

**Barrow Borough Council**  
**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**Thursday 24 March, 2022**  
**Work Programme Update**

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**Report from:** Democratic Services Manager  
**Report Author:** Paula Westwood  
**Wards:** All Wards

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**1.0 Summary and Conclusions**

1.1 Work Groups have been established to review the topics identified in the 2021/2022 Work Programme. A summary of the progress made in respect of each topic is detailed below.

**2.0 Recommendation**

**2.1 Members should consider the reviews undertaken by the Work Groups and determine whether further action is required.**

**3.0 Background and Proposals**

**3.1 Flooding on Walney Promenade**

Members will be aware that in October 2021, representatives from United Utilities had addressed the Committee and provided an update on the plans being made for the sewer network to prevent flooding on Walney Promenade. They had agreed to provide updates to the Committee as appropriate in the future as works progressed.

At the last meeting, the Committee had requested me to make contact with United Utilities to establish if they were in a position to provide an update. United Utilities have advised that with the area being a SSSI (Site of Specific Scientific Interest) site, they are not able to start the work until permits have been issued from Natural England and the Marine Maritime Industry. They would be in touch once permits had been received and works had started, in order to attend the next available meeting.

### 3.2 Discretionary Housing Fund and Supported Housing Payments

At the last meeting of the Committee the Chair had raised that this review had been taken out of the Committee's hands which they had originally been tasked to do. The Committee had requested that contact be made with the Chair of the Executive Committee to obtain an update on the issue. The review has been paused for the time being whilst further discussions take place regarding the scope of the review.

This review had been initiated by Cllr Ann Thomson, Leader of the Council. Following the last meeting, I have contacted her to seek clarity on the scope of the review. However, it has since been agreed by the Executive Committee at their meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March, as part of the Annual Review of the Constitution, to recommend the Council to agree that the Leader of the Council should not sit on Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee are therefore requested to consider whether they wish to continue the review and if so, the scope of the review and expected outcomes will need to be determined.

### 3.3 Arrangements for the Management of Piel Island

At the last meeting of the Committee, Councillor McClure Chair of the Work Group had confirmed that following the meeting of the Work Group on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 the Work Group had been satisfied that the review could be concluded. The Chair had requested Councillor McClure to report her recommendations at the next Committee meeting to conclude the review. The final report from the Piel Island Work Group is covered under a separate agenda item.

### 3.4 Impact of Covid-19 Going Forward

The Work Group had met on 7<sup>th</sup> February. Information had been noted including:-

- The number of cases in Cumbria throughout January had reduced, with the most significant reduction seen in the second week of January, then a steady decline thereafter;
- The rolling seven day average number of cases in Barrow at the time had been around 500 cases per 100,000 population which was similar to the other Districts in Cumbria. It was envisaged that case numbers would likely remain at that level as the Omicron variant was highly transmissible;
- It was anticipated that by the end of March, isolation rules would be lifted, although it was envisaged that PCR testing would remain in some form to test for new variants;
- The Council's Contact Tracing Team continue to assist the NHS Test and Trace System by contacting 'hard to reach' cases;
- Covid Marshalls had reduced to one session per fortnight on a Saturday morning at the Alfred Barrow Health Centre with around 500 vaccinations each session plus walk-ins.

The Work Group had considered that it would be appropriate to meet again at the end of March when it was anticipated that isolation rules would be lifted.

### 3.5 Crellin Street

At the previous meeting, the Committee had agreed that a Work Group be established to look further into ongoing issues in the Crellin Street vicinity emanating from food takeaway delivery services including parking on double yellow lines, obstructing delivery wagons and other road users, as well as reports of residents feeling intimidated walking past crowds of Uber Eats Drivers.

Following the initial meeting of the Work Group on 8<sup>th</sup> February, Members of the Work Group had requested for additional representatives to be invited to meet with them including Graham Barker (Head of Public Protection, Barrow Borough Council), as well as a representative from the Police and Cumbria County Council.

## 4.0 **Consultation**

- 4.1 A consultation for the 2022/2023 Work Programme concluded on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. Details of the consultation and proposed Work Programme are covered under a separate item on the today's agenda.

## 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 at 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 – *If none, please state none or delete section*

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

## Background Documents Available

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