

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting: Wednesday, 9th November, 2022
at 2.00 pm. (Committee Room No. 4)

Present: Councillors Brook (Chairman), Roberts (Vice-Chair), Barlow, Biggins, Hamilton (Minute Nos. 67 to 77 only), Maddox, Morgan, Pemberton and Wall.

Officers Present: David Parr (Interim Head of Paid Services), Sue Roberts (Director of Resources), Debbie Storr (Head of Legal and Governance), David Haughian (Capital Programme Manager), Helen Houston (Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy) (Minute Nos. 67 to 73 only) and Jon Huck (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager).

67 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Burley and Shirley.

68 The Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and Access to Information (Variation) Order 2006

Discussion arising hereon it was:-

RESOLVED:- That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press be excluded from the meeting for parts of the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 (Minute No. 77) and Paragraphs 3 and 5 (Minute No. 78) of Part One of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

69 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hamilton declared an Other Registrable Interest in Agenda Item 12 – Cost of Living Support. He was the Chair of the Community Hub and a Member of Cumbria County Council.

70 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th October, 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

71 Public Participation

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

72 UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Year 1 Projects

The Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy presented the list of projects that would be supported by UK Shared Prosperity Funding in Year 1. The projects had been independently assessed for strategic fit, deliverability and alignment with the interventions and associated outcomes outlined in Barrow Borough UKSPF

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Investment Plan had been endorsed by this Committee in July. The funding must be drawn down by 31st March 2023, subject to approval and programme management arrangements being finalised by Government.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) had been launched on 13 April 2022 and £2,477,528 had been allocated to the Council, with around £8.3m collectively for Barrow, Eden and South Lakeland District Councils.

The Barrow UKSPF Investment Plan had been considered by the Westmorland and Furness Shadow Cabinet on 22 July 2022. On 27 July 2022, this Committee had given approval to submit the Investment Plan to Government which set out how the funding would be spent. The Fund had three investment priorities around which investment would be based: Community and Place; Supporting Local Business; and People and Skills.

The Council were awaiting approval from the Government of the UKSPF Investment Plan. If approved, the Council would be required to enter into a grant funding agreement with the Government, the content and implications of which were unknown at this stage.

A Table showing the shortlisted projects had been included in the report. Feedback would be sought on these projects, and those shortlisted for South Lakeland and Eden, from the UKSPF Local Partnership Group on 2nd November who through their expertise in their professional field would confirm strategic fit and deliverability ratifying the independent assessment. All Barrow projects had met assessment criteria and it envisaged would be supported by the LPG.

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

RESOLVED:- To note and endorse the projects to be funded by UKSPF for Barrow Borough in Year 1.

73 Youth Investment Fund - Expression of interest for Lakeland House

The Capital Programme Manager reported that Drop Zone had moved into Lakeland House, which was owned by the Council. Lakeland House provided Drop Zone with space to undertake their youth work activity.

Drop Zone supported young people across the Borough and carried out a wide range of activities that were considered by the Committee.

The Lakeland House Building, although in a central location within Barrow Town Centre with good transport links, had been originally designed for office use and therefore was not fit for purpose to undertake their youth activity work. Council officers had held discussions with Drop Zone and discussed options to enable the building to be adapted to enable a wider range of young people activities and training to be delivered.

To undertake the required improvements within Lakeland House, it was estimated that in the region of £300 - £400k capital funding would be required to deliver improvement works to the building. That would then need to be supplemented by additional revenue funding in order that Drop Zone could expand their offer to young people.

The Council had taken steps to secure £7.5k of funding through Shared Prosperity Fund, which was being match funded by Drop Zone, to appoint an architect to produce interior designs for the proposed capital improvements to Lakeland House.

To secure funding for the capital works and the additional revenue funding, it was proposed that the Council submit an expression of interest to the Youth Investment Fund, funded by the UK Government.

The first stage to secure funding from the Youth Investment Fund was to submit an expression of interest. It was proposed that the Council would be the applicant for the proposed funding. The next steps for the project were considered.

Once the Council submitted their expression of interest, it would take between 3-6 months to obtain the necessary approvals from Government to be able to submit a detailed application. It would be the decision of Westmorland and Furness Council to submit the detailed application and include Capital Funding within the Westmorland and Furness Council Capital programme.

Subject to a successful funding bid, it was likely that works on Lakeland House would commence in late 2023. All Youth Investment funding must be defrayed by March 2025.

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

RESOLVED:- To endorse the submission of an expression of interest for Youth Investment Fund to support the upgrade of Lakeland House and to increase youth support activities across the Borough.

74 Workforce Strategy Statement 2022 - 2023

The Director of Resources reported that the Council's Workforce Strategy was due for revision in 2022.

The Workforce Strategy sets out the Council's plans, ambitions, and commitment to employees across the Council and provided potential employees with an awareness of the culture of the organisation.

The strategy would usually be prepared along the same time period as the Council Plan however given the timeframe for Local Government Reorganisation, a Strategy Statement had been prepared to bridge the period leading up to vesting day.

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

RESOLVED:- To approve the Workforce Strategy Statement 2022-2023.

75 Finance and Delegation Update

The Director of Resources updated the Committee on finance and delegation matters and an addendum to the Council's Pay Policy in relation to the waste management service.

The report sought confirmation of delegations required for the effective operation of the waste management service.

She asked that that recommendation 1 in the reported be deleted.

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

RESOLVED:-

1. To delegate the setting of fees and charges associated with the Walney Road garage to the Head of Operational Services in consultation with the Director of Resources;
2. To delegate the spot sale of recyclate materials to the Head of Operational Services; and
3. To approve the Pay Policy addendum that incorporates the waste management service depot staff as set out in paragraph 3.17 of the report with the exception of deleting the wording “excluding the garage”.

76 Cost of Living Support

The Director of Resources reported that the Council had identified £310,000 from the Welfare Reserve to support a Housing First project that could no longer proceed.

She proposed the use of £310,000 as Cost of Living Support and proposed a distribution based upon the needs identified by the Community Prosperity Partnership.

A member paid tribute to the volunteers who worked at the Community Hub.

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

RESOLVED:-

1. To agree to remove the Housing First project from the capital programme;
2. To agree the allocation of £310,000 from the Welfare Reserve towards Cost of Living Support as:
 - a. £100,000 to support the warm spots project;
 - b. £100,000 split into large direct grants to support established organisations providing food, fuel and emergency support into the community;
 - c. £110,000 as a small grants programme to fund third sector organisations supporting the community through the winter.
3. To delegate confirmation of the lead organisations for item 2a and recipients of item 2b to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Chair of the Executive Committee, based upon the recommendations of the Community Prosperity Partnership;
4. To delegate authority to award the grants for items 2a and 2b to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Chair of the Executive Committee;

5. To instruct the Director of Resources to establish a small grants programme for item 2c;
6. To delegate authority to award the small grants to the Director of Resources in consultation with a working group of 3 Members (politically balanced), drawn from the Executive Committee; and
7. To delegate authority to the Director of Resources to vire between the schemes in consultation with the Chair of the Executive Committee to ensure that funding was distributed efficiently.

Local Government Act 1972 - Excluded Items

It was moved by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Barlow that the meeting moved into Part Two, and

RESOLVED:- That the items to be taken in Part Two of the Agenda be dealt with following the exclusion of the press and the public.

77 Leasehold Report

The Committee received a report from the Director of Resources on a leasehold property.

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

RESOLVED:- To agree the resolutions as set out in the Part Two report.

78 Contract Update

The Committee received a Contract update from the Director of Resources.

It was moved by Councillor Maddox and seconded by Councillor Wall, and

RESOLVED:- To agree that the resolutions as set out in the Part Two report.

The meeting closed at 3.00 pm.