

BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting:- Thursday 29th May, 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 13th March, 2014 (copy attached).
- (D) 7. Cultural Services.
- (D) 8. Street Cleansing.
- (D) 9. Work Programme.

**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, 13th March, 2014
at 2.00 p.m.

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

33 – Declaration of Interest

Councillor Hamilton declared an other registrable interest in Agenda Item No. 8 - Street Cleansing (Minute No. 37) as he was a Member of Cumbria County Council.

Councillor Wall declared an other registrable interest in Agenda Item No. 8 - Street Cleansing (Minute No. 37) as she was a Member of Cumbria County Council.

34 – Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members

An apology for absence was submitted from Councillor Roberts.

35 – Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January, 2014 were taken as read and confirmed.

36 – 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. They had also met with the Assistant Director of Community Services.

Members had a clear understanding of the leisure services that the Council provided and had developed a good understanding of the way they were performing.

It was still unclear how current leisure provision was aligned to the expectations of residents and this required further investigation. The Assistant Director of Community Services had agreed to look at existing customer information and identify what additional information was required and how it could be gathered.

A number of improvements had been suggested by Venue Managers and Members felt that there needed to be a forum to discuss these.

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

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

(ii) To recommend to the Executive Committee that the Cultural Services Board be re-established.

37 – 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 meetings which occurred on a monthly basis.

The tonnage of recycling up to Quarter 3 for the current year was 7035 tonnes (34.4%) compared to 7827 tonnes (37.7%) for the same period in 2012/13. This reduction was attributable to DEFRA's decision not to allow the recycling of street cleaning waste to count towards recycling credits because of contamination from vehicle exhausts and a reduction in recycling at bringsites.

Members had expressed concern regarding the reduction in recycling at bringsites and requested a work group be set up to deal with the issue.

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

(ii) That a work group be set up to deal with the issue of recycling at bringsites and all Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be invited along with the Streetcare Manager and representatives from BIFFA.

The meeting closed at 2.15 p.m.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		<u>Part One</u> (D) Agenda Item 7
Date of Meeting:	29th May, 2014	
Reporting Officer:	Policy Review Officer	
<p>Title: Cultural Services</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>To inform Members that the Executive Committee agreed to re-establish the Cultural Services Board.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>The Cultural Services work group meet to identify terms of reference for the Cultural Services Board.</p>		

Report

The Executive Committee agreed to re-establish the Cultural Services Board at its meeting of 14th May, 2014.

To operate the Board effectively it is recommended that Members meet with the Assistant Director – Community Services to agree a remit for the Board and its Terms of Reference.

Background Papers

Nil

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		Part One
Date of Meeting:	29th May, 2014	(D)
Reporting Officer:	Policy Review Officer	Agenda Item 8
<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 a Waste Management Strategy to provide direction for waste collection up to 2021. The Council 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. It is anticipated that WRAP's final report will be available by the end of May and I will provide Members with a copy when I receive it.

The tonnage of recycling for the current year is 8838 tonnes (32.2%) compared to 9720 tonnes (36.3%) for the same period in 2012/13. This reduction is attributable to DEFRA's decision not to recycle street cleaning waste because of contamination from vehicle exhausts and a reduction in recycling at bring sites.

Members of a work group visited a number of bring sites to observe the presentation of waste. Side waste had been left at all but one of the bring sites. It is clear that some members of the public are using the bring sites to deposit residual waste which should be disposed of at the Household Waste Recycling Centre on Walney Road. Approximately 60% of the side waste was clearly recycling which the operatives should collect as recycling under the terms of the contract.

Background Papers

Nil

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 9
Date of Meeting: 29th May, 2014	
Reporting Officer: Policy Review Officer	
<p>Title: Work Programme</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>Provide Members with the current work programme.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Members are invited to consider the work programme and prioritise the reviews to be undertaken in 2014/15.</p>	

Report

I have attached the current work programme below. Items 1-3 and item 8 are complete and the Committee needs to prioritise the work programme for 2014/15.

Item	Topic	Scope of the review
1	Allotments.	To review the Council's arrangements for managing tenancies and the waiting list. Ensure the allotment service is financially sustainable
2	Street cleanliness.	To review to Council's arrangements for working with the contractor to deliver a higher standard of street cleanliness. To ensure appropriate arrangements are in place to manage external factors the impact on street cleanliness e.g. seagulls and fly tipping.
3	Coastal protection.	The implementation of phase four of the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy has resulted in changes to way in which coastal defence projects are funded. The review will focus on our medium term project plan and how it will be funded.

4	Estates and asset management.	To review arrangements for maximising income from our assets and the potential for the disposal of redundant assets.
5	Town centres development and supporting local traders.	Review arrangements for supporting local traders in the current economic climate.
6	Highways and car parking	Review the provision of highways maintenance by Cumbria County Council. Review street lighting and on-street parking arrangements.
7	Economic Development, planning and development control.	Review arrangements for planning and economic development in light of the reduced funding as a result of the Governments deficit reduction programme. Ensure the Council still has appropriate arrangements in place to access development funding
8	Cultural Services	Review the impact of the Council's service review on cultural services. The review will consider events, distribution of funding and service charges.
9	Policy and strategy	Monitor the development of and performance against the council's key priorities.
10	Housing strategy	Review availability of private sector and socially housing and consider partnership arrangements to ensure that the availability of housing in the borough meets demand.
11	Localised flooding	Collect information from other agencies to determine whether appropriate action is being taken to minimise the impact of localised flooding

Background Papers

Nil.