



BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN HALL
DUKE STREET
BARROW-IN-FURNESS

13th July, 2015

To: The Members of Barrow Borough Council

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL to be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER at the TOWN HALL, BARROW on TUESDAY the 21st day of JULY, 2015 COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM for the transaction of the business specified below.

Executive Director

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

Business

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

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

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

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

2. MINUTES. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Council's proceedings held on 18th May and the meeting held on 26th May, 2015.
3. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

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

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS – To receive any announcements from the Chairman, Leader or Head of Paid Service.
5. QUESTION BY THE PUBLIC.

Mr P. Thomas to ask the following question:-

Does the Council agree that Community Policing has played a major part in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in the Borough and will Council support a campaign to protect our Community Policing?

6. (A) TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES AND CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS:-
 - (1) Planning
 - (2) Licensing Regulatory
 - (3) Licensing
 - (4) Executive
 - (5) Audit

(B) QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Council has agreed that time be set aside for questions to the Leader of the Council.

Standing Order 10.2 and 10.4 set out the procedure for questions to the Leader and the notice period required.

The Leader will also take any questions without notice relevant to the reports and minutes detailed on the agenda.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER RULE 11

To consider the following motion signed by Councillor Sweeney and Councillor Brook:-

This Council believes that Community Policing has played a vital part in the reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour in the Borough over the last decade. Council strongly believes in prevention rather than cure and gives its full support to campaigns for well resourced Community Policing in Barrow.

8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORT.
9. TO PASS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION, THAT IS TO SAY:

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

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

COUNCIL	Agenda Item 6(A)(1)
Date of Meeting: 21st July, 2015	
Reporting Officer: Executive Director	
<p>REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE (Report of the meetings held on 31st March, 28th April, 19th May, 23rd June and 14th July, 2015)</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>There were no recommendations referred to Council from the meetings held on 31st March, 28th April, 19th May and 23rd June, 2015.</p> <p>If necessary an addendum to this report will deal with any recommendations from the Planning Committee to be held on 14th July, 2015.</p> <p><u>Delegated Decisions</u></p> <p>The matters determined by the Planning Committee in exercise of the powers which have been delegated to the Committee will be detailed in the Minutes of the meetings noted above reproduced in Volume 5 2014/15 and Volume 1 2015/16 of the printed Minutes.</p>	

Background Papers

Nil

COUNCIL	Agenda Item 6(A)(2)
Date of Meeting: 21st July, 2015	
Reporting Officer: Executive Director	

**REPORT OF THE LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE
(Report of the meetings held on 21st May and 25th June, 2015)**

Recommendations:

The meeting to be held on 21st May, 2015 was cancelled.

There were no recommendations referred to Council from the meeting held on 25th June, 2015.

Delegated Decisions

The matters determined by the Licensing Regulatory Committee in exercise of the powers which have been delegated to the Committee will be detailed in the Minutes of the meetings noted above reproduced in Volume 1 2015/16 of the printed Minutes.

Background Papers

Nil

COUNCIL	Agenda Item 6(A)(3)
Date of Meeting: 21st July, 2015	
Reporting Officer: Executive Director	
<p>REPORT OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE (Report of the meeting held on 12th March, the special meeting held on 19th March and the meetings held on 21st May and 25th June, 2015)</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>The meeting to be held on 21st May, 2015 was cancelled.</p> <p>There were no recommendations referred to Council from the above meetings.</p> <p><u>Delegated Decisions</u></p> <p>The matters determined by the Licensing Committee in exercise of the powers which have been delegated to the Committee will be detailed in the Minutes of the meeting noted above reproduced in Volume 5 2014/15 and Volume 1 2015/16 of the printed Minutes.</p>	

Background Papers

Nil

COUNCIL	Agenda Item 6(A)(4)
Date of Meeting: 21st July, 2015	
Reporting Officer: Executive Director	

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(Report of the meetings held on 20th May and 24th June, 2015)**

Recommendations:

The recommendations of the Executive Committee meeting held on 20th May, 2015 were reported to the Council on 26th May, 2015.

The following recommendations have been referred to Council.

Executive Committee – 24th June, 2015

1.0 Housing Management Forum Recommendations: Housing Maintenance and Gas Servicing – Future Arrangements

1.1 The purpose of the Assistant Director - Housing's report was to consider and agree the future arrangements to provide maintenance services for Council tenants. In particular this included tenant generated repair requests, repairs to any void properties, gas servicing and maintenance, and an out of hours emergency response service.

1.2 Recommendation:-

To recommend the Council:-

- (i) To agree not to offer a Contract extension to the current service provider;**
- (ii) To note the outcome of the process that had been undertaken in conjunction with Procure Plus to ensure the Council complied with the OJEU requirements and identify the preferred provider(s);**
- (iii) To agree a new model of delivery by separating the “fabric” repairs from the “gas” element of the current Contract; and**

(iv) To agree the following Contractors be offered the two resultant Contracts for four years with potentially a further six years with two-yearly break clauses:

- Gas: Contractor “Number 13”; and
- Fabric: Contractor “Number 5”.

2.0 War Pensions Disregard

2.1 The Director of Resources report set out the Council’s policy on the war pensions disregard in relation to housing benefit. It was proposed that the disregard was agreed for more than one year.

2.2 Recommendation:-

To recommend the Council to approve the disregard of war pensions up to 100% for housing benefit until the resolution was revoked or modified.

3.0 Lowsy Point Beach Huts and Piel Island Cottages

3.1 The Director of Resources report concerned a small number of properties with particular characteristics where the Council awards a discretionary discount of 50% of Council Tax. It was proposed that the discount was agreed for more than one year.

3.2 Recommendation:-

To recommend the Council to agree that until the access and amenities for the beach huts at Lowsy Point and Piel Island cottages altered, or other factors prompted a review, the Council awarded the 50% discretionary discount.

Delegated Decisions

The matters determined by the Executive Committee in exercise of the powers which have been delegated to the Committee will be detailed in the Minutes of the meetings noted above reproduced in Volume 1 (2015/16) of the printed Minutes.

Background Papers

Nil

COUNCIL	Agenda Item 6(A)(5)
Date of Meeting: 21st July, 2015	
Reporting Officer: Executive Director	
<p>REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE (Report of the meeting held on 18th June, 2015)</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>There were no recommendations referred to Council from the above meeting.</p> <p><u>Delegated Decisions</u></p> <p>The matters determined by the Audit Committee in exercise of the powers which have been delegated to the Committee will be detailed in the Minutes of the meeting noted above reproduced in Volume 1 (2015/16) of the printed Minutes.</p>	

Background Papers

Nil

COUNCIL	Agenda Item 8
Date of Meeting: 21st July, 2015	
Reporting Officer: Corporate Support Manager	
<p>Title: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>The Annual Report details the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2014/15.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>To accept the Annual Report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>	

Report

Foreword

The Council has one overview and scrutiny committee with the remit to investigate, scrutinise, monitor, oversee and comment on service delivery mechanisms, policy implementation, or any other issue affecting the Borough or its residents provided that they have previously been considered by either the Executive Committee or Council.

Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2014/15:

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

Members had previously agreed to develop a four year work programme up to March 2019 and identified topics for review these are presented in Table 1.

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

Table 1 Work Programme 2011-2015

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.

In May 2014 Members agreed that this Committee would review Policy and Strategy, the review was completed within 2014/15 and the output is detailed below.

The Council's Corporate Strategy Framework was consolidated in the Council Plan and was supported by four high level strategies:

- Medium Term Financial Plan;
- Workforce Strategy;
- IT Services Strategic Plan; and
- Asset Management Plan.

The Council Plan had identified four priorities:

- Housing;
- Regeneration and Public Realm;
- Local Economy; and
- Service Delivery.

The Committee agreed with the Director of Resources that the priorities were appropriate. The Council's performance information is presented to the Executive Committee on a regular basis and the Director of Resources agreed to send an executive summary of this data to the overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a Leisure Services Group with the following remit and Terms of Reference:

The remit of the Leisure Services Group was:-

- The Group was not to be a decision making function;
- Review, written and verbal reports provided by the Service Managers;

- Provide guidance for the Service Managers based on Members perspective; and
- Make any recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Group Membership would be as follows:-

Councillors: Cassidy, Roberts, C. Thomson, M. A. Thomson and Wall
 Officers: Sandra Baines, Bill Brown, Keith Johnson, John Penfold, Sabine Skae, Ann Taylforth and Margaret Wilson.

The Group would meet four times per year at various venues and extraordinary meetings may be called as required.

The work programme for 2015/16 will be agreed and prioritised by the overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting in July and the priority reviews will be added to this Annual report and presented to Full Council.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee have reviewed the work programme for 2015-2019 in table 2 and agreed in 2015/16 to review items:

3. Cemeteries, establish a “friends of the cemetery group”. Review rules for dressing graves and cremation plots.

4. The Town Hall, establish a “friends of the Town Hall group”. Consider options to promote usage of the Town Hall.

9. 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.

Table 2 Work Programme 2015-2019

Item	Topic	Scope of the review
1	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.
2	Policy and strategy	Monitor the development of and performance against the council’s key priorities.
3	Cemeteries	Establish a “friends of the cemetery group”. Review rules for dressing graves and cremation plots.
4	The Town Hall	Establish a “friends of the Town Hall group”. Consider options to promote usage of the Town Hall

5	Estates and asset management.	To review arrangements for maximising income from our assets and the potential for the disposal of redundant assets.
6	Town centres development and supporting local traders.	Review arrangements for supporting local traders in the current economic climate.
7	Highways and car parking	Review the provision of highways maintenance by Cumbria County Council. Review street lighting and on-street parking arrangements.
8	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
9	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.
10	Localised flooding	Collect information from other agencies to determine whether appropriate action is being taken to minimise the impact of localised flooding

Background Papers

Nil.