

BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting, Wednesday, 15th May, 2013
at 2.00 p.m. (Committee Room No. 4)

NOTE: Group Meetings at 1.15 p.m.

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. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th March, 2013 (copy attached) (Pages1-15).
6. Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members.

FOR DECISION

- (D) 7. Appointments on Outside Bodies, Panels, Working Groups etc. (Pages 16-22).

- (D) 8. Planning Policy - Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) (Pages 23-24).
- (D) 9. Cumbria County Council's Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Regulation 19 Consultation) (Pages 25-27).
- (D) 10. Boating Licence – Barrow Park (Pages 28-29).
- (D) 11. Local Validation Criteria (Pages 30-31).

PART TWO

- (R) 12. Consolidation of Temporary Ex-Gratia Payments to Staff Dealing with Housing Benefit Complaints (Pages 32-33).

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION BY VIRTUE OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF PART
ONE OF SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION (VARIATION) ORDER 2006**

**NOTE (D) - Delegated
(R) - For Referral to Council**

Membership of Committee Councillors

Pidduck (Chairman)
Sweeney (Vice-Chairman)
Barlow
Bell
Cassidy
Doughty
Garnett
Graham
Guselli
Richardson
Seward
Wall

For queries regarding this agenda, please contact:

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Published: 7th May, 2013.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting: Wednesday 20th March, 2013
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Pidduck (Chairman), Sweeney (Vice-Chairman), Barlow, Bell, Cassidy (Item 1 - 12), Doughty, Garnett, Graham, Richardson, Seward and Wall.

110 – Minutes Silence

The Chairman requested the Committee to stand for one minute as a mark of respect for Eleanor Murphy a former Mayoress of the Borough who had passed away today.

111 – Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th February, 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

112 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor Barlow declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 11 – Welfare Reform – Grants to External Organisations (Minute No. 118). He was the Treasurer of the Barrow and District Disability Association. He left the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor Garnett declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 11 – Welfare Reform – Grants to External Organisations (Minute No. 118). He was a Board Member of the Citizen's Advice Bureau. He left the meeting during consideration of the item.

113 – Apology for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Guselli.

114 – Housing Management Forum: Recommendations

The recommendations of the Housing Management Forum held on 28th February, 2013 were submitted for consideration.

N.B. The Minutes are reproduced as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting.

RESOLVED:- That the recommendations of the Housing Management Forum be agreed as follows:-

ASB Action Ltd

- (i) To note the information on the Service Level Agreement with ASB Action Ltd;
- (ii) To agree to progress the Service Level Agreement for a further 12 months with ASB Action Ltd; and
- (iii) To agree that a seminar be arranged regarding anti-social behaviour and Members of the Housing Management Forum and Tenants' Forum should be invited.

STAR Survey Action Plan

To agree the following action plan to respond to the matters raised throughout the STAR Survey:-

(1) Tenant Involvement and Influences in Services

To consider and progress options for ensuring Tenants such as those with a disability in their household were listened to and had the opportunity to express their views.

To consider and progress options for encouraging Tenants in the 16-34 age band to have the opportunity to engage and participate in the provision of services.

(2) Anti-Social Behaviour

To carry out a review of the current procedures for dealing with anti-social behaviour; and

(3) Complaints Procedure

To review and improve understanding of the Complaints Procedure.

To agree that the Decoration Allowance be increased to £20 per room from the start of the next financial year.

115 – Council Finances as at 31st December, 2012

The Borough Treasurer submitted a detailed report which presented financial information for the current financial year, as at 31st December, 2012 and the projected outturn for General Fund; Income Streams; Treasury Management; General Fund Reserves; Housing Revenue Account; Collection Fund and Write Offs.

RESOLVED:- To note the report of the Borough Treasurer.

116 – Medium Term Financial Plan 2013-2014 to 2015-2016

The Borough Treasurer submitted the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2013-2014 to 2015-2016 which was considered by the Committee.

The original projection out to 2015-2016 from the Medium Term Financial Plan last year, which had been based on the Budget Strategy, had showed a balanced budget with a £600k deficit being supported by reserves. That meant the budget had an actual shortfall of £600k which was supported by reserves.

The current projection out to 2015-2016 based on the approved 2013-2014 budget, had showed a deficit in 2015-2016 of £410k in addition to the £600k deficit being supported by reserves. That meant the gap at the end of the Budget Strategy was estimated to be £1 million rather than the original £600k.

Members were reminded that the budget report of 23rd January, 2013 had identified that the 2013-2014 budget was £219k higher than the original projection made last year in the Medium Term Financial Plan. The £219k had been funded by the Government settlement that had been received for the year. The continuing impact of the items making up the £219k deficit projected a shortfall of £344k for 2014-2015 and £410k for 2015-2016.

As set out in the current Medium Term Financial Plan, the shortfall for these years could be funded from the Restructuring Reserve if further savings and reductions were not generated in other areas.

2015-2016 was the final year of the budget support agreed in the Budget Strategy that made the on-going deficit £1 million.

Beyond 2015-2016 the £1 million deficit must be corrected. The Council's reserves would not be sufficient to maintain the current budget levels in future years. The 2015-2016 budget had not been rolled forward in the Medium Term Financial Plan as that was outside the current Budget Strategy.

The Restructuring Reserve was currently estimated to be £775k as at 31st March, 2016 however, that reserve continued to be used to fund the cost of on-going changes to bring expenditure down and to pay for one-off essential items.

RESOLVED:- To note the report of the Borough Treasurer.

117 – Welfare Reform Update

The Committee considered a detailed report of the Borough Treasurer that provided a brief background on Welfare Reform issues and an update or position statement where applicable.

The report was split into sections for Council Tax Support; Housing Benefit; Discretionary Housing Payments; Non-Dependent Deductions; Disability Living Allowance and Universal Credit.

The Borough Treasurer informed the Committee that for 2012-2013 the Council had received £38,479 Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) grant and that was almost all allocated, with 15 awards.

For 2013-2014, the Council had been allocated £99,921 from the Government. The overall absolute limit was £249,803; the difference of £149,882 could be spent on DHP's by the Council but no more.

All applications for a Discretionary Housing Payment were individually assessed. Should there be an appeal against a decision, Council Officers that were not involved in the original decision perform a reconsideration. The number of awards and the amounts in payment were entered into the benefits system.

RESOLVED:- (i) To note the report of the Borough Treasurer; and

(ii) To agree that £149,882 of the Restructuring Reserve be added to the Discretionary Housing Payment grant, to allow the funding to reach as many eligible people as possible.

118 – Welfare Reform – Grants to External Organisations

The Borough Treasurer reminded the Committee that the Council provided an annual grant to the Citizen's Advice Bureau. The Service Level Agreement for the next three years was currently being drawn up and having researched the original grant provisions, there was a discrepancy that needed to be resolved.

Originally, the annual grant appeared to cover the Welfare Benefits service that the Council transferred to the Citizen's Advice Bureau along with the staff providing the service at that time. The core services that were provided by the Citizen's Advice Bureau were under the banners of general advice and money advice. It was not possible to separate the Welfare Advice service from the core services, but it was an inherent part of the core services.

She proposed that the annual grant be provided to the Citizen's Advice Bureau for its overall service provision, with the caveat that a Welfare Benefits service be provided. To ring-fence the Council's grant would endanger the broader services provided and viability of the Bureau.

There were a number of changes from the Welfare Reforms that would have an impact on the number of people needing help and advice from the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) and the Barrow and District Disability Association (BDDA). When the Grants to External Bodies fund had been identified and distributed, Members had expressed the view that the funding for these organisations be reviewed if at all possible.

As a key partner in the delivery of support for Welfare Reform changes, it was proposed that the transition to reduced Council funding be cushioned for 2013-2014. That was the year that the changes would be most prominent.

The original funding profile from the core budget and from reserves was:

Year	Funding	CAB	BDDA	Total	Core Budget	Reserves
	%	£	£	£	£	£
2012-2013	100	99,280	14,660	113,940	56,970	56,970
2013-2014	80	79,420	11,730	91,150	56,970	34,180
2014-2015	60	59,570	8,800	68,370	56,970	11,400
2015-2016	50	49,640	7,330	56,970	56,970	-
2016-2017	50	49,640	7,330	56,970	56,970	-
Total funding		337,550	49,850	387,400	284,850	102,550
Budget provision 2012-2013 to 2016-2017				284,850		
Use of Reserves				102,550		

The proposed funding profile from the core budget and from reserves was:

Year	Funding	CAB	BDDA	Total	Core Budget	Reserves
	%	£	£	£	£	£
2012-2013	100	99,280	14,660	113,940	56,970	56,970
2013-2014	100	99,280	14,660	113,940	56,970	56,970
2014-2015	80	79,420	11,730	91,150	56,970	34,180
2015-2016	60	59,570	8,800	68,370	56,970	11,400
2016-2017	50	49,640	7,330	56,970	56,970	-
Total funding		387,190	57,180	444,370	284,850	159,520
Budget provision 2012-2013 to 2016-2017				284,850		
Use of Reserves				159,520		

The additional reserves that were required were £56,970 and these could be reallocated from the Restructuring Reserve into the Grants to External Bodies Reserve.

RESOLVED:- (i) To agree that the annual grant awarded to the Citizen's Advice Bureau be permitted to cover all of the services that were provided, with the caveat that a Welfare Benefits service be provided;

(ii) To agree that £49,640 of the Restructuring Reserve be awarded to the Citizen's Advice Bureau to further cushion the transition to reduced grant funding from the Council as set out in the report; and

(iii) To agree that £7,330 of the Restructuring Reserve be awarded to the Barrow and District Disability Association to further cushion the transition to reduced grant funding from the Council as set out in the report.

119 – Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth – 10th March, 2014

The Executive Director informed the Committee that he had been notified by the Queen's Pageant master that a new annual event to celebrate the Commonwealth was proposed for 10th March, 2014. The choice of year reflected the Commonwealth Games being hosted in Glasgow and the Centenary of the start of World War I.

The proposal was that all local authorities should fly the Commonwealth Flag on the day at a time to be agreed.

It was proposed that it would become an annual event with parish and community councils being included in 2015 and churches in 2016. Commonwealth Flags would be provided free of charge.

RESOLVED:- To agree to fly the Commonwealth Flag on 10th March, 2014 and in future years.

120 – Craven House: Lease of 4th Floor to Cumbria County Council

The Executive Director reminded the Committee that Craven House was a 1960's four storey office block situated on Michaelson Road, Barrow.

Provisional Heads of Terms had been agreed with Cumbria County Council for all of the fourth floor accommodation.

The proposal entailed the total refurbishment and upgrading of the fourth floor accommodation to a modern, lettable standard. In that regard Cumbria County Council had estimated the works required to cost £1.6m and had requested a capital contribution from the Council and a figure of £300,000 had been agreed upon. It was considered that to realistically achieve a market rent of £4.75/sq.ft the upgrade works were required and that the only alternative method of funding the refurbishments would be via a long rent free mechanism which would result in little or no income to the Council over the term of the lease. Funding that proportion of the improvement would require an adjustment to the Capital Programme to allow the works to be funded either from programme underspend on Strategic Acquisitions or from Efficiency Support Grant if the Boroughs Business case was accepted by Government.

The establishment of a rent level of £4.75/sq. ft. would also aid lease renewal/rent review negotiations currently underway with Fishers and Job Centre Plus.

It was proposed that, should the works proceed, the project would be procured and managed by Cumbria County Council in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

RESOLVED:- To approve the proposed lease to Cumbria County Council on the terms reported and that the Capital Programme be amended to facilitate a grant

of £300,000 towards refurbishment works to Craven House in the 2013/14 financial year.

121 – Craven House – Re-Roof

The Executive Director reminded the Committee that Craven House was a 1960's four storey office block situated on Michaelson Road, Barrow.

The current income from the property was substantial at £176,000pa and subject to Committee approval that would increase through letting of the fourth floor to Cumbria County Council.

It had been identified that the original roofing membrane had failed and that water was penetrating into the building. Two estimates for roof replacement of £194,000 and £222,000 had been obtained by the Council and a further estimate of £310,000 had been obtained by Cumbria County Council. Clearly, these were estimates and he expected the tendered price to be at the lower end of the range. The two estimates for the Council did not include provision for lifting and re-siting telecommunication equipment and therefore it was prudent to make a provision of £300,000 in the Capital Programme to complete the works.

Consideration had been given to the option of carrying out repairs to the roof however, given its age, the need to carry out more repairs in the future and the scale of the rental stream, full replacement was a more cost effective option.

The costs of £300,000 were not currently included in the Capital Programme and approval would require an adjustment to include the costs of replacement in 2013/14. The costs could be met from underspend in the Strategic Acquisitions Programme.

Essential maintenance and upgrades to the structure of the building were required to secure the continued rental income stream from the property.

The works would be procured and managed by Cumbria County Council in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

RESOLVED:- To agree to amend the Capital Programme to facilitate the re-roofing of Craven House at an estimated cost of £300,000 in 2013/14 funded by a reduction in the Strategic Acquisitions programme in 2012/13 2013/14.

122 – Approval of Collections Development Policy

The Executive Director informed the Committee that the Dock Museum had held the national museum standards for more than ten years (known as "Registration" and latterly "Accreditation"). That had enabled the Dock Museum to obtain grant funding (in 2012/13 more than £30,000 of grants were given to the Dock Museum).

To obtain Accreditation (the award of Accreditation lasted five years) this Committee had to approve a Collections Development Policy. The majority of

the text of the Collections Development Policy had been written by the Arts Council.

The Dock Museum's Collections Development Policy was thus a national standard and there were no significant changes from the previous plan adopted by the Committee on 17th October, 2008.

The deadline for the approval of the updated Collections Development Policy was the end of April 2013.

RESOLVED:- To approve the revised Collections Development Policy.

123 – Tenants Participation

The Committee was informed that from 1st April 2012, the Housing Communities Agency had taken over the housing regulation role. Co-regulation remained at the heart of the framework which meant having a solid partnership between tenants, landlords and those who govern the organisation to deliver positive results for tenants. Specifically, for the Council, it meant that Councillors who governed housing services were responsible for:-

1. Meeting the standards set out in the framework.
2. Delivering the organisations social housing objectives, including being transparent and accountable.
3. Supporting tenants to both shape and scrutinise service delivery and to hold councillors to account.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had decided it would be appropriate to review current tenant's participation arrangements to ensure they were robust enough to take on the new role. In undertaking the review Members met with the Housing Manager, the Community Involvement Manager and a representative from Lancaster City Council to discuss their approach to engagement.

The review focussed on six key points three of which Members believed would enhance the arrangements for Economic Standards and three which provided better opportunities to support the Consumer Standards.

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were concerned that a number of representatives on the Housing Management Forum (HMF) were not tenants and were making recommendations regarding the use of monies which was raised through tenant's rents. Members supported resident representation but believed that the HMF should only include Council tenant's representatives and elected Members. Members agreed that the Council should try to encourage more tenants to become involved in decisions that may affect their property.

The membership of HMF was of equal numbers of tenant representatives and councillors. Concern were raised that whilst tenants would operate as one voice, as political membership was dictated by the political make-up of the Council. As a result tenants had a greater influence over the recommendations

made by the HMF. Members did not think that this was appropriate because ultimately it was the Members who would be held to account.

The Council had appointed a Housing Chair however, the Council Constitution allowed for the HMF to appoint a Chair for the 'purpose of management of the meeting' who may be a different person. Historical evidence had suggested that because of the membership of HMF the Chair at HMF meetings was typically a tenant's or resident's representative. Members considered that the Chair of the HMF meetings should be the Chair that was appointed by the Council. Members raised concerns that when HMF reports were presented to the Executive Committee that the Chair of HMF should be present to clarify any issues.

Under the new arrangements the tenants should both shape and scrutinise service delivery and to hold councillors to account. The principal role in scrutinising landlord services and intervening where consumer standards were not met would fall to tenants' panels. Members considered that under Barrow's current arrangements tenants would be scrutinising themselves.

Currently the Tenant's Compact had a budget of £10k for training which was used for supporting training events and for expenses incurred when attending. Members supported retaining the training budget but were concerned that it may be excessive currently the training budget for all Elected Members was only £5k. Members suggested that the value of the training budget be reviewed in 2013/14.

Currently there was £25k budget for environmental enhancement. The budget was used for small scale improvements. Many Members were unaware that these budgets were available and were concerned that some areas don't access that funding. They considered that there should be more Member involvement in the use of that budget so it could be used to attract matched funding.

Members were also concerned regarding the lack of tenant involvement and would like to review how that could be improved.

The Executive Director informed the Committee that Management Board had concerns over the reduction of tenant representatives from eight to two.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) To agree to continue to have eight Elected Member representatives but reduce the number of Tenant's representatives to four;
- (ii) To agree that Tenant's representatives should be Council Tenants;
- (iii) To agree that the Council should encourage more Tenants to take an active role in Tenant's participation;
- (iv) To agree that the Chairman of Housing Management Forum (HMF) that was appointed by the Council would also be the Chairman at HMF meetings;

- (v) To agree that the Chairman of HMF should also be a Member of the Executive Committee to provide a Member's view on the HMF reports that were submitted to the Executive Committee;
- (vi) To agree to change the remit of the Tenant Compact Working Party to carryout scrutiny of current policies and practices;
- (vii) To agree to retain the training budget of £10k for 2013/14;
- (viii) To agree to undertake a review of the training budget in 2013/14.;
- (ix) To agree to retain the environmental enhancement budget of £25k;
- (x) To agree that the Housing Department should identify a mechanism for keeping Elected Members involved regarding the use of the budget; and
- (xi) To agree to undertake a review to consider how more Tenants can become involved in decision making.

Immediately after the vote was taken Councillor Richardson requested that his vote be recorded that he had voted against the motion.

The meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.

HOUSING MANAGEMENT FORUM

Meeting: Thursday 28th February, 2013
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Hamilton (Chairman), Barlow, Irwin, Murray, Pointer and Richardson.

Tenant Representatives:- Mrs P. Charnley, Mrs G. Giddings, Mr W. McEwan, Mrs C. McFadyen and Mr W. Ward.

29 – Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January, 2013 were taken as read and confirmed.

30 – Apologies for Absence/Changes in Membership

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Johnston and Williams and from Tenants Representatives Mr M. Burton, Mr A. McIntosh and Ms K. Warne. Mrs G. Giddings had attended as a substitute for Mr A. McIntosh.

31 – ASB Action Ltd

The Housing Manager submitted a report providing Members with information on the Service Level Agreement currently in place with ASB Action Ltd to assist the Housing Service with the effective management of anti-social behaviour which was a key component in the Housing Service achieving its aim to provide well-maintained homes and estates where people choose to live.

He advised that the Council had an obligation to the Residents in the local areas they managed to do all they reasonably could to prevent crime and disorder in those areas. The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 also required Social Landlords to review their policies for tackling anti-social behaviour annually and publish their policies and procedures for inspection.

The services provided by ASB Action Ltd included:

- Reviewing cases referred and providing action points to the Estates Team within specified timescales to ensure prompt service to Customers;
- Where appropriate, collecting evidence and constructing witness statements to a standard required for Civil Court proceedings;
- Acting as a professional witness in court where required;
- Carrying out audits/case reviews;
- Providing the Estates Team with the range of appropriate legislation which could be used to resolve specific cases and support strategic initiatives;

- Reviewing the Housing Service's existing Anti-Social Behaviour Policies and Procedures and, where necessary, making recommendations to ensure service improvement;
- Providing the Housing Service with a witness support service, including an out-of-hours telephone service to support the most vulnerable witnesses;
- Providing a coaching, training and mentoring service for the front line Officers and Managers of the Housing Service on the best practice for tackling and preventing anti-social behaviour; and
- Seeking to provide a service which appeared seamless to the complainant/witness.

It was noted that ASB Action Ltd offered a specialised service which focused on assisting social housing providers to deal with anti-social behaviour issues. Their existing Service Level Agreement with the Council included 15 days to be used over a 12-month period. The cost of 15 days Service Level Agreement including training was £7,068.75 plus VAT and it was noted that during the last 12 months, ASB Action Ltd had assisted the Housing Service to successfully obtain five Injunctions for anti-social behaviour.

The Housing Manager advised that the Estates Team had developed working arrangements with ASB Action Ltd and in recognition of the value derived from the Service Level Agreement he suggested renewing the Agreement for a further 12 months, thus suspending the requirement to obtain alternative estimates.

Members of the Forum had considered it to be appropriate to run a seminar regarding anti-social behaviour to which Members of the Housing Management Forum and Tenants' Forum should be invited.

RECOMMENDED:- (i) To note the information on the Service Level Agreement with ASB Action Ltd;

(ii) To agree to progress the Service Level Agreement for a further 12 months with ASB Action Ltd; and

(iii) To agree that a seminar be arranged regarding anti-social behaviour and Members of the Housing Management Forum and Tenants' Forum should be invited.

32 – STAR Survey: Action Plan

The Housing Manager submitted a report which considered the findings of the recently completed STAR Survey and proposed an action plan to respond to the views received.

He reported that the STAR Survey was a means by which Social Landlords could gather information regarding the views of their Tenants in a structured manner. The Council had agreed to carry out the survey last year, the findings

of which had been reported to the meeting on 17th January, 2013 (Minute No. 26 refers).

The information gathered in the survey was used to inform the service on Tenants' views on a range of issues. The information could then be used to identify areas of service which may require improvement.

Results indicated that there were generally good levels of satisfaction of the services provided. The results of the survey had been analysed in detail in the Housing Manager's report, a copy of the survey had been placed in the Members' Room and was also available on the Council's website following the link to Council Housing/Surveys.

To summarise the report it was clear the Council's services to Tenants generally scored well across most areas. It was clear that the geographic area, age of Tenant, gender and where there was a Tenant with disability did have an influence on the score.

Whilst it could be argued all aspects of the Council's service were important, it was helpful in that the survey identified what Tenants had said in terms of identifying the area of service which were the 'key drivers' to improving satisfaction and overall satisfaction. In the case of the Council's Housing service, the three top drivers were:

- (1) Listening to and acting upon Residents' views;
- (2) The repairs and maintenance service; and
- (3) How Residents' enquiries were dealt with.

In the case of (1) and (2) above, the Housing Manager suggested that this was about the culture, model of delivery and day-to-day experience of the contract between Tenants and the service. Clearly from the overall score, the current approach achieved high levels of satisfaction but some "groups" perception was of higher levels of dissatisfaction. In particular, the Survey highlighted this as prevalent in households with a disability in their household.

Likewise in repairs, targeted action for younger people to promote service standards may be helpful to manage expectation levels.

Whilst not key drivers, the Housing Manager suggested that from the survey and discussions with colleagues, the perception of how complaints and anti-social behaviour were dealt with required further consideration.

In considering the information as a means of developing the service, it should be noted that good scores were recorded across most areas of service provision.

The Housing Manager had suggested that the model of delivery of services did not currently meet the needs of the majority of Residents and required only refinement in specific areas rather than a remodelling of services.

He also suggested there were areas of the service that could be developed at minimal cost, whereas others such as 'appearance of neighbourhood' may be more difficult to respond to in view of the mixed nature of the estates and cost implications.

He further suggested the practice of carrying out a general satisfaction survey (STAR) should be incorporated into the routine practice of the service on a three-yearly basis. The information contained in the survey would be used to inform the service on any service developments that were progressed in the future and a benchmark to judge performance.

The Housing Manager had proposed an action plan to respond to the matters raised throughout the survey.

RECOMMENDED:- To agree the following action plan to respond to the matters raised throughout the STAR Survey:-

(4) Tenant Involvement and Influences in Services

To consider and progress options for ensuring Tenants such as those with a disability in their household were listened to and had the opportunity to express their views.

To consider and progress options for encouraging Tenants in the 16-34 age band to have the opportunity to engage and participate in the provision of services.

(5) Anti-Social Behaviour

To carry out a review of the current procedures for dealing with anti-social behaviour; and

(6) Complaints Procedure

To review and improve understanding of the Complaints Procedure.

33 – Decoration Allowance

The Housing Manager submitted a report to consider and agree an increase in the Decoration Allowance paid to new Tenants when accepting a Tenancy. He reported that it was common practice for Social Landlords to provide a Decoration Allowance to new Tenants and such allowance was provided as a contribution towards redecorating a property which would be incurred by a new Tenant.

During the process of preparing a property for re-letting, Officers as part of the inspection process would make a judgement on the number of rooms that would require redecoration.

A new Tenant, when signing up for a Tenancy, was provided with a voucher to the agreed value that could be redeemed at a number of local shops for decoration materials. The current allowance was £15 per room and had been at

that level for many years. The Housing Manager suggested that it should be increased from £15 to £20 per room and advised that a budget provision of £75,000 had been included within the Maintenance Budget. He suggested that the increase be met from that budget but would be monitored as the year progressed.

Members considered £20 to be low but as the Housing Manager had advised that this could be accommodated within the existing budget it would be agreed for this year. The Housing Manager would take on board comments made when producing the budget for the following year.

RECOMMENDED:- To agree that the Decoration Allowance be increased to £20 per room from the start of the next financial year.

The meeting closed at 2.18 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 7
Date of Meeting: 15th May, 2013	
Reporting Officer: Executive Director	
Title: Appointments on Outside Bodies, Panels, Working Groups etc.	
Summary and Conclusions:	
The Council has given delegated authority to Committees to make appointments to Outside Bodies, Forums (except Housing Management Forum) Panels, Working Groups etc. in accordance with the number and allocation of seats to political groups agreed at the Annual meeting.	
Details of nominations made by the political groups will be reported in appendices at a later date.	
Recommendation:	
To consider the appointments recommended by the political groups and determine the appointments to be made where nominations exceed the available places.	

Report

At the Annual meeting on 14th May, 2013 the allocation of seats in respect of Forums, Panels, Working Groups etc. and certain Outside Bodies will be considered by Council.

Council will be asked to recommend with the exception of the Housing Management Forum the allocation of seats on Outside Bodies, Forums, Panels, Working Groups etc. be delegated to the appropriate Committees to make the necessary appointments.

Group Leaders will supply details of the recommended appointments for confirmation by the Committee and these will be forwarded to you as soon as they are available.

(i) **Legal Implications**

When Councillors are acting as representatives on another authority they must comply with their Code of Conduct.

(ii) Risk Assessment

The recommendation has no implications.

(iii) Financial Implications

The recommendation has no financial implications.

(iv) Health and Safety Implications

The recommendation has no implications.

(v) Equality and Diversity

Not Applicable.

(vi) Health and Well-being Implications

Not Applicable.

Background Papers

Nil

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES, ETC. 2013/2014

- (1) AIR TRAINING CORPS (NO. 128 SQUADRON)
The Mayor
- (2) ASKAM AND IRELETH COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Councillors Bell, Doughty, Murray and Thurlow
- (3) ASKAM COMMUNITY CENTRE LIMITED
Director: Councillor Bell
- (4) BAE SYSTEMS MARINE LTD LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE
Councillors Cassidy, Pointer and Sweeney
- (5) BARROW AND DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
The Mayor
- (6) BARROW AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ACTION SAFETY GROUP
Councillors Biggins and Pointer
- (7) BARROW BOROUGH DISABILITY SPORT AND LEISURE FORUM:
GENERAL COMMITTEE
Councillor Callister
- (8) BARROW CHILDREN'S CENTRES ADVISORY GROUP
Councillor Preston
- (9) BARROW EARLY INTERVENTION DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PROJECT: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Councillor Burns
- (10) BARROW COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
Councillors Hamilton and Pidduck
- (11) BARROW-IN-FURNESS SEA CADET CORPS COMMITTEE
The Mayor
- (12) BARROW WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS LOCAL FORUM
Councillors Graham, Guselli and Wall
- (13) BILLINCOAT CHARITY TRUST
Councillors Bell, Doughty, Maddox, Murray, Thurlow and Wilson
- (14) BRITISH GAS HYDROCARBON RESOURCES LTD: LOCAL
LIAISON COMMITTEE
Councillors Irwin, Johnston and Pointer

- (15) BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS LIMITED: RAMSDEN DOCK TERMINAL
STAKEHOLDER GROUP
Councillors Biggins, Irwin and Johnston
- (16) BUCCLEUCH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Councillor Doughty
- (17) CENTRAL AND HINDPOOL NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT
BOARD
Leader (Councillor Pidduck) plus Councillors Irwin and M. A.
Thomson
- (18) CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKING GROUP
Councillor McKenna
- (19) CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU
Councillors Murray and Pointer
- (20) CUMBRIA ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADVISORY SERVICE
The Mayor
- (21) CUMBRIA COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES PARTNERSHIP
Councillor Sweeney
- (22) CUMBRIA HOUSING EXECUTIVE GROUP
Councillor Hamilton
- (23) CUMBRIA PENSIONS FORUM
Councillor Wilson
- (24) CUMBRIA PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION
Councillor Callister
- (25) CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP
Councillor M. A. Thomson
- (26) CUMBRIA SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING BOARD
Councillor Pointer
- (27) CUMBRIA WASTE PARTNERSHIP'S ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP
WORKING PROJECT
Councillor M. A. Thomson
- (28) DALTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Councillor Wilson
- (29) DUDDON ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP
Councillor Murphy and Councillor Doughty

- (30) FAIRTRADE WORKING GROUP
Councillors Barlow and M. A. Thomson
- (31) FRIENDS OF WALNEY
Councillor Callister
- (32) FURNESS DRUG REFERENCE GROUP
Councillor M. A. Thomson
- (33) FURNESS ENTERPRISE: SUPERVISORY BOARD
The Leader – Councillor Pidduck
- (34) FURNESS LOCAL PARTNERSHIP GROUP – SCHOOLS
ORGANISATION
Councillors McKenna and Sweeney
- (35) FURNESS MARITIME TRUST
Council of Trustees: - Councillors Cassidy, Irwin, Murphy and Pointer
plus the Executive Director and Borough Treasurer
- (36) HEALTH AND WELLBEING LOCALITY FORUM
Councillors Graham, Sweeney and Williams
- (37) KEEPING OUR FUTURE AFLOAT
Councillor Pidduck
- (38) LAKES WORLD HERITAGE SITE STEERING GROUP
Councillor Murphy
- (39) LIBERATA PARTNERSHIP BOARD
Councillors Barlow, Guselli and Sweeney
- (40) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION: GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Councillor Pidduck
- (41) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NUCLEAR ISSUES
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
Councillor Pidduck
Substitute: Councillor Sweeney
- (42) NORTH WEST COUNCILS AGAINST FLUORIDATION
Councillor Thurlow
- (43) NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND AND THE ISLE OF MAN RESERVE
FORCES CADETS ASSOCIATION
Councillor Husband

- (44) NORTH WESTERN LOCAL AUTHORITIES' EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATION
Councillor Sweeney
- (45) NORTH WEST RAIL STEERING GROUP
Councillor Murphy
- (46) RURAL JOINT COMMITTEE
Councillors Doughty and Murray
- (47) SCRUTINY OF LOCAL HEALTH
Councillor Johnston
- (48) SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUBS: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Councillor Irwin
- (49) THE PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London)
Adjudication Joint Committee
Councillor Callister

OUTSIDE BODIES AGREED BY COUNCIL

Allotments Liaison Committee (9 seats – 7:2)

Councillors Barlow, Doughty, Johnston, Husband, Irwin, Thurlow and Wilson plus two Conservative representatives.

Barrow Local Committee – Highways Advisory Group (3 seats – 2:1)

Councillors Barlow, Doughty and W. McClure

Barrow Borough Sports Council (3 seats – 2:1)

Councillors Biggins, Callister and Pemberton

Wildlife and Heritage Advisory Committee (9 seats – 7:2)

Councillors Bell, Johnston, McKenna, Murphy, M. A. Thomson, Thurlow and Wall plus two Conservative representatives.

**MEMBERSHIP OF FORUMS, PANELS, WORKING GROUPS ETC.
2013/2014**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Medical Assessment/Housing Applications Appeals Panel

3 Members selected by Executive Director in accordance with proportionality rules

Review Board – Housing Register/Homeless Applicants

3 Members selected by Executive Director in accordance with proportionality rules

Private Rented Accommodation Group (Accredited Letting Scheme and Proposed Licensing)

3 Members selected by Executive Director in accordance with proportionality rules

Planning Policy Working Group (5:1)

(Two Members Executive Committee and four Members Planning Committee)

Labour – Councillors Murray, Pidduck, Sweeney, C. Thomson and M. A. Thomson

Conservative – Councillor R. McClure

Member Training Working Group (3:1)

Councillors Doughty, Pidduck, M. A. Thomson and Williams

Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancy Panel (3:1)

Councillors Pidduck, Sweeney, M. A. Thomson and Williams

Grading Appeals Panel (3:1)

Councillors Pidduck, Sweeney, M. A. Thomson and Williams

Renovation Grants Panel (3:1)

Councillors Doughty, Pidduck, Richardson and M. A. Thomson

Local Government Working Group (7:2)

Councillors Barlow, Doughty, Garnett, Pemberton, Pidduck, Preston, Richardson Sweeney and M. A. Thomson

Health and Safety Management Board

Councillors Barlow, Pidduck, Pointer, Richardson and C. Thomson

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		Part One (D) Agenda Item 8
Date of Meeting:	15th May, 2013	
Reporting Officer:	Executive Director	
<p>Title: Planning Policy - Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the publication of the 2011/12 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>To note the submission and content of the Annual Monitoring Report.</p>		

Report

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the publication of the 2011/12 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) produced by the Planning Policy Section.

This is the eighth Annual Monitoring Report to be published and a full colour copy is available to view in the Member's Room or on the Council's website.

The AMR is required by legislation and regulations to demonstrate progress in producing the planning policy documents set out in the Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS). It also provides details of development plan policies which are not being implemented and how they are to be reviewed, and the number of dwellings delivered against any targets. The AMR therefore contains a 'housing trajectory' showing the actual and predicted performance against any housing targets in the development plan (currently those set out in the Regional Strategy).

Barrow Borough's current Local Development Scheme (January 2013) reflects the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) introduced in March 2012, and the Council's decision to produce a single Local Plan document instead of the proposed documents under the former Local Development Framework system. As the production of a single Local Plan requires the review of all saved policy this will be progressed over the coming monitoring period.

DCLG cancelled the AMR's non-statutory 'Core Indicators' on 30th March 2011, however where available data has been presented on the same basis as previously, to enable comparison with previous years and with other Cumbrian Authorities.

(i) Legal Implications

Elements of the AMR's content are statutory requirements.

(ii) Risk Assessment

The recommendation has no implications.

(iii) Financial Implications

The recommendation has no financial implications.

(iv) Health and Safety Implications

The recommendation has no implications.

The recommendation has no detrimental impact the built environment or public realm.

(v) Equality and Diversity

The recommendation has no detrimental impact on service users showing any of the protected characteristics under current Equalities legislation.

(vi) Health and Well-being Implications

The recommendation has no adverse effect on the Health and Wellbeing of users of this service.

Background Papers

Correspondence held by the Executive Director.

Copy of AMR available to view in Members Room and on Councils website at www.barrowbc.gov.uk/planningpolicy.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 9
Date of Meeting: 15th May, 2013	
Reporting Officer: Executive Director	
<p>Title: Cumbria County Council's Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Regulation 19 Consultation)</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>The County Council have carried out consultation on their Published Mineral and Waste Local Plan. This is intended to replace the adopted Local Development Framework documents.</p> <p>The short consultation period meant that a report for committee could not be prepared before the deadline for comments. Officer comments were therefore submitted on your behalf regarding the strategic approach to site allocation and development, the impact of increased marine dredged aggregate landing at Barrow, strategic non inert landfill sites in Barrow, the proposed Sand and Gravel site at Roosecote and the blanket presumption of approval of waste management facilities on planned or existing industrial estates. A copy is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>To agree to endorse the comments in the report.</p>	

Report

Background

Cumbria County Council is currently in the process of producing a Mineral and Waste Local Plan to replace their adopted Local Development Framework documents.

On 19th February 2013, Cumbria County Council published their Draft Local Plan (the Draft Plan) for consultation. The Draft Plan is a single document that includes strategic policies, development control policies and site allocations policies together with a policies map.

The deadline for comments on the Draft Plan was 8th April 2013. The short consultation period meant that it was not possible to prepare a report for Committee before the deadline for comments. Therefore, officer comments were submitted and Committee endorsement of these comments is now sought.

The Mineral and Waste Strategy

The Draft Plan sets out the Mineral and Waste requirements for Cumbria, including the number and type of facilities needed up to 2028.

The Draft Plan allows for the identification of more than the minimum number of sites, in order to provide flexibility. Assuming that the Draft Plan is underpinned by accurate and up to date evidence of Mineral and Waste requirements for the County, this approach provide the clarity of clearly identified sites whilst still providing the flexibility needed to plan within, what the County Council have described in the past as, the rapidly changing context of planning for waste management.

However, paragraph 19.3 of the Draft Plan also makes it clear that identified sites should not be considered as “this number and no more”. This appears to conflict with the strategic approach outlined above and it has been requested that paragraph 19.3 be removed.

The Sequential Approach

Clarity has been sought regarding the sequential approach although it appears that existing established waste management sites will be explored first followed by existing buildings and previously developed land within settlements and land allocated for employment use in District Local Plans and Local Development Frameworks.

Marine Dredged Aggregates

The Draft Plan seeks to enable the increased use of marine dredged aggregates as a substitute for land won ones. As Barrow is one of the permitted landing points along the North West coastline, officers have commented that any increase in the landing of marine dredged aggregates should be accomplished in such a way as not to affect the Barrow Port Regeneration proposals by, for example, transporting aggregate through proposed residential areas.

Landfill

The Council has consistently objected to the inclusion of Goldmire Quarry as a Mineral and Waste landfill site, objecting to its inclusion on the basis that, in the absence of appropriate technical and feasibility studies, the allocation of Goldmire Quarry for non-inert landfill would be premature. There remains an absence of appropriate technical and feasibility studies and, without such studies, the suitability of the site, its capacity and its deliverability cannot be adequately demonstrated. Officers therefore objected to the inclusion of Goldmire Quarry as a strategic non inert landfill site.

Officers have asked the County Council to consider Bennett Bank as a possible alternative strategic Mineral and Waste Landfill site. Allocation of

Bennett Bank would be sequentially preferable and would provide greater certainty, as a deliverable site, than Goldmire Quarry.

Roosecote Sand and Gravel (Proposed Site M12)

The Council have consistently objected to the inclusion of this site as an identified Mineral and Waste site on the basis of the unacceptable visual impact upon the area. Officers have reiterated concerns and objected to the inclusion of site M12 as a Preferred Area of Search.

Development Control Policies

The Council has previously expressed concern at the inclusion of a blanket presumption of approval of waste management facilities on planned or existing industrial estates. In the Borough, for example, such facilities would not be appropriate if located within the Waterfront Business Park as it would run counter to the intended purpose of a higher quality business park with higher value employment areas. Officers have requested that the Draft Plan takes account of such circumstances.

(i) Legal Implications

The recommendation has no implications.

(ii) Risk Assessment

The recommendation has no implications.

(iii) Financial Implications

The recommendation has no financial implications.

(iv) Health and Safety Implications

The recommendation has no implications.

(v) Equality and Diversity

The recommendation has no detrimental impact on service users showing any of the protected characteristics under current Equalities legislation.

(vi) Health and Well-being Implications

The recommendation has no adverse effect on the Health and Wellbeing of users of this service.

Background Papers

Nil



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Mr R Evans
Team Leader Mineral and Waste Policy
Planning and Sustainability
County Offices
Kendal
Cumbria LA9 4RQ

**BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGENERATION &
BUILT ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE**

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Email: development_plans@barrowbc.gov.uk
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Our Ref:LPP3/5
Your Ref: RGE/p334/28

Contact Name:Tifany Battersby
Direct Line: 01229 876349

Date:2 April 2013

Dear Richard,

**The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
Regulation 19
Consultation about the content of the Cumbria and Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-2028**

Thank you for your recent consultation on the above and the opportunity to comment on the forthcoming Mineral and Waste Local Plan.

Please note that these comments are officer comments only. The comments form the basis of a report for consideration by the Borough Council's Executive Committee, which meets 22 May 2013, seeking Member's endorsement.

Mineral and Waste Strategy

The Published Mineral and Waste Local Plan (the Plan), sets out the Mineral and Waste requirements for Cumbria, including the number and type of facilities that will be needed over the Plan period.

The Plan allows for the identification of more than the minimum number of sites, in order to provide flexibility. Assuming that the Plan is underpinned by accurate and up to date evidence of Mineral and Waste requirements for the County, this approach provides the clarity of clearly identified sites, whilst still providing the flexibility needed to plan within, what the County Council have described in the past as, the rapidly changing context of planning for waste management.

However, paragraph 19.3 makes it clear that the identified sites in the Plan should not be considered as "this number and no more". Although it is acknowledged that there will always be occasional 'windfall' sites that can be justified and approved, paragraph 19.3 would appear to conflict with the strategic approach outlined above. Therefore, the Borough Council would like paragraph 19.3 to be removed.

The Sequential Approach

Paragraph 3.62 confirms that a sequential approach will be adopted when considering Mineral and Waste sites. The paragraph indicates that existing established waste management sites will be

explored first, followed by existing buildings and previously developed land within settlements and land allocated for employment use in District Local Plans and Local Development Frameworks. This appears to vary from the sequential approach set out in the Site Location Criteria in Table 3.1. Clarity is sought.

Marine Dredged Aggregates

Policy SP10 seeks to enable the increased use of marine dredged aggregates as a substitute for land won ones. Barrow is one of the permitted landing points along the North West coastline and any increase in the landing of marine dredged aggregates should be accomplished in such a way so as not to affect the Barrow Port Regeneration proposals by, for example, transporting aggregate through proposed residential areas.

Landfill

Policy SP3 sets out the requirements for waste facilities in the County, including the requirement for 1.3 million cubic metres of landfill capacity for all waste streams over the plan period (to 2028). This requirement is a significant reduction from the 7 million cubic metres required up to 2020 by the, currently adopted, Mineral and Waste Core Strategy.

The Plan indicates, at paragraph 20.10, that there remains 6.5 million cubic metres of landfill capacity in current planning permissions. This includes the planning permission for 580,000 cubic metres at Bennett Bank, although consent for this expires in 2017.

The Plan says that the landfill operator for Bennett Bank has indicated that there remains 165,000 cubic metres of capacity at the site. Paragraph 3.51 of the Plan suggests that this implies that a much smaller scheme than that which was approved is now being implemented. If this is the case, there may remain significant landfill capacity within Bennett Bank.

Policy SP4 identifies Carlisle and Barrow in Furness as strategic areas for non-inert landfill capacity and the policy also makes it clear that existing waste management facilities will be preferred to other sites.

Goldmire Quarry (BA10) has been identified as a new non inert landfill site to meet the strategic need for landfill capacity in the south of the County, upon the expiration of the Bennett Bank consent. However, the Plan also makes it clear at paragraphs 3.52 and 20.12, that there is uncertainty over the viability of this site and the matter will need to remain under review.

Barrow Borough Council has consistently objected to the inclusion of Goldmire Quarry as a Mineral and Waste landfill site, objecting to its inclusion on the basis that, in the absence of appropriate technical and feasibility studies, the allocation of Goldmire Quarry for non-inert landfill would be premature. There remains an absence of appropriate technical and feasibility studies and, without such studies, the suitability of the site, its capacity and its deliverability cannot be adequately demonstrated. The Council therefore object to the inclusion of Goldmire Quarry as a non-inert landfill site.

As an alternative, the County Council could consider Bennett Bank as a strategic Mineral and Waste Landfill site. Allocation of the Bennett Bank would comply with Policy SP4 and would provide greater certainty, as a deliverable site, than Goldmire Quarry.

Sand and Gravel

Policy SAP6 identifies Roosecote Sand and Gravel Quarry (M12) as a Preferred Area for Minerals. The area shown as site M12, on page 114 of the Plan, does not form part of the existing Roosecote Sand and Gravel Quarry and the Borough Council suggest that the site name is amended to avoid confusion.

Site M12 is a stand alone area of land separated from the existing Roosecote Sand and Gravel Quarry by Rampside Road. The area is currently a prominent area of Greenfield land located in an area of locally valuable open countryside.

Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit notes, on page 91, that Low Drumlin landscape can only be found in two small areas of Cumbria (from Barrow to south Rampside and between Milnthorpe and Farleton Knott) and that the vision for these two small areas, which is stated on page 92 of the document, is that "This is a well composed landscape which will be conserved and enhanced".

The Borough Council have consistently objected to the inclusion of this site as an identified Mineral and Waste site on the basis of the unacceptable visual impact upon the area. The Council remain of this opinion and object to the inclusion of site M12 as a Preferred Area for Minerals.

Development Control Policies

The majority of Development Control Policies are supported. However, the Borough Council wish to object to Development Control Policy DC7, which sets out the criteria for waste management facilities. The policy indicates that such facilities, including scrapyards, vehicle dismantlers and physical, chemical or biological treatments of waste, will be permitted on existing or planned industrial estates.

The Borough Council acknowledge the difficulties of siting such facilities and accepts that, in some cases, such facilities can be accommodated within industrial units. However, there should not be a blanket presumption of approval. In the Borough, for example, they would not be appropriate if located within the Waterfront Business Park as it would run counter to the intended purpose of a higher quality business park with higher value employment types. The policy should take account of such circumstances.

Yours sincerely

Phil Huck
Executive Director



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		Part One (D) Agenda Item 10
Date of Meeting:	15th May, 2013	
Reporting Officer:	Assistant Director Community Services	
<p>Title: Boating Licence – Barrow Park</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>Members will be aware that in April 2008 a licence to operate pleasure boats on Barrow Park lake was awarded to Blyth's boats. This licence was granted for five years with an option to extend for a further five years.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>To approve the five year extension to the existing boating licence, in line with the terms of the agreement.</p>		

Report

In April 2008, a licence to operate pleasure boats on Barrow Park Lake was awarded to Blyth's Boats. This licence was granted for five years with an option to extend for a further five years.

In brief, the licence requires the operator to, as a minimum, offer boat hires to the public every weekend from Easter to Michaelmas and to provide a warden service at those times at the water edge.

In 2008, Blyths Boats were the only interested party and the Council considers this to be a limited commercial opportunity, which has the main function of adding to Barrow Parks offer.

The arrangement has been satisfactory, the operator has invested in different types of craft and attractions during the last three years and this activity enhances the visitor experience.

The purpose of this report is to ask members to approve that the licence be continued for the further five years as specified in the agreement.

(i) Legal Implications

The existing agreement is for five years with an option to extend for a further five years.

(ii) Risk Assessment

Not Applicable.

(iii) Financial Implications

The operator is paid an annual retainer, and the agreement has a profit share of any income over a certain level.

(iv) Health and Well-being Implications

The amenity offered by the operator allows users to take outdoor exercise in a pleasant environment.

(v) Equality and Diversity

In addition to standard craft, the operator has an adapted craft which can be accessed by some wheelchair users.

(vi) Health and Safety Implications

The operator has systems and procedures in place to ensure safety.

Background Papers

Correspondence held by the Assistant Director – Community Services.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		Part One (D) Agenda Item 11
Date of Meeting:	15th May, 2013	
Reporting Officer:	Property Information Manager	
<p>Title: Local Validation Criteria</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>To obtain approval for the updated local planning validation criteria.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>To approve the local validation criteria for planning applications.</p>		

Report

The Council is required to ensure that submitted planning applications meet the requirements of related national validation criteria these national criteria are supplemented by a local set of criteria. The purpose of the local validation criteria is;

- To ensure that applicants have greater certainty as to the scope and extent of the supporting information needed for their planning application.
- To reduce the time taken to validate applications and lead to an overall speeding up of the determination process by minimising the need for further information.
- To reduce the need for conditions attached to approvals thus enabling the quicker implementation of works on site

The local criteria should to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. As part of this process the Council were required to consult for a period of 28 days with principal users of the service on any changes to the criteria. The consultation period ran from 19th March 2013 till 14th May 2013, the new criteria were placed on the Council's web site, and all principal users of the service were emailed. A news item was placed on the Councils website as well as the development services facebook account. The documents can be found at <http://www.barrowbc.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=5259> No comments were received during the consultation period. A copy will also be available to view in the Members Room.

The main change to all of the criteria is the requirement for site plans to be a fully licenced plan from Ordnance Survey.

(i) Legal Implications

The Council are required to review, consult and publicise their local validation criteria.

(ii) Risk Assessment

The recommendation has no implications.

(iii) Financial Implications

The recommendation has no implications.

(iv) Health and Safety Implications

The recommendation has no implications.

(v) Equality and Diversity

The recommendation has no detrimental impact on service users showing any of the protected characteristics under current Equalities legislation.

(vi) Health and Well-being Implications

The recommendation has no adverse effect on the Health and Wellbeing of users of this service.

Background Papers

Nil

