

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Barrow held on Monday, 20 January 2020 at 10.30 am at Conference Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1LG

PRESENT:

Mr KR Hamilton (Chair)

Mrs A Burns
Mr F Cassidy
Mr D English
Mr D Gawne

Mr W McEwan (Vice-Chair)
Mr B Shirley
Mrs H Wall
Mr MH Worth

Also in Attendance:-

Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms T Ingham	-	Area Manager - Barrow
Mrs A Meadows	-	Community Development Officer
Dr M Saunders	-	Public Health Consultant
Mr J Taylor	-	Senior Manager - Early Help and Targeted Youth Support
Mr K Tetchner	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager

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

55 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Wielkopolski and Mr R Worthington.

56 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest made on this occasion.

57 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

58 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

59 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

60 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICE

The Committee received a presentation outlining a number of areas which the Children and Young People's Service was responsible for.

Members noted the open cases and trends in the Barrow area. It was explained there were 165 children with a 'Child in need Plan' which was a rate of 125 per 10,000 population, higher than the Cumbria rate of 91. The Committee noted that 55% were boys, 44% girls and 1% unborn babies. Members were informed that 50% were under 10 with the other 50% being over 10 and that 32% of them had a disability.

A discussion took place regarding 'Child Protection Plans' in the Barrow area noting that 123 children were the subject of a Plan with 30% previously being the subject of a Plan. Members noted that this was a rate of 93 per 10,000 population, higher than the Cumbria rate of 62. It was explained that 55% were boys, 42% girls and that 2% were unborn babies. It was noted that 59% were aged under 10 and 41% were 10 and over with 5% of those having a disability.

The Committee was informed there were 159 children looked after in the Barrow area which was a rate of 120 per 10,000 population, higher than the Cumbria rate of 77. It was explained that 58% were boys, 42% girls with 36% aged under 10 and 64% over 10 and 8% had a disability.

Members were informed there were 44 care leavers in Barrow receiving support which was a rate of 33 per 10,000 population, higher than the Cumbria rate of 17. It was explained that 44% were in education, employment or training and 93% were living in suitable accommodation.

During the course of discussion it was agreed that national statistics would also be made available to the Committee.

The Committee raised their concerns regarding the number of babies entering the system acknowledging the challenges and critical need for discussions with the new provider regarding this matter. Members felt that the Health and Wellbeing Board had a role to play regarding early help to prevent babies entering the system. It was agreed that as the partnership approach evolved this would make a significant difference.

Members welcomed the successful preventative work undertaken with adolescents which had seen a reduction in teenagers entering the care system. The Committee welcomed the resilience workers who worked alongside social workers during a crisis and directly with children looked after to help them return to their home.

A discussion took place regarding out of county placements and members were assured that this only took place as a last resort if there were no places available in the county. It was emphasised that a significant amount of work was undertaken to ensure there was regular contact with children placed out of county.

The Committee was informed of the difficulties encountered regarding recruitment and retention of officers and welcomed this matter being considered as part of the evolving Development Plan.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Officer for the presentation and it was agreed members would receive a further update at the Local Committee meeting scheduled for May 2020.

RESOLVED, that the presentation be noted.

61 2019/20 HIGHWAYS DEVOLVED REVENUE AND CAPITAL UPDATE

Members considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which presented the Highways Revenue and Devolved Capital and Non-Devolved Capital budget finance reports and updated members as to current progress on those budget lines (detailed in the appendices attached to the report).

RESOLVED, that the revenue and capital budget allocations for 2019/20 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to the end of November 2019 (detailed in appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report) be noted.

62 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 17 December 2019.

(1) Minutes

With reference to minute 21 – Update from Stagecoach the local Member for Hindpool drew attention to the change of a bus route. Members were informed that part of the revised route meant that buses were now stopping on Holker Street and residents had raised their concerns regarding the lack of bus shelters on either side of the highway. The Member asked whether a redundant bus shelter in the area could be moved or if ‘Clearview’ (a bus shelter provider) could be approached with a view to them providing the facility.

During the course of discussion members raised the positive environmental impact increased public use of local buses could have and felt that every effort should be made to improve the services provided. The Committee agreed the ageing buses and reduction in timetables in the Barrow area should also be raised as a concern with the bus provider.

It was agreed that a letter would be written to the Managing Director of Stagecoach requesting a meeting to discuss the concerns of members. A representative from Stagecoach would also be invited to the next meeting of the Highways Sub-Group to consider the matters raised.

With reference to minute 23 – Nelson Street, Dalton-in-Furness the local Member for Dalton North asked for confirmation regarding the details of the agreed site visit. The Local Area Highways Network Manager confirmed that a site visit would take place before the next meeting of Barrow Highways Sub-Group on 14 February 2020.

During the course of discussion the use of funding from the Borderlands Project was suggested as possibility for this scheme. Whilst this was acknowledged as a possibility it was felt that this could not be guaranteed, therefore, it was agreed that the suggested site visit take place and the five options put forward be considered.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2019 be noted.

(2) Barrow Consolidation Traffic Regulation Order Variation No 40

RESOLVED, that the County of Cumbria (Various Roads, Barrow-in-Furness) (Consolidation and Minor Amendment of Traffic Regulations) (Order 2001) Variation Order (No 40) 20>< (“the Order”), be brought into operation as advertised, having taken into consideration the matters contained in Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (detailed at paragraph 7.2 of the report) be agreed.

(3) Barrow Local Committee Provisional Devolved Highways Capital Programme 2020/21

RESOLVED, that the provisional Devolved Highways Capital Programme for 2020/21 (detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report), subject to final determination following the approval of the 2020/21 Council budget early in 2020 be approved.

63 BARROW AREA PLANNING REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which detailed 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 an update regarding the redevelopment of Barrow Central Library and were informed that a site visit would be organised for the Committee following completion of the first phase.

The Committee was given an update regarding the Ormsgill Community Hub and was informed the redevelopment of the Children’s Centre into a community hub had started and members would be kept updated of progress.

Members welcomed the positive update regarding the reduction in the number of vacancies for Local Authority nominated School Governors in the Borough.

Mrs A Meadows gave an encouraging update on the Barrow Island community development work which was being undertaken. She informed members that a multi-agency Barrow Island Partnership, which included residents, had been established and was proving successful. It was explained that as well as social events with the social responsibility element being undertaken alongside targeted intervention such as working with ‘Streetcare’ to address environmental issues. The Committee was informed that existing buildings were being utilised to engage residents in social events and in addition partners such as the Police and Health would be hot-desking on Barrow Island in existing buildings to engage with the community.

The Committee highlighted the importance of engagement with residents and thanked the Community Development Officer and her Team for the excellent work they continued to undertake.

Members noted that following a presentation from the Honorary Chief Executive Officer, Barrow and District Disability Association at the meeting of Barrow Local Committee in July 2019 it had been agreed in principle to make a contribution of £5,000 to the ‘Buy a Brick’ campaign. Members were therefore asked to consider whether they wished to agree to provide £5,000 or another amount to this campaign from General Provisions.

The Committee was informed that Shaney Jones, an Officer of the Barrow Community Team, would be leaving the Authority. The Chair, on behalf of members, asked that their thanks be conveyed to Shaney and it was agreed a letter would be sent expressing their appreciation.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) a grant of £5,000 from the General Provisions budget be made to Barrow District Disability Association.

64 SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which provided an update on the Supporting Children & Strengthening Families.

Members recalled that a new approach and refreshed membership of the Supporting Children and Families Group had been agreed by Barrow Local Committee in November 2019. The Committee received an update on the meeting held on 4 December which had focused on areas of work responsible by Children’s Services which included demand management, front door, adolescents and step downs. It was explained the Group had been presented with case studies which highlighted early intervention and how working differently in partnership could achieve positive results to give young people the best opportunities.

The Committee was informed that the membership would be reviewed to ensure the right partners were in place to focus on the key areas.

A discussion took place regarding alternative provision on the Walney site and members were informed that identified sites in Barrow were currently being assessed.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

65 HEALTH AND WELLBEING - BARROW LOCALITY

Members received a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which provided an update on the work of the Public Health Locality Manager to improve health and wellbeing outcomes in Barrow.

The Committee welcomed the report which contained information regarding the Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy, Barrow Health and Wellbeing Partnership, Barrow Drugs Deaths, Suicide Safer Barrow and Adverse Childhood Experiences.

A discussion took place regarding the Suicide Safer Barrow initiative noting that this included ‘Every Life Matters’ delivering suicide prevention training, bereavement support and suicide first aid to organisations who sign up. It was suggested that the Authority’s Communications Team should promote the local courses.

The Committee received a positive update regarding the work being undertaken on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). A discussion took place regarding Cumbria becoming an ACEs aware county. Members were informed ACEs was relatively new with the County Council leading on this, explaining there was a consensus to take care phasing this in. It was explained that ACEs training was currently being developed through the Cumbria Trauma-Informed Group to support frontline services to have the skills to recognise ACEs and respond in a supportive manner

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

66 LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP MEETING

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership meeting held on 15 November 2019 be noted.

67 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Committee was informed that two member nominations were required to the Town Deals Board which had been established to regenerate town centres, boost businesses and improve infrastructure via the Towns Fund.

RESOLVED, that Anne Burns and Kevin Hamilton be appointed to the Board as member and substitute respectively.

68 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Friday 6 March 2020 at 10.30 am in the Conference Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1LG.

The meeting ended at 11.30 am