

BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting:- Thursday 2nd June, 2016
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 2nd March, 2016 (copy attached).
- (D) 7. Appointments on Outside Bodies, Panels, Working Groups etc.
- (D) 8. Annual Report 2015/16.
- (D) 9. Comparison of Recycling Performance.
- (D) 10. Work Programme.

**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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Published: 24th May, 2016.

BOROUGH OF BARROW IN FURNESS

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting, Wednesday, 2nd March, 2016
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Cassidy (Vice-Chairman), Gill, Husband, McLeavy, Opie, C. Thomson, M. A. Thomson and Wall.

Officers Present:- John Penfold (Corporate Support Manager), Brooke Parsons (Corporate Support Assistant), Keith Johnson (Assistant Director – Regeneration and Community Services) and Paula Westwood (Democratic Services Officer - Member Support).

37 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Heath (Chairman), Preston, Proffitt and Williams.

38 – Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28th January, 2016 were taken as read and confirmed.

39 – Minutes of the Barrow Market Liaison Meeting held on 2nd February, 2016

A copy of the Minutes from the inaugural meeting of the Barrow Market Liaison Committee had been submitted for noting in accordance with the Terms of Reference of that Committee. The Assistant Director – Regeneration and Community Services had attended the meeting to answer any questions from Members.

In respect of Minute No. 7 – Council Budget 2016/2017, it was noted that a number of Market Traders had attended the full Council meeting on 1st March, 2016 with the intent to address full Council regarding the proposed Indoor Market rent increase. A Member raised a concern that the Market Traders had not been informed of the correct procedure for speaking at Council meetings. The Assistant Director – Regeneration and Community Services assured Members that the Market Traders had not been advised to attend the Council meeting on 1st March, 2016 to make representations. The Leader of the Council had advised the Liaison Committee of the proposed rent increase and the budget consultation process and in addition, every Market Trader had been fully informed of the proposed rent increase and that the budget consultation process was open via individual letters.

RESOLVED:- To note the Minutes of the Barrow Market Liaison Committee meeting held on 2nd February, 2016.

40 – Localised Flooding

The Corporate Support Manager reported that Members had requested that this Committee reviewed arrangements for localised flooding as part of their Work Programme. It was noted that Cumbria County Council was the Lead Partner for Flood Management and had established Making Space for Water Groups (MSfWG) for each of the six districts.

At the last meeting of this Committee the Environmental Protection Officer who was the Council's Lead Officer on the MSfWG had attended to provide an update of the current arrangements. At that meeting Members had requested the Corporate Support Manager to circulate a list of the current flood hotspots within the Borough and he confirmed today that he had done that.

The Corporate Support Manager informed the Committee that in order to address the flooding problems at Lindal the Highways Agency had plans in place to raise the road by the end of 2017.

In respect of the concerns raised at the previous meeting regarding in the vicinity of South Walney Riding School, a Member had advised the Committee that he had been informed that the problem would cost approximately £100,000 to rectify and would be of limited value as the water would drain away via soakaways. Alternative options were being looked into with the potential to be funded via Cumbria County Council.

The Assistant Director – Regeneration and Community Services advised the Committee that this was not on the Borough land and was an unadopted road.

RESOLVED:- To note the information.

41 – Street Cleansing

The Corporate Support Manager submitted a report regarding contaminated green waste. He informed the Committee that Biffa currently collected Green waste on behalf of the Council. The green waste was disposed of at Sinkfall Farm where it was composted. If Sinkfall Farm received contaminated loads of green waste (green waste which included non-green waste) the Council would incur additional costs for picking time involved to remove the contamination from the waste prior to composting.

Contaminated loads were typically attributed to two main sources:-

1. Residents who placed residual waste into their garden waste bins; and
2. Biffa's practice of using the same vehicle for collecting different waste streams

In respect of point 1, Biffa were contractually obliged to remove any waste in the green waste loads which was not supposed to be there. However, if Biffa could not see the contamination they would be unable to remove it and for Health and Safety reasons they could only inspect the top layer of the waste. Sinkfall then had the

responsibility for removing the contamination before the waste could be composted which resulted in additional fees being charged for picking time.

In respect of point 2, Biffa's practice of using the same vehicle for collecting different waste streams was due to the fact that there was a limited number of vehicles and on occasions, the same vehicle would be used for collections of green waste and residual waste. This resulted in waste residues from previous rounds contaminating the green waste if the vehicle had not been emptied completely between rounds.

In the period February 2015 - January 2016, there had been 52 reported contaminated loads out of 474 (11%) compared to 40 out of 494 (8%) in the same period of 2014-15.

The Corporate Support Manager advised the Committee that due to contamination of green waste, the value of the recycling credits received was significantly reduced by fees incurred for picking time.

A Member commented that Green waste collection could be reviewed as part of the impending renewal of the Waste Contract.

RESOLVED:- To note the information.

The meeting closed at 2.16 p.m.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 7
Date of Meeting: 2nd June, 2016	
Reporting Officer: Executive Director	
Title: Appointments on Outside Bodies, Panels, Working Groups etc.	
Summary and Conclusions:	
The Council on 10th May, 2016 gave delegated authority to Committees to make appointments to Outside Bodies, Forums (excluding Housing Management Forum) Panels, Working Groups etc. in accordance with the number and allocation of seats to political groups agreed at the Meeting. In the case of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee this involves appointments to the Leisure Services Group.	
Recommendation:	
To agree the appointments to the Leisure Services Group for 2016/17.	

Report

At the Annual Council Meeting on 10th May, 2016 the allocation of seats in respect of Forums, Panels, Working Groups etc. were agreed.

Members are requested to appoint Members to the Leisure Services Group for 2016/2017.

Note:- Membership for 2015/2016 was Councillors Gill, Heath, C. Thomson, M. A. Thomson and Wall.

Background Papers

Nil

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		Part One
Date of Meeting:	2nd June, 2016	(D)
Reporting Officer:	Corporate Support Assistant	Agenda Item 8
<p>Title: Annual Report 2015/16</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>To present the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2015/16.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the annual report and prioritise; and 2. To agree to present the annual report to full Council. 		

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 2015/16:

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

Members had previously agreed to develop a four year work programme up to March 2016 and identified topics for review these are presented in able 1.

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

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.

From the work programme above, items 1 (Allotments), 3 (Costal Protection) and 8 (Cultural Services) were completed prior to the start of 2015/16, items 2 (Street Cleanliness) and 9 (Policy and Strategy) are standing items for this committee, item

11 (Localised Flooding) was reviewed during 2015/16. We need to prioritise the work programme for 2016/17.

Members of the Committee considered reviewing item 10 (Housing Strategy).

Housing Strategy

The Council's Principal Planning Officer 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.

Members agreed to defer reviewing the Housing Strategy until the Local Plan had been adopted.

Localised Flooding

Members had requested that this Committee reviewed arrangements for localised flooding as part of their Work Programme. It was noted that Cumbria County Council was the Lead Partner for Flood Management and had established Making Space for Water Groups (MSfWG) for each of the six districts.

The Environmental Protection Officer who was the Council's Lead Officer on the MSfWG provided a presentation of the current arrangements for preventing and dealing with local flooding. Members were provided with a list of the current flood hotspots within the Borough.

Members were satisfied that appropriate arrangements were in place.

Street Cleanliness

Members received a number of street cleansing reports and raised their concerns regarding the reduction in the amount of waste being recycled which had reduced from 8978 tonnes in 2014/15 to 8335 tonnes in 2015/16. This was due to a significant reduction in the amount of paper collected and a reduction in green waste which may have been attributable to the cold spring.

Members were also concerned about an increase in contamination in green waste collections, which is attributable to residents using their green waste bins for residual waste.

Friends of Barrow Cemetery Group

Members requested that we consider establishing a 'Friends of the Cemetery' Group.

This was progressed and Barrow Cemetery has become an associate member of the Federation of Cemetery Friends, and we are now working towards full membership.

The Cemetery had around 1000 trees and the Council were required to keep a record of them. It was suggested that Quick Response codes would be one option to keep track of the trees; another benefit of them would be that members of the family could also add more information onto the code about the person passed. Currently a trial to assess the viability of using the Quick Response codes is being undertaken by Cemetery staff.

Background Papers

Nil.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 9
Date of Meeting: 2nd June, 2016	
Reporting Officer: Corporate Support Assistant	
<p>Title: Comparison of Recycling Performance</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>Provide Members with recycling tonnages and the income from the recycling reward scheme.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>To consider the information and take note of the report.</p>	

Report

Comparison of Recycling Performance of 2014/15 to 2015/16

The Council receives an income for the separate collection of recycling. This is a variable income called the Recycling Reward Scheme and we received £64.08 per tonne in 2015/16. The Council received £553,346 from the Recycling Reward Scheme in 2015/16 which was £3,986 lower than 2014/15. This is attributed to less green waste due to the cold spring compared to last year and a reduction in the amount of paper collected.

In the 2014/15 year, the variable income was marginally higher at £557,332 when the recycling reward value was £62.21 per tonne.

An analysis of the income from the Recycling Reward Scheme collection compared to the projected income in the Budget Book. In 2014/15 the actual income was £28,500 more than projected and in 2015/16 it was £13,300 more. There was 3.8% less recycling waste collected which was offset by a 3% indexation increase in the recycling reward value, this is detailed in table 1.

Table 1: Projected and actual incomes from Recycling Reward

Financial Year	Budgeted Income from Recycling Reward	Total Income
2015/16	£540,000	£553,346.18
2014/15	£530,000	£558,471.61

The breakdown of tonnages in Table 2 indicate that the lower recycling level in 2015/16 is mainly due to less green waste and paper being collected.

Table 2: Tonnages collected from the different recycling streams

Financial Year	Kerbside comingled	Bringsite comingled	Green	WEEE	Paper	Total Tonnes
2015/16	3477	774	3214	92	778	8335
2014/15	3532	744	3683	86	933	8978

Cumbria County Council is exploring the option of removing the indexation increase. If this happens there will be a reduction in the income from recycling reward. The tonnage collected in 2015/16 was lower than 2014/15 indicating the downward trend observed in recent years is continuing. Table 2 shows that the bringsite co-mingled stream and the WEEE stream have increased while there has been a significant decrease in kerbside paper collection and a marginal decrease in green waste collection. The recycling incentivisation grant which the Council received following a successful bid is being used to increase the amount of recycling collected. The scheme started in the second half of 2015/16 and we will monitor the impact.

Background Papers

Nil

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 10
Date of Meeting: 2nd June, 2016	
Reporting Officer: Corporate Support Assistant	
<p>Title: Work Programme</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>Provide Members with the current work programme.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>To consider the work programme and prioritise the reviews to be undertaken in 2016/17.</p>	

Report

I have attached the current Work Programme below, Items: 1) Allotments, 3) Coastal Protection and 8) Cultural Services are complete; Items 2) Street Cleanliness and 9) Policy and Strategy are standing items for this Committee. We need to prioritise the work programme for 2016/17.

Item 5) Town centres development and supporting local traders. Barrow has recently become a Business Improvement District and it is recommended that we monitor their initiatives. Reviewing arrangements at this time may duplicate their efforts.

Item 6) Highways and car parking. A car parking review has been carried out by the BIT Team to inform the Budget Strategy. Also, on-street car parking has been taken over by Cumbria County Council.

Item 8) Cultural Services. There is an external review which has been undertaken to inform the Budget Strategy.

Item 11) Localised Flooding. This is managed by Cumbria County Council's Making Space for Water Programme, Environmental Health's Enforcement Officer gave a presentation to Members about how this works.

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	Collect information from other agencies to determine whether appropriate action is being taken to minimise the impact of localised flooding

Background Papers

Nil