

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting: Wednesday, 16th June, 2021
at 2.00 pm. (Banqueting Hall)

Present: Councillors Brook (Chairman), L. Roberts (Vice-Chair), Barlow, Biggins, H. Edwards, Hamilton, McClure, Morgan, Pemberton, Robson and Ronson.

Officers Present: Sam Plum (Chief Executive), Susan Roberts (Director of Resources), Steph Cordon (Director of People and Place), Debbie Storr (Head of Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer), Jan Sharp (Assistant Director - Housing), Helen Houston (Development Services Manager), Alec Proffitt (Policy and Engagement Officer), Jon Huck (Democratic Services Manager) and Sandra Kemsley (Democratic Services Officer).

14 Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Blezard and Maddox.

Councillor Robson had substituted for Councillor Blezard for this meeting only.

15 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Barlow declared an Other Registrable Interest in Agenda Item 11 – Additional Restrictions Grant. He was the Treasurer of North Sale Residents Association.

16 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th May, 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

17 Public Participation

RESOLVED:- To note that no questions, representations, deputations or petitions had been received in respect of the meeting.

18 Levelling Up Fund Application Submission

The Development Services Manager's report sought authority to make a Levelling Up Fund Application submission. The Levelling Up Fund had been announced by Government at the 2020 Spending Review to support communities by investing in infrastructure projects which had the potential to improve lives by giving people pride in their local communities.

Recognising that economic differences remained between different parts of the UK, particularly ex-industrial towns, and rural and coastal communities such as Barrow the fund would be a driver for positive change. These economic differences had real implications for people's lives through their pay, health and life opportunities. The aim of the Fund was to tackle these economic differences and increase prosperity as part of 'levelling up' left behind regions of the UK.

The Fund would focus on capital investment in local infrastructure, building on and in collaboration with other funding programmes such as the Local Growth Fund and Towns Fund. Applications would be prioritised that invest in regeneration and growth in places in need and areas of low productivity and connectivity.

In 2020 Barrow's Future High Street Fund proposal had not been successful in receiving funding from Government, the proposed application to the Levelling Up Fund built on the projects identified in the previous bid and supported the vision for Barrow town centre as a strategic regeneration priority.

It was moved by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Barlow, and

RESOLVED:-

1. To delegate authority to the Director of People and Place, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Director of Resources and Leader of the Council, to submit an application to the Levelling Up Fund based on the package of projects outlined in the report by the deadline of 18 June 2021;
2. To agree the principle of providing the £1.6m co-funding and recommend approval by full Council; and
3. To recommend to full Council that:-
 - 1) If the bid was successful that the Council provide up to £1.6m of co-funding to invest in the proposal by revising the Capital Programme. The funding invested would be repaid from new income generation activities or reductions in existing subsidies;
 - 2) If the bid was successful that the Council agreed the inclusion of up to £16m of project funding in the Capital Programme from 2021/2022;
 - 3) If the bid was successful that Barrow Borough Council would act as the Accountable body for the funding; and
 - 4) To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Resources, Leader and Chair of Executive Committee, to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the Government.

19 National Lottery Heritage Fund Application Submission

The Development Services Manager reported that the National Lottery Heritage Fund provided grants for heritage projects that would sustain and transform the UK's heritage. Grants range from £3,000 to £5 million and priority was given to projects that met one or more of the following outcomes – Inclusion; Economy; Wellbeing; Local Area; Skills and Organisational Resilience.

Building on the success of the previous National Lottery funded micro-grant scheme in Barrow, it was proposed that an application be submitted to National Lottery Heritage Fund for a project called 'Barrow's Heritage – Micro to Mighty'. If successful, funding would be used to run a small micro-grant scheme, supported by a Project Officer who would also explore opportunities around developing the Town Hall as a heritage asset for the town.

The report sought delegated authority be given to the Director of People and Place, to submit an application to National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) based on the proposal outlined in the report.

It was moved by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Robson, and

RESOLVED:-

1. To delegate authority to the Director of People and Place to submit the application to National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF);
2. If the application was successful, to provide match funding of £7,500 contribution;
3. If the application was successful, to appoint a Temporary Heritage Project Officer to manage the project; and
4. To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Resources, Leader and Chair of Executive Committee, to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the NLHF.

20 Additional Restrictions Grant

The Director of Resources' report requested confirmation of the distribution of the third tranche of Additional Restrictions Grant which was Covid-19 support to businesses that were not eligible for the mandatory Local Restrictions Support Grants.

It was proposed that those continuing businesses already supported from the Additional Restrictions Grants receive a top-up proportionate to the grant bandings that applied to the scheme.

The £2.3m funding available would be entirely distributed and the Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme would be ended.

It was moved by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Robson, and

RESOLVED:- To agree that the third tranche of Additional Restrictions Grant was entirely distributed as a top-up to those continuing businesses already supported from that grant scheme.

21 Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England

The Director of People and Place reported that The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) had issued consultations on:-

Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England proposed to, Increase consistency in recycling that would reduce confusion in the materials that could be collected for recycling at kerbside.

The Council were committed to making the Borough a clean and green place to live. The subjects of the consultation would have significant impact for the Council, with regard to the collection of recycling, therefore it was important the Council responded to the consultation.

Steph Cordon updated the Committee on the consultations. The full response to the Consistent Collections Consultation was appended to the report.

It was moved by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Barlow, and

RESOLVED:- To agree the response to the consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England as attached to the report.

22 Adelphi Court - New Lease for 2021 to 2024

The Assistant Director – Housing informed the Committee that the report was to endorse the entering into of a new lease for Adelphi Court with Richmond Fellowship (following the existing extended lease expiring on 31st May, 2021) from 1st June, 2021 to 31st May, 2024 – a period of three years.

The Council had agreed a lease with Croftlands Trust – since merged with Richmond Fellowship – to take over the management of Adelphi Court with the primary purpose of providing supported accommodation for 11 people with mental health.

The lease had been granted in March 2015 for a period of five years ending March 2020. Richmond Fellowship had confirmed at that time they wanted to continue to manage and provide supported housing, however, that was dependent on them being successful when Cumbria County Council (CCC) re-tendered the framework and awarded the funding accordingly to cover the cost of providing support for a further five years.

The funding Richmond Fellowship received from CCC had been extended from March 2020 to July 2020 and the lease extended accordingly to 31st July, 2020 as agreed by Housing Management Forum on 16th January, 2020 and Executive Committee on 5th February, 2020.

Due to Covid-19, CCC had further deferred the re-tendering process of the framework until 31st May, 2021 and had extended the funding to Richmond Fellowship accordingly.

It had been agreed at Housing Management Forum and Executive Committee on 9th September and 23rd October, 2020 respectively that the lease would be held over until end of May 2021 when the re-tendering of the framework by CCC had been completed.

Richmond Fellowship were informed on 14th May, 2021 they had been successful in the re-tendering of the three-year framework and had requested a new lease for Adelphi Court from 1st June, 2021 to 31st May, 2024 initially; the framework had an option to add a further two years to the three years.

It was moved by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Robson and,

RESOLVED:- To confirm that the Council enter into a new lease for Adelphi Court with Richmond Fellowship for the period 1st June, 2021 to 31st May, 2024.

23 Brilliant Barrow Town Deal Assurance Framework

The Director of People and Place informed the Committee that the Council was Accountable Body for the Barrow-in-Furness Town Deal. The Heads of Terms received in October 2020 for the Town Deal had included a requirement for business cases to be developed, appraised and assured locally.

There was also a requirement to demonstrate that the Accountable Body had the appropriate governance processes and procedures in place to manage Town's Deal funding in a transparent and accountable manner. Government had advised that a Town Deal Local Assurance Framework was the mechanism by which this should be articulated.

Guided by the National Assurance Framework guidance used by Local Enterprise Partnerships as best practice, a draft had now been developed. That sets out the process surrounding the development and delivery of town deal schemes, focusing on roles of the Accountable Body (Barrow BC), Town Deal Board, Programme Management Office and Scheme Deliverers.

The document articulated the requirements for the Accountable Body with regard to the administration of Town Deal funding, and the relationship between the Board and the Accountable Body, to provide comfort to Government on the management arrangements for managing Town Deal funds.

It was moved by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Barlow and

RESOLVED:-

1. To note the role of the Accountable Body; and
2. To endorse the Barrow Town Deal Assurance Framework.

24 Safer Streets Fund Rounds 2 and 3

The Policy and Engagement Officer provided an update on the bid for Safer Streets Fund Round 2 funding and the Round 3 Fund that had been launched on 3rd June, 2021.

The Council were a leading partner in the Cumbria Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPPC) successful bid to the Safer Street Fund Round 1, in March 2020. That provided funding for a targeted community safety campaign within Central Ward, giving the Council an opportunity to build volunteer and community wealth in the area, as well as offering residents practical crime prevention advice and interventions.

The second round of funds, for 2021-22, gave each OPCC area the opportunity to bid for three projects, but allowed local authorities to lead on bids, which could be endorsed by OPCC. The Council submitted a tertiary project for the OPCC.

Unfortunately on 3rd June the Council were informed that they had been unsuccessful in the bid as only primary, and a small number of secondary, bids had been agreed due to the large number of applications.

On the same day the third round of the fund had been launched. That was a £25 million fund set up in the wake of the murder of Sarah Everard. Whilst the first two rounds were related to the prevention of neighbourhood crimes such as burglary, robbery and theft, the third round was being targeted at improving the safety of public spaces, with a particular view on combatting violence against women and girls (VAWG). The £25 million fund sought to build a VAWG evidence base to inform future policy and funding decisions. Through encouraging innovative approaches from those seeking to make use of the funding, the third round of funding also sought to improve the evidence base of what works to prevent these crimes outside of traditional Safer Streets Fund interventions.

The fund was separate from the Night Time Economy (NTE) Fund which had not yet been launched, details would be released shortly and would seek to support projects that improve safety in the public realm for all, with a particular focus on women and girls' safety. Focus on reducing violence against women and girls, but not exclusively.

Whilst the bidding process and rules were less prescriptive, and "as light touch as possible" there was significantly less time to prepare bids with the deadline for submission midnight on 15th July 2021 with projects up to £550,000 in the same three tiers for each OPCC area. All funding and project deliverables must be complete by March 2022. Decision on successful bids would be made and communicated before end of August 2021.

Council Officers would like to work with relevant statutory and community sector partners including officers from the OPCC to work up a bid for the fund and seek to persuade OPCC to carry it as their Primary bid.

It was moved by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Morgan and

RESOLVED:-

1. To note that the bid for Safer Streets Fund Round 2 had been unsuccessful as the Fund had been heavily oversubscribed;
2. To agree to work with relevant local partners to build a bid for Round 3, and seek endorsement from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner as the Primary Bid for Cumbria; and
3. To delegate authority to the Director of People and Place to lodge a bid for the Council prior to the 15th July, 2021 deadline.

25 Local Authority Remote Meetings: Call for Evidence

The Head of Legal and Governance reported that the Government was calling for evidence seeking views on the use of arrangements which provided express provision for local authorities to hold meetings remotely during the coronavirus pandemic.

Regulations which came into force following the introduction of the Coronavirus Act 2020, made express provision for local authorities to hold meetings before 7th May, 2021 remotely so that they could protect their members and comply with public health guidance.

That provision had now ceased and the call for evidence was an opportunity to understand experiences and inform a decision about whether to make the arrangements permanent. Any permanent change would require primary legislation.

The consultation questions and suggested responses had been attached as appendices to the report.

Members were asked to consider the same prior to their submission before the deadline date of 17th June, 2021.

It was moved by Councillor Barlow and seconded by Councillor Morgan and

RESOLVED:- To consider the call for evidence and agree the Council's response as attached to the report.

26 Appointments on Outside Bodies, Panels and Working Groups etc.

The Democratic Services Manager reported that at the Annual Council meeting on 21st April, 2021 the allocation of seats in respect of Forums, Panels, Working Groups etc. were agreed.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had carried out a Review of Outside Bodies, the recommendations of which were reported to their meeting on 3rd June, 2021. It was agreed that the Council continued to nominate Members to the active organisations, and did not nominate Members to organisations which had not been active within the last two years. It was also noted that full Council in September 2020 had agreed that members on outside bodies should be requested to provide an annual report on the work of the body and its contribution to the Borough and the wider area. The first phase of report returns had been presented to the Annual Meeting in April 2021

Group Leaders had been asked to supply details of the recommended appointments for confirmation by the Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Roberts and

RESOLVED:-

1. To consider the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review of outside bodies; and
2. To consider the appointments recommended by the political groups and determine the appointments to be made where nominations exceed the available places as follows:-

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES, ETC. 2021/22

- (1) AIR TRAINING CORPS (NO. 128 SQUADRON)
The Mayor.
- (2) ARMED FORCES CHAMPION
Councillor Husband.
- (3) ASKAM AND IRELETH COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Councillors D. Edwards, Ronson and Shirley.
- (4) BARROW HEALTH AND WELLBEING FORUM
Councillors Hall, Mooney and Robson
- (5) BARROW-IN-FURNESS SEA CADET CORPS COMMITTEE)
The Mayor
Substitute: - Deputy Mayor
- (6) BILLINCOAT CHARITY TRUST (4 year appointment until May 2023) –
Councillors Blezard, D. Edwards, Maddox, Nott, Ronson and Shirley.
- (7) BRILLIANT BARROW BOARD
Councillor M. A. Thomson
- (8) BUCCLEUCH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Councillor D. Edwards.
- (9) CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP (CHILDREN'S TRUST)
Councillors Assouad and Morgan
- (10) CUMBRIA ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADVISORY SERVICE BOARD
The Mayor.
- (11) CUMBRIA HEALTH SCRUTINY
Councillor Cassidy
- (12) CUMBRIA HOUSING EXECUTIVE GROUP
Councillor Hamilton.
- (13) CUMBRIA PENSIONS FORUM
Councillor Wall.
- (14) CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP
Councillor M A Thomson.
- (15) DALTON BORDERLANDS STEERING GROUP
Councillors Blezard and Ronson.
- (16) DALTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Councillor Nott.
- (17) FCC PARTNERSHIP BOARD (3:1)
Councillors Cassidy, Hamilton, McLeavy and Robson.

- (18) FURNESS ABBEY FELLOWSHIP
Councillor Wall.
- (19) FURNESS LINE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP
Councillor Nott.
- (20) FURNESS MARITIME TRUST
Council of Trustees: - Councillors Blezard, Cassidy, C. Thomson and Wall plus the Chief Executive and Director of Resources.
- (21) JOINT RURAL COMMITTEE
Councillors Blezard and Ronson.
- (22) KEEPING OUR FUTURE AFLOAT
Councillor Roberts.
- (23) LIFE LEISURE PARTNERSHIP BOARD (3:1)
Councillors Brook, Callister, Hall and McEwan
- (24) LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY BOARD (0:1)
Councillors H. Edwards.
- (25) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION: GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Councillor Roberts.
- (26) NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND AND THE ISLE OF MAN RESERVE FORCES
CADETS ASSOCIATION
The Mayor.
- (27) NORTH WESTERN LOCAL AUTHORITIES' EMPLOYERS'
ORGANISATION
Councillor Brook (Substitute: Councillor Nott).
- (28) NORTH WEST INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE
Councillor McEwan (Representing Borough and County Councils)
- (29) PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London) Adjudication
Committee
Councillor Callister
- (30) SOUTH CUMBRIA COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
Councillors Roberts and Robson.
- (31) SPIRIT ENERGY LIAISON COMMITTEE – arranging a meeting in the future.

OUTSIDE BODIES AGREED BY COUNCIL

Allotments Liaison Committee (6:3)

Councillors Barlow, Burns, Gawne, Husband, Johnston, McLeavy, Ronson and C. Thomson plus 1 Labour representative.

Barrow Local Committee – Highways Advisory Group (1:0)

Councillor Nott.

Wildlife and Heritage Advisory Committee (6:3)

Councillors Assouad, Barlow, D. Edwards, Mooney, McClure, Robson, M. A. Thomson, Wall and Zaccarini.

MEMBERSHIP OF FORUMS, PANELS, WORKING GROUPS ETC.

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Barrow Market Liaison Committee (3:1)

Councillors Barlow, Brook, McEwan and Zaccarini.

Cumbria Local Nature Partnership Board (1:0)

Councillor Wall.

Cumbria Police and Crime Panel (1:0)

Councillor Hamilton.

Health and Safety Management Board (3:2)

Councillors Barlow, Gawne, Hall, Husband and C. Thomson

Medical Assessment/Housing Applications Appeals Panel (2:1)

3 Members selected by Chief Executive in accordance with proportionality rules

Member Training Working Group (3:1)

Councillors Blezard, Brook, Morgan and Ronson.

Planning Policy Working Group (4:2)

(Two Members from Executive Committee and four Members from Planning Committee)

Councillors Brook, Gawne, Hall, Roberts, C. Thomson and M. A. Thomson

Renovation Grants Panel (3:1)

To be appointed for 2021/22 in accordance with proportionality rules

Review Board – Housing Register/Homeless Applicants (2:1)

3 Members selected by Chief Executive in accordance with proportionality rules.

REFERRED ITEMS

THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION

27 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The Director of Resources reported that since 1st April, 2013 the Council had operated a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (also referred to as Council Tax Support) that mirrored the Council Tax Benefit regime. That maintained the links to the Housing Benefit system that would have applied to Council Tax Benefit pre 1st April 2013. The adopted Local Scheme ensured that those receiving Council Tax Support received the same amount as they would under the Council Tax Benefit regime.

Council Tax Support reduced the amount of funding generated by the Council Tax as it reduced the liability that was collected in cash terms. The cost of the scheme was shared by the preceptors.

Funding for the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme mainly came through the financial settlement; in the first year, 2013-2014, that was 90% of the cost but the amount was no longer itemised. Revenue Spending Power reductions had been used as a proxy to determine the cost to the Council.

It was projected that the Council Tax Support award for 2022-2023 would total £6.4m. The £6.4m was shared between the preceptors with the Council's share equating to £0.8m; the remaining £5.6m was shared between the other preceptors.

Council Tax Support was currently awarded to 6,268 accounts that was around 6,000 in January 2020. The number of accounts included in the projection for 2022-2023 was 6,368.

Taking into account the assumed amount of funding for Council Tax Support incorporated into the financial settlement, it had been estimated that the cost to the Council in 2022-2023 would be £236k. That cost was higher than the assumption in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

It was proposed that the current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme continued for 2022-2023.

It was moved by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Roberts and

RESOLVED:- To recommend the Council:-

1. To agree the continuation of the current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2022-2023; and
2. To update the Medium Term Financial Plan for the projected scheme costs.

The meeting closed at 2.46 pm.