

Barrow Borough Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday 7 December, 2022
Work Programme Update

Report from: Scrutiny & Democratic Services Team Leader
Report Author: Paula Westwood
Wards: (All Wards);

1.0 Summary and Conclusions

1.1 Work Groups have been established to review the topics identified in the 2022/2023 Work Programme. A summary of the progress made in respect of each topic is detailed below.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are requested to note the updates on progress and consider whether further action is required.

3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 Flood Work Group Update

At the previous meeting the Head of Programme Management and Climate Change had provided a briefing note for Members including details of the Cumbria Coastal Strategy. A concern had been raised over South Walney being recorded as 'No active intervention' as there was well established coastal erosion problems on South Walney and the sea cuts right across the Nature Reserve.

This query had been fed back to the relevant Officer who has advised that both the Walney Island Strategy and the Cumbria Coastal Strategy agree with the Shoreline Management Plan policy that South Walney (from Haw Hill on the west coast, anticlockwise to Creepshaw Marsh on the east coast) is recorded as 'No active intervention', mainly due to the fact that very few properties were at risk of flooding or erosion over the Strategy's 100-year timescale. The 'No active intervention' policy does not preclude private defences being constructed, subject to the necessary permissions/licences.

3.2 Discretionary Housing Payments

This review has now been completed by way of a recommendation to the Executive Committee, going to their meeting on 14th December 2022, to send a letter to the Secretary of State, the Chief Executive of Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority and the local MP (cc'd to the Leader of Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority), requesting that consistent Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates be applied across the three areas of Barrow, South Lakeland and Eden.

3.3 Review of Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and Action Plan

The Head of People and Communities, along with a representative from the Police have been invited to attend the meeting to provide the Committee with an update.

3.4 Impact of Covid-19 Going Forward

The Work Group met with the Public Protection Manager on 18th November where the following update had been provided:-

Nationally

- 1 in 40 people had covid but case numbers were decreasing; and
- Hospital admissions and mortality rates were decreasing.

Locally

- Case numbers had been decreasing since mid-October;
- Vaccine rates in Cumbria were better than other areas with 64% of over 50's having received their Booster;
- Hospital admissions were stable across Cumbria; and
- More elderly people had tested positive, probably due to testing in care homes.

The Council had run a social media campaign for covid and flu vaccinations.

3.5 Barrow BID

The Head of Regeneration and the BID Manager have been invited to present a report to the Committee. The report is covered under a separate agenda item.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 We do not need to undertake a consultation at this stage.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 Additional information is required before we can consider alternative options.

6.0 Contribution to Council Plan Priorities

6.1 The Scrutiny Work Programme covers all of the Council's priorities.

7.0 Implications

7.1 Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1.1 This is an update report and there are no implications at this stage.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 This is an update report and there are no implications at this stage.

7.3 Local Government Reorganisation

7.3.1 This is an update report and there are no implications at this stage.

7.4 Equality and Diversity

7.4.1 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis?

No – This is an update report and there are no implications at this stage.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
N/A	N/A	N/A

Contact Officers

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Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
N/A	N/A

Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
N/A	N/A