

BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting:- Thursday 22nd October, 2015
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 10th September, 2015 (copy attached).
- (D) 7. Friends of Barrow Cemetery Group.
- (D) 8. Street Cleansing Report.

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

Membership of Committee

Councillors Heath (Chairman)
Cassidy (Vice-Chairman)
Gill
Husband
McLeavy
Opie
Preston
Proffitt
C. Thomson
M. A. Thomson
Wall
Williams

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BOROUGH OF BARROW IN FURNESS

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting, Thursday, 10th September, 2015
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Heath (Chairman), Cassidy (Vice-Chairman), Gill, Husband, McLeavy, Opie, Preston, C. Thomson, M. A. Thomson (To Minute No. 17), Wall and Williams.

Officers Present:- John Penfold (Corporate Support Manager), Helen Houston (Principal Planning Officer (To Minute No. 17), Brooke Parsons (Corporate Support Assistant) and Sharron Rushton (Democratic Services Officer).

12 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor M. A. Thomson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No. 6 – Minutes (Minute No. 14) as she was a part leasee of a Council allotment.

13 – Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted from Councillor Proffitt.

14 – Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July, 2015 were taken as read and confirmed.

15 – Friends of Barrow Cemetery Group

The Corporate Support Manager provided Members with an update of the progress being made to establish a Friends of Barrow Cemetery Group.

He reported that at the last meeting of this Committee he was requested to establish a work group to investigate establishing a Friends of Barrow Cemetery Group and invite Councillor McEwan to be a co-opted member on the group. An invitation had been sent to Councillor McEwan and he had agreed to participate in this review.

The Corporate Support Manager had contacted the Federation of Cemetery Friends for advice. They offered a starter book called “saving cemeteries” and advised that the Council should first set up a public meeting to determine the level of interest. The next stage in the process was to establish a group and become associate members until the Council were fully constituted and could become full members of the Federation.

RESOLVED:- To establish the work group to become Associate Members of the Federation of Cemetery Friends.

16 – Local Plan

The Corporate Support Manager reported that Barrow Borough Council's new Local Plan went for consultation in June.

The Council's Principal Planning Officer attended the meeting and addressed the Committee. She provided Members with an update on the consultation process and the timetable for the Local Plan production.

The Committee was informed that the Borough's existing Local Plan had been adopted in 2001 and therefore some of the policies were out of date and needed updating or replacing. The Planning Policy Team was responsible for preparing the new Local Plan which sets the broad framework for acceptable development in the Borough for the next 15 years, up to 2031.

In line with the Regulations a number of assessments and consultation stages were required throughout the process of drafting the new Local Plan, however, the timetable suggested the Plan would be examined and adopted in 2016.

RESOLVED:- To note the report.

17 – Performance Report

The Corporate Support Manager presented Members with the Quarter 1 Performance Report which had been presented to the Executive Committee on 9th September, 2015.

The Council had a Performance Management Framework to help deliver priorities.

The Council's Priorities for 2015-2019 were:

1. **Housing** – the Council was committed to continuing to provide a greater choice of good quality housing and regenerate the oldest and poorest housing in the Borough.
2. **Regeneration and Public Realm** – the Council was committed to working with partners and service providers to enhance the built environment and public realm.
3. **Local Economy** – the Council was committed to work on mitigating the effects of cuts in public spending, their impact on the local economy and working to secure a long term economic recovery for the community.
4. **Service Delivery** – the Council strived to provide good quality, efficient and effective services while reducing overall expenditure.

A number of performance indicators identified would be monitored on a regular basis and reported quarterly to Management Board and to the Executive Committee.

Targets had been identified based on the data from 2014/15 and they may need to be adjusted as more data was collected.

The outputs were shown in Table 1 below.

The performance against the target was on track for most indicators at the end of the quarter. The right hand column showed the cumulative figure for the first quarter of 2015/16. This could be compared to the left hand column which showed the figure for the same period in 2014/15.

There was a significant increase in users at the Park Leisure Centre which was attributable to the introduction of the family membership and the introduction of the Pirate Cove and Splash Zone.

There was a significant reduction in NNDR liability on void commercial properties which was mainly attributable to BAE Systems occupying part of two floors in Craven House.

There were three indicators where the output was more than 5% below target:-

Dock Museum visits -5.3%

Forum visits -5.3%

Minor planning applications completed on time -68%

Table 1: Council Indicators for Quarter 1 2015/16

| Indicator | Q1 2014/15 | April | May | June |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Average time to process new housing benefit claims | 17.6 days | 17.9 days | 17.8 days | 16.9 days |
| Target | | 23 days | 23 days | 23 days |
| Average time to process new council tax support claims | 18.1 days | 17.2 days | 17 days | 17.2 days |
| Target | | 19 days | 19 days | 19 days |
| Average time to process changes of circumstances for housing benefit claims | 5.1 days | 7.8 days | 4.8 days | 4.5 days |
| Target | | 9 days | 9 days | 9 days |
| Average time to process changes of circumstances for council tax support claims | 5.7 days | 7.3 days | 4.8 days | 5.0 days |
| Target | | 7.5 days | 7.5 days | 7.5 days |
| Park Leisure centre activity numbers | 65,117 | 23,598 | 49,971 | 75,356 |
| Target | | 18,000 visits | 40,000 visits | 65,000 visits |

| Indicator | Q1 2014/15 | April | May | June |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Dock museum visitor numbers | 14,550 | 5,503 | 9,700 | 13,721 |
| Target | | 5,400 visits | 10,000 visits | 14,500 visits |
| The forum ticket sales | 13,590 | 3,786 | 8,472 | 12,882 |
| Target | | 5,300 | 9,400 | 13,600 |
| Income from Pay and display ticket sales | £138,034 | £45,626 | £90,892 | £139,036 |
| Target | | £46,000 | £92,000 | £138,000 |
| Percentage of local land charges searches completed in 5 working days | 98% | 99.1% | 95.4% | 96.9% |
| Target | | 98% | 98% | 98% |
| Percentage of council tax collected | 29.21% | 10.91% | 19.91% | 29.18% |
| Target | | 10.8% | 19.9% | 29.2% |
| Percentage of NNDR collected | 32.95% | 14.29% | 24.07% | 31.09% |
| Target | | 10.9% | 21.7% | 32.9% |
| NNDR liability on void commercial properties | £136,666 | £97,700 | | |
| Target | | £136,000 | | |
| Average days of sickness per employee | N/A | 1.54 days | | |
| Target | | 3 days | | |
| Right to buy sales | 5 sales | 3 sales | | |
| Target | | 5 sales | | |
| High risk premises due for inspection completed for food safety | 99% | Not available | | |
| Target | | Target awaited | | |
| Average residual household waste percentage | 59.84% | 67.75% | 65.06% | 60.23% |
| Target | | 65.5% | 61.5% | 60.0% |
| Average household recycling percentage | 40.16% | 32.25% | 32.94% | 39.77% |
| Target | | 34.5% | 38.5% | 40.0% |
| Number of disabled facilities grants | 21 Grants | 6 grants | 16 grants | 20 grants |
| Target | | 7 grants | 14 grants | 21 grants |

| Indicator | Q1 2014/15 | April | May | June |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Percentage of Planning applications processed; major applications in 13 weeks and others in 8 weeks | | | | |
| Major | 100% | 100% | 100% | 86% |
| Target | | 50% | 50% | 50% |
| Minor | 53% | 0% | 7.14% | 15.8% |
| Target | | 50% | 50% | 50% |
| Other | 74% | 75% | 75.56% | 71.6% |
| Target | | 50% | 50% | 50% |
| Supply of ready to develop housing sites - the number of dwellings that can be built on as deliverable housing sites as percentage of housing supply requirement | 117% | 129% | | |
| Target | | 100% | | |

The Committee discussed the report and expressed concern regarding the closure of the Dock Museum during Bank Holidays. The Committee agreed that this should be discussed further and Councillor Cassidy requested the item be placed on the agenda of the next Furness Maritime Trust meeting.

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

(ii) Bank Holiday closure at the Dock Museum be included on the agenda of the next Furness Maritime Trust meeting.

18 – Street Cleansing Report

The Corporate Support Manager provided an update of the recycling performance.

In the first quarter of 2015/16 the Borough recycled or composted 2,469 tonnes of waste compared to 2746 tonnes in the same period of 2014/15. The recycling reward value for the quarter was £159,800 compared to £172,300 in the previous year. This was attributable mainly to a reduction in green waste due to adverse weather conditions in the Spring, A breakdown was shown in Table 2 below:-

Table 2 Recycling Tonnages:

| | Q1 2015/16 (tonnes) | Q1 2014/15 (tonnes) |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Green waste | 1249 | 1504 |
| Kerbside co-mingled | 850 | 840 |
| Kerbside paper | 199 | 240 |
| Bring site co-mingled | 171 | 162 |

It was proposed that Members visited Ulverston or Kendal to watch SLDC's Recycling Recovery Vehicles (RRV) in operation so that they could assess their

performance against the Council's Recycling Compaction Vehicles (RCV). The Streetcare Manager was awaiting for confirmation of a date for this visit.

RESOLVED:- That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 2.50 p.m.

| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Overview and Scrutiny Committee | | Part One (D) Agenda Item 7 |
| Date of Meeting: | 22nd October, 2015 | |
| Reporting Officer: | Corporate Support Manager | |
| <p>Title: Friends of Barrow Cemetery Group</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>To provide Members with an update of the progress being made to establish a Friends of Barrow Cemetery Group.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Members are invited to consider the information and agree how to progress this.</p> | | |

Report

Members of the Friends of Barrow Cemetery Workgroup met on 8th October. The group agreed that there could be benefits to establishing a “Friends of the Cemetery” Group. It was agreed that we need to agree Terms of Reference for the group so they are focussed on delivering benefits to the Cemetery. The group discussed potential membership and the following were thought to be the most likely groups of people who would be interested in joining:-

- People who have a keen interest in the building and grounds;
- Community Groups; and
- Funeral Directors.

QR codes

The group also discussed Quick Response Codes on memorial trees. There are currently around 1000 trees in the Cemetery and the Council are required to keep a record of them. QR codes are one option to keep track of the trees; another benefit of them is that members of the family can also add more information on the code about the person passed.

A question was raised over the stability of the QR codes. It was thought that the codes would work on a permanent memorial; however it was questionable how they would work on memorial trees because they occasionally blow over and have to be removed. This would mean it would be hard to identify where the memorial actually is if the tree was removed. It was suggested that another option would be a probe in the ground which could be located even if the tree was removed. It was suggested that QR codes could be trialled on a small number to see what the outcome would be. It was decided that additional information was required regarding QR codes.

Chapel

Two members of the Public have contacted Councillor Wall regarding the chapel stating that they wanted it to be saved. One of the people she was approached by said she was willing to invest some money into the Chapel as she thinks there should be a place for the public to come and visit. Chris Pollard had advised the group that 3-4 years ago it was suggested that around £400,000 would be needed. The group agreed that this would be a longer term ambition and further information would be required.

Background Papers

Nil.

| | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Overview and Scrutiny Committee | | Part One (D) Agenda Item 8 |
| Date of Meeting: | 22nd September, 2015 | |
| Reporting Officer: | Corporate Support Assistant | |
| <p>Title: Street Cleansing Report</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>To provide Members with an update of the recycling performance.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Members are invited to consider the information and take note of the report.</p> | | |

Report

In the first two quarters of 2015/2016 the Borough recycled or composted 5,013 tonnes of waste compared to 2,757 tonnes in the same period of 2014/15. The recycling reward value for this period was £321,233 compared to £337,638 in the previous year. This is attributable mainly to a reduction in green waste due to adverse weather conditions in the Spring, a breakdown is shown in Table 1 (below).

Table 1: Recycling Tonnages

| | Q2 2015/16 (tonnes) | Q2 2014/15 (tonnes) |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Green waste | 2564 | 2757 |
| Kerbside co-mingled | 1685 | 1693 |
| Kerbside paper | 389 | 463 |
| Bring site co-mingled | 375 | 356 |

It is proposed that Members visit Ulverston or Kendal to watch SLDC's Recycling Recovery Vehicles (RRV) in operation so that they can assess their performance against our Recycling Compaction Vehicles (RCV). The Corporate Support Manager is trying to arrange a visit for the week commencing 9th November.

Background Papers

Nil.