

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Meeting date: 18 November 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.*

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 18 September 2020 and outlines provisional and actual expenditure against Local Committee's budget as of 31 October 2020.

4.2 Members continue to meet informally through virtual meetings to share information, discuss issues and recommend courses of action. Since the last meeting of Local Committee a number of specific meetings have been held and are outlined below:

- 25th September - Grants Panel
- 30th September – Local Committee / Barrow Borough Council Partnership Meeting
- 13th October - Barrow Highways Advisory Sub Group
- 14th October - Household Waste Recycling Centre Discussion
- 16th October – Bram Longstaff Hub Project Group
- 19th October – Infrastructure Group
- 19th October – Ormsgill Hub Project Group
- 20th October – Cycleways Workshop
- 23rd October – Borderlands Discussion
- 30th October – Grants Panel

4.3 In addition to these specific meetings, Members continue to meet three weekly at Informal Local Committee sessions. Topics which have been discussed at these include:

- Covid response and recovery work
- Highways issues
- An update from Barrow Citizens Advice Bureau
- Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan
- Barrow Library Redevelopment
- Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy

4.4 Members also continue to be kept informed through regular communications from the Area Manager and Community Development Team.

Covid Response

4.5 As has previously been reported to Members, from 1st September the welfare hubs in each of the district areas had been paused, with anyone phoning for assistance receiving support via the County Council's contact centre and the Ways to Welfare Team. Given the ongoing developments and the move to national lockdown, whilst the hub locally has not been stepped up at this stage, the team have been briefed and are prepared to provide extra support and capacity if needed.

4.6 The 0800 helpline telephone number is again being widely promoted, and a leaflet has been produced containing key contact details for various organisations who can provide support, from food to health and wellbeing. This leaflet is being delivered to every household in Cumbria.

4.7 The Local Resilience Group continues to meet fortnightly bringing together individuals and organisations to support the response to Covid-19 in the area. It continues to maintain its focus on 4 priority areas of:

- Financial wellbeing
- Health and wellbeing including mental health
- Children and families
- Food and other urgent needs

4.8 The Resilience Group is also working to bring together people around issues that are arising, whether through information sharing and making connections, or through helping to co-ordinate funding bids into the Community Foundation, Borough Council Hardship fund or other funding sources. Most recently the Community Team working with the Resilience Group have supported a number of organisations to put together a large collaborative bid into the Community Foundation, looking to secure funding for a range of activities to support communities over the coming months.

4.9 A number of Members are directly involved in the Resilience Group and the partnerships which link into this, and regular updates about this work continues to be brought to both informal and formal Local Committee meetings for Members information.

Financial Wellbeing Summit

4.10 At an Informal Local Committee meeting Members discussed the issues facing many in the community regarding financial wellbeing. It was noted that whilst there is a lot of support available, there are also gaps, and the question was raised as to how to bring together organisations who provide financial information and support to look at what the current situation is, how it can be strengthened and how any gaps / duplication can be addressed. Members suggested that an initial summit to look at this would be extremely valuable.

4.11 Following this discussion, the Area Manager raised this proposal with the Resilience Group as part of its focus on Financial wellbeing, and this suggestion was strongly supported. It was also noted that this would link into the work the Borough Council is planning to undertake in relation to a Poverty Truth Commission.

- 4.12 It is therefore proposed that a summit is held before Christmas, drawing together individuals and organisations with Members to discuss the following areas
- a) What the current offer is to residents in financial hardship?
 - b) What are the gaps / overlaps?
 - c) Where people are presenting / accessing assistance?
 - d) What information and support is needed for everyone to confidently refer into assistance services?
 - e) Where are the next “pinch points” (sectors/industries/individual companies)?
 - f) Next Steps

Area Working and Community Services Update

- 4.13 The team locally have also continued to work to support area planning activity, and priority areas of work and key areas are highlighted below for Members information.
- 4.14 **Barrow Main Library redevelopment** – Good progress is being made on the re-development work with the works that were initially agreed due for completion before Christmas. As Members are aware, additional works in relation to the entrance, children’s area and teen area were added to the original scope, and over recent weeks have been the subject of further engagement and consultation. This additional work is well under development and is hoped to be completed shortly after the main works. Further updates will continue to be brought to Members.
- 4.15 **Ormsgill Hub** – Works on the hub are now virtually complete with final activity being undertaken. Work is taking place with Family Action regarding the re-opening of the Children’s Centre, and discussions are beginning looking at how other services and activities can begin on the site in a phased manner subject to the impact of Covid-19 regulations.
- 4.16 **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, and the hub opened in a phased manner due to Covid-19 in the autumn with some limited activity taking place there in addition to the nursery provision. An initial 12 month license has also been developed to enable Friends of Bram to run the site with a view to a longer term arrangement for the site being developed over the coming months.
- 4.17 **Dalton Children’s Centre** – this project to review the location of children’s centre activities in Dalton was temporarily paused due to Covid-19, however a working group is now being re-established to take this forward. Further updates will be provided to Members as this work progresses
- 4.18 **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.

- 4.19 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.
- 4.20 With the positive news that the Borough Council secured significant funding through the Town Deal work will begin to understand the next steps in developing this project and Members will be kept updated and involved with this work.
- 4.21 **Borderlands** – Members recently attended an informal briefing on the development of the Borderlands Place Programme. As was discussed a working group (Town Team) will be established with the Chair and Vice Chair of Local Committee, the Divisional Members and key partners and stakeholders over coming weeks to begin to look at next steps in terms of developing and taking this forward. Updates will continue to be provided to Local Committee as this progresses and more information is received
- 4.22 **Christmas** – The Community Development Team working with a range of partners have set up a project group looking at support for children and families and isolated vulnerable adults at Christmas. Work is taking place looking at not only essential supplies but also more luxury food items as well as gifts. This work is in part funded by the money provided by Local Committee at its previous meeting and additional funding is being sought from the Borough Council’s Hardship Fund. The team will continue to update Members as this progresses.

Local Committee Budget

- 4.23 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 and the additional Coronavirus (COVID-19): Local authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies.
- 4.24 At this meeting Members committed this additional funding in addition to reviewing Local Committee’s own budgets. The current position is outlined below.

Local Committee Covid-19 Response Fund		Defra Grant Fund	
Schneider Road Community Group	£250	Walney Community Trust	£5,000
Walney Community Trust	£250	Friends of Bram	£2,500
Mental Health Booklet	£1,500	Wellfed CIC	£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
Friends of Bram	£2,500	Rampside Village Hall	£5,000
Transport to Outward Bound	£1,000	Dalton Community Association	£5,000
Community Support Directory	£220	Citizens Advice Bureau	£5,000
		Barrow and District Disability Association	£5,000
Total	£16,720	Total	£47,500
Balance	£3,280	Balance	£0

4.25 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 October 2020.

5.0 OPTIONS

5.1 This report is for noting.

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 4.25). 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.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report which is for noting.

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

8 November 2020

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Barrow Local Committee Budget

Electoral Divisions: All Barrow

Executive Decision

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Key Decision

<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

		N/A
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Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?
If so, give details below.

	No
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Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
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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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