

BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting:- 4th July, 2013
at 2.00 p.m. (Committee Room No. 4)

A G E N D A

PART ONE

1. To note any items which the Chairman considers to be of an urgent nature.

2. Questions on Notice

The Chairman to answer questions on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties which affect the Borough and which fall within the terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee where due notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 10.3 and 10.4.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Declarations of Interest

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

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

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

6. Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members.

7. Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May, 2013 (copy attached).

- (D) 8. Performance Management.
- (D) 9. Cultural Services.

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

Membership of Committee

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

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BOROUGH OF BARROW IN FURNESS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting, Thursday, 23rd May, 2013
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Roberts (Chairman), Cassidy (Vice-Chairman), Derbyshire, Hamilton, Johnston, Maddox, Sweeney, C. Thomson, M. A. Thomson and Wall.

1 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hamilton declared an other registrable interest in Agenda Item No. 7 – Work Programme (Minute No. 4) as he was a Member of Cumbria County Council.

Councillor Wall declared an other registrable interest in Agenda Item No. 7 – Work Programme (Minute No. 4) as she was a Member of Cumbria County Council.

2 – Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Husband, R. McClure and Opie.

Councillor Sweeney had attended as a substitute Member for Councillor Husband for this meeting only.

3 – Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th March, 2013 were taken as read and confirmed.

4 – Work Programme

The Policy Review Officer provided Members with the current Work Programme 2013/14 and invited Members to prioritise the reviews. The Work Programme included:-

Item	Topic	Scope of the review
1	Allotments	To review the Council's arrangements for managing tenancies and the waiting list. Ensure the allotment service was financially sustainable.

2	Street Cleanliness	<p>To review to Council's arrangements for working with the contractor to deliver a higher standard of street cleanliness.</p> <p>To ensure appropriate arrangements were in place to manage external factors of the impact on street cleanliness e.g. seagulls and fly tipping.</p>
3	Coastal Protection	<p>The implementation of phase four of the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy had resulted in changes to way in which coastal defence projects were funded. The review would focus on the medium term project plan and how it would be funded.</p>
4	Estates and Asset Management	<p>To review arrangements for maximising income from the Councils assets and the potential for the disposal of redundant assets.</p>
5	Town Centres Development and Supporting Local Traders	<p>Review arrangements for supporting local traders in the current economic climate.</p>
6	Highways and Car Parking	<p>Review the provision of highways maintenance by Cumbria County Council. Review street lighting and on-street parking arrangements.</p>
7	Economic Development, Planning and Development Control.	<p>Review arrangements for planning and economic development in light of the reduced funding as a result of the Governments deficit reduction programme. Ensure the Council still had appropriate arrangements in place to access development funding.</p>

8	Cultural Services	Review the impact of the Council's service review on cultural services. The review would consider events, distribution of funding and service charges.
9	Policy and Strategy	Monitor the development of and performance against the Council's key priorities.
10	Housing Strategy	Review availability of private sector and socially housing and consider partnership arrangements to ensure that the availability of housing in the Borough meets demand.
11	Localised Flooding	Collect information from other agencies to determine whether appropriate action was being taken to minimise the impact of localised flooding.

It was noted that Item No. 1 – Allotments and Item No. 3 – Coastal Protection were now complete. Item No. 2 – Street Cleansing and Item No. 10 – Housing Strategy remained on-going.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the reviews regarding Street Cleansing and Housing Strategy remained on-going;
- (ii) That a review of Cultural Services be prioritised and a Work Group set up;
- (iii) That Members of the Work Group for a review of Cultural Services consisted of Councillors Cassidy, Derbyshire, C. Thomson, M. A. Thomson and Wall; and
- (iv) That a review of the Estates and Asset Management also be prioritised.

The meeting closed at 2.20 p.m.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 8
Date of Meeting: 4th July, 2013	
Reporting Officer: Policy Review Officer	
<p>Title: Performance Management</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>Provide Members with the Council's Performance Management report.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Members are invited to consider the information and determine whether further action is required.</p>	

Report

The Council's Key Priorities for 2012/15 are:

1. **Provide good quality efficient and cost effective services while reducing overall expenditure.**
2. **Continue to support housing market renewal including an increase in the choice and quality of housing stock and the regeneration of our oldest and poorest housing.**
3. **Work to mitigate the effects of the recession and cuts in public expenditure and their impact on the local economy and secure a sustainable and long term economic recovery for our community.**
4. **Continue to improve and enhance the built environment and public realm, working with key partners to secure regeneration of derelict and underused land and buildings in the Borough.**

The proposed actions for 2012/13 are listed below although some of the actions will take longer than one year to complete.

Management Board will review our Key Priority Action list for 2013/14

KP 1:

- **Complete the all-weather soccer centre. This was due to be completed in December 2012 but has been subject to delays and will be completed in the first quarter of 2013/14.**

- Renegotiate the Council's catering contract. **New contract proposal went to the Executive Committee on 26th June**
- Carry out a Survey of Tenants and Residents (STAR survey) to understand the expectations and aspirations of our tenants. **Complete and results have been published**
- Review recycling collections to maximise recycling income and mitigate the impact of a reduction in the value of recycling rewards. **This review has been delayed and will continue in 2013/14.**
- Actively encourage all Members to access the Modern Councillor online e-learning facility' **This has been deleted because the Council does not subscribe to this package**

KP 2:

- A two year project to carry out Group Repair Work to 240 properties in sub areas A and E including:
 - Chimney stack repairs
 - Door and window replacement
 - Rendering and new rain water goods
 - Cavity wall insulation**On-going**
- Identify appropriate sites in partnership with Accent Housing to build 27, 3-bedroom social houses. **The sites have been identified and construction has started.**

KP 3:

- Transfer management of Waterside House to BAE Systems as part of the lease agreement. **Complete**
- Complete refurbishment at Phoenix Park Business Centre. **Complete**
- Agree local arrangements to mitigate the impact of the Council Tax reduction scheme, which replaces the current Council tax Benefits. **Complete and is covered in the budget**

KP 4:

- Complete the external refurbishment of 102 Abbey Road. **This project is complete.**
- Two year project to construct a roof on level C of the multi storey car park. **This is currently being reviewed and it is unlikely that it will continue**

Key Performance Indicators

Table 1 is a selection of existing indicators and table 2 shows income against budget.

Local indicators

Indicator	Description	2011/12	2012/13	Change
9	Percentage of Council tax collected	96.8	96.9	→
10	Percentage of NNDR collected	98.0	98.0	→
12	Average number of days sick per member of staff	8.19	12.03	↓
NI 191	Residual waste per household	532	511	↑
NI 192	% of waste recycled, composted	37.1	36.4	→
	Weight of waste recycled and composted	10207	9720	↓

The Council Tax and NNDR figures for 2012/13 were the same as 2011/12
The sickness figure is significantly worse than last year.

The percentage of waste recycled is marginally lower and the tonnage is 5% lower and this will impact on the future value of the recycling rewards.

Background Papers

Nil

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 9
Date of Meeting: 4th July, 2013	
Reporting Officer: Policy Review Officer	
Title: Cultural Services	
Summary and Conclusions:	
Provide Members with an update of the scrutiny review into Cultural Services.	
Recommendation:	
Members are invited to consider the information and determine how this review should be progressed.	

Report

The work group is scheduled to meet on 2nd July to agree the scope for the Cultural services review.

The following Terms of Reference have been recommended:-

1. Gain a clear understanding of the leisure services we provide at our 3 core venues;
2. Examine performance of each venue in terms of costs, income and number of users;
3. Establish what residents expect from our leisure services in terms of provision and cost; and
4. Identify areas where potential improvements in performance, value for money and public satisfaction can be achieved.

I will provide a verbal update from the work group meeting at this meeting

Background Papers

Nil