



BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL
TOWN HALL
DUKE STREET
BARROW-IN-FURNESS

Tuesday, 10 May 2022

To: The Members of Barrow Borough Council

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

You are hereby summoned to attend the Annual Meeting of BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL to be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER at the TOWN HALL, BARROW on WEDNESDAY, 18TH MAY, 2022 COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM for the transaction of the business specified below.

Chief Executive

Business

1. TO ELECT THE CHAIR AND MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR
2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. TO APPOINT THE VICE-CHAIR AND DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR
4. VOTE OF THANKS AND PRESENTATION OF FORMER MAYOR'S MEDAL
5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

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

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).

To expedite the business of the meeting, Members are requested to give the Chief Executive adequate notice of any Amendment which they propose to raise.

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.

6. TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND/OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

7. TO ELECT THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.

To elect the Leader of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

8. ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE PLACES AND APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS, LEAD MEMBERS, SCHEME OF DELEGATION AND CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

To consider the allocation of Committee Places and Appointment of Chairs, Vice Chairs, Lead Members, Scheme of Delegation and Calendar of Meetings.

9. REGRADING APPLICATION SCHEME

To consider a report on the Regrading Application Scheme.

10. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2021/2022

To consider the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2021/2022.

11. ANNUAL REPORT OF AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

To consider the Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee.

12. ANNUAL REPORTS FROM LEAD MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2021/22

Further to (Council Minute No. 47 - 29 September 2020) to receive annual reports from Members on outside bodies, Chairs and Lead Members.

PART ONE

**Barrow Borough Council
Council**

Wednesday 18 May 2022

**Allocation of Committee Places and Appointment of Chairs,
Vice-Chairs, Lead Members and Scheme of Delegation**

Report from: Head of Legal and Governance and Monitoring
Officer

Report Author: Jon Huck

Wards: (All Wards);

1.0 Summary and Conclusions

1.1 To consider the allocation of committee places, appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs to these committees, appointment of Lead Members and the confirmation of the Scheme of Delegation, as set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution with the additions as detailed in this report and to consider appointment to outside bodies.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that : -

- (1) The committees and Terms of Reference for those committees, as detailed in Table 2, Part 3 and Part 4 of the Council's Constitution be approved for the forthcoming municipal year;
- (2) The delegation of council functions and Proper Officer appointments be confirmed as set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution;
- (3) The size of committees, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (4) Seats (and substitute seats) of each committee be allocated to political groups in accordance with Appendix 2 to this report;
- (5) Seats on those committees which are not subject to political balance rules be allocated in accordance with Appendix 1 to this report;
- (6) Nominations of Councillors to serve on each committee be received (details to be circulated prior to the meeting);
- (7) To consider the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs (details to be circulated prior to the meeting);
- (8) Consideration be given to the appointment of Lead members as detailed in paragraph 3.9;

- (9) The calendar of meetings be confirmed as attached at Appendix 3; and
(10) Agree the allocation of seats on Outside Bodies, the number of seats and allocations in respect of Forums, Panels, Working Groups, etc. in accordance with the details at Appendix 4 and (with the exception of the Housing Management Forum) delegate to the appropriate committees the power to make the necessary appointments.

3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Annual meeting of the Council will consider, amongst other matters:

- Which committees to establish for the municipal year;
- The size and terms of reference for those committees;
- The allocation of seats (and substitutes) to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules;
- Receiving nominations and appoint councillors (and substitutes) to serve on each committee, subject to the proviso that ordinary members of the Executive Committee shall not be eligible to be ordinary members of Planning Committee and vice-versa. (Also Membership of the Audit and Governance Committee should not include members serving on the Executive and Scrutiny committees and one Executive Committee member from each political group may be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee).
- Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of standing committees subject to the proviso that the maximum continuous period which a person may serve as Chair of Planning Committee is limited to eight years
- Approve a programme of ordinary meetings for Committees and Forums subject to the proviso that, where the circumstances are deemed to be exceptional the date of a particular meeting may be changed by the Committee or body concerned or the Monitoring Officer acting in consultation with the relevant Chair and/or Vice-Chair.
- Appoint the Chair and members of the Housing Management Forum and Policy Forums and such other standing or ad-hoc forums as may at the time be appointed.

3.2 The responsibility for Council functions delegated to each committee, and the size of each committee, is set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution. Copies of the Constitution have been made available to all members prior to this meeting and can be found at the following link. <https://www.barrowbc.gov.uk/the-council/barrow-council/council-constitution/>. The schemes of delegation for Officers and Proper Officer appointments are also set out in Part 3.

Allocation of committee places and appointment of Chairs and vice-chairs

3.3 The provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act (LGHA) 1989 include the requirement that, where Members of the council are divided into political groups, then the membership of its committees and sub-committees must reflect the political balance of the council as a whole. Details of the political membership of the council are shown in Appendix 1.

- 3.4 Under the LGHA 1989, the number of committee places to be allocated on committees of the Council is proportionate to that of the Council membership. However, the overall allocation must be proportional to the council membership. The Council is required to approve those allocations. The resulting allocation of committee places is set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.5 The Council is bound to have regard to the wishes of the political groups in allocating committee places to individual councillors. A list of those councillors put forward by political groups for each committee will be circulated to members as soon as they are available, in addition to any nominations received for the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the appropriate committee.
- 3.6 It is recommended that the Council delegate to Committees the power to make appointments to outside bodies, etc. appropriate to their terms of reference.

Housing Forum

- 3.7 The Housing Forum is made up of nine members with up to four tenant representatives invited to attend. It makes recommendations to Executive Committee on all matters pertaining to the Council's housing stock. It operates under the protocol within the Executive Committee's terms of reference.

Licensing Committee (Licensing Act 2003)

- 3.8 Whilst the Licensing Committee is not required to be politically balanced, the council has traditionally adopted this practice and the functions under the Licensing Act 2003 have been dealt with by this Committee along with other non-licensing act functions which do require a committee that is politically balanced. In order to provide clarity around these different functions the terms of reference are divided between a Licensing Committee and Licensing Regulatory committee and for the same members to sit on both committees.

Outside Bodies

- 3.9 The recommended seat allocations in respect of those Outside Bodies to which the proportionality rules have been applied and in respect of Forums, Working Groups and Panels are at Appendix 4. Members are asked to agree the allocation of seats as shown..

Lead Members

- 3.10 Lead Members were agreed by Council in September 2020. The Lead Members are shown in Appendix 2. Members put forward for nomination for lead members will be circulated before the meeting.

Calendar of Meetings

3.11 The Calendar of Meetings for 2022/23 was agreed by Council at its meeting on 24 February 2022 and is attached to this agenda for completeness as Appendix 3.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 The Group Leaders have been consulted and have been asked for nominations in relation to committee places, chairs and vice-chairs and Lead Members, where applicable.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 At its Annual Meeting, the Council is required to give consideration to the allocation of committee places, appointment of committee chairs and vice-chairs, terms of reference to each committee and the scheme of delegation and calendar of meetings.

6.0 Contribution to Council Plan Priorities

6.1 The governance arrangements underpin the Council’s decision-making processes.

7.0 Implications

7.1 Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1.1 There are no additional financial, resources or procurement implications as a result of this report.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 There are no legal implications to raise, the report has regard to the relevant legislation and constitutional requirements.

7.3 Local Government Reorganisation

N/A. The report details the council’s constitutional framework for its final year.

7.4 Equality and Diversity

7.4.1 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? There are no direct Equality and Diversity implications to raise with this report.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
That the committees are not properly constituted	Challenge to decision making process	Review constitutional make up.

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
That the constitution of the Council is not up to date	Challenge to decision making process. Failure to comply with relevant legislation	Ensure review and make any necessary legislative changes

Contact Officers

Debbie Storr, Monitoring Officer – dstorr@barrowbc.gov.uk

Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Details of political makeup of the Council and size and seats to be allocated to political groups on committees
2	Lead Member role profiles
3	Calendar of Meetings for 2022/23
4	List of Outside Bodies, forums working groups, etc.

Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
1 Local Government and Housing Act 1989	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/42/contents
2 Council Constitution	https://www.barrowbc.gov.uk/the-council/barrow-council/council-constitution/ .

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CALCULATION OF POLITICAL BALANCE ON COMMITTEES

STAGE 1 – Percentage Representation on the Council:

Group	Membership	Percentage %
Labour	23	63.89
Conservative	9	25.00
Furness Independent Councillors	3	8.33

STAGE 1A – Total number of seats on Committees to be Allocated:

Committee	Membership
Executive	12
Planning	12
Licensing Regulatory	12
Overview and Scrutiny	12
Audit	6
Total	54

STAGE 2 – Total Allocation of Seats to Each Party

(To ensue as far as reasonably practicable that the numbers of seats allocated to a group in total is in the same proportion as the number of members of the group on the council as a whole)

Group	Number of seats	Seats (rounded up)
Labour	34.50	35
Conservative	13.5	14
Furness Independent Councillors	4.5	5

STAGE 3 – Percentage Allocation of Total Number of Seats on Committees:

Party	Number of seats	%
Labour	35	64.81
Conservative	14	25.93
Furness Independent Councillors	5	9.26

STAGE 4 – Allocations on Individual Committees

To ensure that so far as reasonably practicable the number of seats allocated to a group on each committee is in the same proportion as the number of members of the group on the council as a whole)

Committee	Group	Seats on Committee	Seat Entitlement	Total
Executive	Labour	12	7.67	8
	Conservative		3	3
	Furness		0.99	1
	Independent Councillors			
Planning	Labour	12	7.67	8
	Conservative		3	3
	Furness		0.99	1
	Independent Councillors			
Licensing Regulatory	Labour	12	7.67	8
	Conservative		3	3
	Furness		0.99	1
	Independent Councillors			
O&S	Labour	12	7.67	8
	Conservative		3	3
	Furness		0.99	1
	Independent Councillors			
Audit	Labour	6	3.83	4
	Conservative		1.50	2
	Furness		0.50	0
	Independent Councillors			
			Total Seats	54
			Labour	36 (35)
			Conservative	14
			Furness	
			Independent Councillors	4 (5)

Labour need to lose a seat and Furness Independent Councillors need to gain a seat

Sub Committee	Group	Seats on Committee	Seat Entitlement	Total
Licensing	Labour	3	1.92	2
	Conservative		0.75	1
	Furness Independent Councillors		0.25	0

Committees not subject to political balance¹

Licensing Committee	Labour	12	7.67	8
	Conservative		3	3
	Furness Independent Councillors		0.99	1

¹ Licensing Committee is not subject to political balance rules. However, the Council, by custom and practice, appoint members in accordance with the political balance of the Council.

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2022	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Fri			1				
Sat			2			1	
Sun	1		3			2	
Mon	2 EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY		4	1		3	
Tue	3		5	2		4 PLANNING (2:30pm)	1
Wed	4	1	6	3		5	2 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2:00pm)
Thur	5 SHADOW UNITARY ELECTIONS	2 SPRING BANK HOLIDAY	7 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2:00pm)	4	1	6 LICENSING/REGULATORY (2:00pm)	3 LICENSING/REGULATORY (2:00pm)
Fri	6	2 PLATINUM JUBILEE BANK HOLIDAY BANK	8	5	2	7	4
Sat	7	4	9	6	3	8	5
Sun	8	5	10	7	4	9	6
Mon	9	6	11	8	5	10	7
Tue	10	7	12 PLANNING (2:30pm)	9 PLANNING (2:30pm)	6	11	8
Wed	11	8 HOUSING MANAGEMENT FORUM (2:00pm)	13	10	7 HOUSING MANAGEMENT FORUM (2:00pm)	12 EXECUTIVE (2:00pm)	9 EXECUTIVE (2:00pm)
Thur	12	9	14	11	8 LICENSING/REGULATORY (2:00pm)	13	10
Fri	13	10	15	12	9	14	11
Sat	14	11	16	13	10	15	12
Sun	15	12	17	14	11	16	13
Mon	16	13	18	15	12	17	14
Tue	17	14 PLANNING (2:30pm)	19 COUNCIL (5:30pm)	16	13 PLANNING (2:30pm)	18 COUNCIL (5:30pm)	15 PLANNING (2:30pm)
Wed	18 ANNUAL COUNCIL (5:30pm)	15	20	17	14 EXECUTIVE (2:00pm)	19	16
Thur	19 LICENSING/REGULATORY (2:00pm)	16 LICENSING/REGULATORY (2:00pm)	21 LICENSING/REGULATORY (2:00pm)	18	15 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2:00pm)	20	17
Fri	20	17	22	19	16	21	18
Sat	21	18	23	20	17	22	19
Sun	22	19	24	21	18	23	20
Mon	23	20	25	22	19	24	21
Tue	24 PLANNING (2:30pm)	21	26	23	20	25 PLANNING (2:30pm)	22
Wed	25 EXECUTIVE (2:00pm)	22 EXECUTIVE (2:00pm)	27 EXECUTIVE (2:00pm)	24	21	26	23
Thur	26 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2:00pm)	23	28 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE (2:00pm)	25	22	27	24
Fri	27	24	29	26	23	28	25
Sat	28	25	30	27	24	29	26
Sun	29	26	31	28	25	30	27
Mon	30	27		29 BANK HOLIDAY	26	31	28
Tue	31	28		30	27		29
Wed		29		31	28		30 HOUSING MANAGEMENT FORUM (2:00pm)
Thur		30			29 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE (2:00pm)		
Fri					30		

2023	December	January	February	March	April	May
Sat					1	
Sun		1			2	
Mon		2 BANK HOLIDAY			3	1 EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY
Tue		3			4	2
Wed		4	1	1 HOUSING MANAGEMENT FORUM (2:00pm)	5	3
Thur	1	5	2 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2:00pm)	2 LICENSING/ REGULATORY (2:00pm)	6	4 ELECTIONS
Fri	2	6	3	3	7 GOOD FRIDAY	5
Sat	3	7	4	4	8	6
Sun	4	8	5	5	9	7
Mon	5	9	6	6	10 EASTER MONDAY	8
Tue	6 COUNCIL (5:30pm)	10	7	7	11	9
Wed	7 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2:00pm)	11 EXECUTIVE (2:00pm)	8 EXECUTIVE (2:00pm)	8 EXECUTIVE (2:00pm)	12	10
Thur	8 LICENSING/ REGULATORY (2:00pm)	12	9	9	13	11
Fri	9	13	10	10	14	12
Sat	10	14	11	11	15	13
Sun	11	15	12	12	16	14
Mon	12	16	13	13	17	15
Tue	13 PLANNING (2:30pm)	17 PLANNING (2:30pm)	14 PLANNING (2:30pm)	14 PLANNING (2:30pm)	18	16)
Wed	14 EXECUTIVE (2:00pm)	18	15	15	19	17
Thur	15 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE (2:00pm)	19 LICENSING/ REGULATORY (2:00pm)	16	16 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE (2:00pm)	20	18
Fri	16	20	17	17	21	19
Sat	17	21	18	18	22	20
Sun	18	22	19	19	23	21
Mon	19	23	20	20	24	22
Tue	20	24 COUNCIL (5:30pm)	21	21	25	23
Wed	21	25 HOUSING MANAGEMENT FORUM (2:00pm)	22	22	26	24
Thur	22	26	23	23 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (2:00pm)	27	25
Fri	23	27	24	24	28	26
Sat	24	28	25	25	29	27
Sun	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	29	26	26	30	28
Mon	26 BOXING DAY	30	27	27		29 SPRING BANK HOLIDAY
Tue	27 BANK HOLIDAY	31	28	28 COUNCIL (5:30pm)		30
Wed	28 TOWN HALL CLOSED			29		31
Thur	29 TOWN HALL CLOSED			30		
Fri	30 TOWN HALL CLOSED			31 BBC CEASES TO EXIST		
Sat	31					

COUNCIL MEETING, 18 MAY, 2022**OUTSIDE BODIES ETC.**

	<u>SEATS</u>	<u>NOTIONAL SEAT ALLOCATIONS</u>			<u>SEE NOTES ON CATEGORIES</u>
		<u>LAB</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>FIC</u>	
Allotments Liaison Committee	9	6	2	1	(1)
Barrow Local Committee – Highways Advisory Group	1	1	0	0	(2)
Cumbria Police and Crime Panel	1	1	0	0	(2)
Cumbria Local Nature Partnership Board	1	1	0	0	(2)
Wildlife and Heritage Advisory Committee	9	6	2	1	(2)
LEP Scrutiny Board	1	0	1	0	(3)
FCC Partnership Board	4	3	1	0	(2)
Brilliant Barrow Board	1	1	0	0	(2)
Barrow Forward Member Committee	3	2	1	0	(2)

Categories

- (1) A body established to advise on a particular matter or administer a particular budget allocated by the Council and as such, subject to the Proportionality Rules.
- (2) A Committee on which the Local Authority is represented, which is advisory and which deals with matters which may have a bearing on a Local Authority's functions or makes representations on its behalf and which, on balance, are subject to the Proportionality Rules applied so far as reasonably practicable.
- (3) A Committee either established (or not) by this Local Authority, although it has representatives appointed to it, and is not subject to the Proportionality Rules.
- (4) An advisory body the representation on which has been determined by the Local Authority on a Ward basis.

<u>FORUMS, WORKING GROUPS, PANELS ETC.</u>	<u>SEATS</u>	<u>NOTIONAL SEAT ALLOCATIONS</u>			<u>SEE NOTES ON CATEGORIES</u>
		<u>LAB</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>FIC</u>	
Housing Management Forum	8	5	2	1	(1)
*Medical Assessment/Housing Applications Appeals Panel	*3				(1)
*Review Board - Housing Register/Homeless Applicants	*3				(1)
Planning Policy Working Group (2 Members Executive Committee and 4 Members Planning Committee)	6	4	1	1	(1)
Planning Panel	5	3	1	1	(1)
*Appeals Panel	*4				(1)
Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancy Panel	4	3	1	0	(1)
Tenant Scrutiny Working Party	3	2	1	0	(1)
Taxi/Private Hire Liaison Group	3	2	1	0	(1)
Member Training Working Group	4	3	1	0	(1)
Health and Safety Management Board	5	3	1	1	(1)
Tenants Complaints Panel	1	1	0	0	(1)
Barrow Market Liaison Committee	4	3	1	0	(1)
Community Governance Review Working Group	5	3	1	1	(1)

*Selected by Chief Executive in accordance with proportionality rules when required

JOINT COMMITTEES

Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee – *will be dissolved on the day following Shadow Authority first meeting*

MAJOR PROJECTS ADVISORY BOARD – Membership (Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders plus Chairs of Committees)

COMMITTEES – 2022/2023 – ORDINARY MEMBERS

	EXECUTIVE			PLANNING			LICENSING REGULATORY/ LICENSING			AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE			OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY			LICENSING REGULATORY SUB/ LICENSING SUB		
	Lab	Cons	FIC	Lab	Cons	FIC	Lab	Cons	FIC	Lab	Cons	FIC	Lab	Cons	FIC	Lab	Cons	FIC
Assouad, Therese				✓			✓			✓								
Barlow, Des	✓						✓											
Biggins, Trevor	✓						✓											
Brook, Derek	✓																	
Burley, Mark																		
Burns, Anne										✓								
Callister, Tony							✓			✓							✓	
Cassidy, Frank													✓					
Edwards, Daniel					✓						✓							
Edwards, Hazel						✓												
Gawne, Derek					✓			✓						✓				
Hall, Les					✓			✓						✓			✓	
Hamilton, Kevin	✓																	
Husband, Anita				✓														
Johnston, Allison													✓					
McClure, Wendy			✓													✓		
McEwan, Bill				✓			✓						✓			✓		
McLeavy, Martin									✓							✓		
Maddox, Wendy	✓						✓											
Mooney, Iain				✓														
Morgan, Beverly	✓												✓					
Nott, Steve				✓						✓								
Pemberton, Alan		✓																
Preston, Hayley													✓					
Roberts, Lee	✓												✓					
Robson, Steve													✓					
Ronson, Sam		✓												✓				
Seward, Debra							✓											
Shirley, Ben		✓																
Thomson, Ann				✓														
Thomson, Colin				✓									✓					
Tyson, Joanne				✓														
Wall, Helen							✓											
Worthington, Roy											✓							
Zaccarini, Jay								✓										

COMMITTEES – 2022/2023 – SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

	EXECUTIVE			PLANNING			LICENSING REGULATORY/ LICENSING			AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE			OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY			LICENSING REGULATORY SUB/ LICENSING SUB		
	Lab	Cons	FIC	Lab	Cons	FIC	Lab	Cons	FIC	Lab	Cons	FIC	Lab	Cons	FIC	Lab	Cons	FIC
Assouad, Therese	✓												✓			✓		
Barlow, Des																✓		
Biggins, Trevor													✓			✓		
Brook, Derek													✓					
Burley, Mark					✓							✓						
Burns, Anne	✓			✓									✓					
Callister, Tony																		
Cassidy, Frank				✓														
Edwards, Daniel								✓										
Edwards, Hazel			✓												✓			
Gawne, Derek																	✓	
Hall, Les		✓																
Hamilton, Kevin				✓														
Husband, Anita								✓										
Johnston, Allison				✓				✓										
McClure, Wendy									✓									
McEwan, Bill	✓																	
McLeavy, Martin						✓												✓
Maddox, Wendy																✓		
Mooney, Iain								✓										
Morgan, Beverly				✓						✓								
Nott, Steve	✓							✓										
Pemberton, Alan															✓			
Preston, Hayley				✓				✓										
Roberts, Lee								✓					✓					
Robson, Steve	✓							✓		✓								
Ronson, Sam					✓				✓									
Seward, Debra	✓			✓						✓						✓		
Shirley, Ben																		
Thomson, Ann	✓																	
Thomson, Colin	✓							✓					✓					
Tyson, Joanne																		
Wall, Helen				✓												✓		
Worthington, Roy																		
Zaccarini, Jay		✓			✓									✓			✓	

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE	CHAIR – COUNCILLOR BROOK VICE-CHAIR – COUNCILLOR ROBERTS
AUDIT	CHAIR – COUNCILLOR BURNS VICE CHAIR – COUNCILLOR ASSOUD
PLANNING	CHAIR – COUNCILLOR M A THOMSON VICE CHAIR – COUNCILLOR C THOMSON
LICENSING	CHAIR – COUNCILLOR CALLISTER VICE CHAIR – COUNCILLOR MCEWAN
LICENSING REGULATORY	CHAIR – COUNCILLOR CALLISTER VICE CHAIR – COUNCILLOR MCEWAN
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY	CHAIR – COUNCILLOR RONSON VICE CHAIR – COUNCILLOR CASSIDY
HOUSING MANAGEMENT FORUM	CHAIR – COUNCILLOR HAMILTON

HOUSING MANAGEMENT FORUM

MEMBERSHIP

COUNCILLORS	BARLOW
	BROOK
	BURLEY
	GAWNE
	HAMILTON
	McCLURE
	McEWAN
	MORGAN
	ROBSON

Lead Members

People

Community – Councillor Derek Brook;

Health and Wellbeing – Councillor Iain Mooney;

Children, Young People and Families and Safeguarding Champion – Councillor Beverly Morgan;

Place

Climate Emergency – Councillor Therese Assouad;

Cleaner and Greener Neighbourhoods – Councillor Ann Thomson

Heritage and Wildlife – Councillor Helen Wall;

Housing Strategy and Homelessness (Excluding Housing Stock) – Councillor Lee Roberts;

Arts, Culture and Leisure – Councillor Callister

Prosperity

Economic Development and Strategic Partnerships – Councillor Lee Roberts;

Cross Cutting

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - Councillor Hayley Preston.

PART ONE

Barrow Borough Council
Full Council
18 May 2022
Regrading Application Scheme

Report from: Director of Resources
Report Author: Director of Resources
Wards: (All Wards);

1.0 Summary and Conclusions

- 1.1 This report requests that the moratorium placed on the Regrading Application Scheme is lifted; this Scheme enables employees to apply for a change in the grading of a role where the level and scope of responsibilities have changed significantly.
- 1.2 It is proposed that the Regrading Application Scheme is updated, incorporates HR support to both Panels, and is opened for a fixed period to ensure that all applications are finalised before the end of the financial year.

2.0 Recommendation**2.1 It is recommended that Council:-**

- 1. Consider lifting the moratorium on the Regrading Application Scheme;**
- 2. Agree that the Regrading Application Scheme is updated and opened for a fixed period; and**
- 3. Note that the updated Regrading Application Scheme will be presented to the Executive Committee.**

3.0 Background and Proposals

- 3.1 The Regrading Application Scheme allows employees to apply for an upgrade where the level and scope of the responsibilities of the role have changed significantly. This Scheme is in addition to the process of change that management can implement to reflect changes in roles.
- 3.2 The Scheme was placed under a moratorium in March 2018 as it was unfit for purpose and the Council is now asked to consider lifting the moratorium.

- 3.3 The prompt for this proposal follows the recent restructure of the establishment which has introduced new grades for changed posts, but no changes for continuing posts; and the upcoming unitisation creating a final opportunity to address any grading matters.
- 3.4 The Scheme from 2018 requires updating and the primary changes are to fix an application window/opportunity of four weeks; to allocate HR support to both Panels to ensure a consistent and open process; to be clear of the requirements that form an application; to be clear of the criteria to be used in assessing applications; to clarify the application process for applicants and line managers.
- 3.5 There is no budget provision to fund additional pay costs and budget pressures will be reported to the Executive Committee for necessary action.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 The union shall be consulted on the Regrading Policy which sets out the Regrading Scheme.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The alternative is to leave the moratorium in place.

6.0 Contribution to Council Plan Priorities

- 6.1 The recommendation aims to support employees, managers and service delivery.

7.0 Implications

7.1 Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 7.1.1 The recommendation results in resources being employed in handling any applications that come forward. The financial implications will depend upon the outcome of each application. The Council does not have core funds to support increases in the staff pay bill and future implications will have to be considered against the Medium Term Financial Plan on an ongoing basis.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 There are no specific legal implications from the recommendation; the Regrading Application Scheme will be adhered to as Council Policy.

7.3 Local Government Reorganisation

- 7.3.1 The fixed window for applications is driven by Local Government Reorganisation to ensure that applications are dealt before the end of the financial year.

7.4 Equality and Diversity

- 7.4.1 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No – this is considered within the Regrading Application Scheme.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Grades assigned to posts do not reflect the responsibilities.	Disengaged or dissatisfied staff and reduced service levels.	Staff meetings, appraisals, job role clarity.

Contact Officers

Director of Resources directorsadmin@barrowbc.gov.uk

Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
1. Pay & Grading Review – Executive Committee 7 March 2018	https://www.barrowbc.gov.uk/the-council/barrow-council/archived-council-minutes-agendas/archive-executive-committee/

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PART ONE

**Barrow Borough Council
Council
Wednesday 18 May, 2022
Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
2021/2022**

Report from: Democratic Services Manager

Report Author: Paula Westwood

Wards: (All Wards);

1.0 Summary and Conclusions

1.1 The report presents the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2021/2022.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Council receives the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report for 2021/2022 attached at Appendix 1.

3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 Article 6.03 (c) – Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Council’s Constitution states that the Overview and scrutiny Committee must report annually to Full Council on its workings and make recommendations for the future work programme and amended working methods if appropriate.

3.2 The Annual Report for 2021/2022 looks back at the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the previous 12 months, as well as looking ahead into 2022/2023.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 The Annual Report has been produced in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and has been endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 24th March, 2022.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required by the Council’s Constitution to produce an Annual Report.

6.0 Contribution to Council Plan Priorities

6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee seeks to exercise its function so as to consider, challenge and add value to the Council’s approach to delivering the priorities and targets set out in the Council Plan

7.0 Implications

7.1 Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1.1 There are no financial or resource implications arising from this report. The work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to provide value for money and make the best use of available resources.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 In order to ensure that the work of the Committee adds value to the work of the Council and underpins the Council Plan priorities, it is important that the Committee is effective in its role.

7.3 Local Government Reorganisation

7.3.1 There are no implications on Local Government Reorganisation arising from this report.

7.4 Equality and Diversity

7.4.1 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis?

No – The report has no direct Equality and Diversity implications.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
An Annual Report is not produced.	Failure to maintain constitutional requirements. The opportunity to consider and promote the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is lost.	A comprehensive and timely Annual Report is produced.
The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme does not address the Council’s delivery of priorities and targets in the Council Plan	Absence of challenge and overview of the Council progress in meeting the Council’s priorities.	The Annual Report and Work Programme are utilised to focus the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Contact Officers:

Paula Westwood Scrutiny and Democratic Services Team Leader
pwestwood@barrowbc.gov.uk

Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2021/2022

Background Documents Available

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

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Barrow Borough Council

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2021/2022

Date: March 2022

Author: Paula Westwood





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Work Planning Aid.....	13



Introduction

Welcome to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report for Barrow Borough Council. The report sets out the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee between May 2021 and April 2022.

The Council has one Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the remit to investigate, scrutinise, monitor, oversee and comment on service delivery mechanisms, policy implementation, or any other issue affecting the Borough or its residents, provided that they have previously been considered by either the Executive Committee or Council.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or actions taken, in accordance with the discharge of any of the Council's functions. It also has the power to make recommendations to the Council or Executive Committee, and to consider any matters which affect the Council's area or its communities. The Committee also plays an important role in policy development and review and by providing input during the early stages of policy development, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can add real value before a final decision is made.

Overview and Scrutiny is a key tool for promoting the best interests and wellbeing of the area and seeks to ensure that local people receive high quality services that meet their needs. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee does this by acting as a 'critical friend' to the Executive Committee, holding it to account and providing challenge where necessary.

Chair's Foreword

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their outstanding contribution to our Council's aims, plans and goals over the last 12 months. Notwithstanding the Covid 19 pandemic and the huge workload each of you have had in your normal daily activities for our community is commendable.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is a non-political Member led group (rightly so) which has developed into a cohesive forum with the sole aim of working together to support, challenge and maximise the effectiveness of the Council, to listen to our partners but more importantly to listen to our residents.

We have addressed a number of issues, some of which have been very emotive, these have been progressed (most to conclusion) with sensitivity by the agreed and established Chairs and their groups.

Overview & Scrutiny is a fundamental Committee tasked with ensuring that we are all (Members and Officers) held accountable for our actions and that full trust can be assured to our Borough from all of us.

We have made great progress over the last 12 months and it is my sincere wish that this continues in the same vein going forward. Once again thank you for your support and commitment to our community and to myself as Chair.

Cllr Martin McLeavy – Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.



Year in Review: Overview and Scrutiny 2021/2022

Between May 2021 and April 2022 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had met eight times. Membership of the Committee was Councillors:-

- ❑ Martin McLeavy (Chair);
- ❑ Frank Cassidy (Vice Chair);
- ❑ Derek Gawne;
- ❑ Allison Johnston;
- ❑ Wendy McClure;
- ❑ William McEwan;
- ❑ Beverly Morgan;
- ❑ Hayley Preston;
- ❑ Steve Robson;
- ❑ Colin Thomson;
- ❑ Ann Thomson; and
- ❑ Roy Worthington.

The Work Programme for 2021/2022 had been agreed by the Committee at their meetings on 3rd June and 8th July, 2021 as follows:-

- ❑ Flooding on Walney Promenade;
- ❑ Discretionary Housing Payments;
- ❑ Tenancy of Piel Island; and
- ❑ Memorial Benches

An additional item for consideration was agreed at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 3rd February, 2022 which involved looking into ongoing issues in the Crellin Street vicinity emanating from food takeaway delivery services.

Paused Reviews

The review into Street Cleanliness had been paused throughout 2020/2021 and had not yet resumed. The review had been paused whilst discussions had been ongoing between Council Officers and FCC Environment.

Ongoing Reviews

The following reviews from 2020/2021 had been ongoing and had been carried forward into 2021/2022:-

- ❑ Membership of Outside Bodies; and
- ❑ Impact of Covid-19 going Forward.

Further details of each of the reviews are provided overleaf:-



Flooding on Walney Promenade

Membership of Work Group	Cllrs Cassidy (Lead), Gawne, McEwan and C. Thomson
Key Priority	Place
Review Status	Paused December 2021

Background

The Promenade on Walney was intermittently affected by flooding when high Spring tides coincided with severe adverse weather conditions such as heavy rainfall and storm surges. Typically this occurred once or twice per year when the capacity of waste treatment storage arrangements was challenged by the prevailing conditions.

Scope of the Review

To liaise with the relevant responsible Authorities to ensure that everything possible was being done to address the flooding issues.

Details of the Review

Contact had been made with Cumbria County Council to ascertain whether their Overview and Scrutiny Committee had looked at this matter in the past, as flooding sat with the upper tier Authority. It had since been confirmed that they had not looked into this matter in the recent past.

An Officer from the Council's Public Protection Services represented the Council on the Making Space for Water Group in Cumbria. He had previously supplied some technical information to the Work Group.

Following the request from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, arrangements had been made for two representatives from United Utilities to address the Committee to discuss this issue. An update had been provided on the plans being made for the sewer network to prevent flooding on Walney Promenade as follows:

It had been noted that a micro tunnel runs from North Scale to Mill Lane which was most likely subject to tidal infiltration as it runs under the channel. In order to conduct investigatory works, with the area being a Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), permits would be required from Natural England and the Marine Maritime Industry. There was an approximate lead time of 6-9 months for the permits to be obtained.

With narrow windows of opportunity to conduct investigatory works due to tides, it was anticipated that the investigatory works would take approximately one month. A Business Case would then need to be developed with a view to completing the works within a further six months (subject to permits).

Overall, it was anticipated that the works could be completed within a time frame of 12-18 months maximum. The representatives from United Utilities had confirmed that they would be happy to provide regular updates to the Committee as appropriate.



The Committee had welcomed the information and the offer from United Utilities to provide updates to the Committee in the future as the works progressed.

Discretionary Housing Payments

Membership of Work Group	Cllrs M. A. Thomson (Lead), McEwan and Morgan
Key Priority	People/Prosperity
Review Status	Paused December 2021

Details of the review

The Work Group had met on 9th November with the Revenues and Benefits Service Manager who had provided information to the Group regarding the number of people in receipt of discretionary housing and supported housing payments, as well as the number of claims and the number of claims refused and for what reason. The Work Group were considering a 'Deep Dive' into the support available to vulnerable residents in HMOs and supported housing accommodation, looking at both the needs of the residents as well as the financial aspect to the Council. In November 2021, the work was paused and further discussion is taking place as to the scope of the review.

Tenancy of Piel Island

Membership of Work Group	Cllrs McClure (Lead), Gawne, McEwan and M. A. Thomson
Key Priority	Place/Prosperity
Review Status	Concluded March 2022

Background

Barrow Borough Council are the custodian of Piel Island and until late May 2021, the management of Piel Island, including the running of the Ship Inn, maintaining the toilet block and the Island grounds was undertaken by the holders of a lease from the Council. The Leaseholders had decided before the end of their lease that they wished to terminate the arrangement.

Ensuring that Piel Island could be shown to its best advantage, the Council needed to fully understand its full potential for the future. To enable the Ship Inn to re-open after a period of closure and early termination of the lease had taken considerable effort from a team of Council Officers who had volunteered to go over to Piel Island and repaint it, organise deep cleaning and deal with a range of other issues. This had been done within a couple of weeks to then enable the Council to show prospective interested partners around the premises.

For the last season and in the light of the impact of Covid, a pilot partnership approach had been put in place with a provider to truly understand what the longer-term management arrangements might look like to make the best of Piel Island for all. The provider was a local company that had experience in running pubs and they subsequently established the Piel Island Pub Company. The arrangement had been that it would be from June to September 2021 and be open book accounting to understand the cost and income from Piel Island.



The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been looking at the arrangements for the management of Piel Island as part of their Work Programme for the year. The Work Group wished to ensure that any long-term future management arrangements for Piel Island would be considered thoroughly and in an open and transparent manner.

Scope of the Review

The Work Group wished to ensure that any long-term future management arrangements for Piel Island would be considered thoroughly in an open and transparent manner to ensure that a suitable and experienced operator would be appointed.

Details of the Review

Members of the Work Group had visited Piel Island and had attended a number of meetings with the Director of People and Place during the review.

The Work Group had concluded the following lessons learnt from the 2021 season:-

- Piel Island was a unique place and any operator needed to appreciate the constraints offered by power, weather, access and its location within an area of Site of Special Scientific Interest;
- Visitors to Piel Island were short stay and wanted a basic meal and drink;
- Camping and paying a small fee for that was popular;
- The relationship with the ferry operator and the management arrangements for Piel Island were really important;
- Alternative access arrangements off the island besides the ferry needed to be in place;
- More outside seating was needed to facilitate visitors;
- The community ownership of Piel Island and its local appeal and natural habitat was really important;
- There were no incidents of anti-social behaviour reported, which was contrary to perception;
- Any operator needed to manage and maintain the Island and its assets to a standard that the Council expects;
- All aspects of the Island except for external urgent repairs to the buildings and jetty maintenance would be the responsibility of the operator;
- Emergency planning for incidents with agencies was an essential part of any future management arrangements;
- There was potential for events and Piel Island is an essential element of any destination marketing. Any operator would need a formal relationship with the Council to enable this;
- Communications about Piel Island and whether buildings are open and food and drink is being served would be the responsibility of the operator; and
- Any operator needed experience in operating a licenced premises and with access to staff, financial sustainability and be prepared to open for a short period of the year whilst retaining responsibility for the premises and the Island all year round.

At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16th December, 2021 a detailed report had been presented from the Director of People and Place regarding the future management arrangements of Piel Island. The Committee considered the report and agreed a number of recommendations to the Executive Committee as follows:-



- Agree to the proposed management arrangements as set out in the report and delegate authority to the Director of People and Place, in consultation with the Chair of Executive Committee, to undertake the procurement process and award the new contract;
- Note their appreciation for the work that officers put into getting the Ship Inn ready to be re-opened this season at very short notice;
- Note the lessons learnt from the partnership approach and thank the Piel Island Pub Company for their contribution; and
- Note that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Piel Island Working Group will continue to receive progress updates.

The Committee had welcomed the plan for the future management arrangements of Piel Island but the Work Group needed to understand what had happened in the past, in terms of the selection process for the temporary operator for the 2021 season. A number of questions in that regard had been raised at the meeting which had been taken forward to a meeting of the Work Group in January 2022.

Conclusions

Following further discussions with the Director of People and Place at the Work Group meeting in January 2022, the Work Group had concluded that they were satisfied that due process had been followed to set up the partnership arrangements for the 2021 season and that the Officers involved had done a fantastic job in the short space of time and other challenges faced, including Covid, to get the Island and the Pub up and running for the start of the season and to make Piel Island and its facilities available as often as possible for visitors during the 2021 season.

In respect of the long-term future management arrangements for Piel Island, it had been noted as per the recommendations to the Executive Committee, that an open and transparent procurement process had been undertaken to award the new contract and the Work Group had welcomed the opportunity for them to oversee the Scoring Panel for the Tender submissions.

The Work Group has made the following recommendations to the Executive Committee in order to conclude the review:-

- Clear, concise and agreed requirements to be set for the tenant who is selected;
- A targeted media campaign to be established to find the most suitably qualified tenant;
- Members of the Piel Island Scrutiny Work Group to be given the opportunity to oversee the scoring process;
- Visibility to Members of profit/loss e.g. performance management information on a regular basis (3 times annually);
- All Members to be kept fully updated on activities, performance and issues etc encountered by the Council and the Tenant at least twice annually or more frequently as necessary;
- Consideration be given to a Piel Island Member Group.



Memorial Benches

Membership of Work Group	Cllrs Cassidy (Lead), McEwan and McClure.
Key Priority	Place
Review Status	Concluded October 2021

Background

The style and number of memorial benches appearing around the Borough had been raised as a concern.

Scope of the Review

The aim of the review was to ensure that some consistency could be applied to the siting and style of memorial benches throughout the Borough.

Details of the review

Following discussions with the Director of People and Place, the Work Group established that a set of guidelines for the installation of memorial benches within the Council Cemeteries existed but there was no equivalent set of guidelines for the installation of memorial benches on Barrow Borough Council owned land outside of Council Cemeteries. This had resulted in an ad hoc approach to the siting of benches and no clear position on quality of installation and maintenance.

A draft policy for Memorial Benches encompassing the siting on Barrow Borough Council owned land as well as Cemeteries had been reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 28th October, 2021.

Conclusions

The Committee had been satisfied with the Policy and had recommended that Executive Committee approve the policy which was approved on 10th November, 2021.

Crellin Street

Membership of Work Group	Cllrs McEwan (Lead), Cassidy, Gawne, McClure and M.A. Thomson
Key Priority	People/Place
Review Status	Paused March 2022

Background

The Covid-19 Pandemic had seen a marked increase in the takeaway food delivery business. The Scrutiny Committee had been made aware of 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.



Scope of the Review

Following the initial meeting of the Work Group, 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.

Cumbria County Council Cabinet at their meeting on 17th March, 2022 had resolved to support Barrow Local Committee's request and agreed to 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. Cabinet had also noted the work of the multi-agency working group which was co-ordinating and targeting enforcement action against vehicles which are inappropriately parked, where the devolved powers from DVLA would not address this issue. The Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 24th March 2022 had agreed to pause the review on that basis.

Membership of Outside Bodies

Membership of Work Group	N/A
Key Priority	People
Review Status	Concluded May 2021

Details of the review

The Council allocated resource to offering representation on a significant number of outside bodies. Members had stated that there could be a better understanding of the benefits of the Council being represented on some of these bodies. Members had wanted to rationalise the list so that Member representation was meaningful and agreed that a Scrutiny Work Group should review this.

A Work Group was never established, however a review of Council representation on outside bodies had been undertaken by the Corporate Support Manager and the list of Outside Bodies had been reduced, removing those which had not been active within the last two years.

At full Council in September 2020 it had been agreed that Members on Outside Bodies should be requested to provide an annual report to Council on the work of the body and its contribution to the Borough and the wider area.

The annual reporting process for Lead Members and Members on Outside Bodies is now captured by Democratic Services and reported to the Annual Council meeting.

Impact of Covid-19 going Forward

Membership of Work Group	Cllrs McEwan (Lead), Cassidy, McClure and McLeavy
Key Priority	People/Place/Prosperity
Review Status	Ongoing



Background

The Scrutiny Committee had agreed that Covid-19 had been an unprecedented challenge to the Council and other organisations. It was clear that going forward, the Council would be delivering a lot of its services in different ways. The Committee had agreed that a Work Group should be established to review the way these changes were managed to ensure the impact on local people was considered and the changes were implemented and communicated in the best way possible.

Scope of the Review

It was agreed that the review should include:-

- Understanding the Council's response and what had been learnt and applying that going forward. Sharing best practice across the Borough was essential to ensure maximised benefit of initiatives;
- Ensuring that Officers and Members were equipped to operate on-site and off-site and that equipment could be upgraded remotely with a minimum amount of disruption;
- Ensuring that the Council was clear about its role and that it was transparent to other organisations and to residents; and
- The impact that different ways of working by industry, retail and hospitality may have on the economic future of the Borough.

Details of the Review

In respect of the processing of grants during lockdown, the Work Group had met with the Director of Resources to obtain an overview of the process and to look at individual examples to ensure the process was being applied correctly.

In respect of IT equipment, the Executive Committee had approved an IT project which would improve security and reliability of their systems and provide improved communications for Officers and Members. The project was ongoing and would include the issue of new IT equipment for Members.

The work group monitoring the impact of Covid-19 had focussed on the following:

Issue of Focus	Comments/Progress
The latest business Grants process following the National Lockdown.	The Work Group had an overview of the process and had looked at individual examples to ensure the process was being applied.
Availability of Covid-19 testing in the Borough.	The Work Group had been satisfied that there was sufficient provision.
Support provided by the Council for premises in the area to prepare them for re-opening.	Information had been gathered from Public Protection.
Monitoring the provision of and the activities of the Covid Marshalls.	Information had been gathered from Public Protection.
Monitoring published Covid-19 related clinical data including:- case numbers, hospital admissions and fatalities in the area.	The Work Group had received regular updates from Graham Barker, Head of Public Protection and Colin Cox, Director of Public Health for Cumbria County Council.



Looking Ahead to 2022/2023

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are responsible for setting their own Work Programme. They are expected to review at least one major policy issue during the municipal year and must give serious consideration to the number of issues to be reviewed during the year, to ensure that they are able to allocate resources sufficient to facilitate a thorough review of the issues selected.

An efficient and effective Overview and Scrutiny Work Planning process ensures that maximum value can be made of the Council's resources and that the outcome of the work will be closely linked to the Council Plan priorities. To that end the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the following procedure for work programming:-

- ❑ Annual public consultation exercise to bring forward potential items for consideration;
- ❑ Preliminary prioritisation of submissions conducted by the Chair and Vice Chair and the Council's Senior Management Team using the agreed Work Planning Aid (see page 12);
- ❑ A Work Planning Workshop involving the Committee members to allow discussion of the topics in an informal setting; and
- ❑ The proposed Work Programme to be agreed by the Committee.

At its meeting on 24th March 2022, Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had agreed:-

The following new items for the Work Programme for 2022/2023 in the priority order as listed:-

- ❑ Review of the Memorial Benches Policy six month's following implementation;
- ❑ Review of Customer Strategy and Action Plan;
- ❑ Review of the Growing Forward Report and Acton Plan;
- ❑ Review of Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy;
- ❑ Review of Equality Strategy and Action Plan; and

That the following items which had been paused or were ongoing from 2021/2022 would be carried forward into 2022/2023:-

- ❑ Crellin Street (paused);
- ❑ Discretionary Housing Payments (resumed)
- ❑ Flooding on Walney Promenade (paused); and
- ❑ Impact of Covid-19 going Forward (ongoing);

It is important that all of the reviews are concluded during the municipal year as under the proposals for Local Government Reorganisation, Barrow Borough Council will be abolished come 31st March, 2023.

The Committee may have the capacity to undertake additional reviews throughout the year should the need arise. Any additional items for consideration will be considered in conjunction with the Work Planning Aid (see page 13) agreed by the Committee at their meeting on 16th December, 2021.



Scrutiny Contact Details

Paula Westwood

Scrutiny and Democratic Services Team Leader

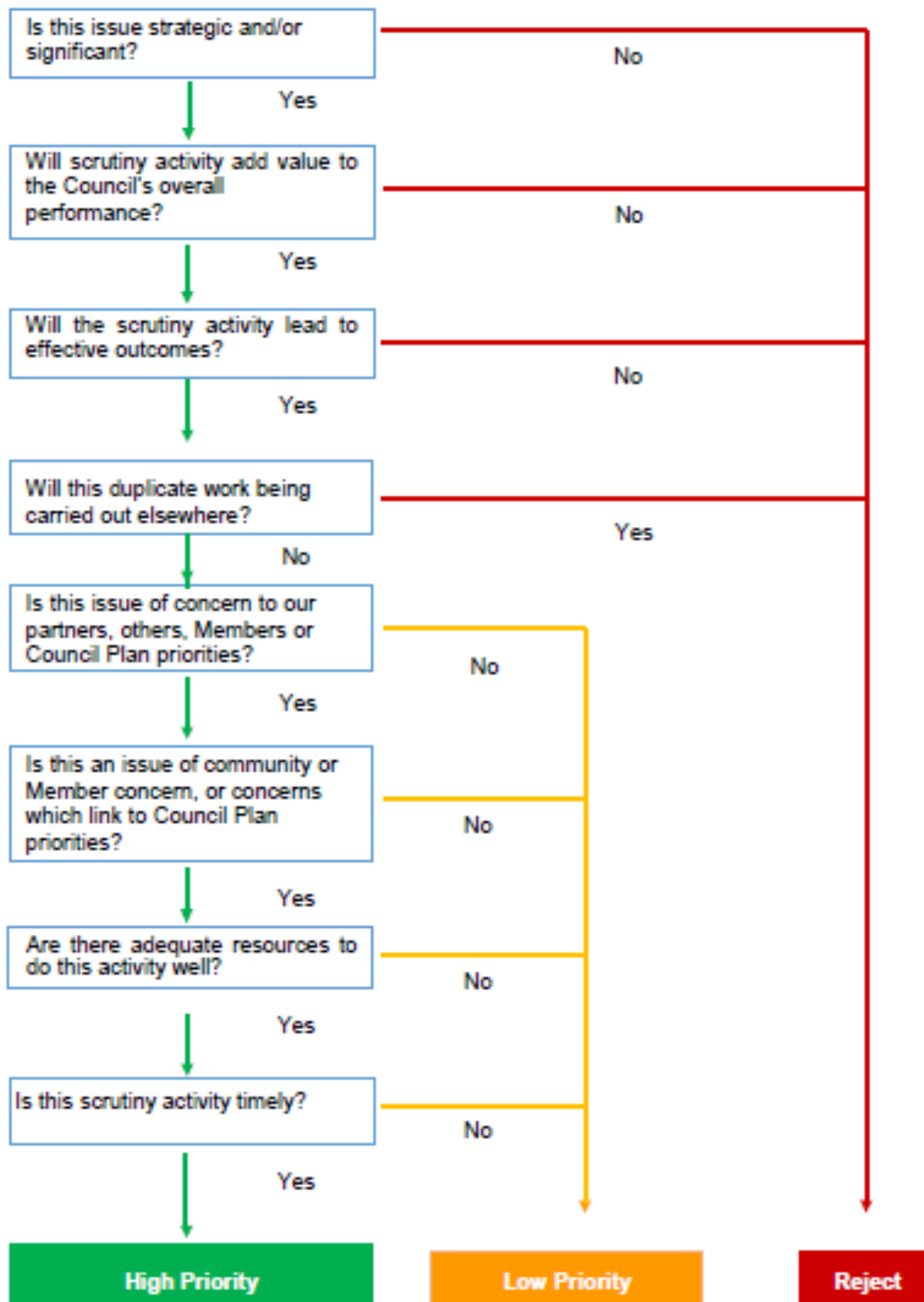
Tel:- 01229 876322

E-mail:- pwestwood@barrowbc.gov.uk

Further information on the Scrutiny function including agendas, minutes and Councillor details can be found on the Council's website:- www.barrowbc.gov.uk



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLANNING AID



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PART ONE

**Barrow Borough Council
Council
Wednesday, 18 May 2022
Annual Report of Audit and Governance Committee**

Report from: Director of Resources
Report Author: Debbie Storr, Head of Legal and Governance
Wards: (All Wards);

1.0 Summary and Conclusions

1.1 This report is presented to summarise the activities of the Audit and Governance Committee during the 2021/22 Council year.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 **It is recommended that Council receives the Audit and Governance Committee's Annual Report for 2021/22.**

3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 This report brings forward an Annual Report from the Audit and Governance Committee on its work for the Council year. It details how the Audit and Governance Committee has fulfilled its Terms of Reference during this period by delivering the work programme and shows the effectiveness of the Committee.

3.2 Members are recommended to receive the report from the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee

4.0 Consultation

4.1 The draft Annual Report was considered and endorsed by Audit and Governance Committee on 27 April 2022.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 There are no alternative options, the report is to receive.

6.0 Contribution to Council Plan Priorities

6.1 Good governance underpins all of the council's priorities and objectives.

7.0 Implications

7.1 Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1.1 This report has no direct financial, resource or procurement implications.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 There are no direct legal implications of this report.

7.3 Local Government Reorganisation

7.3.1 Not applicable

7.4 Equality and Diversity

7.4.1 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No – not applicable for this report.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
------	-------------	-------------------

Contact Officers

Susan Roberts- sroberts@barrowbc.gov.uk

Appendices Attached to this Report – *If none, please state none or delete section*

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Annual Report for Audit and Governance Committee 2021/22

Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
None	

Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee

Foreword

The Annual Report records how the Audit and Governance Committee provides the independence, questioning, and thoroughness required across a wide range of internal control, corporate governance, and financial reporting matters.

The work undertaken and summarised in this report indicates the breadth of the Audit and Governance Committee's coverage across the Council's work in terms of compliance with standards and best practice.

During 2021-2022 the Council was faced with tackling recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and for the Audit and Governance Committee in particular, Committee business deferred from 2020-2021 due to COVID-19 new duties was incorporated into the 2021-2022 Work Plan.

The Audit and Governance Committee were made aware of, and supported, the work that Internal Audit carried out to maintain the required level of assurance relating to the Council's activities.

The Audit and Governance Committee were also made aware of the COVID-19 duties undertaken by the Revenues and Benefits Department, and Finance Department, in delivering the various grant and relief schemes; the Committee understood the pressures that these schemes created and supported officers in dealing with and recovering from the operational impacts as a consequence.

Looking forward, the Council continues to face a period of change to continue the recovery from COVID-19, to implement Local Government Reorganisation, to deliver significant major funding programmes, and to comply with statutory requirements.

Having a strong Audit and Governance Committee is essential to ensure that the Council achieves its objectives effectively.

The Work Programme ensures that the Terms of Reference are fulfilled, and that the Committee is effective.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge the excellent work of the members of the Audit and Governance Committee and the supporting officers during the past year.

Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee

Introduction

The Annual Report intends to provide Members of the Council with details of the work carried out by the Audit and Governance Committee during the Council year ended April 2022. The report also details how the Audit and Governance Committee has fulfilled its Terms of Reference during this period.

Background

The Audit and Governance Committee provides assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment; provides scrutiny of the authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weaknesses in the control environment and oversees the financial reporting process.

The Committee's specific powers and duties are set out in the Constitution and agreed each year at the Annual General Meeting.

The Audit and Governance Committee is a key component of corporate governance and provides an important source of assurance about the Council's arrangements for managing risk, maintaining an effective control environment, and reporting on financial and other performance.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) issues guidance to local authorities to help ensure that audit committees are operating effectively. The guidance recommends that audit committees should report annually on how they have discharged their responsibilities.

Work Undertaken and Findings

The Audit and Governance Committee has met on five occasions in the year since May 2021, in accordance with its Work Programme.

During this period, the Committee has assessed the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements, control environment and associated counter fraud arrangements through regular reports from officers, the internal auditors, and the external auditors, Grant Thornton. The Committee has sought assurance that action has been taken, or is otherwise planned, by management to address any risk related issues that have been identified by the auditors during this period. The Committee has also sought to ensure that effective relationships continue to be maintained between the internal and external auditors, and between the auditors and management.

The Audit and Governance Committee is satisfied that the Council has maintained an adequate and effective control framework through the period covered by this report.

The specific work undertaken by the Committee is set out below.

Financial Statements

- Considered and approved the Statement of Accounts for 2020-2021 of the Council.
- Signed the 'letter of representation' to confirm that the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the Council financial position of Barrow Borough Council as of 31 March 2021 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended in accordance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.
- Received and considered the relevance of the going concern concept for the preparation of the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 accounting statements. Committee discussed the impact of Local Government Reorganisation and concluded that the going concern concept remained relevant.
- Received and considered the accounting policies to be applied in the preparation of the 2021-2022 accounting statements.

Audit Activity: External Audit

- Received and considered the external auditor's Annual Audit Letter in respect of the 2019-2020 audit year. The Committee was pleased to note that the external auditors had not raised any significant issues and had given an unqualified audit opinion for the accounts. The value for money conclusion was unqualified except for the arrangements for ensuring policies and procedures in relation to procurement and contract management are followed.
- Received and considered the external auditor's Audit Findings Report in respect of the 2020-2021 audit year. The Committee was pleased to note that the external auditors had not raised any significant issues and had given an unqualified audit opinion for the accounts. The 2020-2021 value for money conclusion will be presented at the meeting to be held in July 2022.
- Received and considered the external auditor's Housing Benefit Assurance Process letter in respect of the 2019-2020 claim year.
- Recommended that Council continue to participate in the sector-led appointment of external auditors by Public Sector Audit Appointments. The Committee noted the benefits of this approach and it was noted that a Cumbria-wide opt-in was recommended by officers given local government reorganisation.

Audit Activity: Internal Audit

- Continued to oversee the internal audit arrangements for the Council. This has included approving the Internal Audit plan for 2022-2023. Received and considered the results of internal audit work performed in respect of the 2021-2022 agreed plan. Monitored the progress made by management during the period to address identified control weaknesses.
- The 2022-2023 plan ensures that the limited internal audit resources are prioritised towards those systems and areas which are considered to be the highest risk or which contribute most to the achievement of the Council's corporate objectives.
- Monitored the delivery of the annual Internal Audit plans through regular update reports presented by the Head of Internal Audit including whistleblowing.
- Considered the Council's overall counter fraud arrangements in the light of emerging risks.
- Received and considered the Annual Report of the Head of Internal Audit for 2020-2021 which provided an overall opinion on the Council's control environment. The Head of Internal Audit confirmed that the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control provided substantial assurance.
- Received the results of a self-assessment on the effectiveness of the Internal Audit function.

Regulatory Framework: Risk Management

- Continued to oversee the Council's risk management arrangements.
- Reviewed the progress made by the Council to identify and address corporate risks. This included consideration of the updated Corporate Risk Register at each meeting. The Committee recognised that many of the risks identified were complex in nature and/or had potentially significant financial implications.

Regulatory Framework: Corporate Governance

- Considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2020-2021 of the Council. The Committee also reviewed and agreed an updated Code of Governance which evidences how the Council meets the governance principles.
- Considered and recommended that Council adopt the 2021 LGA Code of Conduct; the Committee acknowledged that the local Code provisions were covered in the 2021 Code.
- There were no Code of Conduct complaints which required a hearing sub-committee during 2020-2021.
- Received the procurement review which covers purchases, tendering and contracts; the review included revisions to the Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations which were also received.

Regulatory Framework: Other

- Received the Local Government Ombudsman Annual Report along with the complaints and compliments performance in relation to 2020-2021.
- Received the results of a review of the Council's Anti-Fraud Policies which are based on the CIPFA code of practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and corruption. Members noted that there are effective and appropriate processes in place to prevent, detect and investigate instances of fraud and corruption.
- Received the results of a self-assessment on the effectiveness of the Audit and Governance Committee.

Other work

- Reviewed the Committee's Terms of Reference and concluded that no changes were required.
- Established the Audit and Governance Committee Work Plan to ensure that the committee business is planned and Terms of Reference fulfilled.
- Received the results of a review of the Council's Standards Arrangements.
- Received the results of a review of the employee register of gifts and hospitality, and the councillor registers of pecuniary and other interests.
- Instructed the Head of Legal and Governance to review the Relocation Policy following which a revised Policy was subsequently presented to the Executive Committee for approval and adoption.

Conclusion

The Audit and Governance Committee fulfils a technical and challenging role, seeking assurance from officers and external experts that the risks and threats to the Council are identified and suitably addressed, and that the financial statements produced are accurate and reliable. It is in seeking this assurance that the Committee "adds value" to the rest of Barrow Borough Council.

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BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL - MEMBER ANNUAL FEEDBACK

Councillor	Ann Thomson
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ROLES	List of Committees, Partnerships, Outside Bodies, Forums and Groups on which you represent the Council in this role
Leader of the Council	Leader of Council
Deputy Leader of the Council	
Committee Chair	
Lead Member	
Outside Bodies	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have been the key issues in your role this year? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid 19 Response and plans for Recovery • Towns Deal Board and Sub groups • Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) • Making sure Members are updated with what is going on through Briefings • The way the Council grows forward • Attending Leaders Meetings with the other Cumbrian Districts • Working with 32 West to make sure the residents are aware of what we are doing • Working in Partnership with our County Colleagues on joint projects • Putting forward policies on Climate Change and have a Climate Change Citizens Jury, and to do A Poverty Truth Commission
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have those issues been dealt with? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been a strange year with the Town Hall being open but not open and everyone who wants to working from home. Our staff have adapted marvellously, the workload has been tremendous this year, what with the extra Covid stuff like grants, the extra housing benefit claims and of course the bids we have been putting in for various projects, having to track and trace, the list is endless but our staff have risen to the challenges put before them magnificently and I would like to thank them all. Now we must be aware of any health or mental health problems the staff are facing as we gradually start to return to normal, so if anyone is feeling stressed or a bit nervous about returning to work PLEASE come forward so we can help you. • The most important meeting of the week is our Leadership team meeting where we meet to discuss things that are going on and make plans for future projects. We have a vibrant and brilliant officer management team and they have worked wonders this year under difficult circumstances.

- I am a member of the Towns deal Board which successfully got £25 million from the Towns Deal Fund to do projects in the town. The full business cases for our projects have been accepted by government so they can all now go ahead. Thanks to everyone working on these it has been a real partnership. Planning permission has been granted for the remedial works on Marina Village and the application has come in and been verified for the University Campus. It is exciting times for our Borough.
- We were awarded £16 million Levelling Up Fund and this will make exciting improvements to the Market, forum and the space behind the market. We also got some Shared prosperity funding and we are working on what to use this for now.
- We have been working flat out on LGR. I meet with Leaders and Deputies from across Westmorland and Furness every week, and also the Cumbria Leaders Oversight Board where we discuss options for the future of key services. I have been working to make sure our Borough gets the best from the reorganisation. By the time you are reading this the Shadow Authority Elections will have taken place and we will know the shape of the new authority. Myself and our group will work tirelessly to make sure our residents get the services they deserve.
- We have held countless all member briefings on all that is going on because I firmly believe that the more information a councillor has the better they can do their job.
- We as a Council are working towards completely changing how we work and that means putting the resident at the heart of everything we do. This is reflected in our Council Plan, our constellations project and our Growing Forward Reports. It is a very challenging way of working, completely new and it is taking all of us a while to get to grips with it - but we will.
- We continue to work in partnership with our County colleagues on joint projects and this is going from strength to strength. Partnership working is the way forward and I think we are good at it. We will need the input of all our partners to make sure LGR is a success.
- We continue on with our work on Climate Change and the working group has devised an action plan and targets for us to become carbon neutral. We have successfully run a Climate Change Jury and the recommendations from this will be coming to an executive and Council. The Poverty Truth Commission which will get to the bottom of the generational poverty has started. I am really looking forward to this ongoing. Our Low carbon Project is going ahead full steam and electric charging points are being installed in our car parks, and solar panels on some of our council housing stock.

• **What still needs to be done?**

- How long is a piece of string? We have to keep going with all the above and make sure our last year as Barrow Borough is one to remember.
- We need to make sure we deliver on our ambitious towns deal plans, Heritage Zone Area, Low Carbon barrow, Levelling Up and make sure we put ourselves in a good position to bid for any other government monies that come forward.
- We hope the governance review we are undertaking comes out positive and we can elect a Town Council next year.
- We need to work with the Shadow Authority to make sure a clear transition of services.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you aware of any issues coming within the next 6 months? What are you concerned about? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My main concern apart from LGR is the cost of living crisis, our residents are going to be suffering because of the rise in fuel and food costs. We will have to work with our partners to come up with creative solutions. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any matters to be taken forward? (e.g. to be raised at Leadership, Executive, Scrutiny or Council) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the matters I deal with will end up at some committee of the Council 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating Success – Are there any success stories you would like to share? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think the main success of the past year has been the way the Council Staff and Members have adapted to the new way of working and the way our staff have risen to meet all the challenges put in front of them. It has been nothing short of miraculous, and we should be so proud of them. • I think we should be proud of our partnership working both with the county, third sector and private sector organisations which has brought innovation to all our services and to all the bids we have put in. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other comments? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is just a snapshot of what I do, if I wrote down everything in detail this would have been ten pages long and I would have been in trouble. • Let's go forward and put our innovative policies and plans in action and make sure our residents are at the heart of everything we do 	
Date	30th April 2022

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BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL - MEMBER ANNUAL FEEDBACK

Councillor	Ann Thomson
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ROLES	List of Committees, Partnerships, Outside Bodies, Forums and Groups on which you represent the Council in this role
Leader of the Council	
Deputy Leader of the Council	
Committee Chair	
Lead Member	Cleaner, Greener Streets
Outside Bodies	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have been the key issues in your role this year? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts • Recycling • Policies • Service Issues with external contractor.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have those issues been dealt with? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have continued to work with APSE and DEFRA to support an increase in the level of recycling collected by our external contractor. Policies which enable us to tackle flytipping, litter and abandoned vehicles have been agreed by Executive Committee and the recent restructure of the team has meant that we have a new safe and strong communities team which will focus on engagement, education and enforcement. We are keen to develop even stronger links with our communities and the groups of volunteers that do community clean ups are doing a great job and taking pride in their local areas. • We have developed well received local campaigns to deal with issues with waste and recycling collections and this includes a leaflet drop to every home so that people know what they can and can't put in their recycling bin. Plus, targeted social media in areas with the highest problems to raise awareness. • Work to get a frequency based street cleansing schedule agreed with our external contractor is ongoing to enable the contract monitoring to be effective. A good example is the lack of cleaning of the A590 which has now been done due to the persistence of officers on behalf of the community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What still needs to be done? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGR and the contract end date of 31 March 2024 means that big decisions need to be made in the next months about waste collection services and future delivery mechanisms.

• Are you aware of any issues coming within the next 6 months? What are you concerned about?

Same as above

- **Are there any matters to be taken forward? (e.g. to be raised at Leadership, Executive, Scrutiny or Council)**
- Waste will be a continuous subject matter at Leadership team, and more policies will be forthcoming to exec.

• Celebrating Success – Are there any success stories you would like to share?

- Any small win is a success on the subject of Waste. As above on the campaigns and clean ups.

• Any other comments?

Members have been confidentially kept briefed about our waste collection service.

Date	30th April 2022
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BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL - MEMBER ANNUAL FEEDBACK

Councillor	Derek Brook
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ROLES	List of Committees, Partnerships, Outside Bodies, Forums and Groups on which you represent the Council in this role
Leader of the Council	
Deputy Leader of the Council	
Committee Chair	Chair of Executive Committee
Lead Member	
Outside Bodies	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What have been the key issues in your role this year?
<p>Local Government reorganisation (LGR). Life Leisure and Waste contracts. Numerous bids for government funding.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How have those issues been dealt with?
<p>On all issues we have kept members up to date by all member briefings outside the formal committee cycle. LGR is ongoing and by the time this report is circulated we will have had the first Westmorland and Furness elections. As a result of the ending of the Borough, we launched a consultation about whether to Parish Barrow. The ending of Life Leisure resulted in the Council creating a new council owned company to manage the Leisure Centre - Barrow Forward. There has been ongoing negotiation over issues with the waste contract to which solutions are being explored. Despite the above distractions, the staff have made a number of successful applications for funding and we have involved numerous partners in the projects.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What still needs to be done?
<p>This will be the last year of the Borough Council so all issues will have to be resolved or handed to the new Authority. LGR will be ongoing until staff and assets/liabilities are transferred to the new council. This year will see major expenditure start on the market hall/forum, local community hubs, cycling and walking infrastructure and new university campus. These will involve more detailed consultation with our community.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are you aware of any issues coming within the next 6 months? What are you concerned about?
<p>LGR will dominate the next year. We need to ensure services are continued so that our community and staff do not suffer from the transition.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any matters to be taken forward? (e.g. to be raised at Leadership, Executive, Scrutiny or Council)

• Celebrating Success – Are there any success stories you would like to share?	
The numerous successful bids will have a major positive impact on the town. These have been promoted through the BrilliantBarrow comms team. The proposed university campus is the most exciting of the projects - I look forward to seeing the first students arrive in Furness!	
• Any other comments?	
As indicated above, as Chair of the Executive I have fully supported regular briefings for all members on the key issues. I think this has been appreciated by members who are not on the Executive so they don't find out about major issues after decisions have been made.	
Date	28.4.22

BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL - MEMBER ANNUAL FEEDBACK

Councillor	Derek Brook
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ROLES	List of Committees, Partnerships, Outside Bodies, Forums and Groups on which you represent the Council in this role
Leader of the Council	
Deputy Leader of the Council	
Committee Chair	
Lead Member	Community
Outside Bodies	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What have been the key issues in your role this year?
<p>Recovery from Covid. Ongoing public consultation about the Towns Deal and other major projects (particularly the community hubs, town centre and walking and cycling) and consultation about a possible future town council.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How have those issues been dealt with?
<p>We had a small group to allocate funding to local projects to help our community recover from covid. The group managed to allocate all the possible funding allowed despite short deadlines.</p> <p>As a member of the BrilliantBarrow Comms group, I have assisted in the wider consultation processes through social media and also events. I have regularly attended all meetings about the community hubs and town centre and the cycling and walking plan</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What still needs to be done?
<p>The above consultations are ongoing with a change from outline principles' to detail.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are you aware of any issues coming within the next 6 months? What are you concerned about?
<p>The rise in the cost of living, especially gas and electricity is worrying and is likely to lead and could have widespread impacts in our community.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any matters to be taken forward? (e.g. to be raised at Leadership, Executive, Scrutiny or Council)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrating Success – Are there any success stories you would like to share?
<p>In my ward, Ormsgill Stronger Together have just opened a community fridge project in partnership with the Coop. This is aimed at reducing food waste and also helping some of our most vulnerable residents. This has just started as a pilot and may be tried in other parts of the town and include other major food providers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other comments?
<p>In the last few years, the Council's relationship with the community sector has significantly improved. Luckily this was already beginning to happen before covid, but</p>

there is no doubt covid increased the pace of change. I think our partnership with the community sector is stronger than it has ever been. Hopefully this will continue in the new council.

Date	4.5.22
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BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL - MEMBER ANNUAL FEEDBACK

Councillor	Derek Brook
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ROLES	List of Committees, Partnerships, Outside Bodies, Forums and Groups on which you represent the Council in this role
Leader of the Council	
Deputy Leader of the Council	
Committee Chair	
Lead Member	
Outside Bodies	North West Employers https://nwemployers.org.uk/

<p>• What have been the key issues in your role this year?</p> <p>NWE consists of the Local Authorities and similar organisations (e.g. Police and Fire authorities) in the north west and it provides support to its members. I represent Barrow Council on their Executive Committee and am currently vice chair. NWE provides support to key internal services such as HR and democratic services and also provides training for councillors.</p> <p>I sit on the Executive which oversees the annual programme and finances.</p> <p>Key issues in the last year have included supporting organisation in the newer ways of working forced by covid; supporting the reorganisation in Cumbria; and rolling out a new induction programme for new councillors.</p>
<p>• How have those issues been dealt with?</p> <p>Executive meetings have all been online since covid. As vice chair I have attended all of the executive meetings. At our last meeting, we agreed the budget and priorities for the next year.</p> <p>NWE have played a key role behind the scenes in LGA, supporting staff and assisting with the appointment of the interim staff.</p>
<p>• What still needs to be done?</p> <p>Cumbria's LGA will continue until vesting day in 2023. However, the general work supporting Local Authorities is ongoing.</p>
<p>• Are you aware of any issues coming within the next 6 months? What are you concerned about?</p> <p>The rise in the cost of living, especially gas and electricity is worrying and is likely to lead to and could have widespread impacts in our community. NWE provides a valuable network of north west partners (at officer and member levels) where we can discuss ways to deal with such issues and learn from each other.</p>
<p>• Are there any matters to be taken forward? (e.g. to be raised at Leadership, Executive, Scrutiny or Council)</p>

• Celebrating Success – Are there any success stories you would like to share?	
The new member training sessions have been well received. Members (including myself and Cllr Morgan from Barrow) assisted in developing the programme and it was rolled out in 2021/2.	
• Any other comments?	
Most of the direct support from NWE is at staff level but it provides valuable opportunities for networking and sharing good (or warning of bad.....) practice.	
Date	4.5.22

BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL - MEMBER ANNUAL FEEDBACK

Councillor	Lee Roberts
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ROLES	List of Committees, Partnerships, Outside Bodies, Forums and Groups on which you represent the Council in this role
Leader of the Council	
Deputy Leader of the Council	Deputy Leader Barrow Borough Council
Committee Chair	
Lead Member	
Outside Bodies	

1. What have been the key issues in your role this year?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The covid-19 pandemic has continued to be a key issue over this year. Capacity and resources are pressured by the work preparing for the formation of the new unitary council. And the cost of living crisis is escalating. 	
2. How have those issues been dealt with?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are many ways these issues have been dealt with, the work to support our residents has been immense by the council and the support organisations and I want to thank everyone for that. The pressure on resources from local government reform are being managed by the senior management team. 	
3. What still needs to be done?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wellbeing of our communities, their health and financial circumstances requires focus during pandemic recovery and the cost of living crisis. 	
4. Are you aware of any issues coming within the next 6 months? What are you concerned about?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the Borough it is the recovery from the pandemic and the worsening cost of living crisis. For the council the workload and capacity to do everything we need to will be a challenge. We need to continue to ensure our staff and looked after during the transition to the new unitary council especially their health and wellbeing. 	
5. Are there any matters to be taken forward? (e.g. to be raised at Leadership, Executive, Scrutiny or Council)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My role allows me to take any matters forward. 	
6. Celebrating Success – Are there any success stories you would like to share?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm very pleased with the progress of the Poverty truth Commission and of the Climate Emergency Citizen Jury this year. 	
7. Any other comments?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
Date	20/04/2022

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BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL - MEMBER ANNUAL FEEDBACK

Councillor	Lee Roberts
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ROLES	List of Committees, Partnerships, Outside Bodies, Forums and Groups on which you represent the Council in this role
Leader of the Council	
Deputy Leader of the Council	
Committee Chair	
Lead Member	Economic Development and Strategic Partnerships
Outside Bodies	

1. What have been the key issues in your role this year?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring any economic development opportunities focus on benefitting local people and communities and the local economy, maximising the impact of any funding. 	
2. How have those issues been dealt with?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the framing of funding bids, the requirements in contracts and the adoption of the principles of being an anchor institution. 	
3. What still needs to be done?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will be very important the new Westmorland and Furness unitary shadow council seek economic development opportunities which benefit local communities and have social impact wired into processes for all funding/spend. 	
4. Are you aware of any issues coming within the next 6 months? What are you concerned about?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of the ongoing work in preparation for the new unitary council on the ongoing Barrow Borough Council work. 	
5. Are there any matters to be taken forward? (e.g. to be raised at Leadership, Executive, Scrutiny or Council)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matters are already being considered. 	
6. Celebrating Success – Are there any success stories you would like to share?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout the pandemic and the resource pressures of local government reform the council has continued to successfully bid for funding and progress all the ongoing projects. A big thank you to everyone involved. 	
7. Any other comments?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	
Date	20/04/2022

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BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL - MEMBER ANNUAL FEEDBACK

Councillor	Lee Roberts
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ROLES	List of Committees, Partnerships, Outside Bodies, Forums and Groups on which you represent the Council in this role
Leader of the Council	
Deputy Leader of the Council	
Committee Chair	
Lead Member	Housing Strategy and Homelessness (Excluding Housing Stock)
Outside Bodies	

1. What have been the key issues in your role this year?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The economic pressures on households from the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. 	
2. How have those issues been dealt with?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council tax support, hardship fund and the work of the local support organisations. 	
3. What still needs to be done?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to make sure support and help is available to anyone in need of it. 	
4. Are you aware of any issues coming within the next 6 months? What are you concerned about?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cost of living crisis coming as our communities are still in the recovery stage of the pandemic and the impact on residents to heat their homes, feed their families and pay their bills. 	
5. Are there any matters to be taken forward? (e.g. to be raised at Leadership, Executive, Scrutiny or Council)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues do get raised. 	
6. Celebrating Success – Are there any success stories you would like to share?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work of the council and local organisations in supporting residents during these difficult times. 	
7. Any other comments?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	
Date	20/04/2022

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BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL - MEMBER ANNUAL FEEDBACK

Councillor	Lee Roberts
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ROLES	List of Committees, Partnerships, Outside Bodies, Forums and Groups on which you represent the Council in this role
Leader of the Council	
Deputy Leader of the Council	
Committee Chair	
Lead Member	
Outside Bodies	Keeping Our Future Afloat Campaign; Local Government Association General Assembly; Planning Policy Working Group; South Cumbria Community Safety Partnership

1. What have been the key issues in your role this year?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covid has continued to disrupt meetings of outside bodies this year. KOFAC has restarted meeting now. LGA Conference was virtual last year. SC CSP have just restarted virtual meetings again. Planning Policy working Group has been meeting virtually. So, the key issues have mostly been the gradual restarting of regular meetings. 	
2. How have those issues been dealt with?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	
3. What still needs to be done?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	
4. Are you aware of any issues coming within the next 6 months? What are you concerned about?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How the new unitary council will affect the last year of Barrow Borough Council and how the Barrow issues will be subsumed into the Westmorland and Furness shadow council business. 	
5. Are there any matters to be taken forward? (e.g. to be raised at Leadership, Executive, Scrutiny or Council)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As stated above the formation of the new unitary presents a risk and a pressure on resources which needs to be considered in most aspects of Barrow Borough Council business. 	
6. Celebrating Success – Are there any success stories you would like to share?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
7. Any other comments?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Date	20/04/2022

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BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL - MEMBER ANNUAL FEEDBACK

Councillor	Tony Callister
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ROLES	List of Committees, Partnerships, Outside Bodies, Forums and Groups on which you represent the Council in this role
Leader of the Council	
Deputy Leader of the Council	
Committee Chair	Licensing
Lead Member	
Outside Bodies	

1. What have been the key issues in your role this year?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No such concerns apart from Covid. 	
2. How have those issues been dealt with?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covid remains active. All appropriate safeguards were/are in place. 	
3. What still needs to be done?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued awareness of personal responsibility to others. 	
4. Are you aware of any issues coming within the next 6 months? What are you concerned about?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not aware of any. 	
5. Are there any matters to be taken forward? (e.g. to be raised at Leadership, Executive, Scrutiny or Council)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I believe that full explanations on difficult Licensing decisions should be made public giving reason for committee actions. 	
6. Celebrating Success – Are there any success stories you would like to share?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to function as a committee and continue to show integrity and honesty whilst conducting business relating to Licensing. 	
7. Any other comments?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further comment. 	
Date	27/04/2022

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BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL - MEMBER ANNUAL FEEDBACK

Councillor	Tony Callister
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ROLES	List of Committees, Partnerships, Outside Bodies, Forums and Groups on which you represent the Council in this role
Leader of the Council	
Deputy Leader of the Council	
Committee Chair	
Lead Member	Arts and Culture
Outside Bodies	

1. What have been the key issues in your role this year?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that events are able to happen working within Covid restrictions to enable safety for all participants and audiences. Strategic oversight of a more co-ordinated approach to event management and planning to provide the best experiences for visitors and residents. Working in partnership with arts and culture organisations such as Barrowful and the Heritage Action Zone Cultural Consortium to showcase the talent and history of the Borough. Actively promoting the Borough of Barrow to global media in response to the worldwide interest in managing Piel Island.
2. How have those issues been dealt with?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working collaboratively with Council officers and partners to ensure adequate safeguards are in place for Covid. Always positively promoting the Borough as a destination of choice to the media. Supporting officers to develop a more joined up approach to event planning and management.
3. What still needs to be done?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued risk assessments of events Further funding opportunities for events Continued collaboration with partners
4. Are you aware of any issues coming within the next 6 months? What are you concerned about?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not aware of any.
5. Are there any matters to be taken forward? (e.g. to be raised at Leadership, Executive, Scrutiny or Council)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing of concern.
6. Celebrating Success – Are there any success stories you would like to share?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Festival of Colours was a huge success with over 7,000 people attending. Collaborating with partners worked really well.

- Supporting DropZone to bring the Knife Angel to Barrow, brought in huge numbers to see it and
- Further iconic pieces of art are planned to encourage people into the town centre.
- Queens Jubilee Platinum celebration events are in the planning stages but look incredibly exciting.
- The Forum and Dock Museum events and shows are all going well with strong ticket sales and the staff at both continue to be incredible.

7. Any other comments?

I'd like to thank the officers who have put in so much hard work and effort. I have really enjoyed this new lead member role and look forward to more events that demonstrate how Brilliant Barrow is.

Date	27/04/2022
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BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL - MEMBER ANNUAL FEEDBACK

Councillor	Martin McLeavy
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ROLES	List of Committees, Partnerships, Outside Bodies, Forums and Groups on which you represent the Council in this role
Leader of the Council	
Deputy Leader of the Council	
Committee Chair	Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Lead Member	
Outside Bodies	

1. What have been the key issues in your role this year?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding on Walney Promenade • Discretionary Housing • Management arrangements for Piel Island • Memorial Benches • Impact of Covid-19 • Agreed Scrutiny work planning aid.
2. How have those issues been dealt with?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the above activities have been allocated a Chairperson and supporting Work Group. Regular monthly meetings undertaken with effective reporting back to Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Flooding on Walney Promenade had been paused awaiting a report from United Utilities, Discretionary Housing is being dealt with as a wider concern by Executive Committee. Management of Piel Island is complete but Overview & Scrutiny have required, through process and policy, for regular updates. The Scrutiny work planning aid is being utilised.
3. What still needs to be done?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining items are continuing with the new Work Plan agreed.
4. Are you aware of any issues coming within the next 6 months? What are you concerned about?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues for the next 6 months include continuation of memorial benches, flooding on Walney updates and impact updates of Covid-19. New activities agreed and added to the Work Plan include Equality Strategy and Action Plan, Customer Strategy and Action Plan, Growing Forward Report and Action Plan and the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy. Each of these new activities will be allocated a Chairperson and Work Group.
5. Are there any matters to be taken forward? (e.g. to be raised at Leadership, Executive, Scrutiny or Council)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report including agreed new activities for inclusion on the 2022/2023 Work Programme to be reported to Council in May 2022.
6. Celebrating Success – Are there any success stories you would like to share?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities are worth of note for professionalism that has been afforded to them. The work in regard to the management of Piel Island has been outstanding, with a great deal of work

undertaken by both the Scrutiny Work Group and Officers. A new policy and process has been established with many lessons learned adopted. Successful interviews have taken place as a result of the new policy/process. Well done to all involved.

7. Any other comments?

- It has been a pleasure leading Overview and Scrutiny for the last 3/4 years and I thank all Committee Members and Officers for their sterling work.

Date	06.04.2022
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BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL - MEMBER ANNUAL FEEDBACK

Councillor	Therese Assouad
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ROLES	List of Committees, Partnerships, Outside Bodies, Forums and Groups on which you represent the Council in this role
Leader of the Council	
Deputy Leader of the Council	
Committee Chair	
Lead Member	Climate Change
Outside Bodies	

1. What have been the key issues in your role this year?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping abreast with issues, development and plans relating to climate change globally, nationally and locally. • Representing the Council's plans and initiatives. • Engaging with our residents and business to hear their views, worries and to encourage active participation in working towards solutions.
2. How have those issues been dealt with?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging in dialogue, discussion and informative debates e.g. attending the Climate Change Conference as a Council Spokesperson, also attending and representing the Council at such events as the Citizens Jury, Art Genes Food, Futures and Biodiversity Day, taking part in TV and radio interviews. • Communicating with council officers for current developments re. climate initiatives in Barrow. • Research
3. What still needs to be done?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping the momentum going for the implementation of various initiatives and plans. • More communication with all residents through meetings, discussions, exhibitions, workshops etc. • Ongoing research into all possible solutions to our climate change challenges.
4. Are you aware of any issues coming within the next 6 months? What are you concerned about?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complacency – especially with the cost of living crisis, people may not be able to focus on or afford to make necessary adjustments. • Distractions due to world affairs which can seem more urgent • Impact of LGR in relation to council plans • How we progress in delivering some of our plans and projects. • Adequate resources to carry out changes.
5. Are there any matters to be taken forward? (e.g. to be raised at Leadership, Executive, Scrutiny or Council)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of the role of lead member, I feel that there needs to be more guidance and structure with relevant council officers, too many meetings have been cancelled in the last few months. • Regular briefings would be beneficial.

6. Celebrating Success – Are there any success stories you would like to share?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Citizens Jury – the recommendations it put forward. • Art Genes work especially at the allotment soup project. • Tree planting groups • The councils work to implement many schemes such as using solar panels, electric charge points, holding public consultations. • The new cycle paths. 	
7. Any other comments?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being a lead member is an interesting and fulfilling role, however I think it requires more structure and regular consultations with appropriate officers or groups involved, especially for a subject such as climate change which is so multi-dimensional. 	
Date	6 th May 2022

BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL - MEMBER ANNUAL FEEDBACK

Councillor	Beverly Morgan
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ROLES	List of Committees, Partnerships, Outside Bodies, Forums and Groups on which you represent the Council in this role
Leader of the Council	
Deputy Leader of the Council	
Committee Chair	
Lead Member	Children, Young People and Families and Safeguarding Lead
Outside Bodies	Barrow Locality Children and Families Partnership

1. What have been the key issues in your role this year?

- Safeguarding our most vulnerable residents, those at risk and those in need.
- Providing support for families at an earlier stage to avoid escalation.
- Putting young people’s services at the heart of the local partnership response.

2. How have those issues been dealt with?

SAFEGUARDING

- The development of a council Safeguarding Forum that has oversight of the council’s safeguarding response, referrals and audits.
- Clear and consistent referral processes in place.
- Audit processes in place and used for learning and improvement.
- Safeguarding considered as part of our housing and homelessness response.
- Safeguarding training for staff and members.
- Providing information and advice, including information tailored to the needs of particular vulnerable groups.
- Recognising and encouraging the skills, knowledge, experience, kindness and compassion of our staff to support those most at risk and in need.
- Reduction in silo working.
- Strengthening links and sharing knowledge with other partnerships and organisations such as the Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership; Cumbria Safeguarding Adults Board; Cumbria Domestic Abuse Board and Network, Love Barrow Together; Women’s Community Matters; Furness Homeless Support, Children’s Services; Adult Social Care; The Well; the HAWC’s and others.

EARLY HELP

- Engagement in partnership working that focuses on ‘earlier’ Early Help and vulnerable children to ensure timely support for families, and to avoid escalation.
- Ensuring the youth sector are recognised as a key partner in the Early Help response and their views and experience are taken into account.
- Engagement in the launch of 12 shared principles – The Barrow Way.
- Engagement in the decision-making for the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme for those on free school meals.

FURNESS YOUTH WORK PARTNERSHIP (FYWP)

- Acting as an advisor to FYWP.
- Facilitated a workshop for FYWP members. Terms of reference reviewed and updated.
- Town's Fund development of Lakeland House as a youth hub.
- The further development of Walney Community Centre as a youth and community hub.
- Special projects supported such as the Knife Angel, Furness Pride, Unity Festival, Easter Eggstravaganza, Furness Scarecrow Avenue, Winter Wonderland; YouthAbility Prom and much more.
- Recognition across the partnerships that youth work and youth services can make a difference to the lives of young people and has additional family, school and community benefits.

3. What still needs to be done?

- To continue the shift from talking into doing.
- Recognition that the voluntary children and young people's sector can't keep doing more and more for the same (or less), and a plan put in place as part of LGR to support these much needed services.

4. Are you aware of any issues coming within the next 6 months? What are you concerned about?

- Increasing child poverty.
- Local Government Reorganisation and the impact on those contracted and grant funded Third Sector providers who are funded to deliver services for children, young people and families. Many providers need financial security to enable them to enhance services and draw down other funding into the Borough, and need to reassure their service users that provision will not suddenly change or stop.

5. Are there any matters to be taken forward? (e.g. to be raised at Leadership, Executive, Scrutiny or Council)

- Not at this time.

6. Celebrating Success – Are there any success stories you would like to share?

- Particular highlights this year were Furness Pride and the Knife Angel. Both projects engaged local people; both shared information, advice, messages of hope and will have a lasting legacy; and both will stay in my memory forever.

7. Any other comments?

- Lead Members don't work alone. They build a supportive team of advisors and experts around them. A special mention and credit must go to a number of people for supporting me; for their hard work and dedication to making a difference to the lives of children, young people and families in Barrow Borough; and without whom I would not have been able to fulfil my role.

Jan Sharp; Caroline Kendall; Amanda Brierley; Cathy Kirk; Paula Westwood; Steph Cordon, Cath Corkill; Sue Johnson; Les McLeese; Craig Backhouse; Sarah Cubiss; Lynne Murray; Alysha Moore; Hayley Preston; Janine Adams; Paul Kelly; Maxine Baron; Michelle Doherty and the Family Action team; Women's Community Matters; Alison Meadows; Simonetta Tiribocchi; Cath Clarke; and the volunteers at Ormsgill Stronger Together.

Date | 04 April 2022