

## **BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS**

A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of this Borough was held at the Town Hall, Barrow-in-Furness at 5.30 pm. on Tuesday, 19th July, 2022.

PRESENT:- Councillor Preston (Mayor in the Chair) and Councillors Assouad, Brook, Burns, Callister, Cassidy, D. Edwards, H. Edwards, Gawne, Hall, Hamilton, Husband, McClure, McEwan, McLeavy, Morgan, Pemberton, Roberts, Robson, C. Thomson, M. A. Thomson, Tyson, Wall, Worthington and Zaccarini.

Officers Present:- Sam Plum (Chief Executive), Susan Roberts (Director of Resources), Debbie Storr (Head of Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer), Jon Huck (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager), Sandra Kemsley (Democratic Services Officer) and Katie Pepper (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer).

### **15 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been submitted from Councillors Barlow, Biggins, Burley, Johnston, Mooney, Nott, Ronson, Seward and Shirley.

### **16 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22nd March, the Annual General meeting and Extraordinary Council meeting held on 18th May, 2022 were taken as read and confirmed.

### **17 Announcements**

There were no announcements from the Chair, Leader or Head of Paid Service.

### **18 Public Participation**

No questions, representations, deputations or petitions had been received in respect of the meeting.

### **19 Question by the Public**

The Mayor advised Members that questions by members of the public did not give rise to debate or voting.

Mr Brodie was not in attendance at the meeting.

The question was as follows:-

“How many decades do Central Ward residents have to suffer before action is taken against derelict property owners? Number 16 Brown Street and number 19 Storey Square are of particular concern”.

The Deputy Leader of the Council responded that Councillor Robson had been involved with this case and had spoken to both Mr Brodie and local residents and believed significant progress had been made. Councillor Robson would contact him to provide an update and keep him informed.

## **20 Presentation of Former Mayor's Medal**

The Mayor presented the former Mayor's Medal on behalf of the Borough Council to Councillor Kevin Hamilton in recognition of the duties he had carried out on behalf of the Borough as Mayor from May 2019 to April 2021.

## **21 Allocation of Committee Places and Appointment of Chair**

The Head of Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer reported that following the resignation by Councillor Ronson from being a Member of the Conservative Party it was appropriate to review the political balance arrangements under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The report dealt with that review and requested changes to Committee membership and appointment of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee due to changes in Conservative Party membership.

The provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act (LGHA) 1989 had included the requirement that, where Members of the Council were 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 updated political membership of the Council following the resignation by Councillor Ronson from being a member of the Conservative Party was set out in an appendix attached to the report.

Under the LGHA 1989, the number of committee places to be allocated on committees of the Council was proportionate to that of the Council membership. However, the overall allocation must be proportional to the Council membership. The Council was required to approve those allocations. The resulting allocation of committee places was set out in an appendix attached to the report.

Councillor M A Thomson reported that since the report had been published there had been a further change to the Labour Party membership as Councillor Ronson had joined the Labour Party. The revised allocation of committee places had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Members were requested to note the revisions to the political balance and agree the revised appointments to Committees and confirmation of appointment of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which under the Constitution should be a member of the largest opposition political group.

It was moved by Councillor M A Thomson and seconded by Councillor C Thomson and it was,

**RESOLVED:-**

1. To appoint Councillor Shirley as the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
2. To note that Councillor Ronson had joined the Labour Group;
3. To note the revised political balance calculations as set out in the revised appendix; and
4. To agree that the Group Leaders provide the Monitoring Officer the revised nominations to Committees where necessary, to be circulated with the Minutes.

## **22 Affordable Housing and Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document**

The purpose of the report was to seek approval of the Affordable Housing and Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Barrow. The SPD sets out the Council's proposed approach to the delivery of affordable housing and to seeking financial contributions from developers for infrastructure and services. The document had been prepared under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Since Executive Committee a point of clarification had arisen resulting in a minor textual amendment as detailed in Paragraph 4.5 of the report, and that had been incorporated into the final version.

It was moved by Councillor Brook and seconded by Councillor Morgan, and

RESOLVED:-

1. To note the content of the Affordable Housing and Developer Contributions SPD and the consultation which had been undertaken; and
2. To agree that the Affordable Housing and Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document be formally adopted.

## **23 Officer Scheme of Delegation (plus addendum report)**

The Head of Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer's report sought an amendment to the Officer Scheme of Delegation to reflect the new post of Capital Programme Manager and the change of title of the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager, together with approvals required with regards to banking signatories for HSBC as attached to the addendum report.

It was moved by Councillor Brook and seconded by Councillor Roberts, and

RESOLVED:-

1. To agree to the addition to the Officer Delegation Scheme as shown in paragraph 3.1 to the main report;
2. To approve the recommendation with regards to banking signatories as attached to the addendum report; and
3. To note reference in the Proper Officer appointments to Democratic Services Manager will be updated to show the new title of Democratic and Electoral Services Manager.

## **24 Community Governance Review**

The purpose of the Head of Legal and Governance's report was to consider the Draft Recommendations of the Community Governance Working Group (CGWG), having considered the results of the First Stage Consultation with residents, stakeholders and other local authorities.

The consultation process undertaken to date had been set out in detail in the report, and the recommendations put forward had been fully considered by the Working Group. Appendix 1 set out the recommendations with regards to the creation of a Barrow Parish/Town Council, and if these were approved by Members, then a second stage public consultation would commence. A report would also be taken to the Shadow Westmorland and Furness Cabinet to update them on the process.

The complexities with regards to the undertaking of the review alongside the transitional arrangements of a new Westmorland and Furness Council could not be underestimated and if the recommendations were approved then the Working Group would continue to look at the requirements for any reorganisation order, and a special council meeting was likely in September to consider the final stages ahead of a final report to the Shadow Westmorland and Furness Cabinet.

It was moved by Councillor Brook and seconded by Councillor Morgan, and

**RESOLVED:-**

1. To note the Consultation Process and work undertaken by Officers and the Member Working Group on the Community Governance Review following publication of the Terms of Reference in February 2022;
2. That the draft recommendations as set out at Appendix 1 of the report be agreed and published as part of a Second Stage Public Consultation process commencing on Monday 25th July and closing on Friday 26th August 2022 inclusive and that the revised timetable to the Terms of Reference (attached as Appendix 2A to the report) be agreed;
3. To note that any further submissions or representations received as part of the Second Stage Public Consultation would be considered by Council at an extraordinary meeting to be scheduled in September 2022; and
4. That as part of the report back, the CGR Working Group would also consider and make recommendations to Council, on the provisions of a Re-organisation Order, the Community Governance Review final recommendations and such other matters as may be required to be considered in drafting final recommendations for the Shadow Westmorland and Furness Council and the potential formal creation of a Barrow Town Council.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **25 Planning**

It was moved by Councillor M. A. Thomson, and

**RESOLVED:-** That the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 12th April, 24th May, 15th June and 12th July 2022 be received.

### **26 Licensing Regulatory**

It was moved by Councillor Callister, and

**RESOLVED:-** That the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Regulatory Committee held on 20th April, 19th May and 13th June, 2022 be received.

## **27 Executive**

It was moved by Councillor Brook, and

RESOLVED:-

1. That the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 22nd March, 25th May and 22nd June, 2022 be received and that the recommendations contained therein had been dealt with under Agenda Item Nos. 10 - 12 as outlined in Minute Nos. 22 - 24 above; and
2. That item from the Extraordinary Executive Committee held on 22nd March, 2022 had been approved by Council on 22nd March, 2022.

## **28 Audit and Governance**

It was moved by Councillor Burns, and

RESOLVED:- That the minutes of the meetings of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 17th March and 22nd April, 2022 be received.

## **29 Overview and Scrutiny**

It was moved by Councillor Cassidy, and

RESOLVED:- That the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24th March, 26th May and 27th July, 2022 be received.

## **30 Questions to the Leader of the Council**

No questions had been submitted to the Leader of the Council under notice as required by Standing Order 10.2 and 10.4.

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm.