

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Minutes of a virtual Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Barrow held on Friday, 18 September 2020 at 10.30 am.

PRESENT:

Mr KR Hamilton (Chair)

Mrs A Burns	Mr B Shirley
Mr F Cassidy	Mrs H Wall
Mr D English	Mr S Wielkopolski
Mr D Gawne	Mr MH Worth
Mr W McEwan (Vice-Chair)	Mr R Worthington

Also in Attendance:-

Ms L Graham	-	Public Health Locality Manager
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms T Ingham	-	Area Manager - Barrow
Mr B Lawson	-	Senior Manager - (Development) Active Cumbria
Mr R Lewis	-	Traffic Manager
Mr K Tetchner	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager

PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

15 ROLL CALL FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

To note all the above members and officers were in attendance at the meeting.

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence on this occasion.

Mr W McEwan left during the meeting due to technical issues which were out of his control.

17 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mr B Shirley declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 – Tackling Physical Education (minute no 21 refers) as he was the Chair of Barrow and District Junior Football League.

18 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item of business.

19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions, statements or petitions relating to the business of the Committee on this occasion.

20 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

21 TACKLING PHYSICAL INACTIVITY

The Committee received a detailed presentation from Active Cumbria regarding Tackling Physical Inactivity in both adults and children and young people.

Members welcomed the presentation but raised their concerns regarding the language and images which had been used. It was felt that the language could have psychological effects and that the images should include a range of ages and body images. The Senior Manager – Active Cumbria agreed to look at the language and images and include information which was more reflective of the population.

The Committee was informed that the Five Year Plan was being shaped and suggested that the local members for Dalton North and Old Barrow who had initially raised the concerns regarding images and language, together with a representative from Public Health be involved in discussions to ensure it contained motivating language and images.

The Committee praised the work undertaken by Active Cumbria in Barrow but felt there was a need to engage with the community to motivate and promote the activities available for all generations. Officers acknowledged this was key and felt there was a need to introduce behaviour change supported by campaigns.

The Committee discussed the new cycling initiatives and officers highlighted how those were emerging with the development of the Barrow Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. Members suggested that an Area Planning event be scheduled to discuss these further and consider how a Community Trust could be established to help maintain cycling routes in the Barrow area in the future.

The Committee raised their concerns regarding a number of the statistics in the presentation. Officers explained that behaviour change was important to improve health and wellbeing and that children and families were being encouraged at an early age. Members felt there was a need to have a wide range of activities available to encourage and stimulate children and young people. Members highlighted the need to focus on activities other than those sport-related and that use should be made of the natural environment in the Barrow area.

A discussion took place regarding the effects of deprivation on the health of communities. It was agreed that a list of the priority Lower Super Output Areas and divisions that were identified by Active Cumbria for Older Adults and Low Socio-Economic Groups respectively would be circulated to all members.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the officer for an informative presentation.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the update be noted;
- (2) an Area Planning event be scheduled to consider a Community Trust for cycling in the Barrow area;
- (3) the local members for Dalton North and Old Barrow, together with a representative from Public Health, be involved in discussions regarding the language and images in the Five Year Plan.

22 PARKING SERVICES UPDATE

The Committee considered a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed the activity of the Parking Team for the first five months of the financial year 2020/21. It was explained that much of that period was during the lockdown of the COVID 19 pandemic when proactive enforcement had been reduced. It was noted that the parking officers were redeployed to assist in local communities but enforcement had returned on a phased approach from June.

Members also received the Parking Annual Report for the financial year 2019/20 which gave a summary of parking activities during that year.

The Committee was informed that towards the end of the 2019/20 financial year, when the COVID-19 pandemic became prevalent across the UK and the Library, where parking permits were distributed from, was closed and permits were issued remotely.

Members emphasised their concerns regarding the decision taken by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure to continue with the remote distribution of permits permanently without any consultation with the Local Committee. Members explained their vision for a central one-stop shop, to include both the Borough and

County Councils, to be based in the Barrow Town Hall, highlighting their wish for this service to remain in Barrow and, therefore, retain employment in the local area. The Local Committee agreed that when the COVID 19 pandemic was over and the central reception desk at Barrow Town Hall was open they would be asking for the Barrow parking permits to be issued from there.

A discussion took place regarding resources within the Service and it was confirmed that a Barrow Team Manager remained in post with an additional Parking Enforcement Officer for the Barrow area to be recruited imminently.

Members drew attention to concerns regarding issues for temporary residents, contractors and armed forces personnel in the Barrow area, obtaining Residents' Parking Permits. The Traffic Manager confirmed that temporary parking permits were available initially for six months and asked members to contact him direct with any specific problems.

The local Member for Hindpool raised concerns regarding the lack of on-street parking in her Division due to the number of parking permits issued for multiple occupancy residential accommodation. The Traffic Manager informed the Committee that a Parking Study was being undertaken in the Eden area and part of that Study would include discussions regarding the number of on-street parking permits issued per household which would be taken into consideration for the whole of the county.

During the course of discussion a concern was raised regarding the delay in the issue of new Blue Badges. Officers confirmed that enforcement of out-of-date Blue Badges would not take place in the foreseeable future.

A discussion took place regarding the number of outstanding Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) It was confirmed there was a delay in PCNs issued and payment received highlighting that the number of outstanding payments was for those issued in August.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

23 BARROW LOCAL COMMITTEE HIGHWAYS CAPITAL AND REVENUE PROGRAMME UPDATE 2020/21

Members considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed the Highways Revenue and Devolved Capital and Non-Devolved Capital budget finance reports and gave an update as to current progress on those budget lines.

The Committee noted that the original Devolved Highways Revenue budget was £782,608 and Devolved Highways Capital budget was £1,323,034. It was explained that the carry forward of the under or accelerated spend during 2019/20 was approved at a meeting of Cabinet in June 2020 which meant that the Devolved Highways Revenue budget was now £849,635 and the Devolved Highways Capital budget £1,179,802. Members were informed there was a considerable work programme for this year (as detailed in the appendices to the report).

The local Member for Roosecote raised concerns regarding the safety of pedestrians on Redmans Way, the walkway along Channelside and the Local Area Highways Manager confirmed that works would start on the bridge imminently.

The local Member for Hindpool asked for more detailed information regarding works which had been undertaken and works scheduled on the various backstreets. The Local Area Highways Manager agreed to provide an updated list.

The local Member for Dalton South asked for an update on Coronation Drive. Members were informed the scheme was outside a school, therefore, needed to be undertaken during school holidays. The works, due to have taken place during the summer holidays, had been postponed due to the current pandemic but were scheduled to take place next year. It was explained that if the budget could be carried forward this would take place during the summer holidays of 2021 but otherwise works would be undertaken during either February or Easter half term.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

24 BARROW AREA PLANNING REPORT

The Committee considered a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which brought together information from across the Community teams including Community Development, Waste Prevention and Libraries and provided an update on work and agreed activity since the last meeting of the Committee.

Members received information regarding an application from Cumbria Youth Alliance which was a registered charity established in 1997 set up to be the lead organisation for youth work in Cumbria and support young people aged 14 to 25 who were furthest from the labour market.

The Committee was informed the application was the final year of a three year Big Lottery Funded Project run in partnership with Cumbria County Council. It was explained that the Group was working jointly to reduce duplication and ensure that they filled the gaps in the emotional/mental health provision for young people in Barrow. Members noted that the grant would be used to bring in match funding from Big Lottery so it could increase the investment in services that would support the emotional resilience of young people across Barrow.

Members noted that if a grant of £10,000 was awarded that enabled the organisation to commission £32,000 of programmes in Barrow Borough, therefore, increasing the impact of what they could achieve with support. It was highlighted that all of the £10,000 would be used to commission local organisations/services that would directly support young people in the Barrow Borough area.

The Committee received an update on the Children's Services Pilot Approach. It was explained that in the south of the County a pilot approach to new ways of working was being established with local partners including The Well, Family Action and Women's Community Matters, together with the police and health colleagues.

Members noted one of the key issues that had been highlighted related to the impact of drugs and alcohol. It was explained that as a result, and following discussions, a proposal had been made to bring a full time member of staff from The Well in addition to a number of volunteers to support this pilot. In order to provide capacity around this Project and enable The Well to provide additional staffing resource to the work, Local Committee was asked to consider contributing to funding this position at £7,500 from the Local Committee Children's Strategic Funding.

The Committee was informed that Barrow Foodbank received community grants a number of years ago to support vulnerable families and children at Christmas time. It was explained this was to provide extra non-essential 'nice to have' food Christmas provisions and a small gift for families and children to go some way to reduce the financial burden/pressure on families at Christmas time.

Members were, therefore, asked to consider awarding a grant of £10,000 from the General Provisions budget towards the cost of the Christmas Provision Pack. It was highlighted that this would enable further funding to then be applied from funds such as Barrow Borough Council Hardship Fund.

The Committee was informed that due to the introduction of staggered start and finish times as a result of COVID 19 the Headteacher of St Mary's School, Dalton had advised that the existing school crossing patrol cover was not sufficient. It was explained that following discussions with the Chair of the Local Committee, the Headteacher and Orian, it has been agreed that the hours would be temporarily increased for this term initially, and that the school would reimburse the Council (via Local Committee's budget) for this additional cost.

The local Member for Dalton North asked whether it was anticipated that the funding of up to £3m available from the Borderlands Project would still be solely for Dalton and not divided with Ulverston. The Local Area Manager confirmed funding allocations had still to be agreed but there were no proposals to merge Dalton and Ulverston. During the course of discussion it was confirmed that Stakeholder Meetings would be scheduled in the next couple of weeks.

The Committee received an update on work undertaken with children and young people during COVID 19. Members were informed this had remained a key area of work for Local Committee and had been a standing item on the Barrow Local

Resilience Group Agenda, with partners coming together to address any issues that had arisen throughout the pandemic. It was explained that the new Locality Children's Trust Board (LCTB) had held two workshops to develop a LCTB which would be a multi-agency partnership in the Barrow Borough area which would consider a number of priorities and workstreams. During the course of discussion it was agreed that Youth Services would form part of a future Area Planning event.

Members were informed of an LEA Governor vacancy at the Newbridge House Pupil Referral Unit and Borough Councillor Seward was nominated for the position.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked all officers for their support during the pandemic.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) a grant of £10,000 for Cumbria Youth Alliance towards the Emotional Resilience Project from Strategic 0-19 Service budget allocation be agreed;
- (3) £7,500 from the 0-19 Service budget allocation to support the pilot new ways of working with Children's Services and partners be agreed;
- (4) £10,000 funding from the General Provisions budget allocation to support families throughout the Christmas period be agreed.

25 HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE

The Committee received a report by the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which gave an update on the work of the Public Health Locality Manager to improve health and wellbeing outcomes in Barrow. The report detailed information regarding COVID 19, Barrow Health and Wellbeing Partnership and Suicide Prevention.

The Public Health Locality Manager gave an update on COVID 19 informing members there had been 60 new cases in the Barrow area which was the highest in Cumbria and double the national average. The Committee was informed that due to the issues regarding testing a mobile testing unit had been made available in the area for a two week period with plans for a further unit to be made available.

A discussion took place regarding the Barrow Health and Wellbeing Partnership which had met twice during the COVID19 outbreak with discussions around 'new normal' and how it could support recovery.

Members were informed that a trauma-informed approach aimed to provide an environment where a person who had experienced trauma felt safe and could develop trust. It was explained this required a cultural shift as well as behavioural and a change in the way front-line staff understood the impact of trauma, which in turn influenced their practice. The Committee noted that work had commenced and, on a locality footprint, representatives from key organisations including NHS, Police, BAE, voluntary sector organisations, Safa and Mind had been brought together to work towards developing an approach to embed Trauma Informed Practice.

The local Member for Dalton North raised the concerns of his constituents regarding preparations for a second wave of the pandemic. He asked if the Public Health Local Manager could provide a written response detailing the actions which had been undertaken to ensure services were better prepared.

The Chair, on behalf of the Local Committee, thanked all officers for their support and dedication during the pandemic, highlighting their appreciation for the provision of information as requested.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

26 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from members serving on outside bodies on this occasion.

27 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 10.30 am at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 12.40 pm