

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Barrow held on Friday, 6 March 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)
Mrs H Wall
Mr R Worthington

Also in Attendance:-

Mrs E Broadbent	-	Community Development Officer
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mr A Harty	-	Senior Manager - Property
Ms T Ingham	-	Area Manager - Barrow
Mrs A Meadows	-	Community Development Officer
Mr D Rawle	-	Senior Estates Surveyor
Mr A Smart	-	School Places Manager
Mr K Tetchner	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager
Ms C Watson	-	Community Transport Officer

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

69 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr B Shirley and Mr M Worth.

70 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest made on this occasion.

71 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

72 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

73 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

74 DELIVERING IN-HOUSE SEND AND MAINSTREAM HOME TO SCHOOL AND ADULT DAY CENTRE TRANSPORT

Members received a positive presentation regarding Delivering In-House SEND and Mainstream Home to School and Adult Day Centre Transport.

The Committee noted that following completion of Phase 2 which included additional routes in the Barrow area Phase 3 would begin which would include a review of 'high cost routes' in Spring 2020, additional routes countywide from September 2020 and an increase in day to day activity. Members asked for data specifically relating to the Barrow area.

A discussion took place regarding bus services in the Barrow area and members raised a number of ideas for future consideration which included weekend provision of services in rural areas, community transport, provision of transport for children looked after and the use of the buses to transport elected members to full County Council in Kendal.

Officers welcomed members enthusiasm for future use of the vehicles and it was agreed that a separate meeting would take place to discuss this matter further.

75 ONE PUBLIC ESTATE

Members received a presentation from the Senior Manager - Commercial Investment & Property regarding One Public Estate; a Cabinet Office initiative in partnership with the Local Government Association.

The Local Committee were informed that in the national context by 2020 projects were expected to deliver £615m in capital receipts and £158 million in running cost savings, create 44,000 jobs and release land for 25,000 homes. It was explained that arrangements in Cumbria were hosted by Carlisle City Council and was currently made up of a partnership of other organisations.

Members noted the benefits to Cumbria which included building on existing partnership work, access to funding for project development, technical support from analysts and data experts, strengthening relationships with Cabinet Office and that

schemes would be identified through existing local plans, strategies and local plans to meet local needs. It was explained there were a number of requirements and that Cumbria County Council had met them all.

The Committee was informed that the next steps would link into area planning to identify projects which were aligned to Council priorities and would involve early engagement with elected members. It was explained that any decisions for the County Council would be made through existing governance and that work would continue with partners to define programme and strategic opportunities.

During the course of discussion concerns were raised regarding the lack of officer representation from South Cumbria on the Cumbria One Public Estate Sponsors Cumbria Chief Executives' Group and it was agreed this concern would be raised with Cumbria County Council's Chief Executive.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

76 POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF NURSERY PROVISION AT BRAM LONGSTAFFE

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director – People which informed members that a consultation on the potential closure of Bram Longstaffe Nursery School was being undertaken. It provided an opportunity for the Local Committee to express a view on the potential closure to the Cabinet before the next steps were decided.

Members noted that a much wider range of community services was provided from the Bram Longstaffe building, but that the current closure consultation related only to the nursery school services provided there. It was explained that it was the County Council's intention that the building and the Bram Longstaffe name be retained, and community services continue to operate on the site.

The Committee was informed that the school had struggled to balance its budget for a number of years. It was explained schools were not usually allowed to operate with a deficit, but the County Council, recognising the service that Bram Longstaffe had provided to the local community over many years, had continued to support the school in seeking to return to a balanced budget position. Members noted the costs had been reduced but it was forecast that this position would increase by the end of 2019/20.

Members noted that a co-produced action plan for Barrow Island had been developed and the Community Development Team had worked with residents, businesses and partners to develop a programme of activity for the coming year. The Committee welcomed the opportunity for a more joined up service provision around a hub model which had been explored, noting that BAE Systems and the Police had expressed an interest in the use of the building.

The Committee thanked all officers involved in this matter.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the consultation be noted;
- (2) the Local Committee strongly recommends to Cabinet the concept that the Council retains the building to support the development of the community hub.

77 HIGHWAYS DEVOLVED REVENUE AND CAPITAL UPDATE 2019/20

The Committee considered a report from 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.

The local Member for Hindpool raised concerns of residents regarding the trees on Greengate Street; it was felt they were blocking light and the roots were causing flooding issues in the area. The Local Area Highways Network Manager suggested this could be investigated as part of next year's budget.

RESOLVED, that the Revenue and Capital budget allocations for 2019/20 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to the end of January 2020 (as detailed in appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report) be noted.

78 PROPOSED HIGHWAYS DEVOLVED REVENUE AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020-21

Members considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which sought approval for the proposed Devolved Highways Capital and Revenue Programme 2020-21, including prioritised lists of schemes, which would form the basis of the Local Committee's Devolved Highways Capital and Revenue Programme for 2020-21 and provide a core programme for future years subject to annual review. Member noted that the Devolved Capital allocation for 2020/21 was £1,411,402 and the Devolved Revenue allocation for 2020/21 was £782,608.

A discussion took place regarding the possible use of recycled plastic for footway and road surfacing. The Local Area Highways Network Manager confirmed there was an ongoing trial in Carlisle but no specific locations had been agreed in Barrow.

Members discussed the state of disrepair of Bridge Road, Barrow and the significant costs to resurface the infrastructure. The Local Committee was informed that this scheme had been included in a recent bid to the Government for possible future funding. Whilst members welcomed the bid they also suggested that this matter be raised with BAE Systems and Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership. It was agreed that a representative from BAE Systems would be invited to a future meeting of Barrow Highways Advisory Sub-Group for a further discussion on the matter.

RESOLVED, that the proposed Devolved Highways Capital and Revenue Programmes for 2020-21 (set out in the appendices of the report) be approved.

79 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 2020.

Members were informed that the Chairs of the Local Committee and Barrow Highways Sub-Group had recently attended a positive meeting with the Director of Stagecoach. It was explained discussions had taken place regarding the ageing fleet in Barrow, the possibility of a free bus service on Sundays and possible travel discount for apprentices at BAE Systems.

The Local Committee drew attention to concerns regarding traffic lights in a number of locations in the Barrow area. It was explained the Traffic Systems Team Leader would be attending the next meeting of Barrow Highways Sub-Group and those matters would be raised.

(1) Minutes

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2020 be noted.

(2) Sandy Gap Lane Traffic Regulations – Variation Order No 41 Proposals

RESOLVED, that officers proceed to statutory consultation and advertisement of a variation to The County of Cumbria (Various Roads, Barrow-in-Furness) (Consolidation and Minor Amendment of Traffic Regulations) Order 2001, (“Variation Order No. 41”) in respect of the restrictions (as set out in Appendices 3 and 4 of the report), to revoke the one way traffic order and replace with a prohibition of traffic order on part of Sandy Gap Lane, Walney, having taken into consideration the matters contained in Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (more specifically referred to in paragraph 7.2 of the report).

80 BARROW AREA PLANNING REPORT

The Local Committee considered a report by the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which brought together 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 noted that over the previous three years Local Committee had provided £5,000 funding to CVS as part of the Barrow People in the Lead project which was co-funded by the Lottery and Borough Council. It was explained the positive project was originally identified by partners to support small and emerging groups in the Barrow area primarily to put together funding bids, but also to offer support with governance, project development and training. Taking into account the benefits of this work and the capacity that the post had provided to support groups within the community, Local Committee were asked whether they wished to extend their funding and provide a further £5,000 towards extending the programme.

The Local Committee welcomed the success of the 'Establish a Love Barrow Running Festival' and noted that following the event a number of local amateur running clubs had offered to take the lead on a running festival in 2020 and focus this on Walney. Members were keen to continue to build on the success and it was proposed that a fully inclusive Festival of Activity was developed in the town centre this year. The Local Committee were, therefore, asked to consider whether they wished to provide £9,500 from General Provisions to support the new event and an associated Festival of Walking.

Members congratulated officers involved in the opening of the coastal path at Biggar Bank, Walney highlighting the positive influx of people in the area.

The Area Manager informed members that Barrow Borough Council was continuing to develop draft Future High Street Fund proposals for Barrow-in-Furness town centre. It was noted that members had been sighted on the plans and given the opportunity to feed into their development. It was explained that emerging options for them were now subject to public consultation prior to submission of draft proposals to Government for initial feedback on 15 March 2020.

Members were asked if they would support those plans in principle at this stage, explaining they would be brought to a specific member workshop as the business cases were further developed before the final submission to government on 30 June.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) £5,000 be committed to fund an additional year of the Barrow People in the Lead Programme;
- (3) a contribution of £9,500 to support the development of a Festival of Activity be approved;
- (4) Mrs A Burns be nominated to serve as the Barrow Looked After Children's Champion for the year 2020/21;
- (5) the draft Future High Street Fund proposal plans be supported in principle at this stage and a formal paper be considered at a future meeting of the Local Committee.

81 CENTENARY BUILDING COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

The Committee considered and welcomed a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which requested a Community Asset Transfer for the Centenary Building on Abbey Road in Barrow.

RESOVLED, that the request from Barrow Domestic Appliances for a Community Asset Transfer of the Centenary Building be noted.

82 SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

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

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the work of the Support Children & Strengthening Families Group be noted;
- (2) the following grants from the Universal Services Funding budget be approved:-
 - (i) £11,000 to Furness Carers for Universal Services provision;
 - (ii) £3,000 to Drop Zone for commissioning ad-hoc outreach youth engagement work in the Barrow Borough;
 - (iii) £2,792 to Love Ormsgill for youth activities in Ormsgill;
- (3) the following grants from the 0-19 Strategic Grants Services budget be approved:-
 - (i) £9,690 to Drop Zone for Furness Forward Fest Programme;
 - (ii) £17,693 to Friends of Bram to support the development of a Family and Wellbeing Hub;
 - (iii) £5,000 to Greengate Junior School for creating a community garden.

83 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Mr W McEwan, Chairman of Cumbria Police and Crime Panel gave an update following their meeting on 7 February 2020. He informed members that the proposed precept of 3.4% had been supported. The Panel had also made representation to the Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner for the establishment provision of 95 Police Community Support Officers to be maintained and that the figure was aspired to, rather than maintained as establishment only.

84 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Tuesday 5 May 2020 at 10.30 am in the Conference Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1LG.

The meeting ended at 12.05 pm