.

(ii) Risk Assessment

None required.

(iii) Financial Implications

Expenditure on the “Open for Business” scheme during 2009/10 is already committed from WNF.

(iv) Health and Safety Implications

None.

(v) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims

Investing in our Economic Future.

(vi) Equal Opportunities

Not applicable.

Background Papers

Minute No. 11, Executive Committee, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>		<b>Part One (D) Agenda Item 9</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> July, 2009</b>	
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	<b>Borough Treasurer</b>	
<p><b>Title: Revenue Outturn for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009</b></p> <p><b>Summary and Conclusions:</b></p> <p>The final accounts for the year 2008-2009 have been submitted to the Audit Committee on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009.</p> <p>This report presents the revenue outturn for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Members are recommended to note the report.</p>		

### **Report**

The revenue outturn results for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 are:

#### **The General Fund:**

Members will recall that the 2008-2009 original General Fund (GF) net revenue budget was set at £13,092,000. The net GF expenditure for the year is £13,145,927. The **deficit** for the year is £53,927.

The GF balance as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 is £1,971,258. This is a prudent level of balance to maintain and represents around 15% of the net revenue budget.

The actual expenditure is compared to the original budget and the difference forms part of the GF balance.

The main variations from the original budget have been reported to this committee on a quarterly basis throughout 2008-2009. The full year variations are detailed below:

	£
<b>A. Major under-spends / Over-recovery of income</b>	
Concessionary travel	460,931
Net Area Based Grant – not in original budget carried forward	357,098
Direct staff costs – including holiday purchase scheme £28,095	164,513
Refuse / Bulk waste collection	148,378
Net exceptional items	146,341
Telephone calls and rentals	58,161
Net treasury activities – investments and borrowing	36,549
Car parking income	22,687
Local Authority Business Growth Initiative grant	13,636
Net other items	165,508
<b>(A)Total Major Under-spends</b>	<b>1,573,802</b>
<b>B. Major over-spends / Under-recovery of income</b>	
Benefits net of subsidy	443,776
Land searches income net of related expenditure	108,451
Building control fees	42,869
<b>(B)Total Major Over-spends</b>	<b>595,096</b>
<b>C. Utilisation of Surplus</b>	
Contribution to earmarked reserves	1,165,628
Contribution from earmarked reserves	(132,995)
<b>(C) Total Net Contributions</b>	<b>1,032,633</b>
<b>Decrease in GF Balance (A-B-C)</b>	<b>(53,927)</b>

**The Housing Revenue Account:**

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) original budget for 2008-2009 was set at a surplus of £29,820. The outcome for the year was a surplus of £120,556.

The HRA balance as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 is £845,980.

The main reasons are:

	£
<b>Major Variations</b>	
Dwelling rents	(59,243)
Reduced contribution to bad debt provision	(29,339)
Housing subsidy	(45,528)
Net other items	13,554
<b>Increase in HRA Balance</b>	<b>(120,556)</b>

### **The Collection Fund:**

The Collection Fund (CF) resulted in a deficit of £260,788 for the year with an overall CF balance of £389,136. This deficit will be shared in 2010-2011 amongst the Borough Council, Cumbria County Council and the Police Authority in proportion to their precepts for 2009-2010.

<b>Share of deficit to be incorporated in setting the 2010-2011 tax:</b>	£
Cumbria County Council	193,691
Cumbria Police Authority	31,989
Barrow Borough Council	35,108
<b>Total</b>	<b>260,788</b>

### **Reserves:**

The available reserves as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 are:

- The Opportunity Reserve at £1,195,552. In the year approved amounts totalling £78,470 were used for the following:

<b>Approved used of the Opportunity Reserve:</b>	£
Waste minimisation project	73,470
Barrow community trust (year 2) - Executive Committee 14/11/2007	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,470</b>

- The general reserve stood at £461,623.
- Other earmarked reserves amounted to £1,348,798.

<b>Other earmarked reserves:</b>	£
Balance brought forward	237,694
Contribution in the year	1,165,628
Used in the year	(54,524)
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>1,348,798</b>

The contribution to reserves in the year is made up of the following items:

<b>Breakdown of contribution in the year:</b>	£	£
Budget support for 2009-10 to 2011-12 Approved at Executive Committee 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2009		500,000
Park Vale grant support pending the receipt of proper accounts		8,530
Leisure Centre support for loss of income Support allocated from Working Neighbourhood Fund Approved at Executive Committee 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2008		300,000

<b>Area Based Grant:</b>		
Working Neighbourhood Funds allocated to projects but the funding has not yet been claimed	264,241	
Safer Stronger Community Fund allocation to Neighbourhood Management Team but funding has not yet been claimed	70,357	
Climate change funding not yet spent	22,500	357,098
<b>Contribution in the year</b>		<b>1,165,628</b>

Reserves were used during the year for the following items:

<b>Breakdown of contribution in the year:</b>	£
Leisure Centre support for loss of income	
Support allocated from Working Neighbourhood Fund Approved at Executive Committee 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2008	(29,679)
Festival Fund for the year	(24,845)
<b>Used in the year</b>	<b>(54,524)</b>

- The Usable Capital Receipts at the year end were £1,572,673.
- The Major Repairs Reserve for the HRA was fully used in the year.

(i) Legal Implications:

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 require the approval of the Statement of Accounts by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and publication by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

(ii) Financial Implications:

Included in the report.

(iii) Health and Safety Implications:

Not Applicable.

(iv) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims:

Not Applicable.

(v) Risk assessment:

Not Applicable.

(vi) Equal Opportunities:

Not Applicable.

Background Papers

Nil

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>(D) Agenda Item 10</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2009</b>	
<b>Reporting Officer: Chief Environmental Health Officer</b>	

**Title: Funding for “Handyperson” Scheme**

**Summary and Conclusions:**

This report seeks authority to use £16,667 of funds from Supporting People during this financial year to supplement the Age Concern Barrow minor repairs scheme as an interim measure prior to the establishment of a “Handyperson” Scheme as part of a Home Improvement Agency contract which is scheduled to be awarded with effect from January 2010.

**Recommendations:**

To authorise the Chief Environmental Health Officer to draw down £16,667 from Supporting People, Cumbria County Council, and to use the funds to supplement the existing Age Concern Barrow home repairs scheme as an interim measure prior to the establishment of an Handypersons Scheme following the awarding of the Home Improvement Agency contract in January 2010.

**Report**

In December 2008, Supporting People (Cumbria County Council) successfully applied to the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) for funding to develop a “Handyperson” Scheme to operate in all six Cumbria District authority areas.

The funding amounts to £150,000 for 2009/10 and £220 000 for 2010/11 and is to facilitate the expansion or creation of a suitable scheme, which is to be sustainable and self-financing beyond 2011.

Handyperson Schemes provide services for elderly and vulnerable people. Scheme operators carry out small repairs and maintenance jobs within homes and the immediate external environment usually at a subsidised cost to the resident. The aims of a Handyperson Scheme are to promote independent living, reduce accidents in the home, improve quality of life and maintain a sense of well-being, safety and security.

In many ways, a Handyperson Scheme shares the aims of a Home Improvement Agency (HIA), such as the Anchor Staying Put agency which has successfully been operating in Barrow for a number of years and as the contract with Supporting People for the provision of HIA services is currently being re-tendered, w.e.f. January 2010, the opportunity has been taken to include the provision of a Handyperson Scheme as part of the HIA service.

In view of this, it has been agreed that of the £150,000 funding agreed for Handyperson Schemes this year, £100,000 be split equally between the six authorities to enable the promotion of interim services until the new HIA contract is awarded.

In Barrow, Age Concern have recently received funding from Cumbria County Council in the form of a Community Regeneration Fund grant to set up a home repairs scheme which mirrors the type of service provided by Handyperson Schemes as envisaged by CLG.

I recommend therefore that I be delegated authority to draw down funding of £16,667 from Supporting People and to use this funding to develop the existing service with Age Concern Barrow as an interim measure for the provision of a Handyperson Scheme pending the new HIA contract being let some time in early 2010.

(i) Legal Implications

Regulatory Reform Order enables local authorities to deliver a range of housing services to residents to address housing decency issues.

(ii) Risk Assessment

This proposal is low risk utilizing secured funding to promote a sustainable self financing service.

(iii) Financial Implications

Funds secured. No implications beyond March 2011

(iv) Health and Safety Implications

Not Applicable.

(v) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims

KP2 - Meet the housing needs of the Borough and make decent housing more accessible.

(vi) Equal Opportunities

Not Applicable

Background Papers

Tender documents for Home Improvement Agency service

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Part One (R) Agenda Item 11</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2009</b>	
<b>Reporting Officer: Community Services Manager</b>	
<p><b>Title: Free access to “pay to play” leisure activities for Looked after Children</b></p> <p><b>Summary and Conclusions:</b></p> <p>This report identifies a proposal for a joint scheme between Cumbria County Council’s Children’s Services department and the Cumbrian District Councils to provide free access to “pay to play” leisure activities for Looked after Children.</p> <p>The report provides an outline of the scope of the scheme and how it would be applied in practice. The report identifies that Children’s Services will provide an up-front payment of £40 per annum for each participating child and that the Borough will be required to bear any additional cost beyond this figure as a charge foregone. The report also identifies a subsidiary proposal to allow nominated carers of those participating looked after children to receive a 50% discount to accompany them.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>To recommend the Council:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) To approve participation in the scheme to allow free access to pay-to play activities for Looked after Children and to provide a 50% discount for nominated carers; and</li> <li>(2) To agree that the scheme be entered into for one year from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009 and that the Community Services Manager be instructed to monitor the take-up and cost implications, reporting back to the Executive Committee to enable them to decide whether to extend the scheme beyond one-year.</li> </ol>	

**Report**

In early 2009 all the Cumbrian Districts were contacted by Cumbria County Council’s Children’s Services Department who were enquiring whether Districts would participate in a joint scheme to provide free or discounted leisure passes or vouchers for Looked after Children.

In this context, Looked after Children are defined as those who are in the care of Cumbria County Council – either in residential or foster care. Executive Committee members should note that number of such children fluctuates. The latest provided figures shows a total number of Looked after Children in Cumbria of 460, of which 131 were in the Furness Locality which includes the Borough of Barrow in Furness.

This Committee is asked to note that there have been a number of meetings between Children's Services and the District's Leisure Officers to determine how such a scheme may be realised.

Children's Services have indicated that they will provide an allocation of £40 for each looked after child who wishes to participate in the scheme. They have suggested that this would be an up-front payment and would be applicable for one year, after which it may be repeated if the child's circumstances remain the same. This funding would be conditional on the Districts providing a further £40 per child in matched funding. This may offset the costs to the Leisure providers. (Executive Committee should note that the other five districts in Cumbria have different Leisure arrangements to this Council which owns and operates its own Leisure Centre.)

This Committee are asked to note that at this time Allerdale, Carlisle Copeland and Eden District Councils have all indicated that they will participate in the joint scheme to offer free access to pay-to-play leisure activities for looked after children. The Leisure trust providers in each of these Districts have indicated that they will bear the matched funding portion which means that these Districts will not have to provide the additional £40 per child from District funds. It is likely that South Lakeland District Council will also participate, although at the time of writing this is not confirmed.

In terms of the numbers, the latest figures show that there are 131 such children in the Furness Locality. Not all of these children reside in the Borough, and not all of the children who reside in the Borough may wish to participate, so Members are asked to note that the financial impact will be limited.

The mechanics of the system will be as follows; each Looked after Child who wishes to take advantage of the scheme will be given a letter of authority from Children's Services which they will present to their District's participating Leisure Centre. The Leisure Centre will issue an individual pass to the child which will allow them one year's free access to pay-to-play activities. In Barrow, this would mean activities such as badminton, dance-mats, climbing wall, youth gym sessions etc. (free swimming is already available for under 16's.) The Leisure Centre will invoice Children's Services on a regular basis to claim the contribution of £40 per child. It will not be necessary for the Council to make a further £40 per

child available as a budget supplement – this would be taken care of as a charge foregone.

Children’s Services have also requested that the carer for each looked after child should be given a 50% discount to enable them to accompany the child. Again, authority would be provided as part of the initial letter from Children’s Services. There would be no re-imburement for the charge foregone.

(i) Legal Implications:-

Not Applicable.

(ii) Risk Assessment:-

Not Applicable.

(iii) Financial Implications:-

The Borough will receive an up-front payment of £40 per-annum for each participating child, and will be required to forego any cost incurred beyond this point. The Borough will also forego 50% of the cost of a nominated carer

(iv) Health and Safety Implications:-

Not Applicable

(v) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims:-

The use of these funds establishment of this post will support the Vision statement set out in the Community Plan: “In 2024, Barrow Borough will be a prosperous, pleasant, healthy and safe environment for our children and us, and its contributory aim – Improved health for people living in the area” Participation in the scheme will also support Key priority 6 “Expand facilities and activities for young people”.

(vi) Equal Opportunities:-

Not Applicable

Background Papers

Nil

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>(R) Agenda Item 12</b>
Date of Meeting: 8 <sup>th</sup> July, 2009	
Reporting Officer: Community Services Manager	
<p><b>Title: Application of funding received from Department of Health</b></p> <p><b>Summary and Conclusions:</b></p> <p>In 2007, The Borough In 2007, the Borough signed up to the Department of Health's "Communities for Health" programme. There have been significant benefits from this move which have not only included shared access to resources and networking opportunities, but also more tangible financial grant assistance.</p> <p>This report identifies to this Committee the level of grant funding which participation in the programme has brought into the Borough. The report also reminds Members of the application of some of these funds which have previously been approved.</p> <p>Members are asked to note the good news that this report identifies in terms of the Borough's improved performance as disclosed in the latest interim Active People's Survey. This shows that Barrow has the second highest growth in the North West region of the percentage of the adult (age 16 and over) population who participate in sport and active recreation.</p> <p>The report also proposes how the remaining funds should be allocated and the Committee to approve these proposals.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>To recommend the Council:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) To agree to allocate £100,000 to the capital refurbishment scheme for the Cooke's Building, 104 Abbey Road.;</li> <li>(2) To agree to allocate £100,000 to a range of interventions aimed at improving the health and well-being of residents of the Borough and instruct the Community Services Manager to work with the Healthy Communities and Older People group of the LSP to develop these interventions for your approval;</li> </ol>	

- (3) To note that the £70,000 grant to publicise and raise awareness of the Department of Health's new online tool – "NHS Lifecheck" be applied in an innovative range of interventions as required by the Department for Health; and
- (4) To approve £25,000 from the above fund to provide a portable dance-mat exercise system which will be used as an outreach mechanism from the Leisure Centre to schools and community groups.

### **Report**

In 2007, the Borough signed up to the Department of Health's "Communities for Health" programme. There have been significant benefits from this move which have not only included shared access to resources and networking opportunities, but also more tangible financial grant assistance.

Members should note that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have recently published the latest interim Active People's Survey. This highlights the percentage of the adult (age 16 and over) population who participate in sport and active recreation. Barrow has shown an increase of 4.47% to 24.44%, which represents the highest growth in Cumbria and the second highest growth in the North West region. The application of the Communities for Health Funding and a range of the Borough's Sports and Physical Activity Alliance initiatives have contributed to this improvement.

This Committee will note that the following amounts have been received into the Borough as a result of participation in this programme. There is an ongoing requirement on the Borough to report to the Department of Health on how these grants have been used.

- a) £100,000 which was applied to the Park Leisure Centre refurbishment, in particular to the creation of the Youth Gym. (This was approved by this Committee.)
- b) £100,000 continuation funding. (as yet unallocated.)
- c) £50,000 – set aside to jointly fund the three year appointment of the Borough's Health Improvement Officer. (This was approved by this Committee and this application levered in £25k per annum from the PCT for each of the three years of the appointment.)
- d) £70,000 Lifecheck launch funding. This funding has been provided to participating Councils to use innovative means in which to publicise and raise awareness of the Department of Health's new online tool – "NHS Lifecheck." As

such, it is a little more prescriptive in application. A very small amount has been used to launch the teen lifecheck scheme.

e) £100,000 further continuation funding. The Department indicated at the end of the last financial year that they would provide a further grant to participating Authorities (as yet unallocated.)

This Committee will welcome the receipt of these grants and will note the good use that some of the funds has already been allocated to.

This report asks members to approve the application of the remaining funds in the following way.

£100,000 to be allocated to the capital refurbishment scheme for the Cooke's Building, 104 Abbey Rd. This funding is to be applied to assist in the creation of the Dance Studio section of the building. Using the funds in this way will add value to the scheme and will provide a much needed additional resource to the Borough. It is recognised that dance is one of the fastest growing areas of participation in physical activity and using the funds to support this scheme will make a significant contribution to improving the health and well-being of potential users of the facility on completion.

£100,000 to be allocated to a range of interventions aimed at improving the health and well-being of residents of the Borough. Members are asked to instruct the Community Services Manager to work with the Healthy Communities and Older People group of the LSP to develop these interventions. Use of, and outcomes from, the application of this £100,000 will be reported annually to Executive Committee

£70,000 to be used in an innovative range of interventions to publicise and raise awareness of the Department of Health's new online tool –“NHS Lifecheck.” In particular, members are asked to approve the application of £25k from this fund to provide a portable dance-mat exercise system which will be used as an outreach mechanism from the Leisure Centre to schools and community groups. This will provide an opportunity for instructors to deliver health and well-being messages to target groups in familiar surroundings.

(i) Legal Implications:-

The Borough is required to use the funds under the criteria laid down by the Department for Health.

(ii) Risk Assessment:-

Not Applicable.

(iii) Financial Implications:-

The amounts of the grants have been identified in the report and the Borough's financial systems will be applicable to the application of the funds.

(iv) Health and Safety Implications:-

Not Applicable

(v) Key Priorities and Corporate Aims:-

The use of these funds establishment of this post will support the Vision statement set out in the Community Plan: "In 2024, Barrow Borough will be a prosperous, pleasant, healthy and safe environment for our children and us, and its contributory aim – Improved health for people living in the area"

(vi) Equal Opportunities:-

Application of these funds will be dealt with under the Borough's procedures.

Background Papers

Nil

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>(D) Agenda Item 13</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2009</b>	
<b>Reporting Officer: Community Services Manager</b>	

**Title: Consultation on the potential change to the administration of Concessionary Travel from April 2011**

**Summary and Conclusions:**

The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on a Government consultation on possible changes to the administration of Concessionary Travel.

The Department of Transport has launched a consultation on possible changes to the administration of concessionary travel. It will examine various options for changing the tier of government which is responsible for the administration of the England-wide bus pass

It is the intention of this report to bring to the attention of Executive Committee the outline of the consultation. The outcome of the consultation is planned for implementation by April 2011 if the decision to make changes is taken.

This report will advise Executive Committee to approve a response favouring one each of the proposals for change in principle.

The consultation is looking at proposals for how the statutory concessionary travel scheme is administered. These proposals are as follows:

- 1) Leaving things as they are (with lower-tier authorities, usually District Councils)
- 2) Moving to higher tier authorities (usually County Councils)
- 3) Centralising administration with the Department for Transport or one of its agencies)
- 4) Administration is moved to a regional level.

The Department is also proposing four options for how the discretionary scheme should in the future be administered.

- 1) District Councils retain the ability to establish discretionary concessions under the 1985 Act, as now.
- 2) District Councils lose the ability to establish discretionary travel concessions.
- 3) District Councils can only establish discretionary concessions jointly with the relevant upper tier authority.

Concessionary Fares is a significant budget area and it is necessary to consider carefully the potential financial implications of the options included in the consultation paper when making a response. It cannot be assumed that any changes to the responsibility for operating concessionary travel would be cost neutral for the Council. However, at this stage, it is a “in principle” consultation as there is no data from government to help inform this decision.

### **Recommendation**

To agree that in respect of the consultation on possible changes to the administration of Concessionary Travel the Department of Transport be advised that this council supports:

1. for the administration of the statutory scheme Option 2 - Only upper-tier authorities administer the concession; and
2. for the administration of the discretionary scheme Option 2 - District councils lose the ability to establish discretionary concessions.

### **Report**

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Department of Transport has issued a consultation paper that looks at options for possible changes to two aspects of the administration of concessionary travel in England.
- 1.2 The first is the responsibility for administering the statutory minimum bus concession.
- 1.3 The second is the ability of local authorities to introduce their own discretionary travel concessions which might be in addition to, instead of, or completely different from, the statutory minimum bus concession.
- 1.4 The consultation period began on 28 April 2009 and will run until 21 July 2009.
- 1.5 This report provides a summary of the consultation paper. The full consultation paper is 79 pages and can be viewed at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/concessionarytravel/>.

A copy has been placed in the Members Room.

- 1.6 Any changes to the statutory responsibility for administering concessionary fares are most likely to be implemented at the beginning of the next three year local government finance settlement which is April 2011.

## **2 PROPOSALS**

### **A Statutory Scheme**

- 2.1 The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 guaranteed free local bus travel to eligible passengers aged 60 or over or disabled on off-peak services anywhere in England. Total national spending on concessionary travel is now over £1 billion per annum.
- 2.2 The current scheme is a national scheme administered at local level, with the District Council being the responsible authority in shire areas.
- 2.3 The consultation document suggests that in general terms, there are four key responsibilities associated with administering a concessionary fares scheme:
- Assessing the eligibility of applicants for passes, issuing passes and managing a passholder database;
  - Assessing which local bus routes might be eligible for the concession;
  - Defining and publishing a concessionary fares scheme and reimbursing bus operators; and
  - Using enforcement powers where necessary.
- 2.4 The Government is proposing four options for how the statutory scheme should in the future be administered. These are:
- 1. Leave things as they are now**
- 2.5 The consultation states that this will not address the number of problems that exist in the current arrangements. These include scheme variations across authorities; a large number of authorities for bus companies to negotiate with; difficulty in accurately forecasting an individual authority's expenditure on the scheme and the non-alignment of those authorities that issue the bus passes to those with Transport Authority responsibilities.
- 2.6 It does, however, allow District Councils to make improvements to the statutory minimum that are appropriate to local needs.
- 2. Only upper-tier authorities administer the concession.**
- 2.7 This would mean that administering the statutory scheme in Cumbria would move from the district councils to the county council.
- 2.8 This option would align responsibility for those authorities who issue the bus passes with those authorities who have Transport authority responsibilities. It should also assist local transport plans.

- 2.9 It should enable efficiency savings to be made due to the economies of scale, the capacity of the larger authority and mean less Councils for the operators to negotiate with. It could also facilitate smart ticketing as some small Districts are not able to support the costs associated with the introduction of the Smartcard technology.
- 2.10 There would also be the possibility under this option, for County Councils to continue to liaise with District Councils (or indeed to sub-contract some of the associated administrative activities such as pass-issuing).

### **3. The administration of the statutory minimum concession is moved to Central Government.**

- 2.12 This option would remove all problems associated with accurately funding local authorities and could create funding efficiencies as hundreds of local negotiations would be replaced with one. There would also be a reduction in the burden of negotiation currently on bus operators and local authorities.
- 2.13 However, this option would require the creation of a new structure of administration at a cost i.e. the establishment of a specific national agency. Also the question of local enhancements would be difficult to address, either the statutory minimum concession would have to be upgraded to include all enhancements currently offered locally but on a national basis, which would be prohibitively expensive; or all local enhancements currently offered would have to be removed, which would be extremely unpopular.
- 2.14 It would also mean a significant amount of formula grant to local authorities effectively disappearing which could have unintended consequences.
- 2.15 Even with this arrangement, local authorities would still need to form and develop relationships with local bus operators to undertake local transport planning and consider letting contracts for subsidised routes.

### **4. Administration is moved to a regional level**

- 2.16 This option would require primary legislation and would require a longer timescale to implement.
- 2.17 Whilst reducing the number of authorities that bus operators have to deal with where there is no regional government there is no obvious candidate authority to take on this function.
- 2.18 Some of the problems around funding and the continuing transport role for authorities from option 3 above arise under this option also.

## **Government Preference**

- 2.19 The consultation document makes it clear that the Government's initial view is in favour of option 2 - of a shift of responsibility from district to county councils.
- 2.20 It considers option 1 to be unattractive as it feels that there are clear signs that the current arrangements are under strain and may not be sustainable in the longer term.
- 2.21 A fully centralised statutory concession (option 3) has some attractions and could generate efficiency savings. However, it is inconsistent with wider policies towards devolving the delivery of services and could lead to complexity and duplication because of the current pattern of discretionary concessions.
- 2.22 Option 4, a move to regional administration of concessionary fares is considered to be not a realistic option for change in time for the start of the next 3 year local government finance settlement in 2011.

## **B Discretionary Schemes**

- 2.28 The mandatory concession scheme may be supplemented with more generous concessions at the discretion of a local authority under section 93 of the Transport Act 1985.
- 2.29 The Government is proposing four options for how the discretionary scheme should in the future be administered. These are:
  - 1. District councils retain the ability to establish discretionary travel concession schemes under the 1985 Act, as now**
- 2.30 There would be no change in the pattern of travel concessions currently offered to those eligible. If there is no change to who administers the statutory minimum concession then it would make sense to make no changes to who can implement local enhancements to the minimum concession. However, if responsibility for the statutory minimum concession is moved up a tier, then retaining the ability to implement discretionary concessions at the lowest level could nullify many of the benefits of such a move.
- 2.31 It would make calculating how much funding to transfer between the tiers extremely difficult if only part of the responsibility for concessionary travel were moved. It would also complicate matters hugely for operators and could lead to significant confusion. It could conceivably lead to concessionaires holding two different passes and to confusion over enforcement and reimbursement.

## **2. District councils lose the ability to establish discretionary travel concessions**

- 2.32 Using the 2007 Concessionary Bus Travel Act, District Councils could have the powers to establish travel concessions removed. This would mean that the County Council would inherit the existing pattern of discretionary concessions across Cumbria. The District Councils would be unable to implement new discretionary schemes under this Act. The County Council would be able to persist with the existing pattern of concessions or rationalise it.
- 2.33 The consultation suggests that this option would make sense if District Councils also lost the responsibility for the statutory minimum concession. It would enable many of the efficiency savings from such a move to be fully realised and could also result in a simpler map of discretionary concessions.
- 2.34 The risk with this option is that moving responsibility for both the statutory and discretionary concessions away from district councils could result in the loss of some of those discretionary concessions.
- 2.35 The County Council would be responsible for developing and implementing schemes and reimbursing operators. The County Council would also be able to introduce new discretionary concessions and these could exist at the district council level if the County Council so wished.
- 2.36 It would be possible under this option for a district council to originate and fund a proposal for a discretionary concession in its area, but ask the County Council to implement it provided there was agreement over the necessary transfer of funding. However the bus operators would only have to deal with the county council.
- 2.37 This could be introduced in one of three ways:
- At the instigation of the county council which would retain the ability to introduce concessions in a defined geographical area;
  - At the instigation of a district council which would agree to fund the concessions but have it administered by the county council;
  - At the instigation of a district council using well-being powers which would see it liaise directly with operators.
- 2.38 However, the consultation accepts that under the well being powers all local authorities may retain some ability to introduce travel concessions in their areas. In so doing, to provide as simple and consistent framework for operators and concessionaires, the consultation expects that this would

happen with the authority with the responsibility for the statutory concession taking the lead.

### **3. District councils can only establish discretionary concessions jointly with the relevant upper tier authority**

- 2.39 This option would see formal responsibility for the reimbursement for discretionary concessions moving from the Districts to the County. District Councils would still be able to implement discretionary concessions but only if they act jointly with the County Council's.
- 2.40 The Secretary of State has the power under The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 to assign certain functions to the County Council – such as, for example, reimbursement or pass issuing. Therefore, districts could still have a say in what sort of discretionary concessions they wanted but would no longer be responsible for negotiating with and reimbursing operators or for issuing passes if these functions were assigned to the County Council only.
- 2.41 The consultation suggests that this approach might strengthen the ability of district councils to influence the pattern of discretionary concessions in their area but could still realise some of the efficiency savings from moving administration up a tier. It would formally allow for a pattern of discretionary concessions that exist at the sub-county level accurately reflecting local needs. This means that the existing map of local discretions could remain largely unchanged.
- 2.42 However, if funding and reimbursement both moved to the county council there may be little sense in district councils retaining any interest in concessionary travel. Moreover, the idea of joint co - operation between the tiers might be difficult to implement in practice although Cumbria has an established mechanism for cross County negotiation in the form of the Concessionary Travel Group.

#### **Government Preference**

- 2.43 The consultation states that it is probable (and possibly preferable) that the authority with the responsibility for the statutory concession in an area would also lead on implementing discretionary concessions.
- 2.44 Because of this, and because of the need to provide as simple and consistent a framework as possible for operators and concessionaires in dealing with concessionary fares, the Government's initial preference is to pursue Option 2 and move responsibility for discretionary concessions to upper tier authorities only.

### **3 FUNDING**

- 3.1 The Government takes the view that the statutory concessionary travel scheme is funded by Central Government, through a combination of formula grant (administered by Communities and Local Government) and Special Grant (administered by Department for Transport).
- 3.2 The Special Grant allocation for the three years beginning in April 2008 was at the specific request of local authorities to recognise the challenge of allocating additional funding purely to meet the costs of the new national concession. The Government has always made clear its intention to divert this funding into the wider formula grant settlement once the impact of the new concession was clearer.
- 3.3 Any changing of responsibility for the statutory scheme from District to County Councils would see a calculation of how much to remove from the District Council's current formula grant allocation. This is not a simple process because allocations are not separately identified for individual activities. Any change would be subject to detailed consultation during 2010 as part of the Government's regular timetable for developing the wider local government finance settlement.
- 3.4 No data is available at this stage to inform the effects of any changes.
- 3.5 The Government though is committed to the new burdens principle and any activity transferred to upper tier authorities would therefore be fully funded.
- 3.6 Any transfer of formula grant funding is complicated by the presence of discretionary schemes which are offered by authorities out of their own funds. If the responsibility for administering both the statutory minimum and discretionary concessions is moved away from lower tier authorities then the task of estimating how much funding to transfer is simplified. However if the two responsibilities are split with, say, the statutory minimum responsibilities moving to the upper tier but discretionary responsibilities remaining with all tiers of local government then calculating how much funding to transfer is more complicated.
- 3.7 This is because this spending is not separately identified by authorities in their spending returns but the Department of Transport have, after the start of this consultation, asked authorities to indicate how much they are spending on their discretionary schemes. The questions relate to 2007/08 actual spending.

## **4 TIMETABLE**

- 4.1 The consultation makes it clear that any changes that are implemented will be for the longer term.
- 4.2 However the Government is consulting separately about the principle of who should administer concessionary travel (this consultation) and how it should be funded (the Communities Local Government consultation on the wider local government finance settlement starting in 2010). This will allow for a decision in principle on how concessionary travel should be administered in advance of the wider consultation on local government funding.
- 4.3 So this will mean that any changes to the statutory responsibility for administering concessionary fares are most likely to be implemented at the beginning of the next three year local government finance settlement. This indicative timetable suggests that detailed discussions on concessionary travel funding would not start until decisions on how the concession should be administered have been announced, with the formal Formula Grant Distribution consultation due for issue in July 2010, and conclusions being reached by around November 2010.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Concessionary Fares is a significant budget area and it is necessary to consider carefully the potential financial implications of the options included in the consultation paper when making a response. It cannot be assumed that any changes to the responsibility for operating concessionary travel would be cost neutral for the Council. However, at this stage, it is a "in principle" consultation as there is no data from government to help inform this decision.
- 5.2 All of the options proposed have their advantages and disadvantages. However, if we consider the opportunities for efficiencies which will probably influence government thinking in terms of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2010 and in particular funding to local authorities, Option 2 - Only upper-tier authorities administer the statutory concession, and therefore, for the administration of the discretionary scheme, Option 2 - District councils lose the ability to establish discretionary concessions. This report therefore, recommends these options to be expressed as a preference and Executive Committee is invited to endorse this response. Following this endorsement, a response on behalf of the Council will be submitted to the Department of Transport.
- 5.3 However if funding and reimbursement both moved to the county council there may be little sense in district councils retaining any interest in concessionary travel. Moreover, the idea of joint co - operation between the tiers might be difficult to implement in practice.

5.4 These two options will deliver administrative savings from the schemes; reduce any potential duplication and confusion that the Government is seeking as a result of this consultation without losing the Council's Discretionary schemes.

(i) Legal Implications:-

Not Applicable.

(ii) Risk Assessment:-

Not Applicable.

(iii) Financial Implications:-

Not Applicable.

(iv) Health and Safety Implications:-

Not Applicable.

(v) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims:-

Not Applicable.

(vi) Equal Opportunities:-

Not Applicable.

Background Papers

Nil

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>(R) Agenda Item 14</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2009</b>	
<b>Reporting Officer: Community Services Manager</b>	

**Title: Conversion of all-weather pitch into a Soccer Centre**

**Summary and Conclusions:**

This report outlines a proposal to convert and upgrade the all weather pitch and associated buildings at the Park Leisure Centre into a Soccer Centre. This development would include six 5-a-side courts (35m x 23m) and a 60m x 40m midi pitch using a third generation playing surface of the latest artificial grass with floodlights, kickboards and court netting. These pitches would be complemented by a pavilion which would be added to the existing changing room structure at the all-weather pitch and would comprise a flexible range of changing rooms, viewing facilities, multi-purpose meeting room, bar lounge and social area. The area adjacent to the all-weather pitch would be remodelled to provide additional car parking to cope with extra demand. This report identifies the background to the proposal, the financial implications, the impacts on the operation and the community and the long term benefits to the Borough.

**Recommendations:**

To recommend the Council:-

- (i) To approve the conversion and upgrade of the all weather pitch and associated buildings at the Park Leisure Centre into a Soccer Centre through the establishment of a partnership agreement with Pulse Ltd subject to Officers of the Council negotiating suitable contractual arrangements and consents being obtained; and
- (ii) Subject to (i) above to agree that the Heads of Terms with Pulse would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2009.

**Report**

**Background**

The Council recently completed a highly successful £1.2m refurbishment to the Park Leisure Centre which included the creation of a newly refurbished adult gym and the creation of a bespoke youth gym. In addition to improving revenue, this

redevelopment has made a significant contribution to achieving the Council's priority to expand recreational facilities for young people and also contributed to the delivery of the Community Plan, particularly the aim to improve health for people living in the area.

The Community Services Manager has been exploring the possibility of introducing a Soccer Centre to compliment the refurbished Park Leisure Centre following discussions and proposals from the Council's Gym partners, Pulse Ltd. The game of 5 a-side soccer is the fastest developing sport in Europe. This applies particularly to women's football. The type of football provided in this Soccer Centre will appeal to a large degree to a different sector than the Council currently provides for at the all weather pitch and the sports hall. In addition to casual bookings and training sessions for established clubs, the Centre will operate formal; league structures with promotion, relegation and referees. This will attract teams from established clubs and new groups. Mini leagues for boys and girls will be a target as well as girls and women's only and veteran's leagues. The opportunity to increase participation in sport and physical activity are significant.

### **Redevelopment Proposal**

The Council has a partnership agreement with Pulse Fitness Limited, who supply the equipment and member services for the Park Leisure Centre gymnasium. This has been an effective partnership for the Council. In addition to providing equipment and member services, Pulse Fitness Limited has significant experience in the planning and delivery of leisure facilities, including design and build and facility development and this was demonstrated to the Council through Pulse's highly successful refurbishment of the Park Leisure Centre in 2008.

Following discussions with Senior Officers, Pulse Fitness Limited have produced a design proposal for transforming the current all-weather pitch into a soccer centre. This proposed soccer centre development would include six 5-a-side courts (35m x 23m) and a 60m x 40m midi pitch using a third generation playing surface of the latest artificial grass with floodlights, kickboards and court netting. These pitches would be complemented by a pavilion which would be added to the existing changing room structure at the all-weather pitch and would comprise a flexible range of changing rooms, viewing facilities, multi-purpose meeting room, bar lounge and social area. The area adjacent to the all-weather pitch would be remodelled to provide additional car parking to cope with extra demand.

### **Financial Implications**

Pulse Ltd has put forward a proposal on how this development could be taken forward, this is a partnership option based on percentage income share over a fixed period Leisure Services Contract, with capital funding either wholly or partly provided by Pulse and the Council. A Leisure Services Contract is outside the

scope of the application of EU procurement regulations. The approximate cost of the refurbishment is £1.26m. Pulse would carry out all building works and equipment installation.

This partnership arrangement would be based on a shared risks and shared rewards basis whereby the Council would be asked to underwrite a contingent liability in the form a base monthly fee which would represent a risk to the Council of between 8% and 14% occupancy of the pitches and would be taken first from the pitch income received. In return for this risk, the Council would receive up to twenty percent of the gross pitch income generated depending on overall occupancy.

The current position is that the all-weather pitch is under utilised, being booked out at around 50% occupancy of the time available. (In the whole of 2008, the all-weather pitch was used only twice for full sized soccer games and was only used on thirteen occasions for full sized hockey games.) Members should also note that in setting the running costs against the income the Council can expect to lose around £15k per annum at the current occupancy levels. Executive Committee will note that this development would turn a facility which currently operates at a loss into profit. A 50% usage of the new facility will generate an income share of around £27,000 to the Council giving a net benefit of £42,000 per annum.

### **Impact on Operation**

- The timescale for completion is 14 weeks, and commencement would be contingent on planning and licensing approvals.
- Access to the Park Leisure Centre would not be compromised during the duration of the project.
- Existing bookings for the all-weather pitch would have to be cancelled.

### **Impact on the Community**

- The development will provide a facility which would be state of the art and unique to Cumbria.
- The partnership agreement means that Pulse would take on responsibility for operational costs.
- The centre will create up to 23 full time equivalent jobs.
- The agreement will include provision for up to 50% of the facilities to be made available to the Council during the school day to accommodate schools and community groups in order to support the Council's aspiration to increase physical activity and promote healthy lifestyle.
- The creation of the centre will mean that there will no longer be a full sized all weather pitch in the Borough. Whilst this will have little impact on the sport of Football, it will have an adverse impact on the sport of Hockey. At present, Barrow Ladies Hockey Club trains and plays competitive matches

at the centre, Glaxo Hockey Club uses the centre to train and there are regular schools bookings for hockey training. Whilst there may be a possibility for hockey skills training to continue on the midi-pitch, competitive, full-sized hockey will no longer be accommodated.

### **Long Term benefits**

Developing the Soccer Centre through entering a partnership with Pulse Ltd will result in several benefits;

- The Borough will be provided with a state of the art new leisure facility which will be maintained to a high standard.
- It is confidently expected that the development will turn an existing loss making operation into a successful revenue generating facility without any capital outlay from the Council.
- The Council will still be able to provide access to schools and community groups during school hours.
- The centre will provide employment opportunities in the Leisure sector.
- Operating and maintenance costs will be covered by Pulse Ltd, (subject to detailed negotiation.)

This report requests Executive Committee to approve the conversion and upgrade of the all weather pitch and associated buildings at the Park Leisure Centre into a Soccer Centre through the establishment of a partnership agreement with Pulse Ltd subject to Officers of the Council negotiating suitable contractual arrangements and relevant consents being obtained. If your agreement to proceed is given then Heads of Terms agreed with pulse will be reported for your approval to your next committee on July 29<sup>th</sup> 2009.

#### (i) Legal Implications

The Investment and Services Agreement is outside the scope of the application of EU procurement legislation.

#### (ii) Financial Implications

The approximate cost of the proposal is £1.26m, which will be met via the Investment and Services Agreement.

#### (iii) Health and Safety Implications

Not Applicable.

(iv) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims

The development will support the Vision statement set out in the Community Plan: “In 2024, Barrow Borough will be a prosperous, pleasant, healthy and safe environment for our children and us, and its contributory aim – Improved health for people living in the area”. It will also support Economic Regeneration, and Expand facilities and activities for young people.

(v) Equal Opportunities

The development will be dealt with in a way that fully complies with relevant legislation in this area.

Background Papers

Nil