

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting: Wednesday 25th May, 2022
at 2.00 pm (Committee Room No. 4)

PRESENT:- Councillors Roberts (Vice-Chairman), Barlow, Biggins, Hall, Hamilton, McEwan, Maddox, Morgan, Pemberton, Shirley and Wall.

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), Helen Houston (Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy) (Minute Nos.1-11), Alison Coward (Senior Environmental Protection Officer) (Minute Nos.1-8), Alec Proffitt (Policy and Engagement Officer) (Minute Nos 1-11), Caroline Wagstaff (Head of People and Communities) (Minute Nos.1-7) and Jon Huck (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager)

1 – Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Brook, McClure and Ronson.

Councillors McEwan and Hall had substituted for Councillors Brook and Ronson for this meeting only.

2 - Declarations of Interest

Councillors Hamilton, McEwan, Shirley and Wall declared an Other Registrable Interest in agenda item 12 – Barrow Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). They were a member of Cumbria County Council.

3 – Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 9th and 22nd March, 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

4 – Public Participation

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

5 – Terms of Reference

RESOLVED:- To note the revised Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee.

6 – Anti-Social Behaviour Policy & Procedures

The Head of People and Communities reported that the draft Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy and Procedures (Appendix 1) provided a framework for our approach to reports of ASB from all our residents across the borough. The policy would replace

the current ASB Policy for tackling ASB in the Council's housing stock which had been last reviewed in January 2020.

Tackling ASB was a key priority for the Council and residents. The newly formed Safe and Strong Communities Team would adopt a victim-centred approach to tackling ASB across the borough.

The policy statement meet the aims of the Council's Vision and Values within the Council Plan 2020 – 2024 "To focus on our community and provide excellent service for all our customers and colleagues".

The draft Policy was a specific policy for dealing with ASB enforcement across tenure. The Council had an over-arching Corporate Enforcement Policy; the legislation for ASB Enforcement would take precedent over the overall approach in Corporate Enforcement Policy.

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

RESOLVED:-

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To agree to adopt the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Policy and Procedures as attached to the report.

7 – Climate Change – Citizens' Jury Response

The Senior Environmental Protection Officer reported that the aim of the Climate Change Policy 2020-2025 for the Council was to reach net zero no later than 2037. To achieve that goal in Objective 6, the Council would increase public awareness around climate change.

To enable the objective to be achieved the Council ran a Citizens Jury to engage with a cross section of residents. That was delivered in partnership with Shared Future and had been part funded through the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership.

The jury considered the question 'What should happen in the Furness area to address the emergency of climate change' and the jury created a report containing their recommendations.

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

RESOLVED:-

1. To acknowledge the recommendations of the Citizens' Jury;
2. To agree with the proposed response to the recommendations and the development of an action plan; and

3. To commit to create an independent advisory group to encourage the jury, the oversight panel and any other relevant stakeholders to work together to meet the objectives of the actions plan.

8 – Disabled Facilities Grants Policy Review

The Director of People and Place reported that Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) were provided through a statutory scheme under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. Those grants had allowed adaptations to be made to the homes of people with disabilities to make their homes more accessible. By far the most common forms of assistance provided were installation of stair lifts and wet rooms. At present approximately 150 adaptations a year had been provided in the Borough. Prior to 2017, all DFGs had been subject to a means test. Although few applicants were required to contribute to the cost of adaptations, the presence of a means test produced additional bureaucracy, and was seen as off-putting and a disincentive for people to apply.

The report proposed an increase in the non means-tested amount of Disabled Facilities Grant from £7,500 to £10,000.

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

RESOLVED:- To agree to increase the non means-tested grant from £7,500 to £10,000 and make the necessary minor amendments to the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy.

9 – Barrow Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

The Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy report sought endorsement of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Barrow. The LCWIP provided a prioritised investment plan for cycling and walking in Barrow Borough over the next 15 years.

The LCWIP considered the overlaps and synergies with other plans, schemes and strategies. That meant the network priorities would be reviewed and updated periodically, particularly if there were any significant changes in local circumstances, such as the publication of new policies or strategies, new development sites, if funding bids were successful and as walking and cycling networks mature and expand.

The LCWIP for Barrow was a live document that would be regularly reviewed to ensure the most appropriate routes for cycling and walking were identified and prioritised for future delivery.

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

RESOLVED:- To agree to endorse the Barrow Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

10 – Cumbria Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

The Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy reported that the Cumbria Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) outlined the accommodation needs for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people over the next 20 year period. The report covered the whole of Cumbria and had separate sections for each Local Authority area. The findings for Barrow were the focus of the report.

The report sets out the pitch requirements for the Council. The Cumbria Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment would be used to further inform housing requirement and planning policy.

The Director of People and place agreed to arrange a Member Briefing regarding transit sites for Gypsies and Travellers.

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

RESOLVED:- To note the findings of the Cumbria Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, and that the GTAA would be used to further inform housing requirements and planning policy.

11 – Growing Forward and Council Plan Progress Update

The Policy and Engagement Officer report provided an update on progress on actions set out in both the Council Plan 2020-2024 and the Growing Forwards Executive Committee reports of 8 July 2020 and 23 March 2021. The previous update report had covered progress up to July 2021.

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

RESOLVED:-

1. To note and agree the update of actions that officers working with partners had achieved in the last nine months;
2. To note that the recovery activities, identified in the Recovery Tracker, required monitoring, prioritising and, where appropriate, fed into the Local Government Reorganisation work to ensure the Council's regeneration and Covid-recovery priorities were incorporated and embedded into the Westmorland and Furness Unitary Authority; and
3. To record their appreciation of all officers and partner organisations for their contributions to making the Borough a place where people want to live, work, visit and invest and puts residents at the heart of all that they do.

12 – COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund

The Director of Resources reported that on 25 March the Government had announced a new COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) of £1.5 billion. The Council's share

of that was £1,355,251. The fund was available to support those businesses affected by the pandemic but that were ineligible for existing support linked to business rates.

Billing authorities were responsible for designing the discretionary relief schemes that were to operate in their areas.

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

RESOLVED:-

1. To approve the COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund principles contained in the report, particularly those at paragraphs 3.13 to 3.15;
2. To delegate authority to the Director of Resources to finalise and publish the COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund Scheme;
3. To delegate authority to the Director of Resources to make awards within these guidelines; and
4. To delegate authority to the Director of Resources to maintain the COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund Scheme.

13 – Discretionary Energy Rebate

The Director of Resources report sought approval for the Discretionary Energy Rebate Scheme principles to allocate Government funds to Council Taxpayers who were not eligible for the Main Scheme.

The Council had been allocated £162,000 of grant funding from a £144m discretionary fund from the Government ‘to provide support to other energy bill payers who were not eligible under the terms of the core band A to D Energy Rebate Scheme’.

The report set out the principles of the proposed Discretionary Energy Rebate Scheme and requested that the Director of Resources be delegated to finalise a Scheme based upon those principles contained to enable Officers to distribute the share to the Council.

The guidance had changed since it was first issued and delegation to maintain the Scheme was also requested.

The Director of Resources clarified that 3.10 (ii) should read “for households in E to H”

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

RESOLVED:-

1. To approve the Discretionary Energy Rebate Scheme principles at paragraph 3.10 of the report;

2. To delegate authority to the Director of Resources to finalise and publish the Discretionary Energy Rebate Scheme;
3. To delegate authority to the Director of Resources to make awards within these guidelines;
4. To agree that if there were funds remaining, the Hardship Working Group shall be convened to determine any further action to ensure full expenditure; and
5. To delegate authority to the Director of Resources to maintain the Discretionary Energy Rebate Scheme.

14 – Final Report of the Scrutiny Work Group – Piel Island

The Director of People and Place reported that following the Scrutiny Review into the future management arrangements for Piel Island, the Work Group had concluded the review and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had made recommendations to this Committee for consideration.

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

RESOLVED:- To agree the recommendations detailed at 3.6 of the report.

15 – Appointments on Outside Bodies, Panels and Working Groups etc.

The Chief Executive reminded the Committee that at the Annual meeting on 18th May, 2022 the allocation of seats in respect of Forums, Panels, Working Groups etc. and certain Outside Bodies had been considered by Council.

Council had been asked to recommend with the exception of the Housing Management Forum the allocation of seats on Outside Bodies, Forums, Panels, Working Groups etc. be delegated to the appropriate Committees to make the necessary appointments.

Group Leaders had supplied details of the recommended appointments for confirmation by the Committee.

RESOLVED:-

1. To approve the under-mentioned Outside Bodies in accordance with Notional Seat Allocations; and
2. To agree the under-mentioned appointments to Outside Bodies, Forums, Panels and Working Groups:-

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES, ETC.

- (1) AIR TRAINING CORPS (NO. 128 SQUADRON)
The Mayor.
- (2) ARMED FORCES CHAMPION
Councillor Biggins.
- (3) ASKAM AND IRELETH COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Councillors D. Edwards, Ronson and Shirley.
- (4) BARROW FORWARD MEMBER COMMITTEE (2:1:0)
Councillors Brook, Gawne, and M. A. Thomson.
- (5) BARROW HEALTH AND WELLBEING FORUM
Councillors Hall, Mooney and Robson.
- (6) BARROW-IN-FURNESS SEA CADET CORPS COMMITTEE
The Mayor.
Substitute:- Deputy Mayor.
- (7) BILLINCOAT CHARITY TRUST (4 year appointment until May 2023) –
Councillors Callister, D. Edwards, Maddox, Nott, Ronson and, Shirley.
- (8) BRILLIANT BARROW BOARD (1:0:0)
Councillor M. A. Thomson.
- (9) BUCCLEUCH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Councillor D. Edwards.
- (10) CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP (CHILDREN'S TRUST)
Councillors Assouad and Morgan.
- (11) CUMBRIA ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADVISORY SERVICE BOARD
The Mayor.
- (12) CUMBRIA HEALTH SCRUTINY
Councillor Cassidy.
- (13) CUMBRIA HOUSING EXECUTIVE GROUP
Councillor Hamilton.

- (14) CUMBRIA PENSIONS FORUM
Councillor Wall.
- (15) CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP
Councillor M A Thomson.
- (16) DALTON BORDERLANDS STEERING GROUP
Councillors Callister and Ronson.
- (17) DALTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Councillor Nott.
- (18) FCC PARTNERSHIP BOARD (3:1:0)
Councillors Cassidy, Hall, Hamilton, and Robson.
- (19) FURNESS ABBEY FELLOWSHIP
Councillor Wall.
- (20) FURNESS LINE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP
Councillor Nott.
- (21) FURNESS MARITIME TRUST
Council of Trustees:- Councillors Cassidy, C. Thomson, Wall, Chief Executive and Director of Resources plus one Labour Representative.
- (22) JOINT RURAL COMMITTEE
Councillors Callister and Ronson.
- (23) KEEPING OUR FUTURE AFLOAT
Councillor Callister.
- (24) LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY BOARD (0:1:0)
Councillor D 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 Brook and Robson.

(31) SPIRIT ENERGY LIAISON COMMITTEE – arranging a meeting in the future.

OUTSIDE BODIES AGREED BY COUNCIL

Allotments Liaison Committee (6:2:1)

Councillors Barlow, Burns, Gawne, Husband, Johnston, McClure, Ronson and C. Thomson plus one Labour representative.

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

Councillor Nott.

Wildlife and Heritage Advisory Committee (6:2:1)

Councillors Assouad, Barlow, H Edwards, Gawne, Mooney, Pemberton, Robson, M. A. Thomson and Wall.

MEMBERSHIP OF FORUMS, PANELS, WORKING GROUPS ETC.

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Barrow Market Liaison Committee (3:1:0)

Councillors Barlow, Brook, McEwan and Zaccarini.

Community Governance Working Group (3:1:1)

Councillors Brook, H. Edwards, Hall, Husband and Morgan.

Cumbria Local Nature Partnership Board (1:0:0)

Councillor Wall.

Cumbria Police and Crime Panel (1:0:0)

Councillor Hamilton.

Health and Safety Management Board (3:1:1)

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

Medical Assessment/Housing Applications Appeals Panel (2:1:0)

3 Members selected by Chief Executive in accordance with proportionality rules

Member Training Working Group (3:1:0)

Councillors Assouad, Brook, Morgan and Ronson.

Planning Policy Working Group (4:1:1)

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

Councillors Brook, H Edwards, Hall, Roberts, C. Thomson and M. A. Thomson.

Renovation Grants Panel (3:1:0)

To be appointed for 2022/23 in accordance with proportionality rules

Review Board – Housing Register/Homeless Applicants (2:1:0)

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

REFERRED ITEM

THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION

16 - UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The Director of People and Place reported that there had been a recent announcement of funding from Central Government that provided an opportunity for the Borough, in the form of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). That had replaced the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF). The UKSPF was a central pillar of the UK Government Levelling Up Agenda. Its primary goal was to build pride in place and increase life chances. There were three key investment priorities of: communities and place; supporting local business; and people and skills.

The funding had been allocated through a funding formula and the Council had been conditionally allocated £2,477,528 UKSPF from April 2022-March 2025. That was dependent on developing an Investment Plan which sets out measurable outcomes that reflect needs and opportunities. These would inform the interventions that would be delivered.

The Investment Plan would require sign off from the Council and the new Unitary Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority. Close collaboration with Eden, South Lakeland and Cumbria County Council was critical to developing common delivery

arrangements and from 1 April 2023 a single merged district council investment plan for the new Unitary was a requirement in the government UKSPF prospectus.

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

RESOLVED:-

1. To agree to prepare a draft Investment Plan by end of June 2022 in conjunction with local stakeholders and in close collaboration with neighbouring local authorities;
2. To approach Brilliant Barrow Board and request that it be designated as the Local Partnership Group with broadened suggested representation as set out in paragraph 3.7 of the report;
3. To submit the Barrow UKSPF Plan for agreement by the Westmorland and Furness Unitary Shadow Executive on 22 July 2022;
6. To agree to receive a completed Investment Plan on 27 July 2022 and submit to Government by 31 August 2022 incorporating recommendations from Westmorland and Furness Shadow Unitary Authority;
7. Subject to agreement of the Investment Plan in July 2022, recommend to Council that it would act as the accountable body for UKSPF prior to 1 April 2023 when it would transfer into the Westmorland and Furness Unitary Authority and to enter into a grant funding agreement with government; and
8. To authorise the Director of People and Place, in consultation with the Director of Resources and the Chair of the Executive Committee, to enter into grant funding agreements with delivery partners for individual project elements.

The meeting closed at 3.56 pm.