

## COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Barrow held on Monday, 16 January 2023 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 MH Worth

Also in Attendance:-

Ms D Benson-Gee	-	Community Development Assistant
Mrs E Broadbent	-	Community Development Officer
Mr M Dooz	-	Traffic Management Team Leader (Barrow)
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
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**

The Committee agreed to move agenda item 8 (Barrow Highways Advisory Sub-Group) and discuss this before agenda item 6 (Consolidation of Existing Traffic Regulation Order 2023).

#### **52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Mr B Shirley.

#### **53 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest made on this occasion.

#### **54 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

#### **55 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

#### **56 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **57 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 9 December 2022.

The local Member for Hindpool raised concerns regarding the continued flooding problems on Cows Tarn Lane. The Highways Network Engineer explained that discussions were taking place with Barrow Borough Council and the landowner and members would be kept updated.

The local Member for Walney South thanked officers for the flooding investigations which were taking place on Thorny Nook Lane.

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2022 be noted.

#### **58 CONSOLIDATION OF EXISTING TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 2023**

Members considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which sought approval to consolidate the Traffic Regulation Orders as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Cumbria (Various Roads, Barrow-in-Furness) (Consolidation of Traffic Regulations) Order 2023 (“the Consolidation Order”), be brought into operation, the effect of which will be to consolidate the restrictions and provisions of the Orders (listed in Appendix 1 of the report) without any change of substance.

## **59 DEVOLVED HIGHWAYS CAPITAL AND REVENUE UPDATE 2022/23**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed 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 Committee was advised that the Devolved Highways Revenue budget was now £1,031,587 (this included a £200,000 revenue allocation from the DFT Pothole fund within it), Devolved Highways Capital budget was now £890,446 and the revised Devolved Highways Additional Pothole Repairs Capital budget was £750,404. It was explained that in September top slicing was also applied to the Capital elements of the budgets and following this the current Devolved Highways Capital budget was £483,909 and the Devolved Highways Additional Pothole Repairs Capital budget was now £451,959.

A discussion took place regarding the £1,031,587 Devolved Highways Revenue budget and the Local Area Highways Network Manager explained that underspends and overspends were factored into this final amount.

Members were informed that currently the Devolved Highways Revenue budget was forecasting a small accelerated spend and the Devolved Capital budget was also forecasting an accelerated spend currently by the financial year end. The Committee was informed that the Local Highways Team were working to manage the ongoing works wherever possible and it was expected that the full programme of capital works would be delivered by the end of the financial year.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, asked that thanks and appreciation be conveyed to the Highways Team for the significant amount of work they had undertaken.

**RESOLVED**, that the Revenue and Capital budget allocations for 2022/23 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to the end of November 2022 (as detailed appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report) be noted.

## **60 BARROW AREA PLANNING REPORT**

Members considered a detailed and positive report from 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's attention was drawn the Barrow Town Deal Community Hubs and Earnse Bay which continued to be a major area of focus for the Team and members. The Area Manager explained that the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan had now been developed and was currently under review; the Project Team were reviewing the project outputs with a view to disaggregating them proportionately to

each of the community hubs. Members noted this would mean that the community hubs would each have targeted outcomes that they would need to evidence and report back to the Council as a requirement of receiving revenue funding from the Barrow Town Deal.

Members were advised that Barrow Borough Council and The Forum were leading on the development of the Town Centre Community Hub and welcomed the training events which were scheduled to be delivered from The Forum (linked to the Community Hub). The Committee was informed that a community consultation was currently underway regarding the developments of the Market and the Community Hub at the Forum.

The Committee received an update on the Dalton Borderlands Place Programme and was informed that the Project Initiation Documents (PIDs) had been completed and submitted for consideration. Members were informed that a 'Celebrating Dalton Day' was being organised for May 2023 and the Committee would be kept updated.

Members received a positive update from the Community Development Officer regarding the Barrow Wheels 4 All Centre. Members were advised that £52,913 of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) would be used to create a dedicated cycle storage facility, kitchen and toilet within the Boat House at Barrow Park as well as a dedicated cycle storage facility at The Dock Museum.

The Committee was informed that a part-time Wheels 4 All Co-Ordinator, who would focus on engaging with charities, care home and health colleagues to encourage use of the facilities, had been employed and would be based at the Park Leisure Centre.

Members received an update on cycling maintenance and welcomed the collaborative work being undertaken with Furness College Engineering Department to discuss incorporating cycle maintenance as part of their curriculum and allow students to give back volunteer hours to the Wheels for All Programme.

During the course of discussion the Committee highlighted a scheme led by Active Cumbria to allow access to bikes for those people living in deprivation. It was agreed that this matter would be investigated further with Active Cumbria.

Members received a positive update on Love Barrow Families and noted the Boxability activity was going well and had been included on the national England Boxing website as a good project.

A discussion took place regarding Monks Trail and members were informed this area had been cleared and permission was awaited with regards to installing audio posts.

The Community Development Officer gave a positive update on the reshaped Community Prosperity Partnership which had widened its membership and remit going forward to incorporate the Warm Welcome Spots element of work. It was explained the Partnership objectives would be to work with and support organisations who were supporting communities on the ground and would provide networking and opportunities to share best practice and learning.

Members were informed that in relation to funding, Barrow Borough Council had identified additional funding to provide support with the Cost of Living. It was explained that recognising the existing partnership working taking place, the Borough Council agreed that two of the three key elements of the funding would be steered by the Partnership.

The Committee noted that as part of this it had been agreed to recommend £100k of this funding for Warm Spots to be administered by Spring Mount/Walney Community Trust and £100k for Emergency/Energy/Food be administered by Spring Mount/Walney Community Trust. It was highlighted that it had been agreed to develop application form and criteria which would be assessed by a Sub-Group with recommendations made to the Partnership for approval.

The Public Health Project Officer informed the Committee that a local directory of Cost of Living Warm Spots was being created and asked members to pass on any information for inclusion.

Members were informed the emergency funding would be renamed the 'Crisis Fund' and would use the expertise through MIND who had previously held a crisis fund to discuss the criteria. It was explained this Fund would complement the emergency referral process operated by Spring Mount for white goods etc.

The Area Manager explained to members that since the last meeting of the Local Committee £20,100 had been allocated to the Barrow area from the DWP Household Support Fund to provide support to vulnerable households in most need of support to help with significantly rising living costs.

Officers explained there was a short timescale to allocate the funding and it was proposed to work with local schools, including academies, in deprived areas within the Borough to allow them to provide activities which would include the provision of food. Members were informed that 15 schools had been identified and after acknowledging the urgency of this it was agreed that officers would continue with the work being undertaken and report back to the next Informal Barrow Local Committee meeting.

The local Member for Roosecote drew attention to activities undertaken at Rampside Village Hall and asked if it would be possible for healthcare specialists to be available on a regular basis to provide basic healthchecks for residents. The Public Health Project Officer agreed to investigate this matter as well as the possibility of a warm hub grant and report back direct.

The Committee noted the positive update from Barrow Libraries and Archive Service and welcomed the various activities being delivered for people in the community.

Members acknowledged a number of issues outlined in the report regarding the Cost of Living Crisis and highlighted that this would need to be investigated again in the Autumn.

The Public Health Project Officer informed members that it was proposed to award a contract imminently to provide an on-line/face to face project to support people stop smoking.

Members were informed that the Health and Wellbeing Partnership, which included a number of organisations, was meeting monthly and a further update would be made at the next meeting of the Local Committee.

The Committee was informed of the low uptake of vaccinations in the Barrow area and was informed that 'pop-up clinics' would be available in a number of wards. It was agreed that further information with regards to locations and communications would be made available to members.

The Chair passed on his thanks and appreciation to Sarah Cubin from the Brathay Trust for her support during the Christmas period to ensure people in food crisis received a food hamper.

The Chair, on behalf of all members, thanked the Area Manager and Community Team for the excellent work they had undertaken.

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

## **61 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

## **62 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED**, that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Friday 17 March 2023 at 10.30 am in the Conference Room, Nan Tait Centre, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 1LG.

The meeting ended at 11.45 am