

BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting:- Thursday 4th June, 2015
at 2.00 p.m. (Committee Room No. 4)

A G E N D A

PART ONE

1. To note any items which the Chairman considers to be of an urgent nature.
2. To receive notice from Members who may wish to move any delegated matter non-delegated and which will be decided by a majority of Members present and voting at the meeting.

3. **Admission of Public and Press**

To consider whether the public and press should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the agenda.

4. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations by Members and/or co-optees of interests in respect of items on this Agenda.

Members are reminded that, in accordance with the revised Code of Conduct, they are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registrable interests which have not already been declared in the Council's Register of Interests. (It is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest either in the Register or at the meeting).

Members may however, also decide, in the interests of clarity and transparency, to declare at this point in the meeting, any such disclosable pecuniary interests which they have already declared in the Register, as well as any other registrable or other interests.

5. Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members.
6. Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March, 2015 (copy attached).
- (D) 7. Appointments on Outside Bodies, Panels, Working Groups etc.
- (D) 8. Work Programme.
- (D) 9. Comparison of Recycling Performance.

**NOTE (D) – Delegated
(R) – Referred**

Membership of Committee

Councillors Heath (Chairman)
Cassidy (Vice-Chairman)
Gill
Husband
McLeavy
Opie
Preston
Proffitt
C. Thomson
M. A. Thomson
Wall
Williams

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BOROUGH OF BARROW IN FURNESS

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting, Thursday, 4th March, 2015
at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors Cassidy (Vice-Chairman), Husband, Johnston, Maddox, C. Thomson and M. A. Thomson.

Officers Present:- Sue Roberts (Director of Resources), John Penfold (Corporate Support Manager), Keely Fisher (Democratic Services Officer), Ewan Holt (Apprentice) and Daisy Nicol (Apprentice).

32 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Roberts (Chairman), Derbyshire, Hamilton, Opie and Wall.

33 – Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29th January, 2015 were taken as read and confirmed.

34 – Finances and Performance Report

The Director of Resources presented Members with the executive summary of the third quarter, April 2014 to December 2014 of the quarterly Council Finances and Performance.

The full report would be presented to the Executive Committee on 11th March, 2015.

The budget had been agreed in March 2014 for 2014-2015 and was funded by:-

- 37% External fees and charges;
- 5% One-off use of reserves;
- 17% Revenue Support Grant;
- 15% Business Rates;
- 22% Council Tax; and
- 4% Other Government grants.

At 31st December, 2014 the overall General Fund direct net expenditure was 2% less than three quarters of the budget. All items were within tolerance levels.

Priority Housing

The Council was committed to continuing to provide a greater choice of good quality housing and regenerate the oldest and poorest housing in the Borough.

The on-going projects for housing were bringing empty properties back into use on Barrow Island; improving the choice and quality of properties in the Town Centre through group repair and securing development for the central clearance area; and achieve and maintain the decent homes standard for the Council's Housing stock.

The completed objectives for housing were approving the Issues and Options Draft Local Plan.

Regeneration and the Public Realm

The Council was committed to working with partners and service providers to enhance the built environment and public realm.

The on-going objectives for the Regeneration and Public Realm were improving the amenities of the Borough through strategic waste management and street cleansing; and improving the streetscape and central courtyard on Barrow Island.

The completed objectives for Regeneration and the Public Realm were replacing the Roa Island jetty; refurbishing Farm Street Play Area and supporting the new athletics facility at Furness Academy.

Local Economy

The Council was committed to work on mitigating the effects of cuts in public spending, their impact on the local economy and working to secure a long term economic recovery for our community.

The on-going objectives for the Local Economy were continuing to support the Marina Village development, both residential and land assembly and awarding discretionary housing payments and disabled facilities grants.

The completed objectives for the Local Economy were securing LEP support of the strategy for advanced manufacturing in Furness, recruiting five apprentices, supporting residents through the local Council Tax Support scheme and continuing support for assisted welfare advice agencies.

Service Delivery

The Council strived to provide good quality, efficient and effective services while reducing overall expenditure.

The on-going objectives for Service Delivery were partnership working and shared services, improving the customer experience and measuring customer satisfaction.

The completed objectives for Service Delivery were achieving the aim of the Budget Strategy and balancing the budget for 2015-2016 and implementing the workforce strategy.

RESOLVED:- That the report be noted.

35 – Street Cleansing

The Corporate Support Apprentice provided an update of the scrutiny review into Street Cleansing.

Contaminated Green Waste

Biffa currently collected Green waste on behalf of Barrow Borough Council. The green waste was disposed of at Sinkfall Farm where it was composted. If Sinkfall Farm received contaminated loads of green waste then they would charge additional fees for picking time - removing the contamination from the waste prior to the composting.

Contaminated loads were typically attributed to two main sources. Residents placing residual waste into their garden waste bins. Frequently, when a contaminated load was disposed of at Sinkfall, the contamination was the result of a property owner placing incorrect waste into their green waste. Biffa were contractually obliged to remove any waste in the green waste loads which was not supposed to be there. However, if Biffa could not see the contamination or were unable to remove it, Sinkfall were then responsible for removing the contamination before the waste was decomposed. Sinkfall weren't contracted to remove contaminations from waste so they charged additional fees referred to as "picking time" which was the time it took to remove the contamination.

The second reason which could result in the contamination of green waste was Biffa's practise of using the same vehicle for collecting different waste streams. Since there were limited vehicles to complete the three different waste collections of Green waste, Residual Waste and Recycling, the same vehicle could be used for different rounds. If the same vehicle was used for different rounds, then waste could become contaminated due to the vehicle not been emptied properly and still containing waste from the round it was used for prior to the green waste collections.

From September 2014 - January 2015, there had been 11 contaminated loads which had arrived at Sinkfall Farm, which had most likely been caused by either one of the two reasons listed above. The number of contaminated loads for the same period of 2013-14 had been 2. The 2014-2015 figures was a significant increase and should be a matter which needed to be addressed to both Biffa, and the residents of the Borough.

The Committee discussed the report and considered the possibility of a new Waste Collection Contract by the end of 2015. The Committee agreed that this should be a priority of the new administration for 2015-2016.

RESOLVED:- That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 2.17 p.m.

		Part One
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		(D)
Date of Meeting:	4th June, 2014	Agenda
Reporting Officer:	Executive Director	Item
		7
<p>Title: Appointments on Outside Bodies, Panels, Working Groups etc.</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd July, 2014 it was agreed that the Cultural Services Board be re-established and re-named Leisure Services Group.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Members are requested to appoint Members to the Leisure Services Group for 2015/2016.</p>		

Report

At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd July, 2014 it was agreed that the Cultural Services Board be re-established and re-named Leisure Services Group.

Members are requested to appoint Members to the Leisure Services Group for 2015/2016.

Note:- Membership for 2014/2015 was Councillors M. A. Thomson, C. Thomson, H. Wall and D. Roberts.

Background Papers

Nil

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	(D) Agenda Item 8
Date of Meeting: 4th June, 2015	
Reporting Officer: Corporate Support Manager	
<p>Title: Work Programme</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>Provide Members with the current work programme.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Members are invited to consider the work programme and prioritise the reviews to be undertaken in 2015/16.</p>	

Report

I have attached the current work programme below; Items 1,3 and 8 are complete, Items 2 and 9 are standing items for this Committee. We need to prioritise the work programme for 2015/16.

Item	Topic	Scope of the review
1	Allotments.	To review the Council's arrangements for managing tenancies and the waiting list. Ensure the allotment service is financially sustainable
2	Street cleanliness.	To review to Council's arrangements for working with the contractor to deliver a higher standard of street cleanliness. To ensure appropriate arrangements are in place to manage external factors the impact on street cleanliness e.g. seagulls and fly tipping.
3	Coastal protection.	The implementation of phase four of the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy has resulted in changes to way in which coastal defence projects are funded. The review will focus on our medium term project plan and how it will be funded.
4	Estates and asset management.	To review arrangements for maximising income from our assets and the potential for the disposal of redundant assets.

5	Town centres development and supporting local traders.	Review arrangements for supporting local traders in the current economic climate.
6	Highways and car parking	Review the provision of highways maintenance by Cumbria County Council. Review street lighting and on-street parking arrangements.
7	Economic Development, planning and development control.	Review arrangements for planning and economic development in light of the reduced funding as a result of the Governments deficit reduction programme. Ensure the Council still has appropriate arrangements in place to access development funding
8	Cultural Services	Review the impact of the Council's service review on cultural services. The review will consider events, distribution of funding and service charges.
9	Policy and strategy	Monitor the development of and performance against the council's key priorities.
10	Housing strategy	Review availability of private sector and socially housing and consider partnership arrangements to ensure that the availability of housing in the borough meets demand.
11	Localised flooding	Collect information from other agencies to determine whether appropriate action is being taken to minimise the impact of localised flooding

Background Papers

Nil

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		<u>Part One</u> (D) Agenda Item 9
Date of Meeting:	4th June, 2015	
Reporting Officer:	Corporate Support Apprentice	
<p>Title: Comparison of Recycling Performance</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions:</p> <p>Provide Members with recycling tonnages and the income from the recycling reward scheme.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Members are invited to consider the information and take note of the report.</p>		

Report

Comparison of Recycling Performance of 2013/14 to 2014/15

The Council receives an income for the collection of recycling. This is a variable income from the Recycling Reward Scheme which was £62.21 per tonne in 2014/15. During this year, the Council received £556,471.61 from the Recycling Reward Scheme. This income was £12,000 higher than 2013/14 due to the 3% indexation increase, but this increase was offset because less recycling was collected.

In the 2013/14 year, the variable income was lower due to the indexation which was £60.40 per tonne. During the year, the Council received £544,847.26.

An analysis of the income from the Recycling Reward Scheme collection was carried out and compared to the projected income in the Budget Book. The projected income from Recycling Reward is based on the actual recycling collected in the previous year. In 2013/14 there was a shortfall in income from Recycling Reward because there was less recycling waste collected which was approximately 450 tonnes. Most of this shortfall is attributable to a reduction in the amount of separated paper and Bringsite co-mingled.

As a result of the shortfall, the projected income from Recycling Reward was lowered by £50,000 as shown in table 1.

Table 1: Projected and actual incomes from Recycling Reward

Financial Year	Budgeted Income from Recycling Reward	Total Income
2014/15	£530,000	£558,471.61
2013/14	£579,840	£544,847.26

In 2014/15 the actual income from Recycling Reward was higher than the projected figure, however this increase is entirely due to indexation because the tonnage of recycling was lower than 2013/14 as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Tonnages collected from the different recycling streams

Financial Year	Kerbside comingled	Bring-site comingled	Green	WEEE	Paper	Total Tonnes
2014/15	3531.64	743.84	3682.86	85.74	933.12	8977.20
2013/14	3400.66	718.78	3730.55	66.50	1104.16	9020.66

Cumbria County Council is exploring the option of removing the indexation increase. If this happens there will be a reduction in the income from Recycling Reward. Although the tonnage collected in 2014/15 was marginally lower than 2013/14 the downward trend observed in recent years appears to be levelling out. Table 2 shows that the bring-site and kerbside co-mingled streams and the weee stream have increased while there has been a significant decrease in kerbside paper collection and a marginal decrease in green waste collection. The Recycling incentivisation grant could be used to increase the amount of recycling collected to offset the removal of the indexation increase.

Background Papers

Nil.