

BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting, Wednesday, 29th July, 2009
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. Disclosure of Interests.

A Member with a personal interest in a matter to be considered at this meeting must either before the matter is discussed or when the interest becomes apparent disclose

1. ***The existence of that interest to the meeting.***
2. ***The nature of the interest.***
3. ***Decide whether they have a prejudicial interest.***

A note on declaring interests at meetings, which incorporates certain other aspects of the Code of Conduct and a pro-forma for completion where interests are disclosed accompanies the agenda and reports for this meeting.

5. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July, 2009 (copy attached).
6. Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members.

FOR DECISION

- (D) 7. Minutes of the Early Retirement Panel (copy attached).

- (D) 8. Appointments on Outside Bodies, Panels, Working Parties etc.
- (D) 9. Annual Treasury Report 2008-09.
- (D) 10. Council Finances Report – Quarter 1 2009-2010.
- (R) 11. War Pensions – Benefits Disregard Determination.
- (D) 12. Government Response to the Rugg Review of the Private Rented Sector – Consultation.
- (D) 13. Refuse Collection and Recycling Services – Performance Report – Quarter 1 2009/10.

PART TWO

- (D) 14. 104 Abbey Road Phase I – External Repairs.

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION BY VIRTUE OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF PART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

Revised Membership of the Committee to be appointed at Council on 21st July, 2009.

For queries regarding this agenda, please contact:

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Published: 21st July, 2009.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting: 8th July, 2009
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Guselli (Chairman), Barlow, Flitcroft, McEwan, Marcus, Millar, Pemberton, Pidduck, Richardson (items 1-14 and outside bodies only), Stephenson (items 1-14 only), Unwin and Waiting.

13 – The Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 and Access to Information (Variation) Order 2006 – Urgent Item

RESOLVED:- That by reason of the special circumstances outlined below the Chairman is of the opinion that the following items of business not specified on the agenda should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Appointment on Outside Bodies, Panels Working Parties etc. (Minute No. 23)	To enable representatives to be appointed to Outside Bodies following the resignation of Councillor Bell from the Conservative Group.
Housing Market Renewal – Sutherland Street Group Repair (Minute No. 29)	To enable the item to be considered by Council at its meeting on 21st July, 2009.
Redevelopment of land at Greengate Street (Minute No. 28)	To enable the item to be considered by Council at its meeting on 21st July, 2009.
Barrow Town Centre Link Road Phase II – Purchase of land at Cornmill Crossing Hindpool (Minute No. 30)	To enable the item to be considered by Council at its meeting on 21st July, 2009.

14 – The Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 and Access to Information (Variation) Order 2006

Discussion arising hereon it was

RESOLVED:- That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on

the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 (Minute No. 29) of Part One of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

15 – Disclosure of Interests

Councillor Guselli declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10 – Funding of Handyperson Scheme (Minute No. 21), Agenda Item 11 – Free access to “pay to play” leisure activities for Looked after Children (Minute No. 25) and Agenda Item 13 – Consultation on the potential change to the administration of Concessionary Travel from 2011 (Minute No. 22). He was a Member of Cumbria County Council. He also declared a personal interest in the Urgent Item – Barrow Town Centre Link Road Phase II, Purchase of Land at Cornmill Crossing, Hindpool (Minute No. 30). One of the valuers is known to him. He also declared a personal interest in the Urgent Item – Housing Market Renewal Programme – Sutherland Street Group Repair (Minute No. 29). Leck Construction were known to him.

Councillor Marcus declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10 – Funding of Handyperson Scheme (Minute No. 21) Agenda Item 11 – Free access to “pay to play” leisure activities for Looked after Children (Minute No. 25) and Agenda Item 13 – Consultation on the potential change to the administration of Concessionary Travel from 2011 (Minute No. 22). He also declared a personal interest in the Urgent Item – Barrow Town Centre Link Road Phase II, Purchase of Land at Cornmill Crossing, Hindpool (Minute No. 30). He was a Member of Cumbria County Council.

Councillor Waiting declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Urgent Item – Barrow Town Centre Link Road Phase II – Purchase of Land at Cornmill Crossing, Hindpool (Minute No. 30). Her husband works for BAE and was involved in negotiations regarding the Link Road. She left the meeting during consideration of the item.

16 – Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June, 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

17 – Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Hamezeian and Williams.

Councillors McEwan and Unwin attend the meeting as substitutes for Councillors J. Hamezeian and Williams.

18 – Presentation by Furness Enterprise – Open for Business – Town Centre Business Support

The Chief Executive of Furness Enterprise, Harry Knowles, attended the meeting and gave a brief overview of the use of Working Neighbouring Fund to support Employment and Enterprise during the 2008/09 financial year and set out the Town Centre proposals.

RESOLVED:- (i) To note the presentation by Furness Enterprise “Open for Business” Scheme;

(ii) To agree to approve the revised “Open for Business” Scheme;

(iii) To request Furness Enterprise to provide a differential support package for Town Centre Businesses; and

(iv) To authorise the Director of Regeneration and Community Services to liaise with Furness Enterprise on the launch of the scheme.

19 – Housing Management Forum: Recommendations

The recommendations of the Housing Management Forum held on 25th June, 2009 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:-

1. Appointment of Representatives to Working Groups etc.

That:-

(i) Members agree to the following nominations:-

(a) Tenant Compact Working Party:- Councillors James and Wood plus 1 Labour Representative and Tenant Representatives; Mrs P. Charnley, Mrs K. Hotchkiss and Mr Alan McIntosh;

(b) Homelessness Funding Working Party:- Councillors Flitcroft and J. Hamezeian plus 1 Labour Representative and Tenant Representatives; Mrs P. Charnely, Mrs K. Hotchkiss and Mr Alan McIntosh;

(c) Homelink Service Review Group:- Councillors Dawes, Maltman and Wood and Tenant Representatives; Mrs P. Charnley, Mr Alan McIntosh and Mr Bill Ward; and

- (ii) The Tenant's Constitution be brought back to the next meeting of the Housing Management Forum for review.

2. Homelessness Funding 2009/10

That Members:-

- (i) Agree the following spend profile:-

£5,000	Shelter: South Cumbria Offenders Scheme
£12,100	Deposit Guarantee Scheme (DIGS)
£2,500	Barrow Borough Council Sanctuary Scheme
£10,000	Barrow Borough Council Refurbishment of Temporary Accommodation
£19,400	CADAS Mediation Service
£11,000	Destin (Performance Management System)

£60,000	

- (ii) Continue the Court Desk provision by use of £10,000 awarded by CLG and agree that the additional £10,000 funding awarded also be invested through the same scheme;
- (iii) Note the Prevention Repossession funding of £28,500 awarded by CLG; and
- (iv) Agree the proposal to implement a Homeless Prevention fund with £10,000 Housing Options funding awarded by CLG.

3. Housing Maintenance Investment Programme 2009/2010

That Members agree to:-

- (i) Endorse the Housing Manager's action in submitting a bid for Major Repairs Allowance funding to be brought forward;
- (ii) The Council taking up the opportunity to bring forward Major Repairs Allowance funding from 2010/11 to 2009/10; and
- (iii) The funding being used to accelerate investment being determined through Cumbria Housing Partners as follows:-

£100,000:	Kitchen upgrades
£100,000:	Bathroom upgrades

£100,000: Central Heating upgrades.

4. Housing Service: Strategic Aims

That Members agree to:-

- (i) Note the progress with Mike Schirwing;
- (ii) The Housing Service's vision: "to provide well maintained homes and estates where people choose to live"; and
- (iii) Note action regarding the Annual Service Plan.

20 – Revenue Outturn for the Year ended 31st March, 2009

The Borough Treasurer reminded the Committee that the 2008-09 original General Fund (GF) net revenue budget had been set at £13,092,000. The net GF expenditure for the year was £13,145,927. The deficit for the year was £53,927.

The GF balance as at 31st March, 2009 was £1,971,258. That was a prudent level of balance to maintain and represented around 15% of the net revenue budget.

The actual expenditure had been compared to the original budget and the difference formed part of the GF balance.

The main variations from the original budget had been reported to the Committee on a quarterly basis throughout 2008-09.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) original budget for 2008-09 had been set at a surplus of £29,820. The outcome for the year was a surplus of £120,556.

The HRA balance as at 31st March, 2009 was £845,980.

The Collection Fund (CF) had resulted in a deficit of £260,788 for the year with an overall CF balance of £389,136. That deficit would be shared in 2010-2011 amongst the Council, Cumbria County Council and the Police Authority in proportion to their precepts for 2009-2010.

The available reserves at 31st March, 2009 were:-

The Opportunity Reserve at £1,195,552. In the year approved amounts totalling £78,470 had been used.

The general reserve stood at £461,623 and other earmarked reserves amounted to £1,348,798.

The contribution to reserves in the year was made up of the following items:

Breakdown of contribution in the year:	£	£
Budget support for 2009-10 to 2011-12 Approved at Executive Committee 28 th January 2009		500,000
Park Vale grant support pending the receipt of proper accounts		8,530
Leisure Centre support for loss of income Support allocated from Working Neighbourhood Fund Approved at Executive Committee 17 th September 2008		300,000

Area Based Grant:		
Working Neighbourhood Funds allocated to projects but the funding has not yet been claimed	264,241	
Safer Stronger Community Fund allocation to Neighbourhood Management Team but funding has not yet been claimed	70,357	
Climate change funding not yet spent	22,500	357,098
Contribution in the year		1,165,628

Reserves were used during the year for the following items:

Breakdown of contribution in the year:	£
Leisure Centre support for loss of income Support allocated from Working Neighbourhood Fund Approved at Executive Committee 17 th September 2008	(29,679)
Festival Fund for the year	(24,845)
Used in the year	(54,524)

The Usable Capital Receipts at the year end were £1,572,673.

The Major Repairs Reserve for the HRA had been fully used in the year.

RESOLVED:- To note the results of the financial year 2008-09.

21 – Funding for “Handyperson” Scheme

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services reminded the Committee that in December 2008, Supporting People (Cumbria County Council) had successfully applied to the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) for funding to develop a “Handyperson” Scheme to operate in all six Cumbria District authority areas.

The funding amounted to £150,000 for 2009/10 and £220,000 for 2010/11 and was to facilitate the expansion or creation of a suitable scheme, which was to be sustainable and self-financing beyond 2011.

Handyperson Schemes provided services for elderly and vulnerable people. Scheme operators carried out small repairs and maintenance jobs within homes and the immediate external environment usually at a subsidised cost to the resident. The aims of a Handyperson Scheme were to promote independent living, reduce accidents in the home, improve quality of life and maintain a sense of well-being, safety and security.

A Handyperson Scheme shared the aims of a Home Improvement Agency (HIA), such as the Anchor Staying Put agency which had successfully been operating in Barrow for a number of years and as the contract with Supporting People for the provision of HIA services was currently being re-tendered, with effect from January 2010, the opportunity had been taken to include the provision of a Handyperson Scheme as part of the HIA service.

It had been agreed that of the £150,000 funding agreed for Handyperson Schemes this year, £100,000 be split equally between the six authorities to enable the promotion of interim services until the new HIA contract was awarded.

In Barrow, Age Concern had recently received funding from Cumbria County Council in the form of a Community Regeneration Fund grant to set up a home repairs scheme which mirrored the type of service provided by Handyperson Schemes as envisaged by CLG.

RESOLVED:- To authorise the Chief Environmental Health Officer to draw down £13,667 from Supporting People, Cumbria County Council, and to use the funds to supplement the existing Age Concern, Barrow home repairs scheme as an interim measure prior to the establishment of a Handypersons Scheme following the awarding of the Home Improvement Agency contract in January 2010.

22 – Consultation on the Potential Change to the Administration of Concessionary Travel from April 2011

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services informed the Committee that the Department of Transport had launched a consultation on possible changes to the administration of concessionary travel. It would examine various options for changing the tier of government which was responsible for the administration of the England-wide bus pass.

The outcome of the consultation was planned for implementation by April 2011 if the decision to make changes was taken.

The report advised the Committee to approve a response favouring one each of the proposals for change in principle.

The consultation was looking at proposals for how the statutory concessionary travel scheme would be administered. These proposals were as follows:-

- 1) Leaving things as they were (with lower-tier authorities, usually District Councils);
- 2) Moving to higher tier authorities (usually County Councils);
- 3) Centralising administration with the Department for Transport or one of its agencies); and
- 4) Administration be moved to a regional level.

The Department was also proposing four options for how the discretionary scheme should in the future be administered:

- 1) District Councils retain the ability to establish discretionary concessions under the 1985 Act, as now;
- 2) District Councils lose the ability to establish discretionary travel concessions; and
- 3) District Councils could only establish discretionary concessions jointly with the relevant upper tier authority.

He reminded the Committee that Concessionary Fares was a significant budget area and it was necessary to consider carefully the potential financial implications of the options included in the consultation paper when making a response. It cannot be assumed that any changes to the responsibility for operating concessionary travel would be cost neutral for the Council. However, at this stage, it was a “in principle” consultation as there was no data from government to help inform the decision.

RESOLVED:- To agree that in respect of the consultation on possible changes to the administration of Concessionary Travel the Department of Transport be advised that the Council, in principle, supports:-

- (i) for the administration of the statutory scheme Option 2 - Only upper-tier authorities administer the concession; and
- (ii) for the administration of the discretionary scheme Option 2 - District councils lose the ability to establish discretionary concessions.

23 – Appointment on Outside Bodies, Panels, Working Parties etc.

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that following the resignation of Councillor Bell from the Conservative Group it was necessary to appointment Member to Outside Bodies in place of Councillor Bell.

RESOLVED:- To agree the under-mentioned appointment on Outside Bodies, Forums, Panels and Working Groups:-

ANCHOR STAYING PUT BARROW-IN-FURNESS ADVISORY GROUP
Councillor Pemberton

BARROW AND DISTRICT ACCIDENT PREVENTION COMMITTEE
Councillor Maltman

BARROW FOOD FORUM
Councillor Pidduck

BARROW-IN-FURNESS PUBLIC SAFETY SCHEME LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE
Councillor Richardson

BRITISH GAS HYDROCARBON RESOURCES LTD: LOCAL LIAISON
COMMITTEE
Councillor Dawes

CUMBRIA TOURIST BOARD
Deputy: Councillor Marcus

DALTON DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP
Councillor Unwin

DUDDON ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP
Councillor James

Health and Safety Management Board

Councillor Richardson.

<p style="text-align: center;">REFERRED ITEMS</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION</p>
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24 – Housing Management Forum: Recommendations

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Housing Management Forum held on 25th June, 2009.

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

Maintenance Contract

RECOMMENDED:- To recommend the Council:-

To agree to an extension of the two current contract arrangements from 5th November, 2009 for a further two years.

25 – Free Access to “Pay to Play” Leisure Activities for Looked after Children

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services informed the Committee that in early 2009 all Cumbria Districts had been contacted by Cumbria County Council's Children's Services Department who were enquiring whether Districts would participate in a joint scheme to provide free or discounted leisure passes or vouchers for Looked after Children.

The report provided an outline of the scope of the scheme and how it would be applied in practice. It identified that Children's Services would provide an up-front payment of £40 per annum for each participating child and that the Borough would be required to bear any additional cost beyond that figure as a charge foregone. It also identified a subsidiary proposal to allow nominated carers of those participating looked after children to receive a 50% discount to accompany them.

Children's Services had indicated that they would provide an allocation of £40 for each looked after child who wished to participate in the scheme. They had suggested that it would be an up-front payment and would be applicable for one year, after which it may be repeated if the child's circumstances remained the same. That funding would be conditional on the Districts providing a further £40 per child in matched funding. That may offset the costs to the Leisure providers.

Allerdale, Carlisle, Copeland and Eden District Councils had all indicated that they would participate in the joint scheme to offer free access to pay-to-play leisure activities for looked after children. The Leisure trust providers in each of these Districts had indicated that they would bear the matched funding portion which meant that these Districts would not have to provide the additional £40 per child from District funds. It was likely that South Lakeland District Council would also participate.

The latest figures showed that there were 131 such children in the Furness Locality. Not all of these children resided in the Borough, and not all of the children who reside in the Borough may wish to participate, so the financial impact would be limited.

The Leisure Centre would invoice Children's Services on a regular basis to claim the contribution of £40 per child. It would not be necessary for the Council to make a further £40 per child available as a budget supplement. That would be taken care of as a charge foregone.

Children's Services had also requested that the carer for each looked after child should be given a 50% discount to enable them to accompany the child. Again, authority would be provided as part of the initial letter from Children's Services and there would be no re-imburement for the charge foregone.

RECOMMENDED:- To recommend the Council:-

- (i) To approve participation in the scheme to allow free access to pay to play activities for Looked after Children and to provide a 50% discount for nominated carers;
- (ii) To agree that the scheme be entered into for one year from 1st August, 2009 and that the Community Services Manager be instructed to monitor the take-up and cost implications, reporting back to the Executive Committee to enable a decision to be taken to decide whether to extend the scheme beyond one-year; and
- (iii) To request the Chief Executive to investigate the provision of discounted leisure prices for carers of disabled people who use the Council's Leisure facilities.

26 – Application of Funding received from Department of Health

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services reminded the Committee that in 2007, the Borough had signed up to the Department of Health's "Communities for Health" programme.

The Committee was informed that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport had recently published the latest interim Active People's Survey. That highlighted the percentage of the adult (age 16 and over) population who participated in sport and active recreation. Barrow had shown an increase of 4.47% to 24.44%, which represented the highest growth in Cumbria and the second highest growth in the North West region. The application of the Communities for Health Funding and a range of the Borough's Sports and Physical Activity Alliance initiatives had contributed to that improvement.

The following amounts had been received into the Borough as a result of participation in the programme:-

- a) £100,000 which had been applied to the Park Leisure Centre refurbishment, in particular to the creation of the Youth Gym;
- b) £100,000 continuation funding. (as yet unallocated);
- c) £50,000 – set aside to jointly fund the three year appointment of the Borough's Health Improvement Officer;
- d) £70,000 Lifecheck launch funding. That funding had been provided to participating Councils to use innovative means in which to publicise and raise awareness of the Department of Health's new online tool – "NHS Lifecheck". A very small amount had been used to launch the teen lifecheck scheme.

- e) £100,000 further continuation funding. The Department indicated at the end of the last financial year that they would provide a further grant to participating Authorities (as yet unallocated.)

The Committee was asked to approve the application of the remaining funds in the following way:-

£100,000 to be allocated to the capital refurbishment scheme for the Cooke's Building, 104 Abbey Road. That funding was to be applied to assist in the creation of the Dance Studio section of the building. Using the funds in that way would add value to the scheme and would provide a much needed additional resource to the Borough. It had been recognised that dance was one of the fastest growing areas of participation in physical activity and using the funds to support the scheme would make a significant contribution to improving the health and well-being of potential users of the facility on completion.

£100,000 to be allocated to a range of interventions aimed at improving the health and well-being of residents of the Borough. Use of, and outcomes from, the application of £100,000 would be reported annually to this Committee

£70,000 to be used in an innovative range of interventions to publicise and raise awareness of the Department of Health's new online tool –“NHS Lifecheck”. £25k from the fund be approved to provide a portable dance-mat exercise system which would be used as an outreach mechanism from the Leisure Centre to schools and community groups. That would provide an opportunity for instructors to deliver health and well-being messages to target groups in familiar surroundings.

RECOMMENDED:- To recommend the Council:-

- (i) To agree to allocate £100,000 to the capital refurbishment scheme for the Cooke's Building, 104 Abbey Road;
- (ii) To agree to allocate £100,000 to a range of interventions aimed at improving the health and well-being of residents of the Borough and instruct the Community Services Manager to work with the Healthy Communities and Older People Group of the Local Strategic Partnership to develop these interventions;
- (iii) To note that the £70,000 grant to publicise and raise awareness of the Department of Health's new online tool – “NHS Lifecheck” be applied in an innovative range of interventions as required by the Department for Health; and
- (iv) To approve £25,000 from the above fund to provide a portable dance-mat exercise system which will be used as an outreach mechanism from the Leisure Centre to schools and community groups.

27 – Conversion of All-weather Pitch into a Soccer Centre

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services informed the Committee on a proposal to convert and upgrade the all weather pitch and associated buildings at the Park Leisure Centre into a Soccer Centre. That development would include six 5-a-side courts (35m x 23m) and a 60m x 40m midi pitch using a third generation playing surface of the latest artificial grass with floodlights, kickboards and court netting. Those pitches would be complemented by a pavilion which would be added to the existing changing room structure at the all-weather pitch and would comprise a flexible range of changing rooms, viewing facilities, multi-purpose meeting room, bar lounge and social area. The area adjacent to the all-weather pitch would be remodelled to provide additional car parking to cope with extra demand.

He reported that Pulse Ltd had put forward a proposal on how the development could be taken forward, that was a partnership option based on percentage income share over a fixed period Leisure Services Contract, with capital funding either wholly or partly provided by Pulse and the Council. A Leisure Services Contract was outside the scope of the application of EU procurement regulations. The approximate cost of the refurbishment was £1.26m. Pulse would carry out all building works and equipment installation.

The partnership arrangement would be based on a shared risks and shared rewards basis whereby the Council would be asked to underwrite a contingent liability in the form a base monthly fee which would represent a risk to the Council of between 8% and 14% occupancy of the pitches and would be taken first from the pitch income received. In return for that risk, the Council would receive up to twenty percent of the gross pitch income generated depending on overall occupancy.

The current position was that the all-weather pitch was under utilised, being booked out at around 50% occupancy of the time available. (In the whole of 2008, the all-weather pitch was used only twice for full sized soccer games and was only used on thirteen occasions for full sized hockey games). In setting the running costs against the income the Council could expect to lose around £15k per annum at the current occupancy levels. It was noted that the development would turn a facility which currently operated at a loss into profit. A 50% usage of the new facility would generate an income share of around £27,000 to the Council giving a net benefit of £42,000 per annum.

RECOMMENDED:- To recommend the Council:-

- (i) To approve the conversion and upgrade of the all weather pitch and associated buildings at the Park Leisure Centre into a Soccer Centre through the establishment of a partnership agreement with Pulse Ltd, subject to Officers of the Council negotiating suitable contractual arrangements and consents being obtained;

- (ii) Subject to (i) above to agree the Heads of Terms with Pulse would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee on 29th July, 2009;
- (iii) To request the Chief Executive to discuss with Furness College and the Academy the provision of the pitch facilities for competitive hockey matches; and
- (iv) To request the Chief Executive to ask Cumbria County Council to liaise with schools to enable use of all weather pitches by the local community.

28 – Redevelopment of Land at Greengate Street

The Chief Executive reminded the Committee that the Council had acquired the former Greengate Mill site, and subsequently had agreed to dispose of it to Accent Housing for redevelopment as social housing.

Remediation work was required to remove contamination from the site before redevelopment could commence. It had been agreed that Accent should carry out the work under licence, and that the Council pay for the remediation up to an agreed sum. The Council would then effectively sell a clean site to Accent for them to redevelop. Provision had been made in the Council's Capital Programme for the remediation work, costs of which were estimated to be £126,000.

Accent's preference was now for the Council to contract directly with suitable contractors to carry out the work. That would remove any suggestion of Accent receiving "double subsidy" from the Council, in addition to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), who would be providing grant for the development work. Accent were currently awaiting final confirmation of the grant from the HCA.

Accent had appointed Bramalls on a framework contract as preferred contractors for that type of work. Bramalls would also be the principal contractors for the construction work.

In order to provide continuity of work and to progress with the scheme as quickly as possible, it was recommended that the Council appointed Bramalls to carry out the work. Accent would continue to provide contract supervision. It was noted that the selection of Bramalls had been undertaken through a rigorous process of competition fully compliant with EU procurement rules. The process had been undertaken by the "Northern Lights" consortium of Registered Social Landlords, not by Accent alone.

RECOMMENDED:- To recommend the Council to suspend Contract Standing Orders and approve the appointment of Bramalls to carry out remediation work required on the site.

29 – Housing Market Renewal Programme – Sutherland Street Group Repair

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that the first programmed Group Repair scheme was planned for 2-84 Sutherland Street (even numbers) and 96a and 96b Crellin Street. These properties constituted a single terrace of 44 properties. Provision of £875,000 had been made in the Capital Programme for the work.

Arcus Consulting had been appointed to design and manage the scheme. Arcus had been appointed through an open procurement process.

Members were informed it was proposed to appoint contractors to carry out the work through an ad hoc select list.

Contract Standing Order 6 (Ad Hoc Approved List) states that: “Tenders shall be invited after giving notice in the manner set out in Order 5 (advertisement in local press and trade journal) seeking applications to be placed on a list from which selected contractors will be invited to submit tenders.”

Current experience showed that an open invitation to tender or to submit expressions of interest would result in an unmanageable level of response, which would add substantially to the time required to deliver the scheme.

It is therefore recommended that Contract Standing Orders were suspended, and that the ad hoc list was drawn from suitably qualified and experienced contractors who had already been selected for appropriate work streams through the Cumbria Housing Partners (CHP) process.

CHP was a procurement process that had been used by a consortium of social housing providers in the county, including this Council. The process was an open one, compliant with EU procurement rules. It was considered unnecessary to re-advertise for inclusion on the Sutherland Street tender list had been based on a process that included an open invitation for expressions of interest.

It was additionally proposed to invite Leck Construction to tender, as the company was the last local company to carry out Group Repair work for the Council.

The proposed tender list was as follows: Cumbria Roofing, Michael Thompson Ltd, Thomas Armstrong, A B Mitchell, H T Forrest, Holliday, Top Notch, and Leck Construction Ltd.

RECOMMENDED:- To recommend the Council:-

- (i) To note the progress made on the Group Repair scheme;
- (ii) To suspend Contract Standing Order 6 and approve the proposed tender list for the contract and any future similar contracts; and

- (iii) To authorise the Chief Executive to award the contract to the lowest tender in consultation with the Chairman of the Executive Committee, in accordance with Contract Standing Orders.

30 – Barrow Town Centre Link Road Phase II – Purchase of Land at Cornmill Crossing, Hindpool

The Chief Executive reported that Phase I of the project funded by Cumbria County Council together with a Developers contribution of £500,000 had been completed. North West Development Agency (NWDA) funding had now been secured to progress Phase II and complete the Link Road project which had been included in the County Council's Transport Capital Programme with a further contribution of £500,000 to the overall cost of Phase II in 2009/10.

Land dedication agreements, necessary to deliver Phase II of the project, were very close to being finalised with two remaining landowners Tesco Stores Ltd and BAe Systems. Purchase of land in ownership of TB Brady had been completed in March 2009.

Progress on Phase II had been reported on 10th December, 2008. Since that report funding of £3,000,000 had been approved by NWDA, Planning Permission had been granted, facilitation works on land and buildings required was approaching completion, and the contract for construction of Phase II was shortly to be let by Cumbria County Council. Agreement had now been reached to purchase the Associated British Ports land at a valuation agreed by Peill and Co. Ltd.

RECOMMENDED:- To recommend the Council:-

- (i) To agree to purchase the Associated British Ports land required for the Barrow Centre Link Road Phase II at the valuation agreed by Peill and Co. Ltd, dated 6th July, 2009; and
- (ii) To authorise the Director of Corporate Services to enter into dedication agreements for highway purposes to Cumbria County Council in respect of the above land.

The meeting closed at 3.35 p.m.

HOUSING MANAGEMENT FORUM

Meeting: 25th June, 2009
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Dawes, Flitcroft, J. Hamezeian, Hammond, James and Maltman.

Tenant Representatives:- Mrs P. Charnley, Mrs K. Hotchkiss, Mr A. McIntosh, Mr D. McMillan, Mr T. Slater, Mrs M. Burgess and Mr T. Wilson.

1 – Appointment of Chairman for 2009/10

The Chief Executive reported that the Council on 12th May, 2009 had appointed Councillor James as Chairman of the Housing Management Forum. However, at the Executive Committee on 28th May, 2003 (Minute No. 216 refers) it had been agreed “that a Member Chairman for the purpose of Housing Management Forum be appointed by Council for the purpose of recognising responsibility for retaining the Forums freedom to appoint an alterative Chairman for meeting management if it so wished”.

Nominations were requested for the appointment of Chairman for meeting management.

The nomination of Mrs Pauline Charnley was received, duly seconded and voted upon and it was,

RESOLVED:- That Mrs P. Charnley be appointed Chairman of the Housing Management Forum for 2009/10

MRS P. CHARNLEY IN THE CHAIR

2 – Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th February, 2009 were taken as read and confirmed.

3 – Apologies for Absence/Changes in Membership

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Irwin and Waiting and Mr N. Hird.

Mr T. Wilson had also replaced Mrs J. McMurray for this meeting

4 – Appointment of Representatives to Working Groups etc

The Chief Executive reported that at the Annual Council on 12th May, 2009, the allocation of seats in respect of Forums, Panels, Working Groups etc had been agreed. The Housing Management Forum were requested to nominate members

and tenants representatives of Tenant Compact Working Party, the Homelessness Funding Working Party and the Homelink Review Group for 2009/10. Three Member representatives by proportionality indicated in the report and 3 tenant representatives were required for each.

At the meeting Councillor Hamezeian questioned the way in which tenants were appointed to the Housing Management Forum and following a debate, the Forum agreed that the tenants constitution be brought back to the next meeting for review.

RECOMMENDED:- (i) That Membership for 2009/10 be as follows:-

Tenant Compact Working Party

Council Representatives (1:1:0:0:1) Councillors James and Wood plus one Labour representative.

Tenant Representatives - Mrs P. Charnley, Mrs K. Hotchkiss and Mr A. McIntosh.

Homelessness Funding Working Party

Council Representatives (1:1:0:1:0) Councillors Flitcroft and J. Hamezeian plus one Labour Representative.

Tenant Representatives - Mrs P. Charnley, Mrs K. Hotchkiss and Mr A. McIntosh.

Homelink Service Review Group

Member Representatives (2:0:0:0:1) Councillors Dawes, Maltman and Wood.

Tenant Representatives - Mrs P. Charnley, Mr A. McIntosh and Mr B. Ward.

(ii) That the Tenants Constitution be brought back to the next meeting of the Housing Management Forum for review.

5 - Homelessness Funding 2009/10

The Housing Manager reported that the Homeless Directorate previously awarded funding to this Authority to support the implementation of the homeless strategy and prevent homelessness. The Homelessness Directorate had since confirmed that £60,000 would be available to Barrow Borough Council in 2009/10.

Members previously agreed in March, 2004 that a Homelessness Working Group should be established and made up of three elected Members, three Tenant Representatives and the Customer Services Manager.

Due to operational issues arising it had not proved possible for the Homelessness Working Group to consider the applications for Homelessness funding for 2009/10 prior to this meeting but he requested that Members support the following proposals:-

Funding Review 2008/09

Meetings had been held with the recipients of funding and members of the Homeless Working Party to discuss the schemes that were funded. Officers also subsequently held discussions with individual groups and it was identified that the funding for three projects were now delivering the agreed outcomes as hoped.

It was therefore agreed in conjunction with the three groups that funding would be withdrawn.

He recommended that grant monies now be used as follows:-

£5,000 – Shelter South Cumbria Offender Scheme

Previously Members had agreed to provide homelessness funding to develop a housing advice service for offenders leaving prison. This funding would extend the service until 31st March, 2010.

£12,100 Deposit Guarantee Scheme (DIGS)

DIGS was a charity and limited company that helped homeless and inadequately housed people to gain access to the private rented sectors by offering a guarantee to landlords to cover loss to property or furnishings.

DIGS was a County wide service and this funding would go towards the admin costs of providing the service.

£2,500 – BBC Sanctuary Scheme

This funding would be used to assist domestic abuse victims to remain in their own homes safe from the perpetrator, prevent homelessness and subsequently the need for the Council to provide alternative emergency temporary accommodation to the victim and family.

The funding would cover the cost of lock changes, window locks and security lighting being installed and any other work (on a case by case basis) deemed necessary within reason to ensure the victim and families safety.

£10,000 – BBC Refurbishment of Temporary Accommodation

The Council currently used 12 dispersed units of emergency temporary homeless accommodation consisting of 1 bedroomed and two bedroomed flats and three bedroomed flats across the Borough. Properties were originally furnished with items from the homeless hostel when it closed and were partially refurbished by funding awarded from the CLG grant for 2003/04.

Due to the nature of the used of the properties – regular short stay occupancy, it was good practice to review properties used as temporary accommodation and redesignate properties as deemed necessary.

The current stock of temporary accommodation was in need of major refurbishment. This funding would enable the temporary emergency accommodation to be brought up to a reasonable standard for potentially homeless/homeless persons to reside.

£19,400 – CADAS Mediation Service

Members had previously considered providing a mediation service by CADAS but deferred a decision. Meetings had been held with CADAS and the Housing Manager was confident that they could provide a more certain and consistent service.

This funding would enable a new mediation service to be developed by CADAS in Barrow and to provide mediation/family intervention for residents of the Borough to prevent homelessness and provide a means of resolving dispute.

£11,000 – Destin – Performance Management Solution

Officers in the Homeless Section had increasingly found a large extent of their workload was spent carrying out administrative work in relation to case work, referencing case law, reviews and appeals. This issue had been raised at Cumbria Homeless Forum and several districts within the County had resolved this problem by introducing a software package Destin, which enabled staff to work as efficiently as possible by assisting them with case work, up to date legislation and all tasks involved in providing an effective homeless service.

The funding would cover the initial start up costs for Destin to develop a package to meet the Council's specification, install the software and the first years annual fee for changes to the system as and when legislation case law and practices changed. Regularly updating the system was vital as nothing remained still in this environment and without a means of ensuring material was up to date it would quickly lose its value.

Court Desk Funding (£10,000)

The Housing Manager reported that in 2009/2010 the Council was awarded £10,000 by CLG to assist with the provision of a court desk in Barrow. The court desk was a facility within the court premise to ensure any household facing repossession of their home and attending court could be properly represented "on the day". Funding was used to develop the court desk service in partnership with CAB to enhance existing advice and assistance provided by the CAB solicitor attending court.

A working group was in place consisting of CAB and the Council representatives which had developed proposals, developed the service and monitored its effectiveness.

He reported that a further £10,000 had been awarded to the Borough by CLG to continue to assist court desk provision in 2009/10 and he proposed that current arrangements be continued. At the meeting he also reported that an additional £10,000 had been awarded and suggested that this funding also be invested through the same scheme.

Prevention Repossession Funding (£28,500)

The Housing Manager reported that it had been widely reported that measures be put in place to assist persons at risk of homelessness through repossession or eviction. At the present time a figure of £28,500 had been suggested for the Borough.

He was currently working with colleagues across Cumbria to establish the working arrangements for delivering such a service and he requested Members to note the information at this time.

Housing Options Funding (£10,000)

The purpose behind this funding was to be used in a flexible manner. The Housing Manager was currently considering draft criteria to ensure proper use of the funding by officers when endeavouring to prevent homelessness. In all cases the Council would undertake a financial assessment to ensure he/she was not financially able to cover the payments. This amount would depend on the household circumstances and would be made at the discretion of the Customer Services Manager. If the amount exceeded £250 the case would be discussed between the Customer Services Manager and the Housing Manager prior to a decision being made.

RECOMMENDED:- That Members,

(i) Agree to the following spend profile:-

£5,000	Shelter: South Cumbria Offenders Scheme
£12,100	Deposit Guarantee Scheme (DIGS)
£2,500	Barrow Borough Council Sanctuary Scheme
£10,000	Barrow Borough Council Refurbishment of Temporary Accommodation
£19,400	CADAS Mediation Service
£11,000	Destin (Performance Management System)

£60,000	

(ii) Continue the Court Desk provision by use of £10,000 awarded by CLG and agree that the additional £10,000 funding awarded also be invested through the same scheme;

(iii) Note the Prevention Repossession funding of £28,500 awarded by CLG; and

(iv) Agree the proposal to implement a Homelessness Prevention Fund with £10,000 Housing Options funding awarded by CLG.

6 – Housing Maintenance Investment Programme 2009/10

The Housing Manager submitted a report which was to consider an opportunity to bring forward Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) funding of £300,000 for the year 2010/11 to spend in the current financial year 2009/10. At the Housing Management Forum on 26th February, 2009 the Housing Services Investment Plan was agreed.

In response to the current financial climate the Government had considered a number of options to support the construction industry. This included an opportunity for Local Authorities who owned and managed a stock to apply to bring forward future investment plans funded through MRA.

Having considered the opportunity and having regards to the time frame for submissions, the Housing Manager submitted a bid to bring forward a sum of £300,000.

The figure reflected what he would suggest was realistic to ensure delivery in the current financial year.

He also suggested it was appropriate to split the funding equally across the three priority investment areas currently being progressed; kitchen and bathroom upgrades and central heating replacement. He also recommended that additional investment be delivered through Cumbria Housing Partners as an extension to the contracts that were already in place for 2009/10.

In considering this opportunity he made it clear that this was not additional funding but would be bringing forward the future of MRA funding. However it would enable up to 121 tenants to benefit from upgrades to their property earlier than would otherwise be the case.

RECOMMENDED:- That Members agree to

- (i) Endorse the Housing Manager's action in submitting a bid for major repairs allowance funding to be brought forward;
- (ii) The Council taking up the opportunity to bring forward Major Repairs Allowance funding from 2010/11 to 2009/10; and
- (iii) The funding being used to accelerate investment being determined through Cumbria Housing Partners as follows:-

£100,000	Kitchen upgrades
£100,000	Bathroom upgrades
£100,000	Central heating upgrades.

7 – Maintenance Contract

The Housing Manager submitted a report which requested Members to consider and agree an extension to the Maintenance Contract with Integral.

Integral had been appointed on 5th November, 2005. The contract was NEC3 Option C for an initial period of four years with the option to extend for a further 2. The

contract work included:- Responsive day to day repairs and out of hours emergency response; void property repair, gas appliance servicing and c.50% of planned improvements on kitchens, bathrooms and central heating upgrades.

Delivering the Contract

In awarding this contract there were a number of key service delivery issues to be progressed the key one being to introduce an appointment system but also to progress the concepts of multi skilling, zoning of work delivery and agreeing key performance indicators.

To deliver these improvements required the contractor and Housing Maintenance Services to go through a number of significant changes in operational practice. An appointment system was introduced on a trial basis initially and then rolled out across all routine repairs in Year 2 of the contract and was working well. Other aspects of the improvements suggested above were not finalised but were still being progressed.

Since Year 3 of the contract, the Council moved to the process of operating an open book accounting system and payment base on average activity rates and target costs as originally envisaged.

Financial Appraisal

This contract was let on a competitive basis with a 50% costs and 50% quality assessment. It had not been possible to obtain benchmarking information from other providers for all aspects of the contracting order to compare costs.

In order to look at whether current arrangements offered value for money the Housing Manager had:-

1. Responsive Repairs: Compared current average costs of comparable works with our previous contractor by taking the historic costs and uplifting them by contract indexation.
2. Planned Costs: Compared with cost of delivery through Cumbria Housing Partners.

The results of this would suggest:-

- Routine repairs were 15% less expensive than previous contractor.
- Gas Services were 2% less expensive than previous contractor
- Voids were 7% more expensive than previous contractor
- Planned Maintenance was between 32% and 34% more expensive

The Housing Manager felt that it was not surprising that delivery of planned works was higher than through Cumbria Housing Partners. Discussions were ongoing with Integral and new 'target costs' proposed by Integral would bring costs down to more align those of Cumbria Housing Partners.

What the Customers Say

The Housing Manager stated that customer views were captured in a number of ways for all work completed.

This included information collected through the biannual 'Tenant Satisfaction Survey' (status) and on a job by job basis.

The report gave a summary of the tenants responses through the Tenant Satisfaction Survey 2008.

Summary of Cost and Performance

As demonstrated in the tenants responses, the service being delivered was good. Efficiencies in terms of cost had also generally been good and where this was not shown to be the case the housing service were in the process of agreeing revised target costs to reflect alternative delivery methods.

Options for the Future

In order to reach the point at which we are now, there was no doubt that considerable commitment had been required by Integral and the Maintenance Section in terms of changes to traditional working practices. This would appear to have been achieved whilst improving performance and showing efficiency in delivery. The provision of routine repair services was not the most lucrative or easiest form of maintenance contract to deliver. He suggested that in the current financial climate to consider changing the contractor would not be appropriate or achieve long term benefits.

On the basis of performance and cost figures above and in recognition of the working arrangements now established he recommended that members agree the extension of the contract for a further 2 years.

RECOMMENDED:- That Members agree to an extension of the current contract arrangements from 5th November, 2009 for a further 2 years.

8 – Housing Service: Strategic Aims

The Housing Manager submitted a report to update Members on the work being carried out in the department with regard to "Preparing for Inspection: Improving our Services".

It also sought Members approval to reaffirm the guiding principles on which the services work should be developed.

Mike Schirwing had started work with colleagues. His role was to act as a critical friend to the service in preparing for a possible inspection in identifying service improvements.

The process would involve a review of key service areas by completing a self assessment exercise to identify strengths, weaknesses and gaps in service, agreeing

priorities for action and introducing a performance management system for reporting progress. The work completed would be part of the evidence required for an inspection as well as providing a structure for service improvements.

In the first four days Mike Schirwing had held briefing sessions with colleagues and members of the Tenants and Housing Management Forums.

Teams within the service had also started work with him to complete their self assessments with a view to reviewing them with him in July. In addition to the above he had identified a number of key issues that the Housing Manager needed to look at. In short these included broad guidance on which the service could be directed including defining our “vision, objectives and priorities”.

He made reference to greater clarity required on issues such as:-

- Housing Strategy and Business Planning
- Value for Money
- Social Cohesion
- Equality and Diversity

In progressing our approach it was appropriate to also be led to the Council’s overall vision for the Borough which was as follows:-

“To become recognised, both by the local people and those outside the area, as a prosperous, pleasant, healthy and safe place to live and work”.

The housing service would contribute to this vision by developing and delivering its services to “provide well maintained homes and estates where people choose to live”.

The housing service would achieve this by:

- Providing excellent customer focused and accessible services.
Example: Are viewed positively by tenants.
- Involving and empowering residents.
Example: Are able to demonstrate customer views and opinions and comments.
- Prudent Financial Management to ensure financial resources are used effectively and with regard to value for money.
Example: Manage resources with available budget.
- Investing and maintaining homes and estates to the best standard possible with the resources available.
Example: Achieve right balance of response to planned maintenance.
- Investing in communities.
Example: An efficient and preventative approach to tackling antisocial behaviour.

The Housing Manager had given some examples of “aspirations” to be achieved. These would be developed through the self assessment process and in conjunction with the Tenant Compact Working Party.

In agreeing the above, the Housing Manager would look to progress re-drafting the Business Plan and relevant documents through agreed consultation processes.

It would also be his usual practice to agree service development priorities at this meeting. In view of the above, however, it would be more appropriate to complete the self assessment process which would involve agreeing the plan through this Forum.

RECOMMENDED:- That Members:

- (i) Note the progress with Mike Schirwing;
- (ii) Agree the Housing Services Vision “to provide well maintained homes and estates where people choose to live”; and
- (iii) Note action regarding the annual service plan.

9 – Performance Information Report – 7th April, 2008 to 5th April, 2009

The Housing Manager submitted information relating to a selection of local and national performance indicators and Best Value performance indicators. The information was as follows:-

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS							
Housemark/ BVPI / Local	Performance Indicator	Actual 2004/5	Actual 2005/6	Actual 2006/7	Actual 2007/8	Actual 2008/9	Target 2009/10
	Rent Arrears and Collection						
BV66a	% Rent Collected	98.3%	98.1%	97.88%	96.78%	96.48%	98%
BV66b	% Tenants with > 7 weeks arrears	N/A	5.76%	5.89%	6.82%	6.33%	5.5%
BV66c	% Tenants served with NOSP for arrears	N/A	33.37%	35.48%	29%	30.6%	25%
BV66d	% Tenants evicted for rent arrears	N/A	0.99%	1.05%	0.66%	0.89%	0.5%
Housemark	Current tenants arrears as % of rent roll	2.86%	2.9%	2.99%	2.96%	2.60%	2.5%
	Void management						
BV212	Average relet time for dwellings (in days)	40.8	34	28	35.9	30	28
Housemark	% rent loss through vacant dwellings	1.7%	1.19%	0.98%	1.41%	1.61%	1%
Local	% rent loss due to voids – garages	1.97%	3.6%	2.63%	2.81%	3.25%	2%
	Homelessness						
Housemark	Average stay in B & B for families with children or pregnant women (in days)	N/A	3.5	2	10	3.7	3
Housemark	% of homeless applications where decision made and notified within 33 days	70%	99%	98.5%	95.3%	84.8%	99%
Local	Average length of stay in B&B (in days)	N/A	24.5	22	14.4	18	12

Local	Average length of stay in dispersed (in days)	45	50	45	48	56	28
Local	Average length of stay in dispersed for families with children (in days)	52	61	34	41	49	28
Local	Average number of homeless households in dispersed accommodation	7.5	5.9	5.8	7.3	9.6	5
BV213	% of households whose situation was resolved by housing advice	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	75%
NI 156 <i>(new for 08/09)</i>	Number of households living in temporary accommodation	--	--	--	13	8	10
	Housing Applications						
Local	% Housing applications answered within 6 days	96%	99%	95%	52%	62%	95%
	Repairs						
Housemark	% urgent repairs completed within Government time limits	88.1%	85.7%	89.59%	78%	79.91%	92%
Housemark	% emergency repairs completed on time	97.4%	98.4%	93.6%	84.36%	89.07%	94%
Housemark	% routine repairs completed on time	83.4%	92.9%	92.3%	77.26%	79.95%	93%
Housemark	% urgent repairs completed on time	81.6%	93.2%	78.7%	74.86%	74.45%	90%
NI 158 <i>(was BV184a)</i>	Proportion of homes which are non-decent	--	--	17.8%	2%	0.22%	1.75%
Local	Average time taken to complete non-urgent repairs (in days)	9.7	7.6	10	13.7	24.85	8
	General Management						
NI 160 <i>(new for 08/09)</i>	Local authority's tenants' satisfaction with landlord's services	--	--	--	--	87%	N/A

RENT ARREARS as at week ending 5th April 2009

Area	Current £	% Gross Debit	Former Tenants £	% Gross Debit
Central	69,617.55	3.73	25,930.93	
Dalton	16,442.04	2.26	3,410.17	
Roosegate	63,433.32	2.65	23,303.37	
Ormsgill	44,176.22	2.08	71,488.73	
Walney	21,978.45	1.70	4,643.40	
Miscellaneous	1,520.30	6.94	24.96	
Dwellings total	217,167.88	2.58	128,801.56	
Garages	2,783.88	1.56	1,716.05	
Homeless	2,733.49	3.53	21,691.91	
Total	222,685.25	2.56	152,209.52	
Grand Total		£374,972.77	4.32%	

FORMER TENANT ARREARS

Former tenants arrears written off in period April - March 2009 = £161,907.48

VOIDS						
from 7th April 2008 to 5th April 2009						
	Central	Dalton	Ormsgill	Roosegate	Walney	Total
1 Bedroom						
Ground-floor flat	15	1	38	20	9	83
Upper-floor flat	29	2	30	10	10	81
Bungalow	2	2	4	3	3	14
Sub total	46	5	72	33	22	178
2 Bedrooms						
Ground-floor flat	0	1	5	5	1	13
Upper-floor flat	7	0	16	6	1	30
Bungalow	0	0	0	0	0	0
House	10	1	8	12	5	36
Sub-total	17	2	29	23	7	78
3 Bedrooms						
Ground-floor flat	1	0	0	0	0	1
Upper-floor flat	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bungalow	0	0	0	0	0	0
House	8	4	12	14	6	44
Sub-total	9	4	12	15	6	46
4 Bedrooms						
House	0	0	0	2	0	2
5 Bedrooms						
House	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	72	11	113	74	35	305

OFFERS OF ACCOMMODATION								
made and refused between 7th April 2008 to 5th April 2009								
Area	Property Details	Area	Condition	Personal circumstances	No reply to offer	Other reasons	Withdrawn	Total
Central	5	6	2	3	0	0	0	16
Dalton	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Ormsgill	3	6	0	1	1	1	0	12
Roosegate	7	7	2	0	0	2	0	18
Walney	4	4	2	5	0	0	0	15
Total	19	23	8	9	1	4	0	64

NEW TENANCIES	
7th April 2008 to 5th April 2009	
Applicant Type	No.
Housing Register	199
Transfers:	83
General Management	3
Management	27
Medical	25
Under/over Occupancy	28

Homeless (monitored from October 2004)	37
Mutual Exchanges	10
Total Relets	329

HOUSING PROPERTY AS AT 31st March 2009									
TYPE OF PROPERTY	NO. OF BEDS.	CENTRAL	DALTON	ORMSGILL	ROOSE	SHOPS	DISPERSED	WALNEY	TOTAL
BUNGALOWS	1	13	35	27	14			54	143
	2		5						5
	3			4	4				8
FLATS	1	320	30	212	242		6	146	956
	2	62	12	161	51		5	16	307
	3	3	1		1		2	1	8
HOUSES	2	80	19	66	143			76	384
	3	133	114	220	252			119	838
	4	9	4	7	51			4	75
	5				5				5
SUB-TOTAL		620	220	697	763		13	416	2,729
SHOPS	0					16			16
	2					4			4
	3					0			0
	4					1			1
HOSTEL FLATLETS	1						0		0
	2						0		0
GRAND TOTAL		620	220	697	763	21	13	416	2,750
GARAGES		207	42	68				167	484

SOLD PROPERTIES			
7th April 2008 to 5th April 2009			
AREA	PROPERTY TYPE	BEDROOMS	TOTAL
Abbotsmead	House	2	1
	House	3	1
Greengate South	House	2	1
Tummerhill	House	2	1
TOTAL			4

RESOLVED:- That the performance information report be noted.

10 – Planned Maintenance 2009/10

The Housing Manager reported information relating to the progress of the Planned Maintenance Programme for 2009/10. The information was attached at **Appendix A** to these minutes.

RESOLVED:- To note the information.

The meeting closed at 3.00 p.m.

PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2009/10

SCHEME	CONTRACTOR OR SUPPLIER	AVAILABLE BUDGET	NO OF PROPERTIES	INVOICES PAID TO DATE	START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE	CONTRACTOR	TARGET COST	DATE	COMMENTS
REWIRES	CUMBRIA HOUSING PARTNERS	£252,700	154	£79,629	Apr-09	Feb-10	AB MITCHELL	£125,788	15.6.2009	75% COMPLETE
BATHROOMS I	CUMBRIA HOUSING PARTNERS	£200,000	100	£23,346	May-09	Feb-10	AB MITCHELL	£196,214	15.6.2009	20% COMPLETE
BATHROOMS II	INTEGRAL	£100,000	50	£0	Sep-09	Feb-10	INTEGRAL	£100,000	15.6.2009	0% COMPLETE
KITCHENS I	CUMBRIA HOUSING PARTNERS	£400,000	153	£40,259	May-09	Feb-10	AB MITCHELL	£361,360	15.6.2009	10% COMPLETE
KITCHENS II	INTEGRAL	£225,000	50	£0	Sep-09	Feb-10	INTEGRAL	£225,000	15.6.2009	0% COMPLETE
HEATING 1	CUMBRIA HOUSING PARTNERS	£475,000	146	£79,806	May-09	Feb-10	AB MITCHELL	£253,776	15.6.2009	25% COMPLETE
HEATING II	INTEGRAL	£375,000	100	£0	Sep-09	Feb-10	INTEGRAL	£375,000	15.6.2009	0% COMPLETE
PAINTING	CUMBRIA HOUSING PARTNERS	£200,000	500	£0	Jun-09	Feb-10	GH JONES	£200,000	15.6.2009	2% COMPLETE

HOUSING MAINTENANCE COMMITMENTS 2009/10 @15.6.2009

	Funding Available 2007/08	Gross COMMITMENT	Weekly Available	Gross Comm. as a % funds available
Tenant Demand Repairs	£900,000.00	£155,927.00	£17,307.69	17%
Voids	£175,000.00	£39,384.00	£3,365.38	23%
Gas Servicing	£425,000.00	£67,149.00	£8,173.08	16%
Decoration Vouchers	£35,000.00	£2,387.00	£673.08	7%
Disrepair Claims	£25,000.00	£0.00	£480.77	0%
Environmental Impmts	£50,000.00	£19,262.00	£961.54	39%
Disabled Adaptations	£250,000.00	£73,589.00	£4,807.69	29%
Door Entry	£100,000.00	£65.66	£1,923.08	0%

EARLY RETIREMENT PANEL

Meeting: 17th July, 2009
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Pidduck, Richardson, Solloway and Williams.

1 – Appointment of Chairman for 2009/10

Councillor Richardson proposed that Councillor Williams be nominated as Chairman for the year 2009/10. Councillor Pidduck seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED:- To agree that Councillor Williams be appointed Chairman of the Panel for year 2008/09.

COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS IN THE CHAIR

2 – The Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and Access to Information (Variation) Order 2006

Discussion arising hereon it was

RESOLVED:- That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 (Minute No. 4) of Part One of Schedule 12A of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and Access to Information (Variation) Order 2006.

3 – Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th November, 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

4 – Application for Early Retirement

The Panel considered an application for Early Retirement which had been received from postholder FIT030.

Management Team supported the application on the basis that sufficient savings would be made to cover the costs associated with early release well within the Council's required pay back period of three years.

The budgeted cost for the postholder in 2009/10 was reported and the total cost of retirement would be met within 12 months.

It was reported that, in the short-term, the vacancy would not be filled. Some recognition of additional duties may be required and in addition, a portion of the

salary cost saved may be used to buy in specialist help where required. Those costs would not compromise the “payback” of the costs of the early retirement.

In the longer term, the implications of the changing workload and need to achieve savings would be examined and would propose a restructuring of the department.

RESOLVED:- To agree that the application for Early Retirement received from the holder of post number FIT030 be approved.

The meeting closed at 2.15 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 8
Date of Meeting: 29th July, 2009	
Reporting Officer: Chief Executive	

Title: Appointments on Outside Bodies, Panels, Working Parties etc.

Summary and Conclusions:

The Council on 12th May, 2009 gave delegated authority to Committees to make appointments to Outside Bodies, Forums (except Housing Management Forum), Panels etc. in accordance with the number and allocation of seats to political groups agreed at the Annual meeting.

The report deals with a change to appointments on Outside Bodies.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested:-

(i) To agree that a Member be appointed to replace Councillor Heath as the Council's representative on the Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee: and

(ii) To agree to appoint Councillors Dawes and Wood as substitute members of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

Report

Councillor Heath has informed me that she no longer wants to be the Council's representative on the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee as she is unable to fit it in with being on Cumbria County Council.

Councillors Dawes and Wood have been appointed as substitutes to the Health Scrutiny Cross Party Working Group, however, they are not required as substitutes on this Group but are now required as substitutes on Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

(i) Legal Implications

Not Applicable.

(ii) Risk Assessment

Not Applicable.

(iii) Financial Implications

Not Applicable.

(iv) Health and Safety Implications

Not Applicable.

(v) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims

Not Applicable.

(vi) Equal Opportunities

Not Applicable.

Background Papers

Nil

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		Part One (D) Agenda Item 9
Date of Meeting:	29th July, 2009	
Reporting Officer:	Borough Treasurer	
<p>Title: Annual Treasury Report 2008-09</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>The Council's Treasury Strategy and Policy requires the annual reporting of treasury activities for the previous financial year. I am pleased to inform members that the Council has complied with all the agreed limits and indicators for the year ended 31st March 2009.</p> <p>The report has full details of all treasury activities for the year.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the actual 2008-09 prudential indicators within the report; and 2. To note the Treasury Management Stewardship Report for 2008-09. 		

Report

Annual Report on the Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2008/09

Purpose

The annual treasury report is a requirement of the Council's reporting procedures. It covers the treasury activity during 2008/09 and the actual Prudential Indicators for 2008/09.

The report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Council is required to comply with both Codes through Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

Executive Summary

During 2008/09 the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The actual prudential indicators for the year, with comparators, are as follows:

Actual Prudential Indicators	2007/08	2008/09
Actual Capital Expenditure	£12,741,814	£15,656,880
Capital Financing Requirement:		
Non-HRA	£23,563,286	£24,864,480
HRA	£9,010,011	£9,010,011
Total	£32,573,297	£33,874,491
Financing Costs as a proportion of Net Revenue Stream:		
Council Tax	7%	9%
Housing Rents	9%	8%

The Borough Treasurer also confirms that borrowing was only undertaken for a capital purpose and the Statutory borrowing limit, the Authorised Limit, was not breached.

At 31st March 2009, the Council's external debt was £29,000,000 (£29,000,000 at 31st March 2008) and its investments totalled £4,300,000 (£4,900,000 at 31st March 2008).

The financial year 2008/09 presented exceptional circumstances with regard to treasury management. The downturn in the economy, coupled with increased counterparty credit risk presented the Council with additional issues not normally encountered. The main implications of the exceptional circumstance have been:

- Increase in counterparty risk, this had two impacts, reduced counterparties that the Council could use and also a change in policy to run a net book (i.e. repay debt and reduce investments)

Annual Report on the Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2008/09

1. Introduction

1.1. This report summarises:

- the capital activity:
 - during the year;
 - what resources the Council applied to pay for this activity;
 - the resultant impact on the Council's indebtedness for capital purposes.

- the impact of this activity on the Council's underlying indebtedness (the CFR);
- the reporting of the required prudential indicators;
- overall treasury position identifying how the Council has borrowed in relation to this indebtedness, and the impact on investment balances;
- a summary of interest rate movements in the year;
- the detailed debt activity; and
- the detailed investment activity.

2. The Council's Capital Expenditure and Financing 2008/09

2.1. The Council undertakes capital expenditure on long term assets. These activities may either be:

- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.); or
- If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

2.2. The actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below also shows how this was financed.

	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Estimate	2008/09 Actual
Non-HRA capital expenditure	£8,879,637	£16,733,024	£13,652,895
HRA capital expenditure	£3,862,177	£2,188,360	£2,003,985
Total capital expenditure	£12,741,814	£18,921,384	£15,656,880
Resourced by:			
Capital receipts	£912,707	£1,968,000	£642,407
Capital grants	£6,689,177	£12,991,863	£10,817,391
Balances and reserves	£3,773,864	£2,188,360	£2,081,905
Unfinanced capital expenditure	£1,366,076	£1,773,161	£2,115,177

3. The Council's Overall Borrowing Need

3.1. The Council's underlying need to borrow is called the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge for the Council's debt position. It represents 2008/09 and prior years' net capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.

3.2. Part of the Council's treasury activities is to address this borrowing need, either through borrowing from external bodies, or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.

3.3. The Non-HRA element of the CFR is reduced each year by a statutory revenue charge (called the Minimum Revenue Provision - MRP). The total CFR can also be reduced by:

- the application of additional capital resources (such as unapplied capital receipts); or
 - charging more than the statutory revenue charge (MRP) each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).
- 3.4. With effect from 1st April 2008 the CLG introduced new MRP Guidance which requires an MRP Policy to be approved by Members. The policy for 2008/09 was approved on 25th February 2008.
- 3.5. The Council's CFR for the year is shown below, and represents a key prudential indicator.

CFR	31st March 2008 Actual	31st March 2009 Original Indicator	31st March 2009 Actual
Opening balance	£31,927,367	£31,615,479	£32,573,297
add unfinanced capital expenditure (as above)	£1,366,076	£1,773,161	£2,115,177
less MRP	£720,146	£775,672	£813,984
Closing balance	£32,573,297	£32,612,968	£33,874,490

4. Treasury Position at 31st March 2009

- 4.1. Whilst the Council's gauge of its underlying need to borrow is the CFR, the Borough Treasurer and the treasury function can manage the Council's actual borrowing position by either:
- borrowing to the CFR; or
 - choosing to utilise some temporary internal cash flow funds instead of borrowing (under-borrowing); or
 - borrowing for future increases in the CFR (borrowing in advance of need).
- 4.2. It should be noted that the accounting practice required to be followed by the Council (the SORP), changed from the 2007/08 accounts, and required financial instruments in the accounts (debt, investments, etc.) to be measured in a method compliant with national Financial Reporting Standards. The figures in this report are based on the principal amounts borrowed and invested and so may differ from those in the final accounts by items such as accrued interest.
- 4.3. During 2008/09 the Borough Treasurer managed the debt position to achieve the expected forecast as part of the 2008-09 revenue budgets and the treasury position at 31st March 2009 compared with the previous year was:

Actual borrowing position	31 st March 2008		31 st March 2009	
	Principal	Average Rate	Principal	Average Rate
Fixed Interest Rate Debt	£29,000,000	4.37%	£29,000,000	4.37%
Capital Financing Requirement	£32,573,297		£33,874,490	
Over/(Under) borrowing	(£3,573,297)		(£4,874,490)	

Investment position	31 st March 2008		31 st March 2009	
	Principal	Average Rate	Principal	Average Rate
Fixed Interest Investments	£4,900,000	5.73%	£4,300,000	4.81%
Net borrowing position	£24,100,000		£24,700,000	

5. Prudential Indicators and Compliance Issues

- 5.1. Some of the prudential indicators provide either an overview or specific limits on treasury activity. These are shown below:
- 5.2. **Net Borrowing and the CFR** - In order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term the Council's external borrowing, net of investments, must only be for a capital purpose. Net borrowing should not therefore, except in the short term, have exceeded the CFR for 2008/09 plus the expected changes to the CFR over 2009/10 and 2010/11. The table below highlights the Council's net borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

	31 st March 2008 Actual	31 st March 2009 Original Indicator	31 st March 2009 Actual
Net borrowing position	£24,100,000	£29,000,000	£24,700,000
CFR	£32,573,297	£32,612,968	£33,874,490

- 5.3. **The Authorised Limit** - The Authorised Limit is the “Affordable Borrowing Limit” required by s3 of the Local Government Act 2003. The Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2008/09 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its Authorised Limit.
- 5.4. **The Operational Boundary** – The Operational Boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the Boundary is acceptable subject to the Authorised Limit not being breached.
- 5.5. **Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream** - This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream.

	2008/09
Original Indicator - Authorised Limit	£39,000,000
Maximum gross borrowing position	£31,000,000
Original Indicator - Operational Boundary	£35,000,000
Average gross borrowing position	£29,169,863
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream	9%

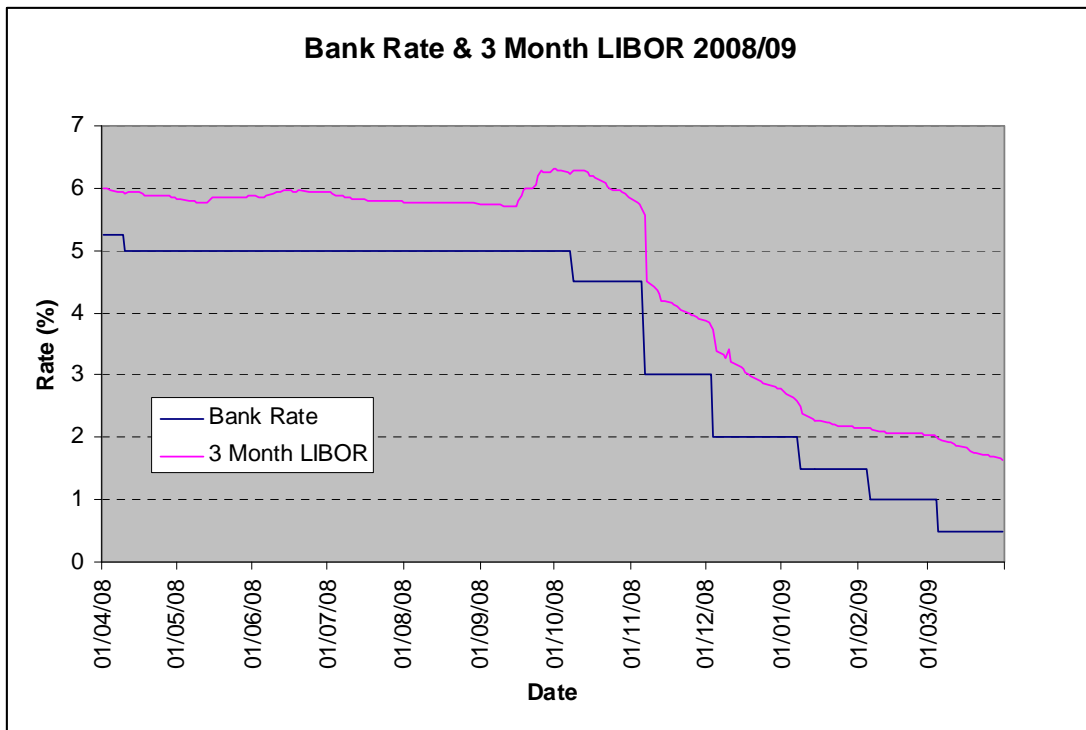
6. Economic Background for 2008/09

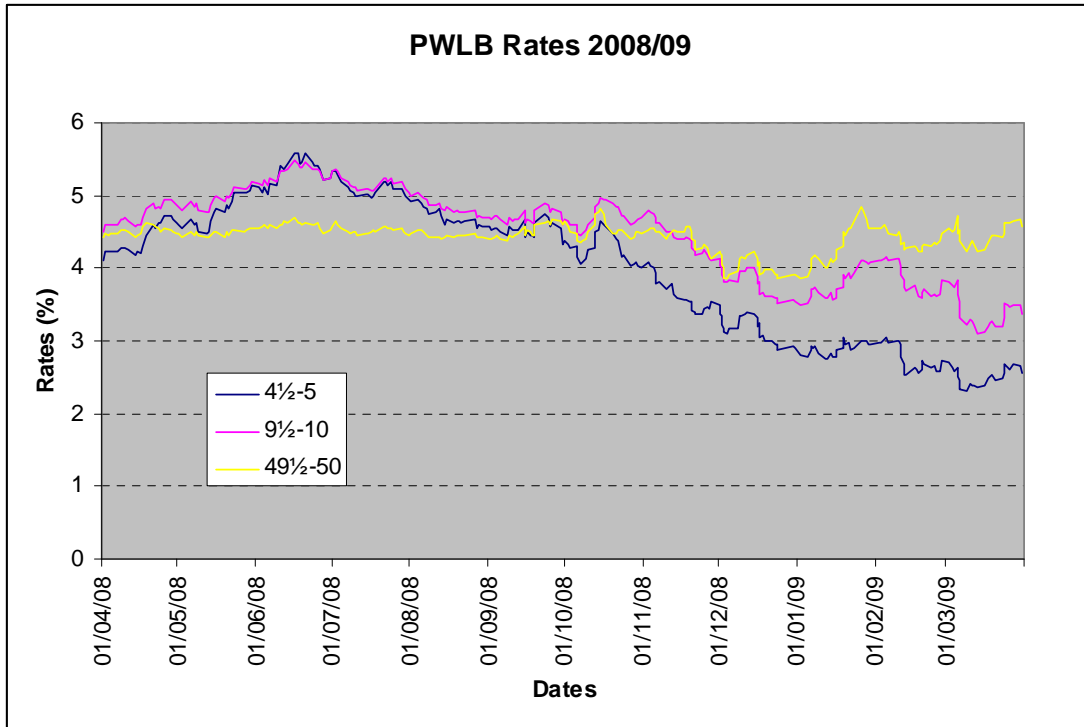
- 6.1. The 2008/09 financial year has featured one of the most testing and difficult economic and investment environments since the 1930s. It has featured a number of very significant changes in the performance of the UK as well as global economy. And beneath all of this has been the undercurrent of uncertainty and mistrust in the financial markets. This was not an easy backdrop in which to manage an investment portfolio.
- 6.2. The year opened on an uncertain note. The ongoing effects of the “credit crunch” which had started in 2007 prompted a bout of monetary policy easing in early April when the Bank of England cut its Bank Rate by 0.25% to 5%.
- 6.3. But inflation was rising sharply, courtesy of the strength of global commodity and food prices and the very steep rise in oil prices. The CPI inflation measure breached the 3% upper limit of the Governments’ target range in April. The Bank was concerned that these external cost pressures could eventually transform into a domestic wage/price spiral and kick start a bout of damaging inflation.

- 6.4. Rates were left on hold through the summer months and there seemed to be some signs of a gradual return to slightly more normal conditions in the money markets. But this was not to last. Mid-September saw a “sea change” in financial markets and economic policies. The collapse of US investment bank, Lehman Brothers, dealt a devastating blow to the markets. Liquidity dried up almost completely making it extremely difficult for banks to function normally. These developments culminated in the failure of the entire Icelandic banking system in early October.
- 6.5. The failure of the Icelandic banking system had a major impact on local authority investments. A number of local authorities had deposits with Icelandic institutions and these investments are still at risk. At this point in time recovery rates have not been fully disclosed by the respective institutions, although early indicators suggest a good, albeit not 100% recovery.
- 6.6. The crisis in the financial markets deepened and threatened a complete ‘melt-down’ of the world financial system. This, together with evidence that economies had entered recession prompted a number of significant policy changes. In the UK these featured the following:
 - 6.6.1. a major rescue package totalling as much as £400bn to recapitalise the banking system
 - 6.6.2. a series of interest rate cuts down to 2% in early December
 - 6.6.3. a fiscal expansion package, including a 2.5% cut in VAT.
- 6.7. The New Year failed to herald a change in the fortunes of the banking sector. Central banks continued to ease monetary policies in an attempt to reduce borrowing rates and hence alleviate some of the cost pressures being experienced by financial institutions and, more to the point, the corporate and household sectors.
- 6.8. With official interest rates in the US already at close to zero at end-2008, the Bank of England was at the forefront of policy easing. Bank Rate was cut in successive monthly moves from 2% at the outset of the year to the historically low level of 0.5% in March. Thereafter, the Bank resorted to the quantitative easing of monetary policy via a mechanism of buying securities from investment institutions in exchange for cash. This commenced in early March and is expected ultimately to amount to £150bn.
- 6.9. Aside from Bank of England assistance, the central government launched the second phase of its support operations for the banking industry during the second half of January. This failed to allay fears that even more aid might have to be extended to the banking industry before the crisis is over. During the course of the quarter, two major banks, RBS and Lloyds Group, needed substantial cash injections; action that led the public sector to assume near-full ownership. In

addition to this, the Dunfermline Building Society was rescued from bankruptcy.

- 6.10. The problems of the financial markets since late 2007 had clearly spread to other parts of the economy. Economic data confirmed that the UK was in deep recession and the latest Bank of England Inflation Report (published in mid-February) registered a marked change in official forecasts for 2009 and 2010. Economic activity was expected to decline sharply (GDP was forecast to contract by more than 4% in 2009) and inflation was projected to fall into negative territory
- 6.11. The generally uncertain backdrop to the UK and the financial markets prevented a marked easing in overall money market liquidity. While the situation did show some signs of improving as the financial year drew to a close, the margin between official interest rates and those quoted in the inter-bank market for periods longer than 1-month remained very wide.





7. The Strategy Agreed for 2008/09

- 7.1. For debt the strategy provided for 2008/09 expected an increase in the underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure. The Borough Treasurer indicated that beneficial refinancing would be undertaken when interest rates were favourable.
- 7.2. For investments the strategy for 2008/09 expected adherence to the counterparty and liquidity framework to ensure the security and liquidity of investments before yield.

8. Actual debt management activity during 2008/09

- 8.1. **Borrowing** – There were no new loans drawn in 2008-09 and there was no naturally maturing debt.
- 8.2. **Rescheduling** – There was no rescheduling undertaken in 2008-09.

9. Investment Position

- 9.1. **Investment Policy** – The Council's investment policy is governed by ODPM (now CLG) Guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by Council on 25th February 2008. The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.
- 9.2. **Resources** – The Council's longer term cash balances comprise primarily revenue and capital resources, although these will be influenced by cash flow considerations. The Council's core cash

resources comprised as follows, and meet the expectations of the budget:

Balance Sheet Resources	31st March 2008	31st March 2009
Balances	£2,772,796	£2,765,053
Earmarked reserves	£1,973,339	£3,005,972
Provisions	£698,146	£509,095
Usable capital receipts	£1,728,568	£1,572,673
Total	£7,172,849	£7,852,793

9.3. **Investments Held by The Council** - The Council maintained an average balance of £9,600,454 of internally managed funds. The internally managed funds received an average return of 4.81%. The comparable performance indicator is the average 7-day LIBID rate, which was 3.57%. This compares with a budget assumption of £10,000,000 investment balances at 4.25% interest rate.

10. Performance Indicators set for 2008/09

10.1. For treasury activities the Council has set the following performance indicators:

- Debt – Borrowing - Average rate of borrowing for the year compared to the equivalent Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) average for the year; the Council's average borrowing interest rate for 2008-09 was 4.38%, which is 0.16% lower than the PWLB average for the year. The Council paid a lower interest rate on borrowed funds compared to the indicative level in the market.
- Investments – Average investment interest rate compared to the 7 day LIBID rate (London Interbank BID rate); the Council's average investment interest rate for 2008-09 was 4.81%, which is 1.1% higher than the 7 day LIBID rate. The Council earned a higher interest rate on invested funds compared to the indicative level in the market.

11. Regulatory Framework, Risk and Performance

11.1. The Council's treasury management activities are regulated by a variety of professional codes and statutes and guidance:

- The Local Government Act 2003 (the Act), which provides the powers to borrow and invest as well as providing controls and limits on this activity;
- The Act permits the Secretary of State to set limits either on the Council or nationally on all local authorities restricting the amount of borrowing which may be undertaken (although no restrictions were made in 2007/08);
- Statutory Instrument (SI) 3146 2003, as amended, develops the controls and powers within the Act;

- The SI requires the Council to undertake any borrowing activity with regard to the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities;
- The SI also requires the Council to operate the overall treasury function with regard to the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services;
- Under the Act the ODPM (now DCLG) has issued Investment Guidance to structure and regulate the Council's investment activities.
- Under section 238(2) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 the Secretary of State has taken powers to issue guidance on accounting practices. Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision was issued under this section on 8th November 2007.

11.2. The Council has complied with all of the above relevant statutory and regulatory requirements which limit the levels of risk associated with its treasury management activities. In particular its adoption and implementation of both the Prudential Code and the Code of Practice for Treasury Management means both that its capital expenditure is prudent, affordable and sustainable, and its treasury practices demonstrate a low risk approach.

(i) Legal Implications

As stated in Section 11.

(ii) Financial Implications

Not Applicable.

(iii) Health and Safety Implications

Not Applicable.

(iv) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims

Not Applicable.

(v) Risk Assessment

Not Applicable.

(vi) Equal Opportunities

Not Applicable.

Background Papers

Nil

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 10
Date of Meeting: 29th July, 2009	
Reporting Officer: Borough Treasurer	
Title: Council Finances Report – Quarter 1 2009-2010	
Summary and Conclusions:	
This report presents financial information for the first quarter of the financial year. It contains summary information and key data for the:	
A. General Fund B. Treasury Management C. Capital Expenditure and Financing D. Housing Revenue Account E. Collection Fund F. Bad Debt Provisions and Write Offs G. Reserves, Balances and Provisions H. Benefits Performance	
Recommendations:	
To note the information contained in the report.	

Report

**Council Finances
For the period to 30th June 2009**

Introduction

This report contains all of the key data relating to the Councils finances for the quarter ended 30th June 2009 (Q1). Where key data is not available at the end of the reporting period date, the latest available key data has been used and this is noted where applicable.

A. **General Fund**

The General Fund brings together all of the functions of the Council except the Housing Revenue Account which is ring-fenced. The General Fund summarises all of the resources that have been generated, consumed or set aside in

providing services during the year. There are certain statutory items that are taken into account in determining the Council's budget requirement and in turn its Council Tax demand.

The budget for 2009-10 was agreed by Council on 23rd February 2009 at £13,742,000. The budget was balanced using £189,000 from balances.

There are certain items of income and expenditure that are incurred throughout the year and other items that are entered into the General Fund at the end of the financial year. The monitored items and their position at 30th June 2009 are set out below, the actual spend compared to the budget is shown as Q1%:

Item	Total budget	Q1 budget	Q1 actual	Q1%
Staff costs	6,916,310	1,729,078	1,622,176	94
Transport costs	201,670	50,418	30,135	60
Property costs	2,188,710	547,178	647,601	118
Supplies and services	3,847,570	961,893	843,644	88
Contract services	6,821,410	1,705,353	886,497	52
Transfer payments	23,511,410	5,877,853	5,705,332	97
External income	(30,742,170)	(7,685,543)	(7,923,918)	103
Direct costs	12,744,910	3,186,230	1,811,467	57

A forecast of the outcome for the full year at this early stage indicates no additional call on balances.

Key data:

- o Salaries and on-costs

Salaries and on-costs are one of the main items of General Fund expenditure; these are the main part of the staff cost figures.

The salaries and on-costs budget at 30th June 2009 was £1,695,093 and the difference between this and the actual spend of £1,596,850 is an under spend or saving of £98,243.

- o The main income streams in the General Fund are those realising at least £250,000 in the year. This is income that is earned for services provided and does not include grant income, the actual spend compared to the budget is shown as Q1%:

Income stream	2009-10 budget	Q1 expected income	Q1 actual income	Q1%
Car parking charges	1,079,500	269,875	240,555	89
Estates property rents	1,455,810	363,953	259,406	71
Leisure Centre fees	724,980	181,245	138,843	77
Crematorium services	357,000	89,250	63,631	71

Some of the estates property rents are charged in advance.

- Sundry debtors outstanding at 30th June 2009 compared to the sundry debtors outstanding at the start of the year:

Outstanding 1st April 2009	Days overdue	Outstanding 30th June 2009
1,154,010	1 to 30	343,372
89,685	31 to 60	50,124
95,143	61 to 90	73,427
40,386	91 to 180	110,426
74,176	181 to 360	65,789
141,598	Over 361	159,080
1,594,998	Total	802,218

B. Treasury Activities

Treasury activities are all the borrowing and investment transactions for the Council. All transactions take place in accordance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy for the year, which also sets the Prudential Indicators. Prudential indicators are measures and limits that control the affordability, risk and proper practice in all treasury transactions.

The interest paid on borrowings is attributed to the General Fund after a statutory amount is calculated for the Housing Revenue Account. The interest earned on investments belongs to the General Fund. Should the interest paid on borrowings or the interest earned from investments be different from the budget estimate, this will impact on the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account as applicable.

Key data:

- Interest paid on borrowings compared to budget estimate:

The Council currently has no short-term temporary borrowing. The Council's long-term debts are all with the Public Works Loan Board and interest is payable every six months, the first payment for the period 1st April 2009 to 30th September 2009 will be paid on 1st October 2009:

Annual budget estimate for interest paid	Actual interest paid
£1,266,570	£0

- o Interest earned on invested short-term temporary surplus cash compared to the budget estimate:

Annual budget estimate for interest earned	Actual interest earned at 30th June 2009
£150,000	£3,974

At 30th June the Council had £4,500,000 invested with the HSBC.

- o Change in the Council's borrowings:

There has been no new long-term borrowing undertaken, however, £6,610,266 of long-term loans have been repaid on 22nd April 2009 as was reported to this Committee on the 10th June 2009. There has been no restructuring of the existing long-term debt. The Council's borrowings at 30th June 2009 were £22,389,734.

The Authorised Limit that the Council's debt cannot exceed in 2009-2010 is £36,000,000.

C. Capital Programme

The Council's capital expenditure plans are one of the key prudential indicators. This expenditure can be paid for immediately by resources such as capital receipts and capital grants, and any remaining expenditure forms the Council's borrowing requirement for the year.

The borrowing requirement for the capital programme impacts on the General Fund as the Council is statutorily required to set aside a prescribed amount to repay the Council's total borrowing requirement. The current borrowing requirement in the capital programme is reflected in the General Fund budget. Any changes in the requirement will impact on the General Fund.

Key data:

- o Spend to 30th June 2009 compared to the programme projected:

As at:	Capital programme	Actual spend
23 rd February 2009 – approved by Council	£12,598,261	£1,672,277
30 th June 2009	£14,895,748	

The variations from the original programme were reported to this committee on 10th June 2009.

D. Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account reflects the statutory obligation to account separately for Council housing provision. The Housing Revenue Account is a ring-fenced account and legislation sets out the items that can be paid and received.

The budget for 2009-10 was agreed by Council on 23rd February 2009 as a net surplus on the account of £52,670. The budget did not include the use of the Housing Revenue Account balance.

There are certain items of income and expenditure that are monitored throughout the year and other items that are transacted at the end of the financial year. The monitored items and the position at 30th June 2009 are set out below, the actual spend compared to the budget is shown as Q1%:

Item	Total budget	Q1 budget	Q1 actual	Q1%
INCOME				
Dwelling rents	(8,499,850)	(2,124,963)	(1,909,073)	90
Other rents	(304,470)	(76,118)	(69,765)	92
Other items of income	(432,640)	(108,160)	(84,662)	78
Gross income	(9,236,960)	(2,309,241)	(2,063,500)	89
EXPENDITURE				
Management of Council Housing	2,245,290	561,325	382,635	68
Dwelling repairs	2,986,290	746,573	383,073	51
Housing subsidy payable	399,940	99,985	90,805	91
Gross expenditure	5,631,520	1,407,883	856,513	61

Overall the Housing Revenue Account is expected to be on target to achieve the budgeted income and expenditure items above, set by Council on 23rd February 2009.

E. Collection Fund

The Collection Fund reflects the statutory requirement to maintain a separate record of transactions in relation to council tax and business rates and to distribute these to precepting authorities, the national non-domestic rates pool and the General Fund.

When the council tax is set, there is a certain amount set aside for uncollectible council tax. Where the uncollectible council tax for the year is different to the estimate, for illustration there is more uncollected council tax than estimated, this deficit is shared between the Council, the County and the Police. Due to the

timing of setting the council tax, the deficit would impact on the 2011-12 General Fund.

Key data:

- Percentage of council tax collected at 30th June 2009 compared to the previous year:

Year	Amount due for the year	Amount collected	Collected
2009	£27,587,580	£7,984,446	28.9%
2008	£26,922,246	£7,742,127	28.7%

- Percentage of business rates collected at 30th June 2009 compared to the previous year:

Year	Amount due for the year	Amount collected	Collected
2009	£21,643,698	£6,594,171	30.5%
2008	£20,890,295	£6,350,318	30.4%

F. Bad debt provisions and write offs

Each fund has a provision set aside to cover the writing off of bad debts. The provisions are specific to each fund that they are created from. For the General Fund, the bad debt provision has been built up from contributions from the General Fund over time. If the provision falls below prudent levels, General Fund revenue resources would be used to replenish the provision.

Key data:

- The bad debt provisions at 1st April 2009 and at the amounts written off to 30th June 2009 are shown below:

Fund	1 st April 2009	Written off during 2009-10
General Fund	£485,747	0
Benefits overpayments	£511,050	0
Housing Revenue Account	£315,205	32,195
Collection Fund		
- council tax	£3,032,932	0
- business rates	£1,074,151	0

At this point in the year the bad debt provisions are satisfactory to cover the outstanding debts.

G. Reserves, balances and provisions

Reserves, balances and provisions are specific to each fund.

Reserves are created by earmarking specific amounts from a fund and setting it aside, this may be for a specific purpose at the time, or for a specific purpose to be identified later.

Fund balances are maintained at prudent levels determined in accordance with the approved Reserves and Balances Policy. Fund balances are held for potential emergency or extraordinary expenditure.

Provisions are created to meet potential liabilities or losses that have been incurred, but the timing or amounts are uncertain.

Key data:

- The General Fund reserves held at 1st April 2009 and at 30th June 2009 are shown below:

Item	1st April 2009	Allocated for use	30th June 2009
Opportunity reserve	£1,195,552	£335,985	£859,567
Budget setting support	£500,000	£189,000	£311,000
General reserve	£461,623	0	£461,623
Leisure centre loss of income	£270,321	0	£270,321
Other reserves	£578,477	£357,098	£221,379
Total	£3,005,973	£882,083	£2,123,890

- The balances at 1st April 2009 and at 30th June 2009 are shown below:

Fund	1st April 2009	Used during 2009-10	30th June 2009
General Fund	£1,971,258	0	£1,971,258
Housing Revenue Account	£845,980	0	£845,980
Collection Fund	£52,185	£17,077	£35,108

- The reserves and balances are sufficient and remain at satisfactory prudent levels.

- The provisions at 1st April 2009 and at 30th June 2009 are shown below:

Item	1 st April 2009	Used during 2009-10	30 th June 2009
Insurance settlements	£449,206	£0	£449,206
Early retirement	£59,889	£0	£59,889
Total	£509,095	£0	£509,095

H. Benefits Performance

One of the main performance targets agreed with Liberata for 2009-2010 is the time taken to process new claims and change events. For new claims the target is 21 days and for change of circumstances 12.5 days. The DWP will monitor the combination of these two targets which they refer to as NI 181. The combined agreed target for this year is **16 days**.

At the end of June 2009 Liberata has achieved **18.9 days**.

(i) Legal Implications

Not Applicable.

(ii) Financial Implications

At this stage, the finances of the Council are within budgetary expectation.

(iii) Health and Safety Implications

Not Applicable.

(iv) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims

Not Applicable.

(v) Risk Assessment

Not Applicable.

(vi) Equal Opportunities

Not Applicable.

Background Papers

Nil

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	(R) Agenda Item 11
Date of Meeting: 29th July, 2009	
Reporting Officer: Borough Treasurer	
<p>Title: War Pensions – Benefits Disregard Determination</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>This report seeks committee approval for maintaining the award of full disregard, both local and government, for war pensions for the financial year 2009-2010.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>To agree to the continuance of awarding the disregard for War Pensions.</p>	

Report

War pensions include:

- War disablement pension
- War widow/er pension
- Special war widows supplementary 1973

All the above are disregarded in full if the claimant or partner is over 60, without any local disregard.

For information, the number of claims processed in 2008-2009 was 35, at a cost of £29,238 of which 75% qualify for government subsidy. The net cost to the Council would be £7,310.

	Gross Cost (£)	Net Cost to Council (£)
Council tenants	6,700	1,675
Private tenants	11,823	2,956
Council Tax claimants	10,715	2,679
Total	29,238	7,310

(i) Legal Implications

Not Applicable.

(ii) Financial Implications

The net cost to the Council can be met from the benefits budget.

(iii) Health and Safety Implications

Not Applicable.

(iv) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims

Not Applicable.

(v) Risk Assessment

Not Applicable.

(vi) Equal Opportunities

Not Applicable.

Background Papers

Nil

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 12
Date of Meeting: 29 th July, 2009	
Reporting Officer: Chief Environmental Health Officer	
<p>Title: Government Response to the Rugg Review of the Private Rented Sector – Consultation</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>The Government has produced a response to the earlier Rugg Review of the private rented sector, and is consulting on that response. This report invites Committee to endorse a formal response to this consultation.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the report; and 2. To endorse the proposed response to the consultation contained in Section 4 of the report. 	

1. Background

- 1.1. In January 2008, the Government commissioned Julie Rugg and David Rhodes of the University of York to carry out an independent review of the private rented sector (The Rugg Review).
- 1.2. The review covered the following issues:
 - What is the current role of the private rented sector, what are its drivers?
 - What does a fit for purpose private rented sector look like?
 - Is there an optimum size for the private rented sector at the national level?
 - What roles could or should the private rented sector fulfill into the future and what action would be needed, and by whom, to secure those roles?
 - As the sector with the lowest levels of decent homes how can change and improvement be driven forward as part of a landlord's business investment strategy?
 - The regulatory changes in the 2004 Act, introduced in 2006, are beginning to work through. Is this the right level of regulation? And if

not what would be proportionate given risks and the priority to ensure better regulation and reduced burdens on business and local authorities?

1.3. The Rugg Review was published in October 2008. This set out six “policy directions of travel”:

- **developing a sound evidence base** – this sets out proposals to improve data on the sector. Particular focuses are how the data can better reflect the various sub-markets and the need for local authorities to improve local data on the private rented sector.
- **promoting housing management** – this proposes full, mandatory and independently-led regulation of letting and managing agents together with greater training within the sector.
- **growing the business of letting** – here the focus is on measures which acknowledge landlordism as an active business activity rather than passive investment. Proposals include re-examining the fiscal framework and encouraging local authorities to deal with landlords through their small business unit rather than through environmental health.
- **equalising the rental choices** – the key proposal here is the establishment of ‘social letting agencies’ by local authorities with the aim reduce the risks of private renting for low income households. Measures within this umbrella could include work on tenancy sustainment and assistance with deposits and rent in advance.
- **light-touch licensing with effective redress** – this proposes a simple ‘no hurdle’ licensing system for all landlords. Landlords would be required to register and receive a licence number which would then be a pre-requisite for any kind of landlord activity. Licence fees could contribute to the development of a housing justice framework and the licensing scheme would allow local authorities to focus on the ‘worst first’ in carrying out their enforcement activity.
- **tenancy frameworks** – this underlines that current tenancy arrangements are not inherently risky. It suggests that more work needs to be done on why tenancies end and that landlords may well be encouraged to offer longer fixed term lets if they can be reassured on the real and perceived risks. Elsewhere in the review, it is proposed that the upper limit for assured tenancies be extended from the current level of £25,000 in annual rent and that written tenancy agreements be introduced on a mandatory basis.

2. Government Response

- 2.1. In response to the Rugg Review, the government has made a number of proposals. These are set out in a paper published by the Department for Communities and Local Government.
- 2.2. This report focuses on the regulatory elements of the consultation document, as these are the parts that impact most directly on the Council's operations and responsibilities.
- 2.3. The key proposals, and suggested responses, are set out in section 3 of this report.

3. Policy Proposals

- 3.1. The Government proposes to establish a national register of private landlords. This would have the following characteristics:
 - The register would be nationally run by an independent organization procured by government. It would primarily be web and telephone based with parallel arrangements for those without internet access.
 - Landlords or their agents would register annually and pay a small fee to cover administration costs, and, in return, would receive a unique landlord registration number.
 - Landlords would not have to meet any pre-set criteria in order to register. Only minimal data would be required – name, address and the addresses of the property holdings of the landlord at the time of registration.
 - Landlords would be given access to various services in return for registering. These could include a starter pack for new landlords and standard forms, such as appropriate forms for possession proceedings and standard tenancy agreements.
 - There would be a public-facing element of the register which landlords could opt into and use as a shop window for their properties. These could include additional information about properties for rent, such as whether a landlord was a member of a landlord association or accreditation scheme.
 - The register could also be used as a means of informing landlords about mechanisms to improve the energy performance of their properties, and of making energy performance certificates available.
 - In order to ensure enforcement, the landlord registration number would be a prerequisite for all the mechanisms by which a landlord carries out his or her business. For instance, the registration number would have to be shown on tenancy agreements, it would have to be shown in all court processes, including eviction; and to housing

benefit offices, where a tenant was in receipt of housing benefit or local housing allowance.

- In the event of persistent abuse and/or failure to comply with the regulatory regime, the landlord could be removed from the register, and existing powers used to take over the management of his or her stock. The decision to remove a landlord from the register would be carried out by an independent body with a right of appeal to a separate judicial body. The effect would be that a landlord would no longer be able to let out property by him or herself.
- This process is aimed at driving out bad landlords, and securing an improvement in the quality of the worst stock, especially where category 1 hazards under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System are found, as well as supporting good landlords.

3.2. The Government is also consulting on whether any additional criteria should be established for the current selective licensing regime.

3.3. The Government proposes that all tenancies should take the form of written tenancy agreements. It is proposed to achieve this either by introducing legislation to set out the minimum requirement for a valid tenancy agreement, or to set out a model tenancy agreement in legislation, with additional clauses that could be added to suit individual circumstances.

3.4. The current upper threshold for Assured Shorthold Tenancies (ASTs) is an annual rent of £25,000. Many tenancies nationally will exceed this limit. The Government proposes to increase this threshold to £100,000.

3.5. The Government proposes that all private sector letting agents and management agents should be subject to mandatory regulation. This regulation would be carried out by an independent body, and would include the following elements:

- Entry requirements
- Code of practice for members (including a requirement that they do not let properties which do not comply with decent homes standards).
- Requirements to have in place business and consumer protection measures (such as client money protection, independent complaints procedures and linked redress, professional indemnity insurance)
- Monitoring of compliance by the regulatory body.
- Enforcement powers and the ability to put in place sanctions.

3.6. Finally, the Government recognises that some stakeholders have concerns about the way in which existing redress systems, particularly through the courts, serve both tenants and landlords. It asks if there are circumstances under which court proceedings could be streamlined.

4. Response to Proposals

4.1. The proposed register of private landlords is supported in principle. However, it needs to be recognised that there are a number of issues of detail that require resolution and further consultation before implementation. On a number of these specific issues, we would comment as follows:

- The proposed information required from landlords should extend to date of birth and business address / company number if relevant as unique identifiers.
- The proposed starter pack should be made available to all registered landlords.
- Additional services in the “public-facing” section of the register should be made optional for landlords for an additional charge.
- The proposal that landlords who have their stock removed from the register should have the management of their homes taken over is welcomed in principle, but could have serious practical implications. If the stock management is envisaged to be taken over by the local authority, this could present serious problems with capacity and capability. It also needs to be recognised that removal from the register may result from actions of a landlord in one particular local authority area. That landlord may have properties in many other local authority areas, and these local authorities could then be faced with having to take over management of rental stock with little notice or opportunity to plan. This could be alleviated to some extent by the management of properties being taken over by accredited management agents with the original landlord bearing the cost.
- Separate consultation is required on the detail of the nature of activities that would result in removal from the register. If a points system similar to that in place for driving offences is to be brought in, the points systems also requires separate consultation. It would be helpful to have a body such as LACORS (Local Authority Committee on Regulatory Services) involved in developing this system.
- It is suggested that the quasi-judicial functions proposed in removal of landlords from the register are carried out by the Residential Property Tribunal Service. This would mirror the practice on appeals against enforcement notices.
- The Government proposes that current and potential tenants should have access to the register. It does not seem fair that unrestricted access to the whole register should be allowed. However, a search facility for individual properties would be useful.

4.2. Additional criteria for the introduction of selective licensing schemes are not currently felt to be necessary. This may be a longer term issue.

- 4.3. Whilst the principle of requiring all tenancy agreements to have a written form is admirable, it is difficult to see how this could be enforced. In the past, unscrupulous landlords have attempted to use the absence of a written agreement to argue that their tenant has no rights. Case law has built up over time to establish tenants' (and indeed landlords') rights in common law in this situation. Whilst it is probably unsatisfactory for both parties, it is impossible in practice to prevent a landlord allowing a tenant to occupy his property in return for an agreed rent without any written agreement. If a dispute arises at a later date, the contractual relationship may be difficult to decipher, but it is impossible to impugn that no relationship exists. It may be possible to legislate for a position where, in the absence of any other written agreement, an agreement set in statute is deemed to be in place. However, this does not seem to be what is proposed.
- 4.4. Increasing the upper threshold rent for ASTs seems reasonable, but will have little practical impact in Barrow.
- 4.5. The mandatory regulation of letting agents and management agents is supported.
- 4.6. The Government points out that most possession proceedings take place under an accelerated procedure where the time from date of claim to date of order is six weeks. However, it has to be recognised that we need to add to this time the period of notice to which the tenant is entitled, and the period required following the order to obtain a warrant. This period could result in the loss of a substantial amount of rent, and it would not be unreasonable to consider if a quicker process could be brought in.

(i) Legal Implications

Approval of this report will have no direct legal consequences. However, changes may be made to the statutory duties and the legal framework within which the Council operates as a result of this exercise.

(ii) Risk Assessment

Approval of this report will carry no direct risk. However, there may be risks to the Council associated with changes to the law arising from this exercise. Additional duties may require additional capacity and capability.

(iii) Financial Implications

Approval of this report will have no direct financial implications. Changes to legislation may result in potential additional costs to the Council.

(iv) Health and Safety Implications

Not Applicable.

(v) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims

This supports:

KP 2: Meet the housing needs of the Borough and make decent housing more accessible

Annual Objective 2 Target available resources appropriately to tackle non-decent housing and create sustainable communities.

(vi) Equal Opportunities

Not Applicable.

Background Papers

The private rented sector: professionalism and quality. The Government response to the Rugg Review consultation. (May 2009, Department for Communities and Local Government).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		Part One (D) Agenda Item 13
Date of Meeting:	29th July, 2009	
Reporting Officer:	Policy Review Officer	
<p>Title: Refuse Collection and Recycling Services – Performance Report - Quarter 1 2009/10</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>This report provides Members with an update on the current performance of the refuse collection and recycling services following changes made to the services in April/May 2009.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>To note the report and agree that further reports for Quarters 2-4 be presented to the Regeneration and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>		

Report

Background

Members will be aware that significant changes have been made to the refuse collection and recycling services during April and May 2009 in order to provide the opportunity for residents to increase the rate at which domestic waste is recycled. Following the conclusion of the changes I can report that the percentage of waste recycled in the first quarter of 2009/10 is 37.3% made up of 29.5% in April, 40% in May and 43.9% in June.

Total tonnage of recycled materials has increased by 33% compared to the same period last year and the tonnage of residual waste has reduced by 30%.

The weight of dry recycling has increased month on month since the introduction of the new services and we have collected over 1000 tonnes of recyclates in June compared to the 6700 tonnes of recyclates collected during the whole of 2008/09. The weight of card and plastic has increased from 61 tonnes in the first quarter of 2008/09 to 342 tonnes in the first quarter this year.

Green waste is up by 12% on 2008/09 and because this is seasonal we are likely to see a reduction in total recycling in quarters 3 and 4.

The weights of recyclates collected in the first quarter and a comparison with the same period in 2008/09 is detailed in table 1.

To assess resident's response to the new plastic/card recycling service a participation survey was undertaken over a two week period in June. The number of red bags presented for collection were counted and compared with the total number of households receiving the service. In the first week 68% of households presented a red bag and in the second week 72%. In some areas 100% of properties presented red bags and in others it was as low as 20%. It is proposed now that our Recycling Officer and Cumbria County Council Recycling Rangers will now focus on the low participation areas to support people with their recycling.

The response by the residents of the Borough to the new services has been excellent to date and as part of our on-going publicity plans for promotion of the services we will be using the local media to thank residents for their support and to encourage them to continue to improve our recycling performance by their continued use of our kerbside and bringsite recycling services.

Table 1: recycling figures for quarter 1

2008/09		2009/10				% change between Q1 2008/09 and Q1 2009/10
Kerbside collection	Q1	April	May	June	Q1	
	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Percent
Glass	207	78	87	135	300	45
Paper	387	148	159	166	473	22
Cans	45	18	26	28	72	60
Card	0	20	59	50	129	N/A
Plastic	0	14	61	88	163	N/A
Green	1115	396	363	494	1253	12
Bringsite						
Glass	83	44	28	28	100	20
Paper	70	30	20	20	70	0
Card	27	12	11	6	29	7
Plastic	34	10	5	6	21	-38
Total recycling	1968	770	819	1022	2610	33
Residual waste	6287	1842	1230	1310	4382	-30
Total waste	8255	2612	2049	2331	6992	-15
% recycled	23.8	29.5	40	43.9	37.3	57

(i) Legal Implications

Collection of household waste is a statutory function for Waste Collection Authorities.

(ii) Risk Assessment

Targets for waste collection and recycling are detailed in the Cumbria Local Area Agreement.

(iii) Financial Implications

Financial reward is linked to the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Recycling Reward Scheme.

(iv) Health and Safety Implications

Not Applicable.

(v) Key Priorities or Corporate Aims

KP1 - Create a safer, cleaner, greener Borough.

(vi) Equal Opportunities

Not Applicable.

Background Papers

Nil