

**BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Meeting:- 30th May, 2012  
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 on any of the items on the agenda.

4. Disclosures of Interests and any declarations under Paragraph 16: Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Party Whip).

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 will be available at the meeting.

5. Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitutes.
6. Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting held on 21st March, 2012 (copy attached).
- (D) 7. Tenants' Co-regulation.
- (D) 8. Coastal Protection.
- (D) 9. Street Cleansing.

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

**Membership of Committee**

Councillors Roberts (Chairman)  
Doughty (Vice-Chairman)  
Biggins  
Derbyshire  
Hamilton  
Husband  
Johnston  
R. McClure  
Murphy  
Opie  
C. Thomson  
M. A. Thomson

**For queries regarding this agenda, please contact:**

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# **BOROUGH OF BARROW IN FURNESS**

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Meeting, Wednesday, 21st March, 2012  
at 2.00 p.m.

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

### **30 – Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Roberts (Chairman) and Preston.

### **31 – Minutes**

The Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8th February, 2012 were taken as read and confirmed.

### **32 – Work Programme**

The Policy Review Officer reported that the Government was creating a new landscape for the way tenants' problems with housing services were addressed. From April 2012, the Tenants Service Authority regulator would have a 'backstop' role in consumer matters limited to setting the service delivery standards and acting only where it considered there was risk of serious detriment (or harm) to tenants. The principal role in scrutinising landlord services and intervening where consumer standards were not met would fall to others – Tenants, Panels, MPs and Elected Councillors. Boards and Councillors who governed providers' service delivery would remain responsible for meeting the standards and being transparent and accountable for their organisation's delivery of its social housing objectives. A new Value for Money standard would be introduced for private registered providers, which placed an increased onus on boards to develop and deliver a clear strategy to drive value for money improvements.

In the Tenant Involvement and Empowerment standard, there would be more focus on local mechanisms to resolve complaints and disputes, and an increased scope for more tenant involvement in repairs and maintenance. The principles of 'local offers' and annual reporting to tenants were retained.

The proposed Tenancy standard reflected intended changes in government policy, where different lengths of tenancy agreement would be allowed. This also included new expectations to promote mutual exchange arrangements.

In advance of these changes it would be appropriate for this Committee to review current tenant's participation arrangements to ensure they were robust enough to take on this new role. The Policy Review Officer recommended therefore that the review of tenant's participation be added to the work programme and the review be undertaken immediately.

Councillor Doughty informed the Committee that the Work Group had already met informally; the Members being Councillors Doughty, Derbyshire, Hamilton, Preston and M. A. Thomson. He stated that any other Councillor was welcome to join the Group if they so wished.

RESOLVED:- (i) That a review of the Tenants Representation on Housing Committee be added to the Work Programme and the review be undertaken immediately; and

(ii) That Members of the Work Group consist of Councillors Doughty, Derbyshire, Hamilton, Preston and M. A. Thomson.

### **33 – Street Cleansing**

The Policy Review Officer reported that the Streetcare Team were continuing to focus on improving heavily contaminated areas and it was clear that presentation of side waste was impacting on this. The Streetcare Team and the waste collection contractor were working to reduce side waste and therefore reduce the burden on the street cleansing teams.

Councillor Mrs Thomson continued to attend the contract meetings and was kept up to date with any significant issues.

The Council was continuing to publicise changes to ways in which it controlled the amount of side waste being presented and had taken more formal action against persistent householders.

The Council was facing increasing financial pressures and these had been compounded by Cumbria County Council's decision to reduce the value of the Recycling Reward Scheme. To offset the impact that this may have on the Council's waste collection arrangement, the Council had initiated a bid for funding from the Weekly Collection Support Scheme. The bidding process was in three stages and the Policy Review Officer would inform Members of the progress being made. The final bid would be submitted in August and if successful the Council would find out in October.

The current recycling figure was 36.7% compared to 36.0% for the same period last year and the Council were on target to achieve its maximum Recycling Reward Scheme funding for 2011/12.

Councillor Hamilton thanked Councillor Thomson for attending the contract meetings as it had made a big difference and the situation was improving vastly.

With regards to recycling credits, the Policy Review Officer stated that the County Council had agreed to look at each district separately and that the Borough Council would set up a Task Force to look at how costs could be reduced.

Councillor Hamilton also referred to the green bags which were used for paper recycling and the fact that Biffa were throwing these out rather than returning them to the property. He felt that this was a waste of money and an extra cost to the Council.

RESOLVED:- That the information on street cleansing be noted.

The meeting closed 2.20 p.m.

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| <b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>  | <b>(D)<br/>Agenda<br/>Item<br/>7</b> |
| <b>Date of Meeting: 30th May, 2012</b>  |                                      |
| <b>Reporting Officer: Policy Review Officer</b>   |                                      |
| <b>Title: Tenants' Co-regulation</b>  |                                      |
| <b>Summary and Conclusions:</b>   |                                      |
| Provide Members with an update of the scrutiny review into tenants' co-regulation.                  |                                      |
| <b>Recommendation:</b>  |                                      |
| Members are invited to consider the information and determine how this review should be progressed. |                                      |

**Report**

Following a meeting with the Housing Manager, members of the work group agreed that more information is needed to progress this review. The Housing Manager has offered to contact Lancaster City Council to discuss their approach to co-regulation. He is hoping that they will meet with our work group and share their ideas.

I will contact Members when this meeting has been arranged.

**Background Papers**

Nil

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| <b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>   | <b>(D)<br/>Agenda<br/>Item<br/>8</b> |
| <b>Date of Meeting: 30th May, 2012</b>   |                                      |
| <b>Reporting Officer: Policy Review Officer</b>  |                                      |
| <b>Title: Coastal Protection</b>   |                                      |
| <b>Summary and Conclusions:</b>  |                                      |
| Provide Members with an update of the scrutiny review into coastal protection.   |                                      |
| <b>Recommendation:</b>   |                                      |
| Members are invited to attend a meeting with the Director of Regeneration and Community Services to discuss the coastal protection strategy. |                                      |

**Report**

The publication of the Walney Island Coastal Protection Strategy has been delayed because the Environment Agency has asked for an assessment of the mainland side of Walney Channel to be carried out. It is now expected to be published in October this year.

A report on the initial assessment is now available and I will provide copies of this at this meeting.

The Director of Regeneration and Community Services has agreed to discuss the background for the strategy with the work group and I have arranged a meeting with him at 10am on 13th June in the Law Library.

**Background Papers**

Nil

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| <b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>  | <b>(D)<br/>Agenda<br/>Item<br/>9</b> |
| <b>Date of Meeting: 30th May, 2012</b>  |                                      |
| <b>Reporting Officer: Policy Review Officer</b>   |                                      |
| <b>Title: Street Cleansing</b>  |                                      |
| <b>Summary and Conclusions:</b>   |                                      |
| Provide Members with an update of the scrutiny review into street cleansing.                        |                                      |
| <b>Recommendation:</b>  |                                      |
| Members are invited to consider the information and determine how this review should be progressed. |                                      |

**Report**

The Council continues to face increasing financial pressures and these have been compounded by the uncertainty regarding Cumbria County Council's decision to reduce the value of the Recycling Reward Scheme. To offset the impact that this may have on the Council's waste collection arrangement we have submitted an interim bid for funding from the Weekly Collection Support Scheme.

The current recycling figure is 36.7% compared to 36.0% for the same period last year and we have achieved our maximum Recycling Reward Scheme funding for 2011/12.

The Streetcare Manager will attend this meeting to provide an update on the cleanliness of the streets and particularly the control of weeds.

**Background Papers**

Nil