

**BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Meeting:- 21st March, 2012  
at 2.00 p.m. (Committee Room No. 4)

**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 on any of the items on the agenda.

4. Disclosures of Interests and any declarations under Paragraph 16: Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Party Whip).

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 will be available at the meeting.

5. Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitutes.
6. Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting held on 8th February, 2012 (copy attached).
- (D) 7. Work Programme.
- (D) 8. Street Cleansing.

**NOTE (D) – Delegated  
(R) – Referred**

**Membership of Committee**

Councillors Roberts (Chairman)  
Doughty (Vice-Chairman)  
Biggins  
Derbyshire  
Hamilton  
Husband  
Johnston  
R. McClure  
Opie  
Preston  
C. Thomson  
M. A. Thomson

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

Keely Fisher  
Democratic Services Officer  
Tel: 01229 876313  
Email: [ksfisher@barrowbc.gov.uk](mailto:ksfisher@barrowbc.gov.uk)

Published: 13th March, 2012.

**BOROUGH OF BARROW IN FURNESS**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Meeting, Wednesday, 8th February, 2012  
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Roberts (Chairman), Doughty (Vice-Chairman), Biggins, Derbyshire, Hamilton, Husband, Johnston, R. McClure, Opie, Preston, C. Thomson and M. A. Thomson.

**28 – Minutes**

The Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7th December, 2011 were taken as read and confirmed.

<b>REFERRED ITEM</b>
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<b>THE FOLLOWING MATTER IS REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION</b>
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**29 – Scrutiny of the Council Budget for the Year 2012-2013**

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report stating that the Executive Committee on 1st February, 2012 considered the budget proposals for 2012-2013 and their recommendations would be before Council on 28th February, 2012.

He invited Members of this Committee to scrutinise the budget proposals and raise any concerns to full Council at the meeting in February 2012.

For Members' information the Executive Committee report with related appendices was attached.

The Borough Treasurer responded to Members questions in relation to the budget proposals for 2012-2013.

RESOLVED:- To agree that Members were satisfied with the budget proposals for 2012-2013 as approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 1st February, 2012 and agreed to forward these proposals to full Council for approval at its meeting on 28th February, 2012.

The meeting closed 2.19 p.m.

<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>(D) Agenda Item 7</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b> 21st March, 2012	
<b>Reporting Officer:</b> Policy Review Officer	
<p><b>Title:</b> Work Programme</p> <p><b>Summary and Conclusions:</b></p> <p>Provide Members with information regarding co-regulation of social housing which will be introduced in April 2012.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>Members are invited to consider adding a review of tenant's representation on housing committees to the work programme.</p>	

### Report

The Government is creating a new landscape for the way tenants' problems with housing services are addressed. From April 2012, the Tenants Service Authority regulator will have a 'backstop' role in consumer matters limited to setting the service delivery standards and acting only where it considers there is risk of serious detriment (or harm) to tenants. The principal role in scrutinising landlord services and intervening where consumer standards are not met will fall to others – tenants' panels, MPs and elected councillors.

Boards and councillors who govern providers' service delivery will remain responsible for meeting the standards and being transparent and accountable for their organisation's delivery of its social housing objectives. A new Value for Money standard will be introduced for private registered providers, which places an increased onus on boards to develop and deliver a clear strategy to drive value for money improvements:

- In the Tenant Involvement and Empowerment standard, there will be more focus on local mechanisms to resolve complaints and disputes, and an increased scope for more tenant involvement in repairs and maintenance. The principles of 'local offers' and annual reporting to tenants are retained.
- The proposed Tenancy standard reflects intended changes in government policy, where different lengths of tenancy agreement will be allowed. This also includes new expectations to promote mutual exchange arrangements.

In advance of these changes it would be appropriate for this committee to review current tenant's participation arrangements to ensure they are robust enough to take on this new role. I recommend that we add a review of tenant's participation to the work programme and undertake the review immediately.

I have attached the current work programme below:-

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Scope of the review</b>
1	Allotments.	To review the Council's arrangements for managing tenancies and the waiting list. Ensure the allotment service is financially sustainable
2	Street cleanliness.	To review to Council's arrangements for working with the contractor to deliver a higher standard of street cleanliness. To ensure appropriate arrangements are in place to manage external factors the impact on street cleanliness e.g. seagulls and fly tipping.
3	Coastal protection.	The implementation of phase four of the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy has resulted in changes to way in which coastal defence projects are funded. The review will focus on our medium term project plan and how it will be funded.
4	Estates and asset management.	To review arrangements for maximising income from our assets and the potential for the disposal of redundant assets.
5	Town centres development and supporting local traders.	Review arrangements for supporting local traders in the current economic climate.
6	Highways and car parking	Review the provision of highways maintenance by Cumbria County Council. Review street lighting and on-street parking arrangements.
7	Economic Development, planning and development control.	Review arrangements for planning and economic development in light of the reduced funding as a result of the Governments deficit reduction programme. Ensure the Council still has appropriate arrangements in place to access development funding
8	Cultural Services	Review the impact of the Council's service review on cultural services. The review will consider events, distribution of funding and service charges.
9	Policy and strategy	Monitor the development of and performance against the council's key priorities.

10	Housing strategy	Review availability of private sector and socially housing and consider partnership arrangements to ensure that the availability of housing in the borough meets demand.
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Background Papers

Nil

<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>(D) Agenda Item 8</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b> 21st March, 2012	
<b>Reporting Officer:</b> Policy Review Officer	
<p><b>Title:</b> Street Cleansing</p> <p><b>Summary and Conclusions:</b></p> <p>Provide Members with an update of the scrutiny review into street cleansing</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p>Members are invited to consider the information and determine how this review should be progressed.</p>	

### Report

The street care team are continuing to focus on improving heavily contaminated areas and it is clear that presentation of side waste is impacting on this. The street care team and the waste collection contractor are working to reduce side waste and therefore reduce the burden on the street cleansing teams.

Councillor Mrs Thomson continues to attend the contract meetings and is kept up to date with any significant issues.

The Council is continuing to publicise changes to way in which we control the amount of side waste being presented and has taken more formal action against persistent householders.

The Council is facing increasing financial pressures and these have been compounded by Cumbria County Council's decision to reduce the value of the Recycling Reward Scheme. To offset the impact that this may have on the Council's waste collection arrangement we have initiated a bid for funding from the Weekly Collection Support Scheme. The bidding process is in three stages and I will inform members of the progress we are making. The final bid will be submitted in August and we will know if we are successful in October.

The current recycling figure is 36.7% compared to 36.0% for the same period last year and we are on target to achieve our maximum Recycling Reward Scheme funding for 2011/12.

### Background Papers

Nil