

BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting:- Thursday 2nd July, 2015
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 4th June, 2015 (copy attached).
- (D) 7. Update on the change to the quality changes expected at Material Recovery Facilities.
- (D) 8. Work Programme.
- (R) 9. Annual Report.

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

Membership of Committee

Councillors Heath (Chairman)
Cassidy (Vice-Chairman)
Gill
Husband
McLeavy
Opie
Preston
Proffitt
C. Thomson
M. A. Thomson
Wall
Williams

For queries regarding this agenda, please contact:

Keely Fisher
Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 01229 876313
Email: ksfisher@barrowbc.gov.uk

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BOROUGH OF BARROW IN FURNESS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting, Thursday, 4th June, 2015
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Heath (Chairman), Cassidy (Vice-Chairman), Bleasdale, Gill, Husband, Preston, C. Thomson, M. A. Thomson, Wall and Williams.

Officers Present:- Keith Johnson (Assistant Director – Community Services), John Penfold (Corporate Support Manager), Keely Fisher (Democratic Services Officer) and Ewan Holt (Corporate Support Apprentice).

1 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor M. A. Thomson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 – Work Programme (Allotments) (Minute No. 5) as she was part owner of an allotment. She stated that if allotments were specifically discussed she would leave the meeting during consideration of that item.

Councillor Williams declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 – Work Programme (Sea Defences) (Minute No. 5) as she owned a caravan at South End Caravan Park. She stated that she would leave the meeting if this item was discussed.

2 – Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Opie and Proffitt.

Councillor Bleasdale had attended as a substitute for Councillor McLeavy for this meeting only.

3 – Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March, 2015 were taken as read and confirmed.

4 – Appointments on Outside Bodies, Panel, Working Groups etc.

The Executive Director reported that at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd July, 2014 it was agreed that the Cultural Services Board be re-established and re-named the Leisure Services Group.

Members were requested to appoint Members to the Leisure Services Group for 2015/2016.

RESOLVED:- That Membership for the Leisure Services Group for 2015/2016 be Councillors Gill, Heath, C. Thomson, M. A. Thomson and Wall.

5 – Work Programme

The Corporate Support Manager attached the current work programme and requested Members to consider and prioritise the reviews to be undertaken in 2015/16.

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

Items 1, 3 and 8 above were complete and Items 2 and 9 were standing items for this Committee.

Referring to Item No. 7 above, Members agreed that as the Local Plan was almost complete, a presentation on the Local Plan would be helpful.

Referring to Item No. 2 above along with Minute No. 35 of the previous meeting, Members agreed that as the Waste Collection Contract was due for renewal/extension, a presentation from the Streetcare Manager would be beneficial.

Referring to Item No. 11 above, the Corporate Support Manager stated that there was a Cumbria County Council Group called 'Making Space for Water' and suggested that a representative of the Borough Council be appointed to this Group. The Corporate Support Manager would find out more details about the Group and report and back.

The Assistant Director - Community Services attended the meeting and discussed with Members an issue which he was dealing with more frequently. It was with regards to the delicate subject of family members leaving memorial items at graves and cremation plots. He suggested that Members may like to scrutinise the rules and regulations on dressing graves and cremation plots and how they would be applied. This would assist Officers on how the Council should move forward with this issue.

Members also discussed the possibility of a Friends of the Cemetery Group. This would be discussed during the scrutiny of this item.

A scrutiny on the use of the Town Hall which included a Friends of the Town Hall Group and various funding streams which could be applied for was also discussed.

The Corporate Support Manager requested that Members contact him at any time before the next meeting to suggest items for the Work Programme for 2015/16 and he would report back at the next meeting with a draft plan.

RESOLVED:- That the Corporate Support Manager report back at the next meeting with a Draft Work Programme for 2015/16 to include all the items discussed at today's meeting along with any suggestions by Members before the next meeting.

6 – Comparison of Recycling Performance

The Corporate Support Apprentice reported that the Council received an income for the collection of recycling. This was a variable income from the Recycling Reward Scheme which was £62.21 per tonne in 2014/15. During this year the Council received £556,471.61 from the Recycling Reward Scheme. This income was £12,000 higher than 2013/14 due to the 3% indexation increase, but this increase was offset because less recycling had been collected.

In 2013/14 the variable income was lower due to the indexation which was £60.40 per tonne. During the year, the Council received £544,847.26.

An analysis of the income from the Recycling Reward Scheme collection was carried out and compared to the projected income in the Budget Book. The projected income from Recycling Reward is based on the actual recycling collected in the previous year. In 2013/14 there was a shortfall in income from Recycling Reward because there was less recycling waste collected which was approximately 450 tonnes. Most of this shortfall was attributable to a reduction in the amount of separated paper and Bringsite co-mingled.

As a result of the shortfall, the projected income from Recycling Reward was lowered by £50,000 as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Projected and actual incomes from Recycling Reward

Financial Year	Budgeted Income from Recycling Reward	Total Income
2014/15	£530,000	£558,471.61
2013/14	£579,840	£544,847.26

In 2014/15 the actual income from Recycling Reward was higher than the projected figure, however this increase was entirely due to indexation because the tonnage of recycling was lower than 2013/14 as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Tonnages collected from the different recycling streams

Financial Year	Kerbside comingled	Bringsite comingled	Green	WEEE	Paper	Total Tonnes
2014/15	3531.64	743.84	3682.86	85.74	933.12	8977.20
2013/14	3400.66	718.78	3730.55	66.50	1104.16	9020.66

Cumbria County Council was exploring the option of removing the indexation increase. If this happened there will be a reduction in the income from Recycling Reward. Although the tonnage collected in 2014/15 was marginally lower than 2013/14 the downward trend observed in recent years appeared to be levelling out.

Table 2 showed that the bringsite and kerbside co-mingled streams and the weee stream had increased while there had been a significant decrease in kerbside paper collection and a marginal decrease in green waste collection. The Recycling Incentivisation Grant could be used to increase the amount of recycling collected to offset the removal of the indexation increase.

The Assistant Director- Community Services referred to the Incentivisation Grant as mentioned in the Corporate Support Apprentices report and informed Members that an item had gone to the Executive Committee on 20th May, 2015 advising Members that the Council had been successful in bidding against the Department of Communities and Local Government's Recycling Reward Scheme. This had resulted in the receipt of a grant of £171,488 which would allow the Borough to incentivise households to improve the quantity and quality of kerbside recycling. This would be achieved through the introduction of a reward scheme which involved households registering for a scheme which would provide education and promotion underpinned by a chance to win monthly prizes which would only be awarded provided they were recycling effectively.

RESOLVED:- That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 2.45 p.m.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		<u>Part One</u> (D) Agenda Item 7
Date of Meeting:	2nd July, 2015	
Reporting Officer:	Corporate Support Manager	
<p>Title: Update on the change to the quality changes expected at Material Recovery Facilities</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>Provide Members with an update on the increased requirement for better quality recycling at MRFs.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Members are invited to consider the information and take note of the report.</p>		

Report

The Council's waste collection contractor currently collects recycling from 33,000 properties on a fortnightly basis. Four of the five recyclates are comingled and the operators of the MRFs require high quality recyclates so they can process them efficiently. There is an increased risk that recycling will be rejected at the MRF.

I have requested that the Streetcare Manager and the Biffa Business Manager attend this meeting to provide an update on the standard of recycling quality that is now being demanded by Material Recovery Facilities.

An increase in rejected material could potentially have cost implications for the contractor and lead to a reduction in income for the Council.

The Council is obliged to record the tonnage of all rejected materials on DEFRA's wastedataflow data base. Tracking materials once they have been sent to the MRF is complex and requires significant resource.

Background Papers

Nil.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		<u>Part One</u> (D) Agenda Item 8
Date of Meeting:	2nd July, 2015	
Reporting Officer:	Corporate Support Manager	
<p>Title: Work Programme</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>Provide Members with the updated Work Programme incorporating suggestions made at the meeting of this Committee in June.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Members are invited to consider the Work Programme for 2015-19 and prioritise the reviews to be undertaken in 2015/16.</p>		

Report

I have attached the update Work Programme below; items 1 and 2 are standing items for this Committee. We need to prioritise the Work Programme for 2015/16.

With reference to Item 8: Economic Development, Planning and Development Control - The Local Plan will be presented to the Executive Committee at their meeting on 24th June. If the Local Plan is endorsed it will be open to public consultation. I have requested that a Planning Officer attends the meeting of this Committee on 10th September to give feedback on the consultation exercise for the Local Plan.

With reference to Item 10: Localised flooding - I have requested that the Environmental Health Enforcement who represents the Borough Council on Cumbria County Council's "Making Space for Water" Group attends the meeting of this Committee on 22nd October to update Members on progress being made by this Group.

Item	Topic	Scope of the review
1	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 are in place to manage external factors the impact on street cleanliness e.g. seagulls and fly tipping.</p>

2	Policy and strategy	Monitor the development of and performance against the Council's key priorities.
3	Cemeteries	Establish a "Friends of the Cemetery Group". Review rules for dressing graves and cremation plots.
4	The Town Hall	Establish a "Friends of the Town Hall Group". Consider options to promote usage of the Town Hall
5	Estates and asset management.	To review arrangements for maximising income from our assets and the potential for the disposal of redundant assets.
6	Town centres development and supporting local traders.	Review arrangements for supporting local traders in the current economic climate.
7	Highways and car parking	Review the provision of highways maintenance by Cumbria County Council. Review street lighting and on-street parking arrangements.
8	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
9	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.
10	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

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		Part One (R) Agenda Item 9
Date of Meeting:	2nd July, 2015	
Reporting Officer:	Corporate Support Manager	
<p>Title: Annual Report</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>To present the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2014/15.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members are invited to consider the Annual Report and prioritise the Work Programme for 2015/16 2. To agree to present the Annual Report including the prioritised Work Programme to full Council. 		

Report

Annual Report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

2014/15

Foreword

The Council has one Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the remit to investigate, scrutinise, monitor, oversee and comment on service delivery mechanisms, policy implementation, or any other issue affecting the Borough or its residents provided that they have previously been considered by either the Executive Committee or Council.

Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2014/15:

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

Members had previously agreed to develop a four year Work Programme up to March 2019 and identified topics for review these are presented in Table 1.

The Committee recognises that additional urgent items may be identified during the period and they will be considered in an appropriate timeframe.

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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.
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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	Review arrangements to protect residents and property against local flooding.

In May 2014 Members agreed that this Committee would review Policy and Strategy, the review was completed within 2014/15 and the output is detailed below.

The Council's Corporate Strategy Framework was consolidated in the Council Plan and was supported by four high level strategies:

- Medium Term Financial Plan;
- Workforce Strategy;
- IT Services Strategic Plan; and
- Asset Management Plan.

The Council Plan had identified four priorities:

- Housing;
- Regeneration and Public Realm;
- Local Economy; and
- Service Delivery.

The Committee agreed with the Director of Resources that the priorities were appropriate. The Council's performance information is presented to the Executive Committee on a regular basis and the Director of Resources agreed to send an executive summary of this data to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a Leisure Services Group with the following remit and Terms of Reference:

The remit of the Leisure Services Group was:-

- The Group was not to be a decision making function;
- Review, written and verbal reports provided by the Service Managers;
- Provide guidance for the Service Managers based on Members perspective; and
- Make any recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Group Membership would be as follows:-

Councillors: Cassidy, Roberts, C. Thomson, M. A. Thomson and Wall

Officers: Sandra Baines, Bill Brown, Keith Johnson, John Penfold, Sabine Skae, Ann Taylforth and Margaret Wilson.

The Group would meet four times per year at various venues and extraordinary meetings may be called as required.

The Work Programme for 2015/16 will be agreed and prioritised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting in July and the priority reviews will be added to this Annual report and presented to Full Council.

Background Papers

Nil.