

---

**To: The Council Leader and Members of Cabinet**

# Supplement

Dear Members

## **COUNTY COUNCIL 23 MARCH 2023**

Further to the agenda for County Council on 23 March please find enclosed the following items which were marked 'to follow':-

- Agenda Item No 10 (B) – Additional set of Audit and Assurance Minutes – 21 March
- Agenda Item No 10 (C) - Barrow Local Committee Minutes – 17 March

You should now have all the papers for this meeting.

Yours sincerely

**JACKIE CURRIE**  
**Democratic Services**



## AUDIT AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Audit and Assurance Committee held on Tuesday, 21 March 2023 at 2.00 pm at Committee Room 2 County Hall Kendal

### PRESENT:

Mrs HF Carrick (Chair)

Mr GD Cook  
Mr SB Collins

Mrs EA Mallinson

### Also in Attendance:-

Mrs J Currie - Professional Lead - Democratic Services  
Ms F Parker - Group Finance Manager - Corporate Accounting  
Ms C Parkinson - Interim Chief Legal Officer

### In attendance virtually

Mr G Kelly - Engagement Lead - Grant Thornton  
Mr R Anderson - Audit Manager  
Ms J Moore - Interim Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

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

The meeting of the 9 March 2023 was reconvened at this point.

#### 67 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Marriner and Mr Morgan.

#### 68 MEMBERSHIP

There were no changes in membership on this occasion.

#### 69 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mrs Carrick declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No 5 (A) – 2021/22 Auditor's Annual Report on Cumbria County Council, as she was a member of the Chief Officers' Committee about which the auditors had been seeking additional information.

#### 70 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

**RESOLVED,** that the press and public be not excluded from any items on the agenda today.

## 71 (GRANT THORNTON ITEMS)

### (A) 2021/22 Auditor's Annual Report on Cumbria County Council

The auditors from Grant Thornton presented their report on the Auditor's Annual Report on Cumbria County Council, more commonly known as the Value for Money (VFM) report.

The previous meeting had been adjourned to allow the auditors additional time to fully consider an outstanding matter relating to a decision taken in the 2021/22 financial year.

These investigations had now concluded and had resulted in updated wording on the outstanding matter in the revised Auditor's Annual Report for 2021/22 which now included an improvement recommendation that related to recruitment decisions taken by the Council's Chief Officers Committee. The recommendation focused on the need for comprehensive written documentation of detailed discussions to be maintained to provide robust evidence to support recruitment decisions in the future, should it be needed.

The auditors had considered this both from a financial cost perspective and whether the Committee had been appropriately informed in their decision making. After examination of the significant evidence provided, they were satisfied that the Committee had been appropriately informed of the financial implications of their decision but were recommending that going forward improvements were made to the recording of the detailed discussions that accompany recruitment decisions. Although, they acknowledged that this recommendation would not be for Cumbria County Council to action.

The Interim Director of Finance thanked the auditors for the time they had taken to consider the evidence presented.

For information, the auditors informed members that the closure of the 2021/22 Final Accounts and the Accounts for the Cumbria Pensions Fund would take place the following day.

The Chair thanked the auditors for the report and felt the improvement recommendation would be useful, going forward.

**RESOLVED,** that the updated report and recommendations be received and noted.

The meeting ended at 2.35 pm

## COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Barrow held on Friday, 17 March 2023 at 10.30 am at Conference Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1LG

### PRESENT:

Mr KR Hamilton (Chair)

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

Also in Attendance:-

Mrs E Broadbent	-	Community Development Officer
Ms D Benson-Gee	-	Community Development Assistant
Mr M Hammond	-	Highways Network Engineer
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms T Ingham	-	Area Manager - Barrow
Mrs A Meadows	-	Community Development Officer
Mrs A Mitchell	-	Project and Programme Officer
Ms K Taylor	-	Public Health Project Officer
Mr K Tetchner	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager
Ms S Tiribocchi	-	Community Development Officer

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

The Chair welcomed all members and officers to the last meeting of Barrow Local Committee in the life of Cumbria County Council.

#### **63 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Dooz, Mr D English, Ms M Pearce and Mr B Shirley.

#### **64 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest made on this occasion.

## **65 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

## **66 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

## **67 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **68 BARROW HIGHWAYS ADVISORY SUB-GROUP**

The Committee considered a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which gave details of the discussion and recommendations of the Highways Advisory Sub-Group for the Barrow area which met on 14 February 2023.

The local Member for Hindpool, on behalf of the local Member for Dalton South, raised safety concerns regarding the number of parked and speeding vehicles on Coronation Drive and suggested that this be referred to the CRASH Group. It was agreed that the Local Area Highways Network Manager would investigate this matter and report back direct.

The Chair of the Local Committee informed members that he had emphasised the importance of the Barrow Highways Sub-Group to the appropriate Westmorland and Furness Portfolio Holder and requested that this continue into the new Authority.

The Chair of the Sub-Group, on behalf of the Local Committee, highlighted the positive work which had been undertaken and expressed thanks and appreciation to the Local Area Highways Network Manager, Highways Network Engineer and all Highways staff for their positive contributions and outstanding work.

During the course of the discussion the valuable contributions at the Sub-Group meetings from representatives of Stagecoach, Cumbria Police and Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service was highlighted and it was agreed to send individual letters expressing thanks and appreciation.

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes be noted.

## **69 BARROW AREA PLANNING REPORT**

Members received a detailed and positive report from the Assistant Director – Customer and Community Services which provided information from across the Community teams including Community Development, Archives and libraries, and provided an update on work and agreed activity since the last meeting of the Committee.

The Committee was informed that the Team continued to work to support area planning activity and priority areas of work including the cost-of-living crisis, Barrow Town Deal and Borderlands.

The local Member for Walney South asked for any updates regarding the planning application for the Earnse Bay Outdoor Centre. The Vice-Chair of the Local Committee advised that a response was still awaited from the Secretary of State.

The Committee received a detailed update on the Dalton Borderlands Place Programme and was advised that the Project Initiation Documents (PIDs) had been received and reviewed by Ekosgen consultants who had been liaising individually with project leads to undertake a clarification process to ensure all relevant information was considered. It was explained that the PIDs were submitted for consideration at the 2 March meeting of the Dalton Town Team where members of the Group had discussed the proposals and put forward their suggestions.

Members were advised that the Borderlands programme would move across to the new Westmorland and Furness Authority. The Committee was informed that the next steps would be for the consultants' recommendations to be presented for approval to submit to the Borderlands Partnership and facilitate the process for schemes to move to the next stage of developing project level business cases.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Adele Mitchell, Programme and Project Officer, for her invaluable support to the Project.

Members were informed that the Community Prosperity Partnership was bringing together third-sector organisations who were supporting the communities in the Barrow Borough area to work collaboratively. It was explained that this was focusing on the cost of living with three main key themes as part of its work – warm spots, food and fuel and emergency referrals.

The Committee was advised that the Partnership was keen to ensure the work it undertook was more sustainable and maximise funding through various sources. Members were informed that many of the warm spots set up by community groups and volunteers were building up relationships and trust with residents; engaging and connecting residents, meeting needs and reducing social isolation noting that the partnership wished to see the provision of warm welcome spots all year round to enable those connections to continue.

Members were informed that organisations within the Partnership were starting to work together understanding each of their core offer and how they could all add value to each other's organisations, services, and residents. Officers explained that

each organisation did not have to provide everything to each resident; there was a need for them all to be connected to support meeting the need of the individual resident using the right front door approach.

The Committee was advised that the Partnership was developing a collaborative project and had identified a need for a community connector/volunteer co-ordinator role to be the link between organisations and communities; a similar type of role having been identified through the Community Renewal Funding bid. Members welcomed the positive discussions which had taken place with Cumbria Community Foundation with regards to a collaborative bid.

The local Member for Old Barrow suggested that engagement take place with local arts organisations to seek support for the provision of services for the community. The Community Development Officer acknowledged the support which such organisations were able to provide and confirmed this would be part of the Community Connector role in the future.

Members were advised of the positive work being undertaken at the Boathouse which included a cycling workshop.

The Public Health Project Officer gave a detailed update on work being undertaken and informed the Committee of the Priority Wards work which included work being undertaken alongside NHS and Public Health colleagues focussing on the Central and Hindpool wards as a priority. It was explained that those two wards were the most deprived nationally and had the highest non-planned admissions/attendances to A&E. Members were advised that health funding would allow a 6-month project to be undertaken to understand the issues around the greater admission rate. Members were informed that all of the information would be collated and written into a report that would be presented to the Population Health Strategic Group to help them reshape service provision.

The Committee was advised of the imminent launch of a 12 weeks' smoking support programme together with work being undertaken with the local maternity services for the provision of CO2 monitors.

Members received a positive update from the Barrow Libraries and Archive which highlighted a significant increase in people attending regular and one-off events in the libraries throughout December and January. The Committee noted there had been a surge in new memberships across the Barrow network in December with more people joining the Barrow Group than any other library in the county. It was explained that in December engagement, both in and outside the Library, had taken place with 1,931 people and 848 people in January.

The Chair, as well as individual members of the Committee, expressed their personal thanks and appreciation to all members of the Barrow Community Team for the phenomenal work they had undertaken, highlighting the successful projects in their divisions. Members drew attention to their successful and well deserved Love Barrow Award and wished everyone well for the future.

**RESOLVED**, that the report be noted.



## **70 YEAR END REPORT**

The Committee received an End of Year report highlighting the achievements performed by Cumbria County Council's Barrow Local Committee Community Development Team during the period 2017-2022.

Members were advised that Barrow Local Committee had led and supported a wide range of work across the Barrow Borough area over the current Council cycle. It was explained that through the area working approach, use of local knowledge and partnership working, it had been possible to target resources to support and empower communities, help bring in investment and drive change.

The report highlighted some of the work and activity that had been carried out over the past five years, including a range of successes, challenges and learning.

The Area Support Manager highlighted the many challenges, including a pandemic, which required the whole Borough community to come together and members expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Community Development Team, third sector organisations and fellow councillors for their continued dedication.

The Committee was advised of a number of successful projects which included the refurbishment of Barrow Library, Tour of Britain, Harri Bus, Egerton Court and the development of the health and wellbeing partnership.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated the Area Support Manager on her new role in Westmorland and Furness and wished her well for the future. The current Community Team and past members of the Team were thanked for their outstanding hard work and dedication together with the Senior Democratic Services Officer, Local Area Highways Network Manager and his Team.

The Chair thanked fellow County Councillors for their continued support for both himself and the dedication and commitment shown to improve the outcomes for local residents as well as the whole Borough through the constructive input to the many local projects and initiatives to benefit the local communities spread across the Borough over the last five years and wished everyone well for the future.

The Committee expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Chair of the Local Committee who had provided strong leadership during his term of office which had resulted in positive outcomes.

**RESOLVED**, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) details of any additional information for inclusion in the Year End report be sent to Tracey Ingham.

**71    REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

**72    DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that this was the last meeting of the Local Committee in the life of Cumbria County Council.

The meeting ended at 11.30 am

Signed .....

Dated .....