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| <b>COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW</b>                             |
| <b>Meeting date: 7 July 2020</b>   |
| <b>From: Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services</b> |

## **BARROW AREA PLANNING REPORT**

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**1.1 This report brings together information from across the Community teams including Community Development, waste prevention, and libraries, and provides an update on work and agreed activity since the last meeting of the Committee.**

### **2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

**2.1 The County Council's vision set out in the Council Plan 2018-2022 is to be "a Council that works with residents, businesses, communities and other organisations to deliver the best services possible within the available resources." The approach and work of the Local Committee directly contributes to this, and area based working, and shaping services locally is one of the key ways of delivering this vision.**

**2.2 The work of Barrow Local Committee, through its Area Plan and projects helps to achieve the Council Plan 2018-2022 outcomes, which are:**

- People in Cumbria are healthy and safe**
- People in Cumbria are well connected and thriving**
- The economy in Cumbria is thriving and benefits everyone**

**2.3 The development, operation and monitoring of the Council Plan requires a focus on the Council's performance against the identified outcomes, increasingly understood through localities. Barrow Area Plan sets out three targeted priorities for the area, which are:**

- Improving health and well-being and tackling poverty**
- To support Cumbria's Early Help strategy which enables support for children, families and young people**
- Promoting sustainable economic growth and creating jobs.**

- 2.4** *The locally devolved funding is available for Local Committees to allocate within the area to support positive outcomes, targeted and mainstream, designed to improve outcomes for the communities of Barrow. This funding can be targeted to initiate new activity or to enhance/complement existing provision according to locally determined need.*
- 2.5** *Local Committee is mindful of equality issues and duly considers that its actions and decisions do not result in inequality of service provision or exclusion from participation. The work of Local Committee directly supports the Council's wider equalities agenda.*

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1** *That Members note the updates in this report.*
- 3.2** *That Local Committee consider whether they wish to disband the Supporting Children Strengthening Families Partnership group, merging this instead with the Barrow Locality Children's Trust Board Group as outlined in paragraphs 4.20-23.*
- 3.3** *That Local Committee considers de-committing the £9,500 previously allocated for holding a Festival of Activity in 2020 back into General Provisions as outlined in paragraph 4.31*
- 3.4** *That Local Committee reviews the previous budget allocation work carried out in Appendix 2 and considers whether they wish to make any amendments to this.*

### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1** This report provides Members with an update of the work of Barrow Local Committee and the Community Development Team since its meeting of 6 March 2020 and outlines provisional and actual expenditure against Local Committee's budget as of 31May 2020
- 4.2** Although this is the first formal meeting of Local Committee, Members have continue to meet informally through virtual informal meetings on a fortnightly basis to share information, discuss issues and recommend courses of action. Over the past month a number of working groups have also begun to meet remotely including a group looking at the development of a community hub on Barrow Island and Highways Advisory Sub Group. Members also continue to be kept informed through regular communications from the Area Manager and Community Development Team.

#### Covid Response

- 4.3** Since the last meeting of Local Committee there have been significant changes to the work of the Community Development Team and the Council as a whole in light of the Coronavirus pandemic.

- 4.4 As Members are aware, the County Council established an emergency helpline to support those at risk of becoming seriously ill from Covid-19 and who do not have any other support such as family, friends or neighbours. People contacting this number or via electronic means were then subsequently supported through a virtual welfare hub in each district area.
- 4.5 The Barrow Welfare Hub which responds to Barrow borough related calls has been led by the Area Manager and Community Development Team in the locality. They have been joined by staff from other services in the County Council including from highways, trading standards, libraries and community skills and learning, and also full time staff from Barrow Borough Council who continue to serve as welfare officers.
- 4.6 At the time of writing the contact centre have received in excess of 7,000 calls / electronic contacts for support countywide, relating to over 2,700 individual cases. Within this the Barrow team have supported 500 separate cases across the Borough with the provision of food, prescription collection and signposting to further help.
- 4.7 During this period Community Development team have continued to work closely with communities and groups locally, providing support and guidance. In addition to existing groups, they have supported new groups which have developed or expanded over the past few months. In direct response to the work on the hub the team worked with a number of groups who are providing crucial support across their communities, and helped to formalise the local network of “resource distribution points.” The concept of the resource distribution points is to ensure that every electoral division in the Borough is supported by a group / point who has access to food and supplies that can be distributed to those in need. This network was supported by the Barrow Local Resilience Forum who helped to pull together a collaborative bid to the Cumbria Community Foundation. This bid was successful in bringing £75k to these distribution points and key local organisations such as Age UK Barrow and Women’s Community Matters to provide crucial support to communities.
- 4.8 The Area Manager has also been chairing the Barrow Local Resilience Group which brings together a range of partners across all sectors to support and co-ordinate activity responding to the pandemic across the Borough. The Chair and Vice Chair of Local Committee also attend this meeting as does Councillor Burns. The Group is also beginning to look at how we can support the recovery work over coming months.

#### Area Working and Community Services Update

- 4.9 The team locally have also continued to work to support area planning activity, and priority areas of work and key areas are highlighted below for Members information:
- 4.10 **Barrow Main Library redevelopment** – works on the library have recommenced following a pause due to covid. Timelines are being re-assessed and Members received a more detailed update on progress and developments at the informal local committee meeting on 24 July.
- 4.11 **Ormsgill Hub** – as with the main library, work was suspended for a time due to Covid, however works have now recommenced and we are expecting the project to complete late summer.

- 4.12 **Barrow Island Hub** – work to develop a community hub continues to progress. Over the past 3 months the site of Bram Longstaffe has naturally developed into a further focal point for the community as it has become one of the resource distribution points for the area; providing food and other items to people needing support in the community. A small partnership group has met several times over the past couple of months to look at the potential of developing this further and a business case is being developed to further develop the community hub model.
- 4.13 **Tackling Inequalities Fund** - Active Cumbria has been awarded £50,000 of National Lottery funding from Sport England's Tackling Inequalities Fund which aims to tackle inequalities in activity levels through working with its partners to reach those most in need as a result of the impact of COVID-19. Emma is currently working with the following local partners on bids which support physical activity in the borough;
- **Cando FM**  
To create a series of inclusive exercise routines, in a “Joe Wick” style, but featuring local fitness coaches and filmed locally that runs for two months. Content created will be broadcast in audio format on the CANDO FM with simultaneous video & audio across social media platforms. Videos will be available to view again online any time. Routines would be short (10-15 mins) but regular, every day (morning), for the duration of the two-month project.
  - **Leonard Cheshire Youth-ability**  
Increased 1-1 sessions for service users, funding required for sport equipment & volunteer expenses. The group have been running online sessions and quizzes to keep their members engaged. Both engagement and feedback have been very positive but the young people need 1-1 contact.
    - **Furness Multi-cultural Forum** - Physical Activity/ Mental Health Resource Packs allowing their members to exercise at home.
    - **Hawcoat Park Sports** - Electric to the gates on the new All-weather tennis courts which will enable the facility to be used and the club can started getting revenue.
    - **Every Life Matters** - Mental Health & Physical Activity packs for local families & older adults to be delivered with Emergency Food Parcels.

#### Barrow Town Deal

- 4.14 Councillor Burns is the Local Committee's representative on the Town Deal Board, and this work has been a key area of focus for Local Committee
- 4.15 Through discussions with the Borough Council and partners, the County Council submitted a project for consideration to the Town Deal Board for inclusion in the plan. The project put forward brought together a number of Local Committee's agreed area planning priorities into one:
- Ormsgill Community Hub
  - Bram Longstaffe
  - Developing a Hub in Hindpool / Central
  - Earnse Bay Skills and outdoor recreation centre concept

- 4.16 The project was shortlisted and we are currently working with consultants to develop a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) for completion in mid July, where it will be submitted to the Borough Council to form part of their overall submission to government.
- 4.17 Community engagement is crucial to the development of this work and as such the team have been working as part of the Town Deal's Communication and Engagement Group and an officer from CVS to develop a consultation on the project. Given the constraints caused by Covid this is largely taking the form of an online survey but there is also work taking place via the radio and a number of hard copy questionnaires are also being distributed. At the time of writing we have received approximately 100 responses.
- 4.18 As outlined above however Local Committee are continuing to develop these projects in parallel with this process to ensure that if unsuccessful or reduced funding is offered no time has been lost in progressing these key aims
- 4.19 More information about these and other projects that are being developed can be found on the Brilliant Barrow Website <https://brilliantbarrow.org.uk>
- Children and Young People
- 4.20 This remains a key area of work for Local Committee and has been a standing item on the Barrow Local Resilience Group Agenda, with partners coming together to address any issues that have arisen throughout the pandemic.
- 4.21 In the last fortnight an initial meeting followed by a more focussed workshop was held to begin to develop the Locality Children's Trust Board Group for Barrow. It was recognised that there is a lot of work already taking place and a number of groups and partnership activity around children and families in Barrow, and therefore a piece of mapping work was undertaken to try to understand the totality of this offer and support, to ensure that there is no duplication and that there are no gaps.
- 4.22 One of the things that was highlighted is that the Supporting Children Strengthening Families Group and the Locality Children's Trust Board Group have a very similar membership and remit, and therefore it is proposed to merge the two groups into the Children's Trust Board Group and disband the Supporting Children Strengthening Families Group.
- 4.23 Local Committee are therefore asked to consider disbanding the Supporting Children Strengthening Families Group, instead having representation on the Barrow Trust Board Group and for this Group in turn to regularly update Local Committee and other key stakeholders.
- Local Committee Budget
- 4.24 At the informal Member workshop in early March 2020, Members discussed their budget for the coming year. The proposed allocation that Members put forward is attached at Appendix 2 for information.

- 4.25 Since this meeting things have changed significantly with the pandemic, and Local Committee have been unable to formally meet until this point and therefore commit the budget in the usual manner. On 2 April 2020 the Leader of the Council took a formal decision to establish a Local Committee COVID 19 Response Fund.
- 4.26 This proposal was to establish a COVID 19 Response Fund to the value of £20,000 in each Local Committee area to enable and ensure appropriate community response in line with delegated local committee grant procedures i.e. grants of £5000 and under to be signed off by Area Managers in conjunction with chair and vice chair and grants above this threshold requiring further decision.
- 4.27 As has been reported to Members through the informal committee meetings and in conjunction with lead members, the following funding has been agreed under this heading:
- Schneider Road Community Group - £250
  - Springmount £250
  - Mental Health Booklet £1,500
  - Headsets for Children and Young People £1,000
- 4.28 As also previously discussed with members, in addition to this Covid specific spend in conjunction with the chair and vice chair, the Area Manager under delegated authority has also committed the following funding from the overall General Provisions budget:
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan development £5,000
  - Consultants fee contribution for development of Community Wellbeing Hub strategic outline business case for Town Deal £5,000
- 4.29 The discretionary budget delegated to Local Committee is detailed in Appendix 3, providing the latest financial position including the committee expenditure and the remaining unallocated resources up to 31 May 2020.
- 4.30 The Service Level Agreement for 2020/21 for school crossing patrol delivery is attached at Appendix 1 for information. It is not proposed at this time for additional funding to be vired to the school crossing patrol budget, but that Members keep this budget under review and re-considered at the next Local Committee meeting
- 4.31 In March 2020 Local Committee also committed £9,500 for the development and running of a Festival of Activity. As this is now unable to take place due to the pandemic Members are asked to consider de-committing this amount back into the General Provisions budget.
- 4.32 Members are also asked to consider the original budget allocations they made at Appendix 2 and whether they wish to agree these or to amend it in light of the current circumstances.

## **5.0 OPTIONS**

- 5.1 Local Committee can choose to support the recommendations outlined in this report, amend them and choose to commit different levels of funding within their delegated budget, or not to accept the recommendations.

## **6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from recommendations 3.1 and 3.2.
- 6.2 The original discretionary annual budget allocated to Barrow Local Committee is agreed before the start of the year as part of the overall budget setting for the Council. Local Committee may allocate the discretionary revenue budget during the course of the financial year, subject to corporate policy and service standards (recommendation 3.4).
- 6.3 The original annual budget allocated to Barrow Local Committee agreed before the start of the year as part of the overall budget setting for the Council also includes specific items for highways, area support and money advice. Local Committee may commit allocations for specific items to the specified area of activity. Local Committee may not reallocate budgets for specific items to other areas of activity (Appendix 2).
- 6.4 If Local Committee agree to de-commit the £9,500 previously allocated for holding a Festival of Activity in 2020 back into General Provisions the de-committed funds will be available for future commitment by Local Committee.
- 6.5 The communities (non-highways) revenue budget devolved to Local Committee, expenditure and commitments is as set out in appendix 3. The allocation between areas of the discretionary is indicative based on the proposals set out in Appendix 2 and is subject to formal consideration by this meeting (recommendation 3.4).

## **7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 This report provides the Local Committee with a comprehensive update on its Communities budgets and related matters delegated to the Committee

**Dawn Roberts**

**Executive Director - Corporate, Customer and Community Services**

*24 June 2020*

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## **APPENDICES**

***Appendix 1 – School Crossing Patrol SLA for 2020/21***

***Appendix 2 – Local Committee Proposed Budget Allocation.***

***Appendix 3 – Local Committee Budget***

Electoral Divisions: All Barrow

|   |                              |                              |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Executive Decision  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| Key Decision  | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> No  |
| If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?   | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?  | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> No  |
| If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained? | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?<br>If so, give details below.   | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> No  |
| Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?   | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?  | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |

***N.B. If an executive decision is made, then a decision cannot be implemented until the expiry of the eighth working day after the date of the meeting – unless the decision is urgent and exempt from call-in and necessary approvals have been obtained.***

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**  
***[including Local Committees]***

***No previous relevant decisions***

**CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

***Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny***

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

***No background papers***

**REPORT AUTHOR**

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