

## Consultation Responses on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/2023

### 1. Suggested Area for Review

Please enter here, details of the suggested area for review

Respondent No.	Response Details
1	<b>The Council's ongoing policy to prevent public access to the Town Hall</b> The Council currently appears to have a 'closed door' policy to the Town Hall, preventing public access except in limited circumstances, on the basis of the perceived threat from Covid-19. This will have had an impact on the public's ability to contact the Council, it has reduced the transparency of the Council by obstructing (if not preventing) public access to meetings and it begins to make the Town Hall look like an ivory tower. The Council's policy is entirely at odds with the government guidelines and with other public spaces, including the Council's own Dock Museum and Forum, which are open for business as normal. The policy should be reconsidered in terms of the actual risks (which can be mitigated), current guidelines, the Council's own policy with regard to other buildings and the public good.
2	<b>Transparency</b> How transparent the organisation is; in real terms, i.e meaningful, including both internal (member/officer) and external communication and consultation.

### 2. Which of the Council Plan Priorities does your proposal link to?

Select more than one if you wish

Respondent No.	Response Details
1	People, Place and Prosperity
2	People, Place and Prosperity

### 3. How does your proposal link to the Council Plan priorities and targets?

Respondent No.	Response Details
1	The current policy does not seem to align with the Council's stated vision/values: - To focus on our community and provide excellent service for all our customers and colleagues. - To demonstrate honesty and integrity by doing the right thing, being open and confident to challenge and be challenged.
2	It is over-arching and feeds into all functions and services.

**4. Does your proposal relate to a current Barrow Borough Council function?**

<b>Respondent No.</b>	<b>Response Details</b>
1	Yes
2	Yes

**5. What would be the expected outcome of any potential review of this topic?**

<b>Respondent No.</b>	<b>Response Details</b>
1	That the Town Hall be re-opened to the public as are all other public spaces. It should be recognised that this is a public building, that the Council are public servants, and that the needs of the public should be placed above the wishes of the Council. It should also be clear that the threat from Covid-19, with controls in place, cannot be shown to be greater than the public benefits of an open and accessible Council.
2	Suggested recommendations and improvement plan.

**6. Suggested format of review**

<b>Respondent No.</b>	<b>Response Details</b>
1	1 Day Review
2	Committee Meeting Agenda Item

**7. Would this review need to be conducted at a particular time, for example to link in with forthcoming Council or Executive Committee decisions, or with other work which is being carried out?**

<b>Respondent No.</b>	<b>Response Details</b>
1	The policy should be reviewed at the earliest opportunity, given that most other Covid-19 restrictions have been removed. It may need to be approved by Executive Committee.
2	No

**8. Your details can remain anonymous or you can provide your contact details in the box below if you wish.**

<b>Respondent No.</b>	<b>Response Details</b>
1	Anonymous
1	Anonymous