

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Meeting date: 18 September 2020

From: Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services

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 agree a grant of £10,000 for Cumbria Youth Alliance towards the Emotional Resilience Project from Strategic 0-19 Service budget allocation outlined in paragraphs 4.30-4.34*
- 3.3** *That Local Committee agree funding £7,500 from the 0-19 Service budget allocation to support the pilot new ways of working with Children's Services and partners as outlined in paragraphs 4.35-4.37.*
- 3.4** *That Local Committee agree £10,000 funding from the General Provisions budget allocation to support families throughout the Christmas period as outlined in paragraphs 4.46-4.52.*

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 7 July 2020 and outlines provisional and actual expenditure against Local Committee's budget as of 31 August 2020
- 4.2** Members continue to meet informally through virtual informal meetings to share information, discuss issues and recommend courses of action. A number of working groups have also been meeting remotely including a group looking at the development of a community hub at Bram Longstaffe on Barrow Island. Members also continue to be kept informed through regular communications from the Area Manager and Community Development Team.

Covid Response

- 4.3** As was reported to Members at the last meeting of Local Committee, the Community Development Team and members of staff from other County Council services and the Borough Council have continued to provide support through the Barrow Welfare Hub. Up to 18th August 2020 the team provided support to 518 individuals within the Borough.
- 4.4** From 1st September the welfare hubs in each of the district areas have now been paused, and anyone phoning for assistance will receive support via the County Council's contact centre and the Ways to Welfare Team. Locally the Community Development team continue to work very closely with local

organisations, the network of resource distribution points, and community groups across the borough to support the local response to Covid-19.

- 4.5 The 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 continues to meet fortnightly. The Chair and Vice Chair of Local Committee also attend this meeting as does Councillor Burns.
- 4.6 The Group has recently reshaped its agenda with a significant focus on recovery work around the pandemic and has standing updates on its priority areas of:
- Financial wellbeing
 - Health and wellbeing including mental health
 - Children and families
 - Food and other urgent needs
- 4.7 The Group is also working with a number of key bodies / partnerships locally which will be shaping and supporting the delivery much of the work around these priority areas. These include:
- Love Barrow Together
 - Barrow Children and Families Partnership
 - South Cumbria Community Safety Partnership
 - Barrow Health and Wellbeing Forum
 - Brilliant Barrow Board.
- 4.8 Members are involved in many of these groups will continue to receive regular updates about this work at both informal and formal Local Committee meetings.

Area Working and Community Services Update

- 4.9 The team locally have also continued to work to support area planning activity. Priority areas of work and key areas are highlighted below for Members information:
- 4.10 **Barrow Main Library redevelopment** – works on the library continue to progress and completion of the initial planned work is expected in late Autumn. The main library has also re-opened to the public following the closure due to Covid-19 and a more detailed update about the work of the Libraries and Archive Service is outlined below.
- 4.11 **Ormsgill Hub** – as was reported to Members previously, work was suspended for a time due to Covid, however works have now recommenced and the project is expected to be completed in October. Discussions have already begun with Family Action regarding the re-opening of the Children's Centre and a project group meeting looking at the wider re-opening and running of the site is being scheduled for early-mid September.
- 4.12 **Barrow Island Hub** – work to develop a community hub continues to progress. As was previously discussed the site of Bram Longstaffe has naturally developed into a further focal point for the community.

As Members are aware, Cabinet took the decision on 23 July 2020 to close the Nursery School with effect from 31 August 2020, and for the County Council to commit to retaining the building for alternative community use.

Through ongoing discussions with partners and local organisations, the Local Committee established working group has met several times over a number of months to look at developing the business case for the site becoming community hub. Working closely with Friends of Bram who are the lead organisation for running the site the proposal for multi agency community use is being developed. With Friends of Bram also running a nursery at the site at the heart of their provision.

Whilst progress in opening the site fully has been delayed by the current situation with Covid-19, nursery provision and other limited activities will be beginning from early September with further developments taking place after this.

4.13 **Dalton Children's Centre** – this project to review the location of children's centre activities in Dalton was temporarily paused due to the pandemic, however this project will begin to be reviewed in September with a working group re-established. Further updates will be provided to Members as this work progresses.

4.14 **Earnse Bay** - As has previously been reported to Local Committee, a suggestion was raised about exploring potential opportunities to support outdoor activities for families, groups and wider communities in the local area. Initial ideas were developed and explored around the County Council's Earnse Bay site, and a bid to develop this was subsequently submitted through the Borough Council's Town Deal application as part of the wider Community Hub approach.

Initial engagement was carried out as part of the Town Deal Brilliant Barrow Work, and further consultation and engagement will continue over coming weeks and months to explore and develop the site in partnership with the community.

4.15 **Barrow Town Deal** – Members have continued to receive updates on the development of the Town Deal bid and in particular the two schemes that the County Council has put forward and supported. The Town Deal and Future Highstreet bids were submitted at the end of July and it is hoped that the outcome of these will be announced during the autumn. An update will be provided to Local Committee as more information is received.

Barrow Libraries and Archives

4.16 **Barrow Library** – the main Barrow library has been back open since 10th August, Mon – Fri, 10-1pm. The afternoons are spent taking telephone enquiries, shelving quarantined stock, selecting stock for our new Select & Collect service and running our home delivery service for our less mobile customers. Throughout lockdown we have kept in touch with our home delivery customers with a weekly phone call to make sure they are ok.

4.17 From 10th August to 21st August we welcomed 553 customers (plus 238 queries on the door, signposting parking permits, NOW cards and other services we are currently not running within the library).

4.18 Feedback has been extremely positive and the team have had some lovely comments from customers who are happy to see the service back open, even with the reduced offer.

4.19 The building work is progressing well and the majority of the work should be completed by mid-November.

- 4.20 **Barrow Archives** - During lockdown Archive staff have done a lot of work editing spreadsheets created by volunteers who worked on small collections. These can now be uploaded to CALM (Archives catalogue).
- 4.21 Several teachers of local schools also contacted archives about sources for various subjects and we were able to send them digital images of documents for use with the children.
- 4.22 Nearly all the customer emails received have been answered, with those needing copies of documents left until staff could go into the strongroom and take photographs.
- 4.23 The Archivist spent a lot of time making videos using photographs of places taken during daily exercise and old photographs held by the Archive Centre and available on the network. These were posted on Facebook and Twitter and proved popular. We also posted old photographs, photographs taken recently (Where is the Archivist today?) with a link to a record on CASCAT our online catalogue.
- 4.24 At the moment photographs of documents are being posted on Facebook and Instagram along with a series of videos called Researching with Susan: how to research your family history.

Children and Young People

- 4.25 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.
- 4.26 **Locality Children's Trust Board (LCTB)** - At the last meeting of Local Committee Members discussed the development of a locality group of the Children's Trust Board and agreed to disband 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.
- 4.27 Since this last meeting this new group has held a two workshops to develop a LCTB which would be a multi-agency partnership in the Barrow Borough area.
- 4.28 Sam Plum Chief Executive of the Borough Council was nominated as Chair with Councillor Anne Burns as Vice-Chair. It was agreed that the partnership be named Barrow Children's and Family Partnership. The Partnership agreed to look at the Terms of Reference and a number of priorities with work streams attached as outlined below.
- Recognising at the earliest opportunity those families where children may be at risk of exploitation.
 - Families who are reluctant to return their children back to school and therefore home educate
 - Supporting parents where there are issues with alcohol misuse
 - Supporting parents to ensure that their children lead a healthy and active life
 - 0-5s

- 4.29 At the time of writing the report the next meeting is to be held on 26th August and a number of case studies are to be presented and discussed at the meeting.
- 4.30 **Grant application** - Cumbria Youth Alliance is 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 are furthest from the labour market, have low aspirations, poor self-confidence and those young people whose futures look bleak or where there are identified additional support needs.
- 4.31 This application is the final year of a three year Big Lottery Funded Project run in partnership with Cumbria County Council. The group is working jointly to reduce duplication and ensure that they fill the gaps in the emotional/mental health provision for young people in Barrow. The grant will be used to bring in match funding from Big Lottery so that it can increase the investment in services that will support the emotional resilience of young people across Barrow.
- 4.32 The aim is to support young people aged 14 to 25 with poor emotional resilience and low self-esteem from the following target groups: Young people living in care, young people leaving care, young people being educated in alternative provision, young people with disabilities, learning difficulties, LBGT groups, young carers, young people at risk of exclusion from school and those young people not in employment education training or at school. All the co-designed young people interventions must improve one or all of the following: communication skills, self-confidence, emotional resilience, learn a new skill and or learn new coping strategies.
- 4.33 If a grant of £10,000 is awarded that enables the organisation to commission £32,000 of programmes here in Barrow Borough thus increasing the impact of what they can achieve with support. All of the £10,000 will be used to commission local organisations/services that will directly support young people in the Barrow Borough area.
- 4.34 Members are asked to consider awarding £10,000 to Cumbria Youth Alliance towards the Emotional Resilience Project from the Strategic 0-19 Service Budget.
- 4.35 **Children's Services Pilot Approach** - At the meeting of 1 September, Members received an update from the Senior Manager Barrow and South Lakeland Children and Young People. In this update it was explained that in the South of the County a pilot approach to new ways of working is being established working with local partners including The Well, Family Action and Women's Community Matters, as well as the police and health colleagues. Under this approach partners will come together to review cases as they come into social care, and will work together to identify the best way to support families with a range of organisations providing that support, rather than solely children's services undertaking this role.
- 4.36 As was explained one of the key issues that has been highlighted relates to the impact of drugs and alcohol. As a result, and following discussions, a proposal has been made to bring a full time member of staff from The Well in addition to a number of volunteers to support this pilot

- 4.37 In order to provide capacity around this project and enable The Well to provide additional staffing resource to the work, Local Committee is asked to consider contributing to funding this position at £7,500 from the Local Committee Children's Strategic Funding. A similar request will be made from South Lakeland Local Committee. It is expected that clear outcomes will be able to be demonstrated within six months and the work will be evaluated at that point with a view to extending this way of working if successful.

Local Committee Budget

- 4.38 At the last meeting of Local Committee Members reviewed their budgets in line with the significantly changed situation, including the recently established Local Committee COVID 19 Response Fund to enable Local Committees to respond quickly to support the developing situation in their areas.
- 4.39 The discretionary budget delegated to Local Committee is detailed in Appendix 1, providing the latest financial position including the committee expenditure and the remaining unallocated resources up to 31 August 2020
- 4.40 Since this meeting Government announced a Coronavirus (COVID-19): Local authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies.
- 4.41 Cumbria County Council has been allocated grant funding to support with food and essential services as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic to benefit residents within a community in Cumbria. Funding has been allocated on a geographical basis according to the total population in each area and Barrow in Furness' allocation is £47,500.
- 4.42 Grants from this fund will be awarded to groups/organisations/individuals who are involved in community based projects and initiatives that will benefit the local area in terms of providing food and / or essential services in response to Covid-19.
- 4.43 Local Committee Members met on 11th August with the Area Manager and Community Development team to discuss this funding, the criteria and the known organisations and need across communities. Following this meeting discussions have been held with a number of groups and organisations locally and bids are expected over the coming days.
- 4.44 The table below outlines Members agreed spend from the Local Committee COVID 19 Response Fund and the expected applications for the Coronavirus (COVID-19): Local authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies.

Local Committee Covid-19 Response Fund		Coronavirus (COVID-19): Local authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies	
Schneider Road Community Group	£250	Walney Community Trust	£5,000
Walney Community Trust	£250	Friends of Bram	£2,500
Mental Health Booklet	£1,500	The Well	£5,000
CYP Headsets	£1,000	Women's Community Matters	£5,000
Citizens Advice Bureau	£5,000	Love Barrow families	£5,000
MIND in Furness	£5,000	Abbotsvale Community Centre	£5,000
The Well	£2,500	Rampside Village Hall	£5,000
Transport – Outward Bound	£1,000	Dalton Community Association	£5,000
		Citizens Advice Bureau	£5,000
		Barrow and District Disability Association	£5,000
Total	£16,500	Total	£47,500
Balance	£3,500	Balance	£0

- 4.45 In addition to the funding above, at the meeting of 11th August, Members also agreed £5,000 to support Barrow and District Credit Union.
- 4.46 **Barrow Foodbank & COVID-19 Community Resource Distribution Points** - Barrow Foodbank received community grants a number of years ago to support vulnerable families and children at Christmas time. 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.
- 4.47 During the COVID-19 pandemic Barrow Foodbank and the Community Resource Distribution Points have been supporting vulnerable individuals and families in the Barrow Borough area.
- 4.48 During the school summer holidays vulnerable families have been supported by the Community Resource Distribution points in partnership with Schools with food and resource packs financed through Barrow Borough Council Hardship Fund and Lankelly Chase funding. This has been well received and the Community Resource Distribution Points have built up good relationships and trust with families.
- 4.49 Through the Local Resilience Forum a Forward Plan is being developed to identify key dates such as end of furlough, school holidays etc in order that partners are aware and where needed plan ahead to ensure support is provided in a timely manner. Christmas holidays are in the Forward Plan and this year will see more vulnerable families needing support due to the various impacts of the COVID-19 situation.
- 4.50 In order to provide much needed support to families this year it is proposed that through working with Barrow Foodbank, Schools and the Community Resource Distribution Points that families receive Christmas provisions (food, toiletries, small gifts). These Christmas provision packs could then be distributed to any vulnerable families. This would build on the relationships and trust with families throughout the Summer Holidays.
- 4.51 It is hoped that the support of the Christmas Provisions Pack will go some way to ease a little of the anxiety and financial situation for families this Christmas.

- 4.52 Members are being asked to consider awarding a grant of £10k from General Provisions towards the cost of the Christmas Provision Pack. This would enable further funding to then be applied from funds such as Barrow Borough Council Hardship Fund.

School Crossing Patrols

- 4.53 As Members are aware, Local Committee funds 5 hours school crossing patrol cover per week for St Mary's School in Dalton. The Head Teacher for the school has been in contact to advise that because of the new staggered start and finish times that have had to be introduced as a result of Covid-19 this level of cover is not sufficient at this time. The school have therefore requested that the cover be increased temporarily for an additional 5 hours per week to support these changes.
- 4.54 The School have confirmed that they would be willing to fund the additional hours, however as the Service Level Agreement is between the County Council and Orian Services this would need to come via Local Committee rather than the school being able to directly approach Orian.
- 4.55 Following discussions with the Chair of Local Committee, the Head Teacher and Orian, it has been agreed that the hours will be temporarily increased for this term initially, and that the school will pay the Council (via Local Committee's budget) for this additional cost.

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 recommendation 3.1 to note the updates in this report.
- 6.2 The latest financial position for the revenue budget devolved to Local Committee for items other than Highways is as set out in Appendix 1 (Paragraph 4.39). Local Committee may allocate the discretionary element of the revenue budget during the course of the financial year to meet its priorities and objectives, subject to corporate policy and service standards.
- 6.3 There is currently £55,042 unallocated in the 0-19 Services budget available for commitment. If Local Committee decides to agree recommendations 3.2 and 3.3 a further £17,500 would be committed leaving £37,542 available for future commitment.
- 6.4 There is currently £25,755 unallocated in the General Provisions budget available for commitment. If Local Committee decides to agree recommendation 3.4 a further £10,000 would be committed leaving £15,755 available for future commitment.

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

31 August 2020

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Barrow Local Committee Budget

Electoral Divisions: All Barrow

Executive Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny? If so, give details below.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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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APPENDIX 1



BAROW LOCAL COMMITTEE: 2020/21

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT: 31 August 2020

Discretionary budgets total allocation 2020/21 Council 13/02/20	167,156
Budget Allocation as Council Before Review By Local Committee	
General Provision	53,490
Community Grants	0
School Crossing Patrols	30,866
0-19 Services	82,800
0-19 Service Grants	0
Total Allocation	167,156

Budget Sector	2020/21 Original Budget	Balance B/Fwd see note	Virement In	Virement Out	Revised Budget	Other Contribs	2020/21 Spending Limit	Remaining Commitments	Actual Expenditure	Expenditure And Commitments	Unallocated Resources or (Variance)
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Discretionary Budgets											
General Provision	51,248	23,516	0	0	74,764	0	74,764	42,451	6,558	49,009	25,755
Community Grants	30,000	0	0	0	30,000	0	30,000	0	0	0	30,000
School Crossing Patrols (see note)	30,866	4,470	0	0	35,336	0	35,336	23,827	11,509	35,336	0
0-19 Services	55,042	49,175	0	0	104,217	0	104,217	8,000	41,175	49,175	55,042
	167,156	77,161	0	0	244,317	0	244,317	74,278	59,242	133,520	110,797
Other Revenue Budgets											
Neighbourhood Development Team	87,798	0	0	0	87,798	0	87,798	0	87,798	87,798	0
Money Advice Contract - CAB	57,060	0	0	0	57,060	0	57,060	0	57,060	57,060	0
	144,858	0	0	0	144,858	0	144,858	0	144,858	144,858	0
LOCAL COMMITTEE COMMUNITIES TOTAL	312,014	77,161	0	0	389,175	0	389,175	74,278	204,100	278,378	110,797