

Barrow Borough Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday 15 September, 2022
Work Programme Update

Report from: Democratic Services Manager

Report Author: Jon Huck

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 Recommendations

- (1) Members are asked to note the programme update provided; and**
- (2) Consider setting up the working groups to take forward those items where work groups have yet to be established.**

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 a previous meeting, the Committee had requested the Scrutiny and Democratic Services Team Leader 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

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.

At the meeting on 24th March the Committee agreed that the review should continue and Councillor Morgan be appointed Lead Member on the Work Group.

The Director of Resources attended the meeting on 7th July to present the confidential Supported Accommodation report and that a deep dive into the supported accommodation scheme was included in the Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan..

The remit of the review needs to be confirmed to enable it to be taken forward.

3.3 Impact of Covid-19 Going Forward

The Work Group had met on 7th 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.

At the meeting on 7th July Councillor McEwan provided the committee with an update on the most recent Covid Figures, in the week beginning 27th June Barrow had 162 cases. the committee noted the case numbers and agreed the Work Group would continue to meet regularly.

A verbal update would be provided at the meeting.

3.4 Crellin Street

At a 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 8th 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.

At a previous meeting Councillor McEwan provided an update to the Committee stating that Barrow Local Committee had presented the issue to Cumbria County Council's Cabinet the previous week where the Cabinet had agreed to support Barrow Local Committee's request and explore the process and feasibility of adopting the DVLA devolved powers from the Secretary of State for Transport to take enforcement action on untaxed vehicles. In view of that, the Committee agreed that this review should be paused.

3.5 Customer Strategy and Action Plan

At the Committee meeting on 24th March it had been agreed that a review of Customer Strategy and Action Plan be included in the Work Programme for 2022/23.

A Working group would need to be set up to review the Customer Strategy and Action Plan.

3.6 Growing Forward Report and Action Plan

At the Committee meeting on 24th March it had been agreed that a review of the Growing Forward Report and Action Plan be included in the Work Programme for 2022/23.

A Working group would need to be set up to review the Growing Forward Report and Action Plan.

3.7 Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy

At the Committee meeting on 24th March it had been agreed that a review of the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy be included in the Work Programme for 2022/23.

At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7th July the Head of People and Communities presented a report on the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

A Working group would need to be set up to review the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

3.8 Equality Strategy and Action Plan

At the Committee meeting on 24th March it had been agreed that a review of Equality Strategy and Action Plan be included in the Work Programme for 2022/23.

A Working group would need to be set up to review the Equality Strategy and Action Plan.

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 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