

BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting:- Thursday 13th March, 2014
at 2.00 p.m. (Committee Room No. 4)

A G E N D A

PART ONE

1. To note any items which the Chairman considers to be of an urgent nature.
2. To receive notice from Members who may wish to move any delegated matter non-delegated and which will be decided by a majority of Members present and voting at the meeting.

3. **Admission of Public and Press**

To consider whether the public and press should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the agenda.

4. Declarations of Interest

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

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

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

5. Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members.
6. Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January, 2014 (copy attached).
- (D) 7. Cultural Services.
- (D) 8. Street Cleansing.

**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, 30th January, 2014
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Roberts (Chairman), Cassidy (Vice-Chairman) (Minute Nos. 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 32), Hamilton, Husband, Johnston, Maddox, C. Thomson, M. A. Thomson (Minute Nos. 26, 27, 28 and 32) and Wall.

26 – Declaration of Interest

Councillor Hamilton declared an other registrable interest in Agenda Item 9 - Street Cleansing as he was a Member of Cumbria County Council.

27 – Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members

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

28 – Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th December, 2013 were taken as read and confirmed.

29 – Cultural Services

The Policy Review Officer provided Members with an update of the scrutiny review into Cultural Services.

The work group had agreed the following Terms of Reference:-

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

The work group had now visited the Park Leisure Centre, the Forum and the Dock Museum and discussed opportunities and issues with management and staff. A number of suggestions were highlighted including:-

- Installation of Wi-Fi at venues;
- Centralised Leisure Card;
- Opening hours of Leisure Centre;
- A comprehensive review of services facilities; and
- Re-establish the Cultural Services Board.

The Policy Review Officer agreed to arrange a meeting with the Cultural Services Work Group and the Assistant Director – Community Services to discuss the ideas in detail. He would then be requested to take the recommendations to Management Board for consultation and report back to this Committee.

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

(ii) That the Policy Review Officer arrange a meeting for the Cultural Services Work Group and the Assistant Director – Community Services.

30 – Street Cleansing

The Policy Review Officer provided Members with an update of the scrutiny review into street cleansing.

The Council was currently developing a waste management strategy to provide direction for waste collection up to 2021. The Council had engaged with Cumbria County Council and WRAP to obtain their views. The Council were working with WRAP to clarify the Council's statutory requirements for the collection of waste and recycling and the best options for waste collection in the Borough. This information would be used to identify proposals for the waste collection service.

The Council had established a Joint Partnership Board with Biffa to provide a Forum to discuss potential contract improvements. This would be in addition to the operational meeting which occurred on a monthly basis.

RESOLVED:- That the information be noted.

31 – Fairtrade

The Policy Review Officer informed Members that if the Council wished to continue as a Fairtrade town it would need to renew its commitment to the Fairtrade principles.

The Council achieved Fairtrade status in 2005 and periodically had to renew its commitment to continuing as a Fairtrade town.

To retain Fairtrade town status the following five goals must be achieved:-

1. The local Council must pass a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and serve Fairtrade coffee and tea at its meetings and in offices and canteens. This was of less relevance to the Council as they do not have a canteen and there were very few Council meetings where refreshments were served. The Council had agreed that Fairtrade tea and coffee would be available at the Full Council meeting and at Planning Committee.
2. A range of Fairtrade products must be readily available in the area's shops and served in local cafés and catering establishments. The number required had been significantly exceeded.
3. Fairtrade products must be used by a number of local work places (estate agents, hairdressers etc.) and community organisations (churches, schools etc.). The number required had been significantly exceeded.
4. Attract popular support for the campaign. A Fairtrade event had been arranged in the Town Hall to take place during Fairtrade fortnight.
5. A local Fairtrade Steering Group must be convened to ensure continued commitment to Fairtrade Town status. A Steering Group was in place and included two representatives from the Council.

There was continuing demand for Fairtrade products in the Borough and it was recommended that the Council retained the Fairtrade Town status.

RESOLVED:- To recommend to the Executive Committee that the Borough of Barrow-in-Furness retained its Fairtrade Town status.

REFERRED ITEMS

THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION

32 – Scrutiny of the Council Budget for the Year 2014-2015

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report stating that the Executive Committee on 22nd January, 2014 had considered the budget proposals for 2014-2015 and their recommendations would be before Council on 4th March, 2014. It was noted that the Executive Committee had recommended the Council to agree to contribute £5,000 a year for a period of three years to Keep Our Future Afloat Campaign (KOFAC) from reserves.

She invited Members of this Committee to scrutinise the budget proposals and raise any concerns to full Council at their meeting on 4th March, 2014.

For Members' information the Executive Committee report with the related appendices had been appended to her report.

The Borough Treasurer responded to Members' questions in relation to the budget proposals for 2014-15.

RECOMMENDED:- To agree that Members were satisfied with the budget proposals for 2014-2015 as approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 22nd January, 2014 and agreed to forward these proposals to full Council for approval at its meeting on 4th March, 2014.

The meeting closed at 3.05 p.m.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		Part One (D) Agenda Item 7
Date of Meeting:	13th March, 2014	
Reporting Officer:	Policy Review Officer	
<p>Title: Cultural Services</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>Provide Members with an update of the scrutiny review into Cultural Services.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Members are invited to consider the views of the work group and consider re-establishing the Cultural Services Board.</p>		

Report

The workgroup agreed 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.

The work group has now visited the Park Leisure Centre, Forum and the Dock Museum. They have also met with the Assistant Director of Community Services.

Members have a clear understanding of the leisure services that the Council provides and has developed a good understanding of the way they are performing.

It is still unclear how current leisure provision is aligned to the expectations of residents and this requires further investigation. The Assistant Director of Community Service has agreed to look at existing customer information and identify what additional information is required and how it can be gathered.

A number of improvements have been suggested by venue managers and Members think that there needs to be a forum to discuss these.

Members are aware that the current budget strategy states that we should consider moving leisure services to trust in 2015/16 and have raised concerns that this may not be appropriate. Members agreed that formal discussions with senior managers should take place and believe that it would be appropriate to re-establish the Cultural Services Board as a forum for these discussions. Cultural Services Board could also be used for reviewing performance and assessing and progressing improvement suggestions.

Background Papers

Nil

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		Part One (D) Agenda Item 8
Date of Meeting:	13th March, 2014	
Reporting Officer:	Policy Review Officer	
<p>Title: Street Cleansing</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>Provide Members with an update of the scrutiny review into street cleansing.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Members are invited to consider the information and determine how this review should be progressed.</p>		

Report

The Council is currently developing waste management strategy to provide direction for waste collection up to 2021. We have engaged with Cumbria County Council and WRAP to obtain their views. We are working with WRAP to Clarify the Council's statutory requirements for the collection of waste and recycling and the best options for waste collection in the Borough. We will use this information to identify proposals for the waste collection service.

The Council has established a Joint Partnership Board with Biffa to provide a forum to discuss potential contract improvements. This will be in addition to the operational meetings which occur on a monthly basis.

The tonnage of recycling up to Q3 for the current year is 7035 tonnes (34.4%) compared to 7827 tonnes (37.7%) for the same period in 2012/13. This reduction is attributable to DEFRA's decision not to recycle street cleaning waste because contamination from vehicle exhausts and a reduction in recycling at bring sites.

Background Papers

Nil