

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Barrow held on Friday, 16 September 2022 at 10.30 am at Community Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1LG

PRESENT:

Mr KR Hamilton (Chair)

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

Also in Attendance:-

Mrs L Harker	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms T Ingham	- Area Manager - Barrow
Mr B Lawson	- Senior Manager - (Development) Active Cumbria
Mrs A Meadows	- Community Development Officer
Ms K Taylor	- Public Health Project Officer
Mr K Tetchner	- Local Area Highways Network Manager

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

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Gawne and Mr M Worth.

28 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest made on this occasion.

29 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

30 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

31 MINUTES

With reference to minute 14 – Apologies for Absence, it was agreed that Mr R Worthington be added.

RESOLVED, that with the inclusion of the above amendment the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

32 DFT ACTIVE TRAVEL SOCIAL PRESCRIBING PILOT DELIVERY

The Committee received a presentation from Bruce Lawson, Senior Manager (Development), Active Cumbria on the DfT Active Travel Social Prescribing Pilot Delivery (ATSP) whose aim was to provide cycling and walking interventions and improvements as part of a social prescribing offer.

The Senior Manager explained the pilot delivery would support older adults including those with disabilities or long-term conditions, lower socio-economic groups, culturally diverse communities and younger people.

Members were updated on the stages of the pilot and DfT application process noting that the timescale for Stage 4 - Pilot Delivery 1 of only 11 local authorities was Autumn 2022–Spring 2025.

The Local Committee was informed that a feasibility study had been undertaken and noted the wide range of products which had been created to support the submission. It was explained the pilot delivery would comprise a number of activities and services including an ATSP Team, active travel events, support and training, cycle provision, hire/loan schemes, re-bike schemes, enhanced cycle parking and digital platforms.

Members noted the pilot delivery budget and investment and the key stages of delivery.

The Committee was informed that the next steps included the creation of job profiles and person specifications prior to the recruitment and selection of the Delivery Team positions, exploration of opportunities for digital platforms, re-engage with strategic and local partners and potential providers previously engaged, re-define governance arrangements for pilot delivery, consider priority locations for phase 1 cycle parking enhancements and explore and consider the resources required for hosting promotional events.

A discussion took place regarding the Delivery Team posts and it was confirmed the current Senior Manager would be responsible for recruitment to the posts within Cumbria County Council as well as their transition to the two new authorities.

The local Member for Hindpool welcomed the initiative and the proposed local Team but emphasised the need to ensure that the funding was used to target the inequalities which had been highlighted in the deprived areas of the specifically named divisions.

During the course of discussion the local Member highlighted how this could be the start of a social enterprise in the Barrow area and suggested discussions took place with the local College with a view to a cycle maintenance course being included on their future curriculum. The Senior Officer confirmed that the Authority's Social Enterprise Partnership Manager was involved in the initiative and local opportunities and providers had been highlighted throughout.

The local Member for Ormsgill welcomed the scheme whilst raising his concerns regarding the number of measures in which Barrow was above the national average. The Senior Manager acknowledged the concerns raised highlighting the challenges and the need to ensure inequalities were addressed.

The local Member for Newbarns and Parkside whilst welcoming the scheme raised his concerns regarding the delivery budget, highlighting in particular the allocation to Marcomms and MEL (which included digital platforms). The Senior Manager explained that the DfT provided variations for the budget and it was agreed further information would be made available direct to the local Member.

The local Member for Dalton North welcomed the initiative and the availability of bicycles for use, and beyond this the inclusion of people with disabilities being afforded the opportunity to travel in an active way through hybrid and electric bikes. During the course of discussion future maintenance costs were highlighted and the Senior Officer confirmed this would be undertaken either by the organisations who provided the bikes or by ensuring members of the public received the necessary skills to maintain the equipment.

The Chair welcomed the initiative and asked whether this could include changing/shower facilities. The Senior Officer confirmed that such provision was not included in the current submission but suggested this could be considered as part of one of the first capital schemes in the future.

A discussion also took place regarding engagement and communication and it was explained this had taken place with partners and cycling groups. It was agreed the information would be made available to all members of the Local Committee.

The local Member for Dalton South drew attention to the successful cycle repair unit in the area and the Senior Officer agreed to look at this with a view to considering the inclusion of a similar service within this initiative.

The local Member for Walney South, whilst embracing the scheme, drew attention to potential problems with regards to the traffic congestion on Bridge Road, Walney.

The Senior Officer informed the Committee this had been taken into account and revisions were being investigated.

The Chair drew attention to the positive communications which evolved from the inclusion of the Barrow area in cycling events such as the Tour of Britain. The Senior Officer confirmed events such as those were currently being considered for the area and it was agreed the Committee would be updated accordingly.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Senior Manager (Development) Active Cumbria and his Team for their part in the scheme and for an informative presentation.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

33 BUSINESS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CENTRE (BIPC) PROGRAMME

Due to unforeseen circumstances the BIPC Programme Manager was unable to attend the meeting, therefore, this item was deferred to the Local Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday 15 November 2022.

34 HIGHWAYS DELIVERY PROGRAMME UPDATE 2022/23

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which updated members on the current in-year highways delivery works programme and gave an overview of work completed to date and work remaining for the rest of the year.

Members noted that the Devolved Highways Revenue budget was £1,031,587 (which included a £200,000 additional pothole funding element), the Devolved Highways Capital budget was £890,446, the Devolved Highways Additional Pothole Repairs Capital budget was £750,404 and the Non devolved PRN (Primary Route Network) Capital budget was £373,750.

The Local Area Highways Network Manager informed the Committee that the top-slicing information was still outstanding, therefore, a finance report would be made available at the next meeting of the Local Committee in November. Members raised their concerns regarding the lack of top-slicing data.

Members were informed of the ongoing work to reduce the number of potholes on the Borough's roads and the amount that were being reported through the Authority's HIAMS system. The Committee was informed that additional resources had been contracted to help the process and that during the month of July the Nu-Phalt system had completed 384 pothole repairs of which 225 were reported defects through the HIAMS system. The Local Area Highways Network Manager encouraged all defects to be reported through the system.

The local Member for Dalton North passed on the thanks and appreciation of the Dalton Action Group for the velocity patching which had been undertaken in the area.

A discussion took place regarding the management of defects in the Barrow area and members were informed officers regularly inspected the network for defects. The Local Area Highways Network Manager explained that the backlog of targets on HIAMs were targeted in the first instance; explaining that where possible a group of defects in one area would be undertaken at the same time.

The local Member for Hindpool and Chair of the Local Committee asked that their thanks be conveyed to Mark Hammond for the tree maintenance works which had been undertaken on Greengate Street.

The Committee drew attention to the positive contributions made by Highways officers attending local community groups and it was agreed that, if possible, they would attend future events.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, asked that their thanks and appreciated be passed onto the Highways Team.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

35 BARROW AREA PLANNING REPORT

Members considered a positive detailed report by the Assistant Director – Customer and Community Services which brought together 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 noted a workshop which had been held with a range of organisations and services such as Barrow Foodbank, The Well, Women's Community Matters, Salvation Army, Springmount and County Council Health and Wellbeing Coaches. It was explained the purpose of this was to build on the discussions taking place through the Barrow Resilience Group, Poverty Working Group, and other partnerships to understand how work could continue to strengthen the support provided for individuals and families struggling with financial hardship.

Members were informed that in order to progress the larger amounts of funding for both Springmount and Barrow Foodbank, Local Committee was formally requested to approve this for food purchasing and wider community support.

The Committee was informed that the Local Committee Neighbourhood Grants fund had been very well used to date this financial year and all funding had now been spent. It was explained that at an Informal Local Committee meeting members had asked for an additional £10,000 to be transferred from General Provisions to the Community Grants budget to enable additional applications to be considered.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the current balance of £16,000 in the Environment Fund due to a potential scheme in the Dalton North Division not going ahead because of the lack of availability of match funding.

Members were informed of a number of concerns raised regarding trees in the centre of Barrow, particularly on Risedale Road and Hartington Street which required maintenance. The Committee was, therefore, asked to consider allocating the £16,000 balance of the Environment Fund to meet some of the costs to undertake this work.

Members noted a suggestion made to establish a network of 'warm places' across the borough which people could access over winter in order to keep warm, access hot drinks and receive information/signposting where needed. During the course of discussion the local Member for Hindpool drew attention to a café facility located within the Barrow and District Disability Association premises and the potential inclusion of this as a 'warm place'. The Area Manager confirmed that the Association had offered this space; members also noted that the Community Foundation had been approached for additional funding.

The Public Health Project Officer gave a brief positive update on work being undertaken which included Physical Activity on Referral, Weight Management – Slimming World, In-Reach Alcohol Support at Furness General Hospital, Vaccination Uptake and Targeting and Wider Determinants of Health.

The Area Manager explained that an end of term report, outlining work which had been undertaken by the Local Committee over the past five years, would be presented to a future meeting and asked members to provide her with any information they would like included in the document.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Community Team for their continued support and asked that their achievements be included in the end of term report.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) as part of the Local Committee's Cost of Living Funding (as detailed in paragraphs 4.5-4.12 of the report) agree:-
 - (i) £10,000 for Barrow Foodbank to purchase additional food;
 - (ii) £10,100 for Springmount to act as a central point to provide energy cost support and any other essential items;
- (3) £10,000 be vired from General Provisions to the Community Grants budget (as detailed above and outlined in paragraph 4.73 of the report);

- (4) the £16,000 balance of the 2022/23 Environment fund be used on tree works (as detailed in paragraphs 4.74-76 of the report).

36 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES

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

37 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Tuesday 15 November 2022 at 10.30 am in the Conference Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1LG.

The meeting ended at 11.55 am