

BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting:- 24th October, 2013
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 of any of the items on the agenda.

4. Declarations of Interest

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

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

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

5. Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members.
6. Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting held on 12th September, 2013 (copy attached).
- (D) 7. Cultural Services.
- (D) 8. University Hospital of Morecambe Bay.
- (D) 9. Street Cleansing.

(D) 10. Performance Management.

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

Membership of Committee

Councillors Roberts (Chairman)
Cassidy (Vice-Chairman)
Derbyshire
Hamilton
Husband
Johnston
R. McClure
Maddox
Opie
C. Thomson
M. A. Thomson
Wall

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BOROUGH OF BARROW IN FURNESS

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting, Thursday, 12th September, 2013
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Cassidy (Vice-Chairman), Hamilton, Husband, Johnston, Maddox, Opie, Seward, C. Thomson, M. A. Thomson and Wall.

9 – Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members

An apology for absence was submitted from The Chairman, Councillor Roberts.

Councillor Seward had replaced Councillor Derbyshire for this meeting only.

10 – Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th July, 2013 were taken as read and confirmed.

11 – Cultural Services

The Policy Review Officer reported that the Cultural Services Work Group had been set up to give Members a clear understanding of the Council's Core Cultural Services.

The Work Group had met on 5th September, 2013 and had agreed the scope for the Cultural Services review.

The following Terms of Reference were agreed at that meeting:-

1. Gain a clear understanding of the leisure services the Council provided at its 3 core venues;
2. Examine performance of each venue in terms of costs, income and number of users;
3. Establish what residents expected from its leisure services in terms of provision and cost; and
4. Identify areas where potential improvements in performance value for money and public satisfaction could be achieved.

At the meeting on 5th September the Work Group had visited the Park Leisure Centre and discussed opportunities and issues with management and staff.

The Leisure Centre Manager had put numerous ideas forward for Members to consider including:

- Improved software to book activities electronically; and
- Family membership to attract more people.

The Leisure Centre also discussed with Members the partnership with Pulse Fitness.

The Policy Review Officer would arrange for the Work Group to visit the Forum on the week beginning 23rd September and to the Dock Museum on the week beginning 30th September, 2013.

RESOLVED:- (i) That the information be noted; and

(ii) That the Policy Review Officer arrange visits to the Forum and the Dock Museum with the Cultural Services Work Group and report back to the next meeting on these visits.

12 – North West Strategic Scrutiny Network

The Policy Review Officer reported that the Strategic Scrutiny Network was established by North West Employers.

The role of the group was to support Councillors in their development of their scrutiny role, share good practice and advice and highlight local and national drivers.

Their aims were:-

1. To increase collaboration between authorities to ensure greater efficiencies and explore value for money approaches;
2. To support the value of overview and scrutiny;
3. To share intelligence, knowledge, resources and generate ideas to improve scrutiny function;
4. To disseminate information on national and regional initiatives to ensure equal opportunity; and
5. To share strategic and practical contributions and recognise the value of listening to experiences.

The Policy Review Officer reported that in the past Members had agreed that membership of this group was of limited value to Barrow because the scrutiny practises used at other authorities were not effective at this Council.

The majority of other Councils in this group operated a single political group cabinet system and the role of their Scrutiny Committees was to hold the cabinet to account and to challenge their decisions.

Barrow Borough Council operated under “alternative arrangements” and the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was to assist the Executive Committee in policy development and to review and examine matters of wider local interest.

RESOLVED:- That Barrow Borough Council decline the invitation for Members to participate in the Strategic Scrutiny Network due to there being limited value to scrutiny at Barrow.

REFERRED ITEMS

THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION

13 – Annual Report

The Policy Review Officer presented the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2013.

The Council had one Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the remit to investigate, scrutinise, monitor, oversee and comment on service delivery mechanism, policy implementation, or any other issue affecting the Borough or its residents provided that they had previously been considered by either the Executive Committee or Council.

Members had previously agreed to develop a four year work programme up to March 2015 and had identified topics for review which are presented in Table 1 below.

The Committee recognised that additional urgent items may be identified during the period and they would be considered in an appropriate timeframe.

In October, 2012 the Executive Committee had requested that this Committee consider the impact of localised flooding as an additional item.

Table 1

Item	Topic	Scope of the review
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.
11	Localised flooding	Review arrangements to protect residents and property against local flooding.

The Policy Review Officer reported that the review of Tenant's participation was completed in March and recommendations were submitted to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee had suggested minor changes to the recommendations which were agreed and they had now been implemented.

Members had agreed that the street cleanliness review would be an on-going standing item at every meeting so they could monitor this essential Council service.

The Local flooding review was on-going; Members had attended a presentation by the Environment Agency and had agreed that although the Council did not have a lead role in flood protection strategies that this Committee should continue to monitor the arrangements that had been put in place by other agencies.

In May 2013 Members agreed that this Committee would review Cultural Services and Asset Management in 2013/14.

RECOMMENDED:- (i) To note the information in the Annual Report; and

(ii) To agree that the Chairman presents the Annual Report to full Council on 15th October, 2013.

The meeting closed at 2.09 p.m.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 7
Date of Meeting: 24th October, 2013	
Reporting Officer: Policy Review Officer	
Title: Cultural Services	
Summary and Conclusions:	
Provide Members with an update of the scrutiny review into Cultural Services.	
Recommendation:	
Members are invited to consider the information and determine how this review should be progressed.	

Report

The workgroup agreed the following Terms of Reference have been recommended:

1. Gain a clear understanding of the leisure services we provide at our 3 core venues.
2. Examine performance of each venue in terms of costs, income and number of users.
3. Establish what residents expect from our leisure services in terms of provision and cost.
4. Identify areas where potential improvements in performance value for money and public satisfaction can be achieved.

The work group has now visited the Park Leisure Centre and the Forum and discussed opportunities and issues with management and staff. I will provide a verbal update on the Forum visit at this meeting.

Background Papers

Nil.

Part One

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 8
Date of Meeting: 24th October, 2013	
Reporting Officer: Policy Review Officer	
Title: University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay	
Summary and Conclusions:	
I received a request from Members to invite the Chief Executive Officer to attend this meeting.	
Recommendation:	
Members are invited to note the information.	

Report

I received a Member's request to invite the Chief Executive Officer of the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay to attend this meeting. I consulted with other Members and there was a consensus that I should send out an invitation. The purpose was to provide a briefing for Members regarding the improvements that are being delivered at Furness General Hospital. This Committee does not have any jurisdiction over the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay and attendance would be at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer. The invitation was issued on 3rd October and I am awaiting a response. I will provide Members with a verbal update at this meeting.

Background Papers

Nil

Part One

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 9
Date of Meeting: 24th October, 2013	
Reporting Officer: Policy Review Officer	
Title: Street Cleansing	
Summary and Conclusions:	
Provide Members with an update of the scrutiny review into street cleansing.	
Recommendation:	
Members are invited to consider the information and determine how this review should be progressed.	

Report

The Council is currently developing waste management strategy to provide direction for waste collection up to 2021. We have engaged with Cumbria County Council and WRAP to obtain their views. We are collecting data and developing options that will be presented to Members in the near future.

Background Papers

Nil







OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 10
Date of Meeting: 24th October, 2013	
Reporting Officer: Policy Review Officer	
<p>Title: Performance Management</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>To provide Member with the Q1 performance figures for the current year and to update Members on the progress being made to update the Council's priorities.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Members are invited to consider the information and determine whether further action is required.</p>	

Report

Key Performance Indicators

Table 1 is a selection of existing indicators.

Local indicators

Indicator	Description	Q1 2012/13	Q1 2013/14	Change
9	Percentage of Council tax collected	29.23	29.04	
10	Percentage of NNDR collected	31.79	34.08	
12	Average number of days sick per member of staff	2.28	2.44	
NI 191	Kilograms of residual waste per household	210	223	
NI 192	% of waste recycled, composted	37.1	33.2	
	Weight of waste recycled and composted	4,885t	4354t	

The Council Tax collection figure for 2012/13 is marginally lower than the same period in 2011/12.

The NNDR figure has increased compared to last year.

The sickness figure is marginally worse than last year.

Residual waste per household has increased for the first time in seven years.

The total waste collected has fallen marginally indicating an increase in residual waste and a reduction in recycling.

The percentage of waste recycled has is lower and the tonnage is 11% lower which will impact on the future value of the recycling rewards.

Management Board is currently developing the Council's priorities up to 2016 and I will present them to this committee when they are complete.

Background Papers

Nil