

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

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting, Wednesday, 20th October, 2010  
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 22nd September, 2010 (copy attached).
6. Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members.

#### **FOR DECISION**

- (D) 7. To note the Minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee held on 27th September, 2010 (copy attached).

- (D) 8. Increase in VAT.
- (D) 9. Capital Programme Monitoring Report to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2010.
- (D) 10. Council Finances Report – Quarter 2 2010-2011.
- (D) 11. Green Heart Den – North Plot.
- (R) 12. Reviewing the Member Development Strategy.
- (D) 13. Hindpool Road Car Park.
- (D) 14. Anchor Staying Put – Barrow Home Improvement Agency (HIA).

## **PART TWO**

- (R) 15. Barrow BC – IT Services Restructuring.

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION BY VIRTUE OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF PART  
ONE OF SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972  
AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION (VARIATION) ORDER 2006**

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

### **Membership of Committee**

Councillors Guselli (Chairman)  
Williams (Vice-Chairman)  
Barlow  
Doughty  
English  
Garnett  
Hamezeian  
Marcus  
Pidduck  
Richardson  
Stephenson  
Waiting

**For queries regarding this agenda, please contact:**

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Published: 12th October, 2010

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting: 22nd September, 2010  
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Guselli (Chairman), Williams (Vice-Chairman), Barlow, Bell, Doughty, English, Garnett, Hamezeian (items 1-14 only), Marcus, Pidduck, Richardson and Waiting.

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

RESOLVED:- That by reason of the special circumstances outlined below the Chairman is of the opinion that the following items of business not specified on the agenda should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Housing Department: Income and Debt Recovery Section (Minute No. 77)	Postholder OHS 460 leaves the Council on 31 <sup>st</sup> October, 2010. The next meeting of the Committee was not scheduled to take place until 20 <sup>th</sup> October and Council on 25 <sup>th</sup> January, 2011.

### **52 – 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 (Minute Nos. 72 and 77) and Paragraph 3 (Minute Nos. 69, 70 and 71) of Part One of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

### **53 – Disclosure of Interests**

Councillor Bell declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 14 – North West Federation of Small Businesses (FSBNW) Small Business Accord (Minute No. 62). He was a member of the FSBNW.

Councillor Doughty declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 20 – Rural Projects Fund: Dalton Drill Hall (Minute No. 65). He was Chairman of the Dalton Community Association.

Councillor English declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 14 – North West Federation of Small Businesses (FSBNW) Small Business Accord (Minute No. 62). He was a member of the FSBNW.

Councillor Guselli declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 13 – Car Parking (Minute No. 61). He was a Member of Cumbria County Council. He also declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 25 – Proposed Revocation of Section 52 Agreement (Minute No. 70). He knew the applicant and in the past had worked for the applicant.

Councillor Hamezeian declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 13 – Car Parking (Minute No. 61). He was a Member of Cumbria County Council.

Councillor Marcus declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 13 – Car Parking (Minute No. 61). He was a Member of Cumbria County Council. He also declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 26 – Ship Inn Phase IV (Minute No. 71). He knew the family.

#### **54 – Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July, 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **55 – Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Stephenson.

Councillor Bell substituted for Councillor Stephenson.

#### **56 – Housing Management Forum: Recommendations**

The recommendations of the Housing Management Forum held on 26th August, 2010 were submitted for consideration.

N.B. The Minutes are reproduced as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting.

RESOLVED:- That the recommendations of the Housing Management Forum be agreed as follows:-

##### **2010-2015 Asset Management Strategy**

That Members agree to:-

- (i) the content of the 5 year Asset Management Strategy;

- (ii) the principles outlined in the Sustainability Model;
- (iii) the investment priorities shown in the report; and
- (iv) the Tenant Compact Working Party progressing the Estate Based Asset Management Plans.

### **2011 Housing Maintenance Contract**

Members agree:-

- (i) to note the appointment of PSS Consulting to provide Procurement Support and Contract Support on an “as and when required” basis;
- (ii) that the contract be procured on the basis of:-
  - Planned Investment works will be removed from the contract and delivered via Cumbria Housing Partners.
  - Works included in the new contract will be:- Responsive Repairs, Voids, Gas Servicing and Breakdown Repairs and Out-of-Hours Emergency Repairs.
  - The form of contract will be as now:- NEC 3, Option C, Target Cost (subject to any adverse feedback from ASPE Consultants).
  - The term of contract to be as now:- Four years with the option for a further two years.
  - Contract to be awarded on the basis of a 20% quality/80% price matrix; and
- (iii) to note the next stages of the process and agree that they be progressed in consultation with the Tenant Compact Working Party.

### **Tenant Services Authority – The Regulatory Framework for Social Housing in England from April, 2010**

That Members:-

- (i) note the progress to date and endorse the plans and proposals going forward;
- (ii) endorse the financial resources requested; and
- (iii) endorse the request for delegated power to enable the annual report to be signed off within the appropriate timescales.

### **34 Fenton Street, Barrow-in-Furness – Two Bedroomed House**

That Members agree to instruct the Housing Manager to dispose of the property.

### **Request for Adaptations to a Council Property: Newton Road, Dalton-in-Furness**

That the adaptations to a property on Newton Road, Dalton-in-Furness be approved.

## **Request for Adaptations to a Council Property: Tyne Road, Barrow-in-Furness**

That the adaptations to a property on Tyne Road, Barrow-in-Furness be approved.

### **57 – Grants Sub-Committee**

RESOLVED:- To note the Minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee held on 14th July, 2010.

### **58 – Budget Timetable and Strategy 2011-2012**

The Borough Treasurer informed the Committee that preparation of the budget for the financial year 2011-2012 would be starting shortly. Members were aware that the Council Tax for the new financial year must be set before the end of February 2011.

The Public Spending Review would be published on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and would set out spending plans for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15. It was expected that government grant would be reduced significantly but it was uncertain to ascertain the levels of cuts until the announcement in October.

To be able to consider how the required savings could be achieved it was necessary to prepare the 2011-12 budget early enough for Management Team consideration prior to the publication of the Public Spending Review. That meant shortening the budget preparation timetable and setting costs against services from the centre.

As the Public Spending Review covered 2011-12 to 2014-15, the Medium Term Financial Plan would be produced for the same term. That Plan would form the budget for each consecutive year with any variations being subject to Management Team approval. The budget would be set for four years, the Plan would be risk assessed for affordability, deliverability and sustainability.

There would be no growth or service development bids. There would be no provision for inflation apart from those specified as contracted services (refuse, recycling and street cleaning; grounds maintenance; building cleaning; revenues and benefits). All other inflationary increases must be absorbed into the existing budget. Housing and council tax benefits expenditure and grant levels would be subject to review.

Concessionary travel would not be budgeted for and the associated funding was still under consultation and would not be known until later in the year. It was hoped that the net effect would be neutral but that may not be the case.

Additional provision would be made for contributions to the Pension Scheme, once the actuarial review had been completed at the end of September 2010.

The process would require members input on the following dates:

Housing Forum consultation on the HRA	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2011
Executive Committee to approve the budget proposals	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2011
Special Joint meeting of the scrutiny committees	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2010
Special Council to set the budget and Council Tax	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2011

There would also be a public consultation exercise planned for February 2011.

RESOLVED:- To agree the timetable and approve the strategy to be used for setting the budget for 2011-2012.

### **59 – Annual Treasury Report 2009-10**

The Borough Treasurer reported that the Council's Treasury Strategy and Policy required the annual reporting of treasury activities for the previous financial year. He informed the Committee that the Council had complied with all the agreed limits and indicators for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

The Committee considered the full details of all treasury activities for the year.

RESOLVED:- (i) To approve the actual 2009-10 prudential indicators within the report; and

(ii) To note the Treasury Management Stewardship Report for 2009-10.

### **60 – Write Offs - Business Rates**

The Borough Treasurer informed the Committee that a number of bankruptcies had necessitated the write-off of five cases of business rates totalling £86,357.76. The individual cases were over the £10,000 delegated authority. The full cost would be met by the national pool.

RESOLVED:- To approve to write off £86,357.76 detailed in the Borough Treasurer's report.

### **61 – Car Parking**

The Chief Executive reminded the Committee that the Council had served a two year notice on the County Council to terminate the On-Street Enforcement Agreement unless the County agreed to meet any deficit incurred in the operation as they do in other Districts. The Notice expires in February 2011.

The County had responded by developing an agreement with Carlisle City Council to manage all on street parking enforcement in the County. Carlisle had indicated their intention to include an offer to manage the Council's off street car parking.

To date, no concrete proposals had been received nor had sight of any business plan.

He had provided the County with a price to continue enforcement on their behalf on a month by month basis, but again had received no response. He concluded that there was a real possibility that the Council's agreement would terminate in February and he sought approval to begin formal discussions on the TUPE implications.

He informed the Committee that car park prices had been held steady during the current retail downturn, but had now fallen behind Ulverston in pricing and the Public Spending Review was likely to put severe pressure on the Council's budgets.

He recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be invited to review car park pricing as an urgent budget consideration and report their findings and recommendations to this Committee.

He also reminded the Committee that he would review the issue of gritting of car parks. He reported that the Council did not grit ground level car parks and provided limited gritting to the rooftop car park because of its exposed condition. Any minor accidents, whilst regrettable, were dealt with through the Council's insurers and no legal actions had ever been brought against the Council, but to offer added protection it was important for Members to reaffirm the policy on a regular basis.

RESOLVED:- (i) To authorise the Chief Executive to begin formal TUPE discussions with the relevant Trade Unions and the County Council with regards to the imminent termination of the Council's parking agreement with Cumbria County Council;

(ii) To ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to urgently review car parks pricing policy in light of the forthcoming Public Spending Review and the continuing difficulties in the retail economy; and

(iii) To reaffirm the Council's car parks gritting policy.

## **62 – North West Federation of Small Businesses (FSBNW) Small Business Accord**

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that the Council had been invited by FSB NW to sign the Small Business Engagement Accord (SBEA).

The SBEA was a voluntary code of practice for local authorities in the North West which sought to encourage a more productive dialogue with local businesses. The Accord brought together various aspects of consultation best practice already



produced, as well as specific proposals from the FSB designed to improve the level of participation by businesses in local democracy.

The Accord represented a commitment by local authorities to take a proactive approach to engaging with businesses so that they were given the fullest opportunity to participate in the decision making process, and to fully understand the reasons behind the final decisions taken.

The principles of the Accord reflected current practice and even in times of future austerity, the Council should be able to work within the principles on relevant issues.

RESOLVED:- (i) To authorise the Chief Executive to sign the Accord on behalf of the Council; and

(ii) To appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman as the required “business engagement champions”.

### **63 – Land at Marsh Street, Barrow**

The Director of Corporate Services informed the Committee that the Council owned 0.4 acres of ‘unused’ land to the rear of Marsh Street, Barrow-in-Furness.

It had been agreed on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 by this Committee that the land be let to the Marsh Street Arches Project Team to enable the creation of a ‘community garden’

The Marsh Street Arches and Garden Community Interest Group had requested that the term of the lease originally approved by this Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2006 be revised. The revision was required as a result of an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, who had requested a longer lease term and had suggested 85 years as opposed to 25 years.

The Marsh Street Arches and Garden Community Interest Group had also been included in the revised lease document.

RESOLVED:- To approve the revised lease terms for land to the rear of Marsh Street, Barrow-in-Furness on an 85 year lease and include the northern plot of land on the same terms.

### **64 – European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Grant Application for Extension to Waterside House**

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services informed the Committee that an application had been submitted for £1.5m of ERDF to provide additional workspace adjacent to Waterside House. Match funding for the development was to be drawn from an allocation of Working Neighbourhoods Funds (WNF).

On 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 the Council had been informed that the application had been rejected by the North West Development Agency's Projects Review Group. The reasons given for their decision were "... that the proposal does not deliver sufficient activity when compared with other projects submitted into this area of the Programme. Specifically it has been concluded that your proposal cannot be developed to be of sufficient scale to deliver impact; value for money cannot be sufficiently achieved against the outputs provided; market failure has not been sufficiently evidenced and the impact to the sub-region is low."

It had taken 19 months, since the submission of the Expression of Interest on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2009, for the process to reach a conclusion and he had written to the Agency expressing his dissatisfaction at the way the application had been handled.

The loss of ERDF from project funding would prevent the extension from going ahead. Part of the proposal was to construct a new site access from the currently formed bell mouth on Bridge Road to serve Waterside House, which currently had a poor access directly off Bridge Approach, and to service the rest of the undeveloped site. The estimated cost of the work was £300,000 and should be progressed irrespective of the rejection of the ERDF application, as it would overcome a highway safety issue and a constraint to development of the whole site in the future.

Those works would be re-tendered with the costs met entirely from the WNF allocation of £1.5m. A report would be submitted to a future meeting with recommendations on how the residual WNF allocation for Waterside House should be spent.

RESOLVED:- (i) To note the position on the European Regional Development Fund application; and

(ii) To agree to progress provision of a new access from Bridge Road to serve Waterside House.

## **65 – Rural Projects Fund: Dalton Drill Hall**

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services informed the Committee that a request had been received for funding from Dalton Community Association for £25,000 towards the cost of improving access to the entrance area to the building.

The Drill Hall had been leased by Dalton Community Association from Cumbria County Council on a long term repairing lease. The Drill Hall was the only large public venue with associated meeting rooms in Dalton and was used extensively by youth groups, army cadets, religious and other groups. Although the main roof had been replaced in the recent past the interior of the building was in a very poor condition and the current Trustees had developed a long-term plan to bring the building into a more useable condition.

The Trustees had been successful in making grant applications to WREN for £15,000 and the Sir John Fisher Foundation for £7,282 for urgent repairs to a large flat roof on the northern side of the building and these works were currently underway. In addition, funding provided by the County Council, the Hadfield Trust, Dalton with Newton Town Council and Cumbria Community Foundation had been obtained to improve the fabric of the building and particularly the provision of new toilet facilities.

The Community Association were applying for funding to improve the main access from Nelson Street which was currently a rather depressing flush boarded arch with a door into the hall. The proposal was to have wrought iron gates from the street then inset glass doors the full height of the arch to allow natural light into a new reception area. The estimated cost of the works was £25,000 and the Community Association were applying to the Rural Capital Fund for the full cost. The works would be completed by the end of the 2010/11 financial year. He confirmed the costs of the project could be met from the Capital Rural Projects Fund for 2010/11.

RESOLVED:- (i) To agree to allocate from the Rural Capital Fund £25,000 towards the cost of improving the main access to the Dalton Drill Hall; and

(ii) To agree that if funding was not dispersed by the end of the 2010/11 financial year, the grant offer be withdrawn.

## **66 – Askam Youth Café Project**

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services reminded the Committee that at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010 this Committee had agreed to support the project by £25,000 from the Rural Capital Fund to be reviewed in September 2010 if the project had not commenced.

It was estimated that £170,000 would be required to renovate and fit out the station buildings including architects fees, solicitors' fees and equipment. To date £44,300 of funding had been confirmed, including the £25,000 agreed by this Committee in March. In addition to the above, the Railway Heritage Trust had agreed to fund 40% (£68,000) of the refurbishment costs. In effect, the project required £57,700 to go ahead. Grant applications for the required funding had been lodged, but the outcome was currently unknown.

Negotiations to secure a tripartite lease for the building were currently underway.

The Committee was reminded that when it last considered the matter it did not wish to tie up the capital allocation of £25,000 if the project was unlikely to go ahead. Discussions had been held with the Officer leading the project and he considered they were making substantial progress particularly on the leasing arrangements for the building. The project had requested that the offer of £25,000 be extended to the

end of the financial year and in view of the progress made, he had no objection to that provided the money was dispersed by the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED:- (i) To support the Askam Youth Café Project by £25,000 from the Rural Capital Fund; and

(ii) To inform the project that if the money was not dispersed by the end of the 2010/11 financial year that the offer be withdrawn.

## **67 – Responses to Government Consultations on Local Enterprise Partnerships and Regional Growth Fund**

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services informed the Committee that Government had sought responses to two consultation papers on economic development. The first was on creation of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), which were intended to replace the Regional Development Agencies which would cease in April 2012. The second on the way Regional Growth Fund (RGF) would operate. The total of RGF available was £2bn over a two year period commencing in April 2011. The deadline for response to the consultation papers had been 6<sup>th</sup> September and in order to meet the deadline both submissions had been agreed with the Leader of the Council.

It had been clear from the outset of the LEP consultation that government preference was to create LEPs on the basis of at least sub-regional geography. The Council had collaborated in a joint bid to form a LEP covering Cumbria. That had been agreed by the Cumbria Leaders Board on behalf of the districts and County Council. A copy of the submission was available on the Council's website and a copy was also available in the Members Room.

Government had suggested that a proportion of the RGF allocations should be determined by formula and a proportion through competition. There had been a suggestion that allocations could be made direct to LEPs. Unlike the LEP submission, the Council, having considered several draft responses had not agreed to sign the Countywide submission and instead had submitted a response which was considered by the Committee. He reported that it was inappropriate for the Council to collaborate in the Cumbria submission for the following main reasons:-

In view of the substantially diminished resources - around 25% of that previously available - the formulaic distribution of RGF should target those communities in greatest need, the Cumbria submission did not reflect that rather seeking to include rural deprivation as an equal priority.

The Cumbria submission did not meet the objectives of RGF which sought to ameliorate the impact of loss of public sector employment in those communities most reliant on it. A recent report by Experian assessing the impact of public spending cuts supported the Council's view that the main effects in Cumbria would

be felt in Barrow and other urban areas of the County. 324 districts had been assessed in the report and the overall vulnerability to cuts was as follows (1 was the least vulnerable): Eden 48; South Lakeland 78; Allerdale 213; Copeland 257; Carlisle 233; and Barrow 318.

RESOLVED:- (i) To endorse the submissions made in response to the consultation papers on Local Enterprise Partnerships and Regional Growth Fund; and

(ii) To ask the Chief Executive to write the North West Development Agency thanking them for the support they had given to Barrow-in-Furness.

## 68 – Shoreline Management Plan (SMP 2)

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services reminded the Committee that as part of the North West England and North Wales Coastal Group, Barrow had taken part in the review process working with the other maritime authorities in Cell 11 and the Environment Agency. Blackpool had acted as the lead authority to secure grant funding from Defra, administered through the Environment Agency and the review had been carried out by Halcrow Group consultants.

The draft SMP2 had been published for public consultation from October 2009 to February 2010 with comments in some areas being allowed until March 2010. The draft SMP2 had been available at Council buildings and online at [www.mycoastline.org](http://www.mycoastline.org), stakeholders and elected members were contacted directly and press releases had been issued to the local press. There had also been local public meetings held to discuss the draft plan with elected members, stakeholders and the public. The draft SMP had been considered by this Committee at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.

All comments received had been reviewed by the project team to assess whether changes needed to be made to the draft plan. A consultation report had been compiled by the consultant detailing the comments received and any changes made.

The SMP2 had also undergone a Habitats Regulations assessment to assess possible impacts on the European designated habitats along the coastline, including the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary sites on the Borough's coastline.

The policies for Barrows coastline were summarised below:-

Location	Epoch		
	0-20 years	20-50 years	50-100 years
<b>Mainland</b>			
Newbiggin to Rampside	Hold the Line (HTL)	Managed Realignment (MR)**	HTL
Rampside	No Active Intervention (NAI)	HTL	HTL
Roa Island	HTL	HTL	HTL

Piel Island	NAI	NAI	NAI
Rampside to Westfield Points	NAI	NAI	NAI
Westfield Point to Hindpool	HTL	HTL	HTL
Hindpool to Lowsy Point	NAI	NAI	NAI
Lowsy Point to Askam Pier	NAI	NAI	NAI
Askam	HTL	HTL	HTL
Askam to Dunnerholme	NAI	NAI	NAI
Dunnerholme to Sandside	HTL	HTL	HTL
<b>Walney Island</b>			
South End Haws to Biggar (east side)	NAI	NAI	NAI
Biggar to Lenny Hill (east side)	HTL	HTL	HTL
South End Haws to Hare Hill (open coast)	NAI	NAI	NAI
Hare Hill to Hillock Whins	HTL	HTL	HTL
Hillock Whins to Nanny Point Scar	NAI	MR	MR
Nanny Point Scar to Mill Scar	NAI	NAI	NAI
Mill Scar to north of West Shore Park	MR	MR	MR
North Walney – north of West Shore Park to Lenny Hill (both coasts)	NAI	NAI	NAI

More detailed information on the policies, their justification and predicted implications had been included in SMP2 and a copy had been placed in the Members Room. Included with the policy statements were action plans, which set out a series of actions recommended for each length of coast that need to be undertaken to achieve the policies; such as preparation of coastal management strategies and further studies. Delivery of the SMP2 Action Plan formed part of the National Indicator NI189 score for the Council.

**RESOLVED:-** To agree to adopt the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) policies, recommendations and the SMP2 Action Plan as tools to guide future sustainable development and flood and coastal erosion risk management over the long term.

## **69 – Housing Market Renewal Programme – North Central Renewal Area - 123 Marsh Street**

The Chief Executive reminded the Committee that the Council had previously approved the disposal of 123 Marsh Street to Accent Foundation for conversion to social rented housing. The property was surplus to requirements for the implementation of the North Central Renewal Area programme.

Accent were ready to proceed, subject to approval from their board and the Council. The refurbishment was only viable for Accent if the property was purchased for no more than £34,000.

The disposal at below open market value would allow Accent to make an additional investment of £60,000 in the refurbishment of the property. The project was not financially viable based on acquisition at market value.

RESOLVED:- To approve the sale of 123 Marsh Street to Accent Foundation for the sum of £34,000.

## **70 – Proposed Revocation of Section 52 Agreement**

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that in 1990 the Council had facilitated the transfer of Manhattan's Night Club operating from Cavendish Street to the Old Public Hall, which was in the Council's ownership. To prevent a proliferation of night clubs the Council had secured an agreement with the proprietor, under Section 52 of the 1971 Planning Act to prevent the former Manhattan's being re-opened as a nightclub.

The Old Public Hall had subsequently been demolished and a request had been received to rescind the Section 52 Agreement and as compensation had been offered subject to planning approval to permanently alter the entrance to the premises to No. 55 Cavendish Street (formerly Alison's Deli, adjacent to the Theatre Bar); and to contribute £10,000 towards Neighbourhood Management in the Town Centre area.

He considered it important the town maintained a vibrant night life to attract and retain young people and the new venture would compensate for the loss of employment caused by the sale of the Selandia.

Moving the entrance as proposed would improve access and dispersal of customers and remove a vacant retail unit on Cavendish Street.

RESOLVED:- To agree to rescind the Section 52 Agreement, subject to the permanent relocation of the entrance to 55 Cavendish Street and payment of £10,000 to support Neighbourhood Management in the Town Centre.

## **71 – Ship Inn Phase IV**

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services reminded the Committee that in April 2009 two external funding sources had been investigated to continue with works to the Ship Inn, Piel Island. A successful application had been made for up to £280,000 of Sea Change funding administered by CABE (the government's advisor on architecture, urban design and public space).

On 19<sup>th</sup> July 2010 the second funding contract, Visitor Attraction Funding (VAF) (£160,000 via North West Development Agency (NWDA) had been withdrawn, due to the NWDA requirement to make significant savings from their budgets in 2010/11.

To carry out this particular phase the Council had recently competitively appointed an Architect. These proposals take into account the current planning permission/Listed Building Consent for the existing structure, as identified in the Architectural Evaluation prepared by Greenlane Archaeology Ltd in 2007.

Completion of the refurbishment and repair works to The Ship Inn, Piel Island included completion of the partitions and ceilings and associated builders work, installation of heating, lighting, plumbing and other M & E services to the accommodation areas of the Ship Inn. Part 1<sup>st</sup> fix, 2<sup>nd</sup> fix and fit out of fixtures, fittings and finishes to first floor guest bedrooms, en suite, shower rooms, and tenant accommodation.

Four tenders for the Ship Inn Phase IV had been received and cost breakdowns from the two lowest tenderers were requested.

Due to the uncertainties regarding the overall funding, both tenderers were requested to confirm revised tender figures on the basis that the mechanical and plumbing elements became contractor design elements.

The financial implications of the withdrawal of NWDA VAF from that phase of the restoration works was that the Council would have to meet the sea change 50% match funding requirement. The funding for that phase of the project would be approximately £65,000 from Sea Change and £65,000 from the Council Capital Contingency Fund.

The funding may also provide the opportunity for the Council to develop and market a walking and cycle tour of the Borough that could link popular/historic locations. It was anticipated that such a scheme would increase the leisure opportunities within the Borough.

In preparation for any form of additional funding becoming available in the future, a further Listed Building Consent application had also been submitted. These additional proposals were to enable bedrooms to have en-suite facilities, improve fire safety and improve the circulation within the tenants' accommodation.



Consequently, it was proposed to form new openings in three places in the internal stone walls, install a new staircase through a recently fitted floor, and change part of the existing accommodation/means of escape staircase to enable fire separation from the kitchen door.

Further to a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 with the NW Monitor for the Sea Change funding a clear decision was still awaited on the implications for the remaining Sea Change funding.

RESOLVED:- (i) To agree to appoint Leck Construction Ltd to carry out the completion and refurbishment of The Ship Inn, Piel Island; and

(ii) To agree to allocate £65,000 from the Capital Programme Investment/Contingency Fund and amend the Capital Programme accordingly.

## **72 – Relocation Expenses**

The Chief Executive reported upon the unclaimed relocation expenses by postholder CSD 010.

RESOLVED:- To agree to approve retrospective payment of relocation and legal expenses totalling £4,568.31 to postholder CSD 010.

### **REFERRED ITEMS**

#### **THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION**

## **73 – Audit Commission/Scrutiny Committee Remit**

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that on 1<sup>st</sup> September a training seminar had been organised for members of the Audit Committee. The training had been delivered by an external consultant with wide experience and knowledge of good practice in other authorities. It had been suggested that other authorities report issues relating to risk management and performance management to their Audit Committees. In Barrow the practice had been to report these items to the Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

If risk and performance management matters were to be reported to the Audit Committee, the workload of the Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be reduced and the need for two scrutiny committees would no longer be justifiable. It would be more effective to have one Scrutiny Committee and an Audit Committee. That would also generate efficiency savings which would be essential following the Public Spending Review.

It was recommended that from the new Municipal year one Overview and Scrutiny Committee be appointed. In the meantime it was recommended that Corporate

Services and Regeneration and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committees meet jointly and have a shared Chairman and agenda.

RECOMMENDED:- To recommend the Council:-

- (i) To adopt the good practice in reporting risk and performance management matters to the Audit Committee;
- (ii) To agree that the number of Scrutiny Committees be reduced from two to one with effect from the new Municipal Year in May 2011;
- (iii) To agree that Corporate Services and Regeneration and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committees meet jointly and have a shared Chairman and agenda; and
- (iv) To agree that the joint meetings be held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2010, 11<sup>th</sup> January, 9<sup>th</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2011.

#### **74 – Housing Market Renewal Programme – North Central Renewal Area Demolition**

The Chief Executive reminded the Committee that the Council had declared North Central to be a 'Renewal Area' within the meaning of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as amended by the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002.

The Renewal Area programme had included the acquisition and demolition of 126 properties on Arthur Street and Sutherland Street (odd numbers). Acquisition was currently being completed through a combination of negotiated acquisition by private treaty and use of the Compulsory Purchase Order approved by Council and subsequently confirmed by the Secretary of State.

At the time of writing, 111 properties were owned by the Council, with a further four anticipated to be acquired by the date of the Committee meeting. It was expected that the remainder of the properties to be demolished would be taken into the Council's ownership by the end of October 2010.

The Committee had previously approved the partial demolition of Sutherland Street (odd numbers 1-81) insofar as that was practicable and work had now started on site.

It was desirable for the effective management of the area that arrangements were made to allow the remainder of the properties subject to the CPO to be demolished as quickly as possible.

The Committee had previously received a report on the planned Group Repair scheme on the opposite side of Sutherland Street. The report noted the appointment of Arcus Consulting to carry out project surveying, design, tendering and management services for the Group Repair scheme. Arcus had been appointed through an openly advertised competitive tendering exercise, at a rate based on a percentage of works value. That arrangement was subsequently extended to the Group Repair Scheme on Marsh Street and the partial demolition of Sutherland Street (odd numbers).

Arcus had agreed to offer the same rate to manage the proposed demolition work. He believed that this offered good value to the Council, and that any potential savings that may arise from re-tendering were minimal at best, and would be outweighed by the time taken in re-tendering. He was very satisfied with the performance of Arcus and he recommended that Standing Orders be suspended and appoint Arcus Consulting on their existing contract.

Expressions of interest to tender for the demolition of properties on Sutherland Street had been invited by open advertisement, and all companies who had expressed an interest were invited to tender.

**RECOMMENDED:-**To recommend the Council:-

- (i) To authorise the Chief Executive to make all necessary arrangements for the demolition of all properties in the area covered by the North Central Barrow Compulsory Purchase Order;
- (ii) To agree that Standing Orders be suspended and appoint Arcus Consulting as project managers for the work;
- (iii) To approve the proposed tender list for the demolition work; and
- (iv) To authorise the Chief Executive to award the contract to the lowest tender after consultation with the Chairman of the Executive Committee, in accordance with Contract Standing Orders.

## **75 – The Barrow Port Health Authority Order 1977**

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services informed the Committee that Port Health Authorities had been constituted by Orders made by the Secretary of State for Health setting out the geographic limit of port health districts, how the port health districts were to operate and what functions were assigned to them.

Barrow Port Health Authority had been constituted by such an Order which had come into operation on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1977.

The Department of Health had recently undertaken a review of Port Health Authority Orders throughout the Country and had identified the Barrow Port Health Authority Order 1977 as being amongst a number which were out of date and need updating in line with powers vested in the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 and Health and Social Care Act 2008 and new regulations made under the Act of 2008 which had come into effect in April 2010.

The legislation gave public authorities modernised powers and duties to prevent and control risks to human health from infection or contamination, including by chemicals and radiation. Some powers, relating to specific circumstances, could be exercised directly by local authorities. In other circumstances, local authorities could apply to a justice of the peace for orders to improve restrictions or requirements to protect human health.

The Department of Health had recommended that the Council replace the existing Order of 1977 with a new Order in draft form submitted to the Department of Health to be accompanied by a signed statement from the Borough Solicitor (or equivalent) certifying their satisfaction that the draft Order was both legally correct and operationally sound.

**RECOMMENDED:-** To recommend the Council:-

- (i) To rescind the Barrow Port Health Authority Order 1977 and replace it with a new Order as prescribed by the Department of Health; and
- (ii) To authorise the Director of Corporate Services to prepare a draft Barrow Port Health Authority Order in the form prescribed and submit it to the Secretary of State for Health along with a signed statement certifying his satisfaction that the draft Order was both legally correct and operationally sound.

## **76 – The Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 2010**

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services informed the Committee that in April 2009 the Communities and Local Government Department had consulted on a package of proposals to change the Local Authority Building Control Charging Regime with the aim of introducing more flexibility, accuracy, fairness and transparency, and improving the environment within which Local Authorities compete. The proposals also aimed to support the introduction of a risk assessment approach to inspections of building work.

The Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 2010 had revoked and replace The Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 1998 and came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. They provided Local Authorities with the option to implement the new charges scheme by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010. In addition, they make a new provision authorising Local Authorities in England and Wales to fix their own charge in a

scheme (bases on full recovery of their costs) for carrying out their main building control functions relating to building regulations.

The key principles relating to Local Authority Building Control charges remained the same as the old scheme and provided for full cost recovery and the fact that the user should pay for the actual service that they receive. A greater emphasis had been given to the need to relate charges to the cost of carrying out the building regulation chargeable functions for individual building projects. The proposed fees and charges were considered by the Committee.

The main changes in the 2010 Regulations related to new flexibilities, in particular: the ability for Local Authorities to charge for giving substantive advice related to their building control functions; an increased range of factors to be taken into account in setting either standard charges or making individual determinations of charges; being able to give refunds and make supplementary charges. These were intended to make the regime more transparent and accountable.

Local Authorities would need to estimate the demand for the building regulation chargeable service and it was envisaged that the process of calculating accurate costs, productive hourly rate(s) and individual charges of the building regulations chargeable service, would be built up over time, when a relationship could be established between chargeable productive hours and costs.

As that information became available it was expected that the charges scheme would need to be monitored, reviewed and altered to ensure the overriding principle of cost recovery was maintained.

Local Authorities need to continue to make every effort to keep their costs at a minimum to ensure that charges remained affordable and competitive and do not encourage people to circumvent the building regulations.

**RECOMMENDED:-** To recommend the Council:-

- (i) To agree to adopt the Local Authority Building Control fees and charges to come into effect from 13th October 2010; and
- (ii) To agree that the Principal Building Control Surveyor in consultation with the Borough Treasurer be delegated to review and revise the scheme of fees and charges periodically to ensure that the overriding principle of cost recovery was maintained.

## **77 – Housing Department: Income and Debt Recovery Section**

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services informed the Committee that postholder OHS 460 had been absent due to illness. The postholder would now not be returning to this role and would leave the Council on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2010.

The long-term absence had resulted in the team working with less supervision than would be normally the case, and each postholder taking on additional duties including presenting cases at Court for possessions.

In recognition of the additional duties taken on by the remaining Officers, he suggested the posts be amended to Scale 2/5 from Scale 2/4 from 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2010.

In agreeing these changes, they would be subject to the job evaluation process.

RESOMMENDED:- To recommend the Council:-

- (i) To agree that the Senior Tenancy Services Officer (Income and Debt Recovery) Post No. OHS 460 be deleted from the establishment with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2010; and
- (ii) To agree that recognition of the increase in responsibilities on other team members, Post Nos. OHS 290, OHS 470, OHS 475 and OHS 264 be regraded from Scale 2/4 to Scale 2/5 from 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2010.

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.

# BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS

## GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Meeting, 27th September, 2010  
at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Barlow (Chairman), Dawes, McEwan, Marcus, Murphy, Stephenson, Sweeney and Williams.

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

RESOLVED:- That by reason of the special circumstances outlined below the Chairman is of the opinion that the following items of business not specified on the agenda should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Late applications for NDR Relief from Village House Day Nursery and First Duddon Scouts (Minute No. 13)	To enable the applications to be considered as no further meeting had been arranged.
NDR Relief for Club Mark Status (Minute No.12)	To enable the applications to be considered as no further meeting had been arranged.

### **8 – 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. 14) of Part One of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

### **9 – Disclosures of Interest**

Councillor Barlow declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item No. 7 – Award of NDR Relief for the Year 2010/2011 (Minute No. 13) and informed the Committee that if these specific items were discussed individually he would leave the meeting. He was the Treasurer of the Barrow and District Disability Association, the

Treasurer of the North Scale Residents Association and the Director of the Pit Stop Project. Since none of these items were discussed as individual items, Councillor Barlow remained in the meeting.

Councillor Dawes declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No. 7 – Award of NDR Relief for the Year 2010/11 (Minute No. 13) as she was a member of the Roa Island Boat Club.

Councillor Marcus declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No. 7 – Award of NDR Relief for the Year 2010/11 (Minute No. 13) as he was a Director of Barracudas.

Councillor Sweeney declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No. 7 – Award of NDR Relief for the Year 2010/11 (Minute No. 13) as he was a member of the North Scale Residents Association. He also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the same agenda item as he knew the Director of Demon Productions CIC.

## **10 – Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th July, 2010 were taken as read and confirmed.

## **11 – Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hamezeian.

Councillor McEwan had replaced Councillor Hamezeian for this meeting only.

## **12 – NDR Relief for Club Mark Status**

The Borough Treasurer submitted an urgent item as a request had been made by Barrow Sports Council to grant a 100% relief to clubs with club mark status. Due to lack of information officers had not been able to determine the cost of this request. However, he suggested that Members may wish to consider the principle involved, keeping in mind the effects on other organisations and the potential reductions in the revenue budgets. Club Mark was introduced by Sport England to ensure good practice amongst clubs. The key aim was to give parents some assurances when choosing a club for their children. Obtaining club mark involved the considerable amount of effort for volunteers. Barrow Sports Council (of which Barrow Borough Council was a member) had been considering incentives for clubs to work towards club mark. The Sports Council currently offered an automatic 50% off sports related training courses organised through Furness College Sports Club and invited applications for the other 50%. Since this offer was introduced last year, Barrow Sports Council had topped these grants up to 100%.

In addition they had also offered support to the clubs including helping them to register as a CASC if appropriate. To date 14 clubs had achieved club mark status, namely:-



Barrow Amateur Swimming Club;  
Barrow Basketball Club;  
Barrow Cricket Club;  
Barrow and District Table Tennis Club;  
Barrow Golf Club;  
Barrow Island Rugby League Club;  
Barrow and District Orienteering Club;  
Dalton Cricket Club;  
Dalton Squash Club;  
Duddon Canoe Club;  
Furness Cricket Club;  
Furness Golf Club;  
Lindal Cricket Club; and  
Poitive Junior Badminton Club.

Two football clubs had also achieved Charter standard namely:-

Dalton United; and  
Crooklands Casuals F.C.

It was moved by Councillor Barlow and seconded by Councillor Marcus that automatic relief not be given and that all applications come to the Grants Sub-Committee first due to the uncertain economic climate. It should also be ensured that Barrow Sports Council provide support to help clubs achieve CASC status and to ensure that they are claiming relief that they are entitled to from other bodies.

RESOLVED:- (i) That automatic 100% relief is not given to Club Mark Status Clubs and that all applications come to the Grants Sub-Committee for decision; and

(ii) That support be given by Barrow Sports Council to help Clubs achieve CASC status and to ensure that they are claiming all relief they are entitled to from other bodies.

### **13 – Award of NDR Relief for the Year 2010-2011**

The Borough Treasurer reported that the budget for the award of non-domestic rates for charitable and non-profit making organisations was £80,000 for 2010/2011. Applications totalling £182,133.15 had been received. If all applications were approved the cost to the Council was £84,099.78. Applications were attached as appendices to the Borough Treasurers report.

In arriving at a decision Members were referred to the following approved Terms of Reference which were intended to give guidance to Members, however, it should be noted that the award of grants was at the discretion of the Sub-Committee within the limit of the available approved budget for the financial year:-

1. Only local organisations should be considered for discretionary relief.
2. The percentage of the discretionary relief awarded should reflect the levels of bank balances and other resources available to the organisation.
3. The percentage of the discretionary relief awarded should reflect the levels of bar taking generated by the organisation.

The applications for the NDR Relief were as follows:-

Appendix 2 listed applications from charitable organisations. The total amount applied for was £55,503.11 of which £41,627.44 (75%) would be covered by the Revenue Budget.

Appendix 3 listed applications from non-profit making organisations. The total amount was £90,214.97 of which £22,553.76 (25%) would be covered by the Revenue Budget.

Appendix 4 listed applications from sports clubs. The total applied for was £20,106.95 of which £15,080.21 (75%) would be met by the Revenue Budget.

Appendix 5 listed applications from village organisations. The total amounted to £1,806.66 of which £762.17 would be met by the Revenue Budget.

Appendix 6 listed backdated applications. They amounted to £5,434.25 of which £1,809.39 would be covered by the Revenue Budget.

Appendix 7 listed applications from non-profit making organisations with a rateable value of under £6,000 (under new regulations). The total amount under new regulations was £3,304.42 of which £826.11 would be paid by the Revenue Budget.

Appendix 8 listed applications for non-profit making organisations with a rateable value of over £6,000 (under new regulations). The total amount under new regulations was £5,762.48 of which £1,440.70 would be paid by the Revenue Budget.

Following discussions the Sub-Committee,

RESOLVED:- (i) Only award discretionary relief to local organisations for all 7 appendices;

(ii) Award discretionary relief to the Alzheimer's Society only from the national applications; and

(iii) Reduce discretionary relief for the community amateur sports club listed in Appendix 4 from 20% to 10% for all applications with a bar turnover of over £30,000.

## **14 – Consideration of NDR Hardship Relief Applications**

The Borough Treasurer reported that the Section 151 Officer had delegated authority to consider and decide upon whether to award NDR hardship relief. However, he felt that it would be appropriate to seek members views on the applications received. Under Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1988 the Council has the power to award full or partial relief from business rates. The cost of the relief was 75% funded by the Government and 25% by the local Council Tax payers. Therefore the decision to award the relief must be for the benefit of local community and must show that not awarding the relief would have a negative impact upon the local economy or services provided in the area.

The Borough Treasurer reported on two applications received for the NDR Hardship Relief, one of which had been withdrawn following the distribution of the agenda. The Borough Treasurer requested Members to consider whether to grant any relief to the remaining application.

**RESOLVED:-** That the request for NDR Hardship Relief be refused as the Sub-Committee felt that the business in question was not an essential service to the community.

## **15 – Future Meetings**

Councillor Sweeney moved that a further meeting of the Sub-Committee be held in February 2011 to consider further applications which may have been received following the last meeting. This was duly seconded by Councillor McEwan.

**RESOLVED:-** That a further meeting of the Grants Sub-Committee be held in February 2011.

The meeting closed at 10.45 a.m.

		<b>Part One</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>		<b>(D) Agenda Item 8</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>20th October, 2010</b>	
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	<b>Borough Treasurer</b>	
<p><b>Title: Increase in VAT</b></p> <p><b>Summary and Conclusions:</b></p> <p>In the recent budget the Government announced an increase in VAT of 2.5% effective from January 2011. In view of the large increase and the expected reductions in central grant, it is prudent to pass on the increase to the Council's fees and charges that are subject to VAT.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>To approve an increase in prices from January 2011 in order to cater for the 2.5% increase in VAT.</p>		

### **Report**

The expected increase in VAT by 2.5% from January 2011 will have an impact on the Council's finances if no matching increase in fees and charges is introduced. The Council would lose approximately £84,000 per annum if there is no increase in prices.

The main services that would be affected by the proposed increase include:-

- Car parking (the price increase will be higher than the 2.5%. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be reviewing Car parking prices and would take into account the 2.5% increase in VAT).
- Leisure centre
- Property rents
- Cemeteries
- Planning and Building Control services
- Pest control
- Other fees, charges and sales.

The proposed increase will be calculated to introduce a practicable figure that can be easily implemented on the various systems. This means that some of the increases will not be an exact 2.5%.

(i) **Legal Implications**

The additional VAT must be paid to HMRC.

(ii) Financial Implications

Non implementation would cost the Council in the region of £84,000 per annum.

(iii) Health and Safety Implications

Not Applicable.

(iv) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims

Not Applicable.

(v) Risk Assessment

Not Applicable.

(vi) Equality and Diversity

Not Applicable.

(vii) Health and Well-being Implications

Not Applicable.

Background Papers

Nil.

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>(D) Agenda Item 9</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: 20th October, 2010</b>	
<b>Reporting Officer: Borough Treasurer</b>	
<p><b>Title: Capital Programme Monitoring Report to 30th September, 2010</b></p> <p><b>Summary and Conclusions:</b></p> <p>This report updates members on the progress and variations to the current programme to the end of September 2010.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>To note the information and approve the variations to the current programme.</p>	

## Report

### **Capital Programme 2010/2013 Monitoring Report**

The half year position of the Capital Programme for 2010/2013 is summarised below (see **Appendix 1** for details of expenditure by project).

<b>Capital Programme</b>	<b>2010/2011 Budget</b>	<b>2010/2011 Half Year Expenditure</b>
As at 30/06/2010	£14,624,187	
As at 30/09/2010	£13,046,530	£3,690,040
Alterations	£1,577,657	

The three year Capital Programme 2009/2010 to 2011/2012 is summarised below (see **Appendix 2** for details by project).

<b>Capital Programme</b>	<b>2010/2011 Budget</b>	<b>2011/2012 Budget</b>	<b>2012/2013 Budget</b>
As at 30/06/2010	£14,624,187	£10,882,533	£6,619,297
As at 30/09/2010	£13,046,530	£9,064,491	£6,508,144
Difference	£1,577,657	£1,818,042	£111,153

	<b>2010/2011 Budget</b>	<b>2011/2012 Budget</b>	<b>2012/2013 Budget</b>
Total Programme	£13,046,530	£9,064,491	£6,508,144
<b>Funded by:</b>			
Borrowing	£2,000,000	£2,000,000	£2,000,000
Grants	£7,582,486	£4,179,758	£2,164,500
Major Repairs Reserve	£1,933,543	£1,967,901	£2,012,644
Earmarked Reserves	£110,449	£0	£0
Usable Capital Receipts	£1,420,052	£916,832	£331,000

Major (over £10,000) alterations to the programme compared to previously reported programme on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 are as follows:

Reflecting the priority attached to the continuing development of the Marina Village proposals I am recommending that the residual Area Based Grant allocated to the Waterside House extension £1,243,455 and to Ramsden Business Park £2,000,000 is allocated to this project.

### **Current financial year 2010/2011**

- 1) Housing Market Renewal budget transfers as follows:
  - North Central Renewal Acquisitions £63,250
  - Central Relocation Grants £19,750
  - Central Refurbishment Property Swaps £22,000
  - Group Repair Sutherland Street (£60,000)
  - Group Repair Marsh Street £35,000
  - Central Buccleuch Court Environmental Improvements (£20,000)
  - Hindpool Urban Park (£15,000)
  - Hindpool Environmental Improvements Pocket Parks (£45,000)
  
- 2) Revised funding
  - Ramsden Business Park Barrow Regeneration funding (£210,000)
  - Marina Village NWDA funding (£1,200,000)
  - Town Centre Phase II (The Ginnell) Cumbria County Council funding (£35,000)
  - Projected receipts from sale of council houses (£27,000)
  - North Central Renewal – Acquisitions Sub Area D West Lakes Renaissance funding (£24,794)
  - Central Buccleuch Court Environmental Improvements Barrow Regeneration funding £20,000
  - Marine Village Demolitions £99,000 from Woodbridge Haven revenue income
  - Refuse & Recycling Containers balance to Opportunities Fund (£31,216)

- Grants Barrow AFC & Barrow RLFC funding from Opportunities fund £100,000
- 3) Public Buildings Contingency Fund
    - Roof Top Car Park structural survey £11,650
    - Craven House Lifts additional costs £11,380
    - Craven House Air Source Heating £55,000
    -
  - 4) Area Based Grant
    - £528,455 transferred from Site Adjacent Waterside House Site to Marina Village
  - 5) Investment & Contingency Fund
    - Central Miscellaneous Acquisitions purchase of land behind Lawson Street £15,500
    - Rural Regeneration Piel Island £65,000 - Executive Committee 22/09/2010
    - Furness House Landscaping additional project costs £97,550. Additional works including benches & foundations, requested by CCC due to removal of railings, tarmac in construction, trial holes for services, prelims due to extension of time, paving areas, lighting to tree pits and recessed covers and frames
    - Town Centre Phase II (the Ginnell) £83,000. Additional project costs £48,000 including ducting, tanking to Forum 28, blockwork wall to stairwell, additional paving areas, prelims due to extension of time, recessed covers and frames, additional lighting and wiring, fire escape works to facilitate removal of loading bay steps, trial holes and concrete bases for railings to loading bay. Cumbria County Council funding reduced by £35,000.
  - 6) Retention Fund
    - Leisure Centre Refurbishment £19,116
  - 7) Budget re-profiled from 2010/2011 to 2011/2012
    - North Central Renewal Demolition £251,968
    - Group Repair Sutherland Street £18,500
    - 104 Abbey Road £24,135

### **Capital Programme 2011/2013**

- 1) Revised funding
  - Marina Village NWDA funding 2011/2012 (£2,000,000)
  - Projected receipts from sale of council houses 2011/2012 (£54,000) and 2012/2013 (£54,000)
  - Capitalised Planned Maintenance MRA 2011/2012 (£40,357) and 2012/2013 (£48,271)



2) Area Based Grant

- 2011/2012 £1,622,000 and 2012/2013 £378,000 transferred from Ramsden Business Park to Marina Village
- 2011/2012 £680,000 and 2012/2013 £35,000 transferred from Site Adjacent Waterside House to Marina Village

3) Budget re-profiled

- 104 Abbey Road £25,750 from 2011/2012 to 2012/2013

(i) Legal Implications

Not Applicable.

(ii) Financial Implications

As detailed in the report.

(iii) Health and Safety Implications

Not Applicable.

(iv) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims

Not Applicable.

(v) Risk Assessment

Not Applicable.

(vi) Equality and Diversity:

Not Applicable.

(vii) Health and Well-being Implications

Not Applicable.

Background Papers

Nil.

**Barrow Borough Council  
Capital Programme 2010/2013**

Appendix 2

	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>
Capitalised planned maintenance	1,933,543	1,967,901	2,012,644
<b>Total Investment in public housing</b>	<b>1,933,543</b>	<b>1,967,901</b>	<b>2,012,644</b>
Disabled facilities grants	1,075,557	1,012,000	1,012,000
Minor repair grants	39,749	28,125	28,125
Thermal Improvement Grants	90,860	75,000	75,000
Stay put agency	53,762	53,762	53,762
Private Sector Housing Condition Survey	52,500	7,500	0
<b>Total Investment in private housing</b>	<b>1,312,428</b>	<b>1,176,387</b>	<b>1,168,887</b>
North Central Renewal - Acquisitions Sub Area D	1,309,509	0	0
Central - Relocation Grants	50,000	0	0
Central Misc Acquisitions	66,060	0	0
Central Refurbishment Property Swaps	34,768	0	0
Central - 188 Marsh Street	50,311	0	0
North Central Renewal - Demolition	175,000	251,968	0
Greengate Street Garages - Site Preparation	338	0	0
Group Repair - Sutherland Street	635,034	18,500	0
Group Repair - Marsh Street	326,500	8,500	0
Group Repair - Central Area E	0	750,000	500,000
Central Area A Environmental Improvements	0	300,000	0
Central Buccleuch Court Environmental Improvements	50,000	0	0
Hindpool Urban Park Phase 1 & 2	12,213	0	0
Hindpool Environmental Improvements - Gateway	938	0	0
Hindpool Environmental Improvements - Pocket Parks	18,413	0	0
Hindpool Environmental Improvements - Key Streets	8,988	0	0
<b>Investment in Housing Market Renewal</b>	<b>2,738,072</b>	<b>1,328,968</b>	<b>500,000</b>
<b>Housing Capital Grant - to be allocated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73,113</b>
<b>Total Investment in housing</b>	<b>5,984,043</b>	<b>4,473,256</b>	<b>3,754,644</b>
Cemetery	75,232	292,000	0
Crematorium	210,975	0	0
Dock Museum	129,746	29,500	124,500
Forum 28	171,284	0	0
Leisure Centre	403,559	15,000	0
Market Hall	188,885	0	0
Public Conveniences	98,750	50,000	0
Roof Top Car Park	25,650	0	0
Town Hall	287,669	200,000	200,000
Public Buildings Alternative Energy Sources	784	0	0
Craven House	98,348	0	0
Burlington House	0	0	400,000
Public Buildings Contingency Fund	186,269	23,000	685,000
<b>Total Investment in Public Buildings</b>	<b>1,877,151</b>	<b>609,500</b>	<b>1,409,500</b>
Askam Community Centre	65,386	0	0
Emlyn Street Improvements	8,000	0	0
Play Areas	324,692	100,000	100,000
Barrow Park	109,905	0	0
Play Projects Biggar Bank & Abbotswood	85,581	0	0
Barrow Park Skate Park	10,667	0	0
Playing Fields	72,772	25,000	25,000
James Freel Close Business Units	18,981	0	0
Advance Workspace Units - Site Adjacent Waterside House	350,000	0	0
Holker Street Car Park	5,927	0	0
Ambassador House	20,000	0	0
Salthouse Road Depot	19,000	0	0
Town Centre Shop Front Grants	42,000	100,000	50,000
237-241 Dalton Road Millennium House	12,532	0	0
104 Abbey Road (Cooles Building)	898,090	196,608	25,750
102 Abbey Road	1,613	0	0
Link Road	314,939	0	0
Abbey Road Streescapes	1,450	0	0
Town Centre Public Realm Phase II (The Ginnell)	202,526	3,900	0
Furness House Landscaping	108,131	6,450	0

**Barrow Borough Council  
Capital Programme 2010/2013**

Appendix 2

	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>
Coronation Gardens	1,065	0	0
The Mall	288,557	5,300	0
Town Centre Public Realm Phase III (Portland Walk Dalton Road Link)	15,000	0	0
Town Centre Public Realm Phase III (Schneider Square)	9,840	0	0
Marina Village	650,949	2,302,000	413,000
Street Furniture	20,000	10,000	10,000
Footpath Lighting	42,500	30,000	30,000
Amenity Tree Planting	37,299	22,000	22,000
IT Equipment & Development	160,596	125,000	100,000
Refuse and Recycling Containers	110,773	40,000	40,000
<b>Total Investment in other public assets</b>	<b>4,008,771</b>	<b>2,966,258</b>	<b>815,750</b>
Cycleways	10,000	0	0
Rural Regeneration	117,863	100,000	100,000
Rural Regeneration - Piel Island	368,479	0	0
Grant Barrow AFC & Barrow RLFC	100,000	0	0
<b>Total Investment in Community Initiatives</b>	<b>596,342</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>Retentions</b>	<b>4,974</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>Investment / Contingency Fund</b>	<b>575,249</b>	<b>890,477</b>	<b>403,250</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,046,530</b>	<b>9,064,491</b>	<b>6,508,144</b>
<b>Funding of Capital Programme</b>			
Housing Capital Grant - Private Sector Housing	795,428	777,387	769,887
Housing Capital Grant - Housing Market Renewal	1,906,545	811,500	500,000
Housing Capital Grant - to be Allocated	0	0	73,113
Borrowing Requirement Non Housing	2,825,947	2,000,000	2,000,000
WLR Housing Market Renewal	217,527	0	0
DCLG Grant	797,000	399,000	399,000
Area Based Grant - Working Neighbourhood Fund	1,048,931	2,352,208	413,000
NWDA	297,511	0	0
UDF Barrow Regeneration	198,664	0	0
Communities for Health	21,190	0	0
Lottery	475,711	76,050	0
Community Asset Fund	360,411	0	0
Dept of Energy & Climate Change	39,921	0	0
Cumbria County Council	137,281	0	0
Private Contributions	115,532	9,500	9,500
HRA MRR	1,933,543	1,967,901	2,012,644
Contributions from Opportunities Reserve	110,449	0	0
Contributions from Revenue	99,000	0	0
Usable Capital Receipts	1,665,939	670,945	331,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,046,530</b>	<b>9,064,491</b>	<b>6,508,144</b>

**Barrow Borough Council Capital Programme  
Expenditure as at 30th September 2010**

Appendix 1

	<b>Budget 2010/2011</b>	<b>Expenditure 30/09/2010</b>
Capitalised planned maintenance	1,933,543	618,147
<b>Total Investment in public housing</b>	<b>1,933,543</b>	<b>618,147</b>
Disabled facilities grants	1,075,557	291,344
Minor repair grants	39,749	-10,053
Thermal Improvement Grant	90,860	3,993
Stay put agency	53,762	32,257
Private Sector Housing Condition Survey	52,500	30,233
<b>Total Investment in private housing</b>	<b>1,312,428</b>	<b>347,774</b>
North Central Renewal - Acquisition Sub Area D	1,309,509	516,340
Relocation Grants	50,000	30,250
Central Misc Acquisitions	66,060	30,471
Central Refurbishment Property Swops	34,768	9,357
Central - 188 Marsh Street	50,311	0
North Central Renewal - Demolition	175,000	3,828
Greengate Street Garages - Site Preparation	338	338
Group Repair Sutherland Street	635,034	590,520
Group Repair Marsh Street	326,500	9,537
Central Buccleuch Court Environmental Improvements	50,000	0
Hindpool Urban Park Phase 1 & 2	12,213	1,000
Hindpool Environmental Improvements - Gateways	938	87
Hindpool Environmental Improvements - Pocket Parks	18,413	669
Hindpool Environmental Improvements - Key Streets	8,988	0
<b>Investment in Housing Market Renewal</b>	<b>2,738,072</b>	<b>1,192,398</b>
<b>Total Investment in housing</b>	<b>5,984,043</b>	<b>2,158,319</b>
Cemetery	75,232	0
Crematorium	210,975	153
Dock Museum	129,746	2,447
Forum 28	171,284	67,029
Leisure Centre	403,559	125,515
Market Hall	188,885	46,760
Public Conveniences	98,750	0
Roof Top Car Park	25,650	0
Town Hall	287,669	17,731
Public Buildings Alternative Energy Sources	784	0
Craven House	98,348	23,275
Public Buildings Contingency Fund	186,269	0
<b>Total Investment in Public Buildings</b>	<b>1,877,151</b>	<b>282,909</b>
Askam Community Centre	65,386	36,710
Emlyn Street Improvements	8,000	1,304
Play Areas	324,692	720
Barrow Park	109,905	4,753
Play Projects Biggar Bank & Abbotswood	85,581	0
Barrow Park Skate Park	10,667	0
Playing Fields	72,772	202
James Freel Close Business Units	18,981	0
Waterside Business Park Site Entrance	350,000	2,575
Holker Street Car Park	5,927	1,166
Ambassador House	20,000	13,414
Salthouse Road Depot	19,000	0
Town Centre Shop Front Grants	42,000	6,402
237-241 Dalton Road Millennium House	12,532	69
104 Abbey Road (Cookes Building)	898,090	368,955

**Barrow Borough Council Capital Programme  
Expenditure as at 30th September 2010**

Appendix 1

	<b>Budget 2010/2011</b>	<b>Expenditure 30/09/2010</b>
102 Abbey Road	1,613	500
Link Road	314,939	29,636
Abbey Road Streetscapes	1,450	0
Town Centre Public Realm Phase II	202,526	149,322
Furness House Landscaping	108,131	94,084
Coronation Gardens	1,065	0
The Mall	288,557	225,379
Town Centre Public Realm Phase III (Portland Walk Dalton Road Link)	15,000	0
Town Centre Public Realm Phase III (Schneider Square)	9,840	7,919
Marina Village Land Assembly	650,949	28,321
Street Furniture	20,000	0
Footpath Lighting	42,500	452
Amenity Tree Planting	37,299	0
IT Equipment & Development	160,596	37,116
Refuse and Recycling Containers	110,773	52,480
<b>Total Investment in other public assets</b>	<b>4,008,771</b>	<b>1,061,479</b>
Cycleways	10,000	6085
Rural Regeneration	117,863	16,587
Rural Regeneration - Piel Island	368,479	64,661
Grants Barrow AFC & Barrow RLFC	100,000	100,000
<b>Total Investment in Community Initiatives</b>	<b>596,342</b>	<b>187,333</b>
<b>Retentions</b>	<b>4,974</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Investment / Contingency Fund</b>	<b>575,249</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,046,530</b>	<b>3,690,040</b>

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>(D) Agenda Item 10</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: 20th October, 2010</b>	
<b>Reporting Officer: Borough Treasurer</b>	
<b>Title: Council Finances Report – Quarter 2 2010-2011</b>	
<b>Summary and Conclusions:</b>	
This report presents financial information for the first quarter of the financial year. It contains summary information and key data for the:	
A. General Fund B. Treasury Management C. Capital Expenditure and Financing D. Housing Revenue Account E. Collection Fund F. Bad Debt Provisions and Write Offs G. Reserves, Balances and Provisions H. Benefits Performance	
<b>Recommendations:</b>	
To note the information contained in the Borough Treasurer's report.	

## **Report**

### **Council Finances** **For the period to 30th September, 2010**

#### **Introduction**

This report contains all of the key data relating to the Councils finances for the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Where key data is not available at the end of the reporting period date, the latest available key data has been used and this is noted where applicable.

#### A. **General Fund**

The General Fund brings together all of the functions of the Council except the Housing Revenue Account which is ring-fenced. The General Fund summarises all of the resources that have been generated, consumed or set aside in providing services during the year. There are certain statutory items that are taken into account in determining the Council's budget requirement and in turn its Council Tax demand.

The budget for 2010-11 was agreed by Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 at £16,749,218. The budget was balanced using £156,000 from reserves.

There are certain items of income and expenditure that are incurred throughout the year and other items that are entered into the General Fund at the end of the financial year. The monitored items and their position at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 are set out below, the actual spend compared to the budget is shown as Q2%. In general the Q2 budget assumes expenditure is incurred on a straight line basis.

Item	Total budget £	Q2 budget £	Q2 actual £	Q2%
Staff costs*	6,870,230	3,435,120	3,264,760	95
Transport costs	204,820	102,410	130,578	128
Property costs	2,122,400	1,061,200	1,087,788	103
Supplies and services	5,623,630	2,811,820	2,392,206	85
Contract services	6,058,680	3,029,340	2,679,408	88
Transfer payments	24,875,720	12,437,860	12,873,589	104
External income	(32,198,080)	(16,099,040)	(16,586,247)	(103)
<b>Direct costs</b>	<b>13,557,400</b>	<b>6,778,710</b>	<b>5,842,082</b>	<b>86</b>

\* £564,767 of staff costs relates to employers contributions to Pension Scheme.

A forecast of the outcome for the full year is being prepared as part of the budget setting process for 2011-2012.

#### Key data:

- Salaries and on-costs

Salaries and on-costs are one of the main items of General Fund expenditure; these are the main part of the staff cost figures.

The salaries and on-costs budget at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 was £3,362,140 and the difference between this and the actual spend of £3,208,060 is an under spend or saving of £154,080. The difference between the budget against actual spend is broken down below:

Item	Savings £
Purchase holidays –additional leave bought by staff	20,115
Savings from vacancy gaps and establishment changes	133,965
<b>Total</b>	<b>154,080</b>

- The main income streams in the General Fund are those realising at least £250,000 in the year. This is income that is earned for services provided and does not include grant income:
  - **Commercial property rents:** The total budget for 2010-2011 is £1,441,030. To the 30<sup>th</sup> September the income was £671,397

representing 46.6% at quarter 2. The comparative figures for the previous year were; a quarter 2 income of £857,335 which was 51.9% of the full year total of £1,652,103.

- **Off street car parking income:** The total budget for 2010-2011 is £732,000. To the 30<sup>th</sup> September the income was £311,226 representing 42.5% at quarter 2. The comparative figures for the previous year were; a quarter 2 income of £332,983 which was 48.5% of the full year total of £685,713.
- **Leisure centre fees:** The total budget for 2010-2011 is £691,060. To the 30<sup>th</sup> September the income was £299,828 representing 43.4% at quarter 2. The comparative figures for the previous year were; a quarter 2 income of £326,377 which was 47.8% of the full year total of £682,862.
- **Crematorium services:** The total budget for 2010-2011 is £373,800. To the 30<sup>th</sup> September the income was £177,139 representing 47.4% at quarter 2. The comparative figures for the previous year were; a quarter 2 income of £160,328 which was 41.8% of the full year total of £383,455.
- Sundry debtors outstanding at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 compared to the sundry debtors outstanding the previous year:

<b>Outstanding 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009</b>	<b>Days overdue</b>	<b>Outstanding 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010</b>
£		£
347,180	Current	519,474
286,857	1 to 30	23,678
63,805	31 to 60	104,851
472,904	Over 61	421,357
<b>1,170,746</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,069,360</b>

## B. Treasury Activities

Treasury activities are all the borrowing and investment transactions for the Council. All transactions take place in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy for the year, which also sets the Prudential Indicators. Prudential indicators are measures and limits that control the affordability, risk and proper practice in all treasury transactions.

The interest paid on borrowings is attributed to the General Fund after a statutory amount is calculated for the Housing Revenue Account. The interest earned on investments belongs to the General Fund. Should the interest paid on borrowings or the interest earned from investments is different from the budget estimate, this will impact on the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account as applicable.



### Key data:

- o Interest paid on borrowings compared to budget estimate:

The Council currently has no short-term temporary borrowing.

The Council's long-term debts are all with the Public Works Loan Board and interest is payable every six months, the first payment for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 to be paid on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010:

<b>Annual budget estimate for interest paid</b> £	<b>Actual interest paid</b> £
1,030,350	0

- o Interest earned on invested short-term temporary surplus cash compared to the budget estimate:

<b>Annual budget estimate for interest earned</b> £	<b>Actual interest earned at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010</b> £
35,000	5,718

At the time of writing this report the Council had £6,750,000 invested with the HSBC.

- o Change in the Council's borrowings:

There has been no new long-term borrowing undertaken. The Council's borrowings at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 were £22,389,734.

The Authorised Limit that the Council's debt cannot exceed in 2010-2011 is £31,000,000.

### C. Capital Programme

The Council's capital expenditure plans are one of the key prudential indicators. This expenditure can be paid for immediately by resources such as capital receipts and capital grants, and any remaining expenditure forms the Council's borrowing requirement for the year.

The borrowing requirement for the Capital Programme impacts on the General Fund as the Council is statutorily required to set aside a prescribed amount to repay the Council's total borrowing requirement. The current borrowing requirement in the capital programme is reflected in the General Fund budget. Any changes in the requirement will impact on the General Fund.

### Key data:

- Spend to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 compared to the programme projected:

As at:	Capital programme £	Q2 Actual spend £
23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2010 – approved by Council	13,420,458	3,690,040
as reported to this Committee on 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2010	13,046,530	

### D. Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account reflects the statutory obligation to account separately for Council housing provision. The Housing Revenue Account is a ring-fenced account and legislation sets out the items that can be paid and received.

The budget for 2010-11 was agreed by Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 as a break-even for the year. The budget did not include the use of the Housing Revenue Account balance.

There are certain items of income and expenditure that are monitored throughout the year and other items that are transacted at the end of the financial year. The monitored items and the position at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 are set out below, the actual spend compared to the budget is shown as Q2%:

Item	Total budget £	Q2 budget £	Q2 actual £	Q2%
INCOME				
Dwelling rents	(8,405,900)	(4,202,950)	(4,217,069)	100
Other income	(792,150)	(396,080)	(449,766)	114
<b>Gross income</b>	<b>(9,198,050)</b>	<b>(4,599,030)</b>	<b>(4,666,835)</b>	<b>101</b>
EXPENDITURE				
Management	2,840,540	1,420,270	1,254,093	88
Dwelling repairs	2,930,280	1,465,140	1,260,950	86
<b>Gross expenditure</b>	<b>5,770,820</b>	<b>2,885,410</b>	<b>2,515,043</b>	<b>87</b>

Overall the Housing Revenue Account is expected to be on target to achieve the budgeted income and expenditure items above, set by Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010.

### E. Collection Fund

The Collection Fund reflects the statutory requirement to maintain a separate record of transactions in relation to council tax and business rates and to distribute these to precepting authorities, the national non-domestic rates pool and the General Fund.

When the council tax is set, there is a certain amount set aside for uncollectible council tax. Where the uncollectible council tax for the year is different to the estimate, for illustration there is more uncollected council tax than estimated, this deficit is shared between the Council, the County and the Police. Due to the timing of setting the council tax, the deficit would impact on the 2012-13 General Fund.

**Key data:**

- Percentage of council tax collected at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 compared to the previous year:

Year	Amount due for the year £	Amount collected £	Collected
2010	27,708,351	15,738,541	56.8
2009	27,569,514	15,598,686	56.6

- Percentage of business rates collected at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 compared to the previous year:

Year	Amount due for the year £	Amount collected £	Collected
2010	21,035,125	12,951,466	61.6
2009	21,637,832	12,967,910	59.9

**F. Bad debt provisions and write offs**

Each fund has a provision set aside to cover the writing off of bad debts. The provisions are specific to each fund that they are created from. For the General Fund, the bad debt provision has been built up from contributions from the General Fund over time. If the provision falls below prudent levels, General Fund revenue resources would be used to replenish the provision.

**Key data:**

- The bad debt provisions at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 and at the amounts written off to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 are shown below:

Fund	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2010 £	Written off during 2010-11 £
General Fund	661,506	0
Benefits overpayments	545,390	7,109
Housing Revenue Account	262,173	44,945

At this point in the year the bad debt provisions are satisfactory to cover the outstanding debts.

## G. Reserves, balances and provisions

Reserves, balances and provisions are specific to each fund.

Reserves are created by earmarking specific amounts from a fund and setting it aside, this may be for a specific purpose at the time, or for a specific purpose to be identified later.

Fund balances are maintained at prudent levels determined in accordance with the approved Reserves and Balances Policy. Fund balances are held for potential emergency or extraordinary expenditure.

Provisions are created to meet potential liabilities or losses that have been incurred, but the timing or amounts are uncertain.

### Key data:

- The General Fund reserves held at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 and at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 are shown below:

Item	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2010 £	Allocated for use £	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2010 £
Opportunity reserve	1,111,758	208,474	903,284
Budget setting support	311,000	311,000	0
General reserve	461,623	0	461,623
Leisure centre loss of income	194,261	194,261	0
Other reserves	2,803,456	2,803,456	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,882,098</b>	<b>3,517,191</b>	<b>1,364,907</b>

- The balances at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 and at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 are shown below:

Fund	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2010 £	Used during 2010-11 £	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2010 £
General Fund	2,263,305	(30,660)	2,232,645
Housing Revenue Account	823,061	47,500	870,561

- The reserves and balances are sufficient and remain at satisfactory prudent levels.

- The provisions at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 and at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 are shown below:

Item	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2010 £	Used during 2010-11 £	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2010 £
Insurance settlements	626,519	0	626,519
Early retirement	53,672	0	53,672
<b>Total</b>	<b>680,191</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>680,191</b>

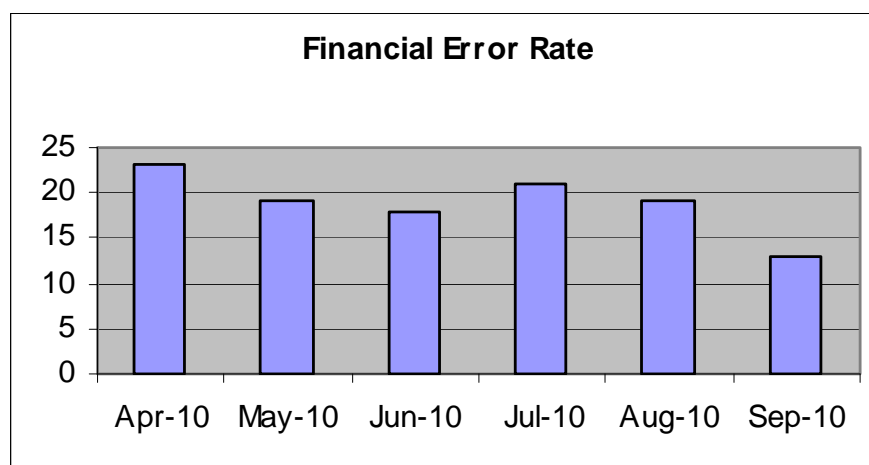
## H. Benefits Performance

One of the main performance targets agreed with Liberata for 2010-2011 is the time taken to process new claims and change events. For new claims the target is 25 days and for change of circumstances 12 days. The DWP will monitor the combination of these two targets which they refer to as NI 181. The combined agreed target for this year is **13.5 days**.

For the quarter April to September 2010 Liberata's performance was:

Council	NI181	New Claims – Days	Change of Circumstances - Days
<b>Barrow</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>6.6</b>
Allerdale	10.0	18.1	8.5
Eden	14.2	21.4	12.8
Copeland	15.7	25.3	13.3
South Lakeland	NA	NA	NA
Carlisle	NA	NA	NA

In terms of quality performance and error rates, the error rate at the end of September was 23% (13% financial error) compared to a target of 12%.



(i) Legal Implications

Not Applicable.

(ii) Risk Assessment

Not Applicable.

(iii) Financial Implications

At this stage, the finances of the Council are within budgetary expectation.

(iv) Health and Safety Implications

Not Applicable.

(v) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims

Not Applicable.

(vi) Equality and Diversity

Not Applicable.

(vii) Health and Well-being Implications

Not Applicable.

Background Papers

Nil

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>(D) Agenda Item 11</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: 20th October, 2010</b>	
<b>Reporting Officer: Chief Executive</b>	
<b>Title: Green Heart Den – North Plot</b>	
<b>Summary and Conclusions:</b>	
This report outlines the progress made by a local Community Interest Company to develop an area of derelict land owned by the Council, and proposes a contribution to this work from the Housing Market Renewal Fund.	
<b>Recommendation:</b>	
To allocate £15,000 from the Housing Market Renewal Fund to assist with the development of the arches and north plot elements of this project.	

**1. Background**

- 1.1. The grant of a lease of land at the rear of Marsh Street to the Marsh Street Arches and Garden Community Interest Company (CIC) was agreed at the last meeting of this Committee (Minute 63 22/09/10 refers). This land was formerly derelict and unused for many years, and is owned by the Council.
- 1.2. The land consists of two plots, separated by the arches supporting the bridge carrying Greengate Street over the railway line.
- 1.3. The southern plot has already been developed by the CIC into a community garden "Green Heart Den". The CIC intends to use the north plot for similar purposes. Some planting of trees, wild flowers and raised planters has already taken place in the north plot.
- 1.4. The CIC also intends to bring the arches under the Greengate Street Bridge into use for the community. One arch is already accessible and used for storage of materials for the project. The CIC would now like to bring two more arches into use. These are currently fenced off. To make the arches accessible, the fences would need to be replaced with gates.
- 1.5. The north plot falls within the North Central Renewal Area. It lies to the rear of 190-222 Marsh Street. This block of houses is currently undergoing Group Repair works previously approved by this Committee (Minute 8; 26/05/10 refers). Improvements to the north plot would complement the enhancements resulting from the Group Repair work.

- 1.6. The boundary wall between the rear of Marsh Street and the north plot is currently in a poor condition, and part of the wall has recently been demolished as it was structurally unstable.

## **2. Proposed works**

- 2.1. It is proposed that this project is supported with an allocation of £15,000 from the Council's Capital Programme. This funding would be made available from the allocation for Housing Market Renewal within the Programme.
- 2.2. The CIC have received a quotation for the fabrication and installation of the gates to two arches. The quoted cost is just under £7,000, of which the CIC already has £1,700 available. The remainder of this cost could be met from the proposed allocation from the Council.
- 2.3. The remainder of the Council's funding allocation would be used to carry out remedial works to the boundary wall. The demolished section would be rebuilt, and new access gates provided. The remainder of the wall would be lowered, and the removed brickwork would be replaced with railings. The CIC is investigating other funding sources to contribute to the cost of this work.

### **(i) Legal Implications**

The relationship of the Council to the CIC will need to be finalised. The Council could carry out the work on behalf of the CIC, or it may pay a grant to the CIC. This will be determined by agreement between the parties.

### **(ii) Risk Assessment**

Strategic risk is low.

### **(iii) Financial Implications**

Adequate funding for the proposed capital expenditure is included in the Capital Programme.

### **(iv) Health and Safety Implications**

Works will have to be carried out with due regard to Health and Safety, and the Council will have to satisfy itself that appropriate arrangements are in place.

### **(v) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims**

This supports:

Corporate Aim 3: Creating an enhanced quality of life for local residents.

Corporate Aim 4: Developing a safe confident and socially inclusive community.



KP1: Create a safer, cleaner, greener Borough and reduce the gaps between the priority wards and the average.

Annual Objective 2: Continue to improve the amenity of the Borough.

KP 2: Meet the housing needs of the Borough and make decent housing more accessible

Annual Objective 4: Progress Housing Market Renewal Programme.

(vi) Equal Opportunities

The Green Heart Den provides a local, accessible amenity and therefore gives positive opportunities to people with the protected characteristics (defined in the Equality Act) of age and disability.

(vii) Health and Wellbeing Implications

The Green Heart Den has provided a range of opportunities for the local community and particularly for young people and through this promotes improvements to health and wellbeing.

Background Papers

Nil

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>(R) Agenda Item 12</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: 20th October, 2010</b>	
<b>Reporting Officer: Director of Corporate Services</b>	
<b>Title: Reviewing the Member Development Strategy</b>	
<b>Summary and Conclusions:</b>	
The Member Training Working Group has revised the Member Development Strategy to ensure continuation of effective Member Development. The Strategy is reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with the Democratic Services Manager and the Member Training Working Group. The responsibility for agreeing the overall Strategy lies in the hands of the Full Council.	
<b>Recommendations:</b>	
To recommend the Council to approve the revised Member Development Strategy.	

## **Report**

### **Background**

In order to ensure that Member training and development is prioritised, planned and co-ordinated effectively it is important that the Council have a Member Development Strategy. This Committee agreed to adopt the Strategy in July 2004 (Minute No. 6 of the meeting on 12th July, 2004 refers).

The Member Development Strategy sets out that it will be reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with the Democratic Services Manager and the Member Training Working Group. The responsibility for agreeing the overall Strategy lies in the hands of Full Council.

The Member Training Working Group have revised the Strategy document and referred it to this Committee for approval. A copy of the revised Strategy is attached at **Appendix 3**.

(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) Equality and Diversity

Not Applicable.

(vii) Health and Well-being Implications

Not Applicable.

Background Papers

Nil.

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>(D) Agenda Item 13</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: 22nd September, 2010</b>	
<b>Reporting Officer: Parking Services Manager</b>	
<b>Title: Hindpool Road Car Park</b>	
<b>Summary and Conclusions:</b>	
<p>The report sets out a request for permission to make the relevant Traffic Regulation Order on land at Hindpool road as a contract holders only car park and further introduce the additional facility of payment at all existing pay and display car parks to accept payment by debit card or credit card.</p>	
<b>Recommendations:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To authorise the Chief Executive to give Notice of Intention to make an appropriate Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to give effect to the use of the section of land owned by the Council on Hindpool Road for the purpose of contract parking;</li><li>2. To introduce the additional facility of payment of pay and display parking in all existing car parks by method of mobile phone payment; and</li><li>3. To agree that if no objections are received, the Chief Executive be authorised to make the Order.</li></ol>	

## **Report**

### **Background**

#### **Hindpool Road**

The section of land on Hindpool Road and the corner of Wesley Place recently purchased by the Council has been identified for use as a contract holder car park. Authorisation is required for the Chief Executive to give Notice of Intention to make an appropriate Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

#### **Cashless Parking**

It is proposed that the facility to allow car park users to pay for parking by mobile phone be introduced on all existing pay and display car parks. This gives greater flexibility to car park users as additional parking can be paid for without returning to the vehicle.

(i) Legal Implications

It is a legal requirement that a Traffic Regulation Order be made in order for the restriction to be enforced under the TMA 2004.

(ii) Risk Assessment

Not Applicable.

(iii) Financial Implications

The proposal and the date of implementation has to be advertised in the North West Evening Mail at an estimated cost of £600, the car park sign & installation £650 and the car park lining £300. The cost of three sim card only mobile phones for the cashless payment scheme £350.

(iv) Health and Safety Implications

Not Applicable.

(v) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims

KP4 - Support economic regeneration. KP5 - Improve effectiveness and efficiency of your Council.

(vi) Equality and Diversity

Not Applicable.

(vii) Health and Well-being Implications

Not Applicable.

Background Papers

Nil.

<b>Part One</b>	
<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>(D) Agenda Item 14</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: 20th October, 2010</b>	
<b>Reporting Officer: Chief Environmental Health Officer</b>	
<p><b>Title: Anchor Staying Put – Barrow Home Improvement Agency (HIA)</b></p> <p><b>Summary and Conclusions:</b></p> <p>This report updates Members on the current position regarding the HIA and seeks authority to explore alternative provision for supporting housing grant applicants following the anticipated winding up of the HIA in March, 2011.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To note the report; and</li> <li>2. To authorise the Chief Environmental Health Officer to prepare an option report for consideration by the Committee at the earliest opportunity to explore how private sector housing grant support services can be provided effective from April 2011.</li> </ol>	

## **Report**

### **Background**

Members will be aware that the HIA was established in 1995 by Anchor Trust to provide a range of housing services within the Borough for elderly or vulnerable residents to enable them to continue to live independent lives in their own homes.

The HIA has subsequently been integrated into a wider social services support network across Cumbria in partnership with Cumbria County Council Supporting People (SP). Since 2004, Anchor Trust have been formally contracted by SP to deliver housing services across Cumbria utilising funding from district councils, SP and fee income derived from a range of capital works including applications for mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG).

Over the last 12 months, SP have sought to re-tender the current contract for housing services held by Anchor Trust to comply with contract procurement legislation and have been unsuccessful in being able to attract suitable service providers, including Anchor Trust, to submit tenders. Anchor Trust have also confirmed that they no longer wish to deliver housing services through Home Improvement Agencies and are seeking to attract an alternative provider to take over their portfolio of HIA services across the country. As a result of taking this business decision, Anchor Trust have formally notified SP that they wish to terminate existing arrangements in Cumbria, effective from the end of March 2011.

To make matters more problematic for all of the district councils in Cumbria, SP have very recently indicated that they are reviewing their funding priorities for services for the elderly across Cumbria and SP have made it clear that they can no longer guarantee that they will be able to support HIA services in Cumbria with effect from next financial year.

It is as a result of those recent developments that SP have written to Anchor Trust confirming the winding up arrangements of the HIA effective from the end of March, 2011.

The absence of any HIA services from next financial year leaves the Council and a number of the other district councils in Cumbria with the need to consider the options available for the delivery of housing services to the elderly, in particular, the provision of support for grant applications for mandatory DFGs which are programmed to utilise in excess of £1million capital grant annually within the Borough.

At this stage in responding to what is a developing situation I can confirm that the Council's Management Team have indicated that they wish to see a range of options be presented for Members consideration ranging from the provision of little or no direct support, relying on the private sector to meet the needs of applicants; provision of agency services similar to that provided by Anchor Trust through an alternative third sector/ housing association partner and finally, directly employing staff to provide an in-house DFG support service.

I would respectfully suggest that such an option appraisal may take some time to prepare considering the potential complexities of TUPE legislation, redundancy liabilities for Anchor Trust employees and discussion with local third sector partner agencies.

(i) Legal Implications

Processing of DFG applications is a mandatory duty.

(ii) Risk Assessment

Having no mechanism to process DFG applications is a significant risk to the Council.

(iii) Financial Implications

DFG funding represents a substantial part of the Council's Capital Programme.

(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) Equality and Diversity

Not Applicable.

(vii) Health and Well-being Implications

DFGs are an important element of health and wellbeing support for residents.

Background Papers

Nil