



A Sustainable  
Community Strategy  
for Barrow and Furness





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## About | The Sustainable Community Strategy

This Strategy is about setting out a long-term approach to improving quality of life for everyone in Barrow Borough, whether they live or work in the area, or are simply visiting. It has been developed and adapted many times over several years, but its purpose has always been to help make Barrow and the surrounding area a place where people are happy to live, work and spend their free time. A place that people love.

In simple terms, this means the Strategy explains how we will try to deliver the things that local people have told us will make Barrow Borough a better place to live, while working in ways that contribute to sustainable development in the UK.

**to help make  
Barrow a place  
where people  
are happy to live,  
work and spend  
free time**



The Strategy has been developed, and will be delivered, by Furness Partnership. Furness Partnership was formed to join up a range of private, public, community and voluntary sector organisations and help them work together more effectively for the good of people in the Borough. Each of these organisations has their own priorities, objectives and plans; but each is committed to working in partnership to deliver the vision set out in this Strategy.

The Strategy does not try to describe everything the Furness Partnership's members do in Barrow Borough, and it does not give a detailed action plan for the delivery of our vision. The Strategy should be seen as a guide that partners can use to see where their existing plans are able to help deliver Furness Partnership's vision for Barrow, and where new thinking is needed.

### WHY A SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY?

Sustainability is about helping everyone in the community to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life for future generations. Our commitment to long-term sustainable development means that we want to:

- Make social progress that recognises the needs of everyone in the community
- Build a strong and stable economy, in which everyone can prosper
- Protect and care for the built and natural environment
- Use and manage natural resources responsibly

This means that, while delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy's priorities, we will always try to:

- make the best possible use of natural resources;
- avoid damaging the local environment, and enhance it where we can
- make a positive contribution to meeting global environmental challenges, including taking steps to minimize waste, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions

### WHY A COMMUNITY STRATEGY?

The involvement of local people is vital to making real improvements to the quality of life in the Borough. If we are going to be successful in tackling people's concerns, then local people must be genuinely involved in identifying problems and developing plans for improvement.

Our commitment to engaging with communities means that we must make decisions that take into account the views and experiences

of everyone who is affected by them. We try to involve all parts of the community to make sure everyone has an equal chance to have their say.

## GETTING INVOLVED

To prepare this Sustainable Community Strategy Furness Partnership talked to local people in many different ways. Local people completed surveys, attended meetings and forums, made comments on a leaflet and submitted their views online. Hundreds of people took the chance to tell us what they thought. We also used information from earlier consultation to make sure that our Sustainable Community Strategy reflects the views of as many people as possible.

But just because the Sustainable Community Strategy has now been produced doesn't mean that people can't still get involved or influence what we do. We want everyone in the Borough to have their say about the Sustainable Community Strategy and the work that Furness Partnership does.

If you can access the Internet, you can learn more about Furness Partnership and the Sustainable Community Strategy for Barrow at [www.furnesspartnership.org](http://www.furnesspartnership.org). You can also give us feedback online, or by emailing your comments to [consultation@barrowbc.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@barrowbc.gov.uk)

If you prefer, you can send your comments, questions or suggestions to our FREEPOST address:

Furness Partnership  
c/o Strategy and Regeneration  
Barrow Borough Council  
FREEPOST NAT22944  
Barrow-in-Furness  
LA14 2BR

## EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Furness Partnership believes everyone should be treated fairly and with respect. The Partnership recognises that diversity issues will impact on planning and delivery of services and we are committed to ensuring that our work has a positive impact for everyone in the Borough, regardless of race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religious belief. We welcome the positive contribution that an increasingly diverse population will make to the future prosperity of Barrow.

Discrimination is a reality for some people in the Borough. Because of race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation and other issues,



**We want  
everyone in the  
Borough to have  
their say**

people are denied opportunities, have difficulty accessing services, and suffer inequalities. In order to deliver our vision of a better Barrow for everyone, we must challenge unjustifiable discrimination wherever it exists, and Furness Partnership is committed to tackling the injustice that is the result of discrimination. We want to create an inclusive and supportive environment that offers equal opportunities for everyone.

Barrow Borough Council, will assess and monitor the relevance and effect of the Sustainable Community Strategy on equalities through its programme of Equality Impact Assessment.

Our commitment to equality and diversity includes a commitment to promoting social inclusion for people who are disadvantaged by life circumstances or conditions, including the problems that can be associated with living within areas of deprivation, and with experiencing periods of unemployment, homelessness or other such difficulties.





## About | Barrow and Furness

The Furness area is the home of world class manufacturing companies and service businesses. On the edge of the Lake District, it offers opportunities to enjoy a great lifestyle, access to top quality education, health, leisure facilities and provides a gateway to the Lake District National Park. The Borough includes the large coastal town of Barrow-in-Furness, and the parishes of Dalton with Newton, Askam and Ireleth, and Lindal and Marton.

Located at the southern tip of the Furness Peninsula, with Morecambe Bay to the South and Duddon Estuary to the North, the town of Barrow-in-Furness is the main commercial, retail and cultural centre for South West Cumbria.

Although it covers an area only one-ninth the size of the next smallest Cumbrian district, the Borough is home to around 71,000 people - 14%

**Barrow is more urban in nature than the other districts in Cumbria**



of the County's population. Consequently Barrow is more urban in nature than the other districts in Cumbria and 90% of its residents live in wards classified as urban.

### OUR CHALLENGES

For much of the twentieth century Barrow's shipbuilding yard employed up to 14,000 people, and by 1990 it directly or indirectly supported around a third of all employment in



the area. However with the end of the Trident submarine programme, and major closures and reductions in other large manufacturing employers, a total of 13,000 Barrow jobs were lost between 1990 and 1995, representing 30% of all employment.

Economic decline brought with it problems of deprivation. The Government's 2007 Deprivation Indices rank Barrow as the 29th most deprived local authority area out of 354 in England<sup>1</sup> and it is the only district in Cumbria among the 50 most deprived districts in the Country. Cumbria contains eight areas<sup>2</sup> ranked among the 3% most deprived in England and of these six are in Barrow.

To understand the scale of deprivation in Barrow it is helpful to note that these six areas are home to over 8,000 people, which is more than the entire population of towns like Cockermouth, Egremont and Millom, and similar to the population of Windermere and Bowness. Furthermore the areas are clustered in four adjacent wards with a combined population of nearly 20,000 people - more than the entire populations of Ulverston or Penrith, over two thirds the population of Workington and four fifths that of Kendal.

**a total of 13,000  
jobs were lost  
between 1990  
and 1995**

Like other deprived areas, Barrow has areas with a poor quality physical environment and where housing is in low demand; these are particularly concentrated in the town centre. A government review<sup>3</sup> identified particularly serious problems in relation to Employment and Health, and tackling these problems are key priorities for the Borough.

<sup>1</sup> Based on the rank of average scores

<sup>2</sup> The Indices of Multiple Deprivation examine small areas with populations of around 1500 people. These are known as Super Output Areas (SOAs).

<sup>3</sup> Government Office North West Annual Review of the Local Strategic Partnership, 2007

While unemployment across Cumbria has gradually fallen over recent years, rates remain highest in Barrow. In July 2007 the unemployment rate in Barrow (2.6%) was a full percentage point above the Cumbrian average (1.6%) and over a quarter percentage point above the UK average (2.3%). Long-term unemployment also persists in the town. The numbers of long-term unemployed (claiming benefits for over one year) fell across Cumbria over the two years to July 2007, with the exception of Barrow where almost 13% of the workforce has been out of work for over 12 months.

These unemployment statistics mask a still more significant problem of worklessness and the number of Incapacity Benefit claimants remains a serious issue. Barrow has the third highest percentage of working age population claiming Incapacity Benefit in England (13.4%, 5,650 people). Research by Sheffield Hallam University (2007) into Barrow's Incapacity Benefit claimants identified that almost half of all claimants had been out-of-work for more than 10 years, and more than half had no formal qualifications. Barrow also has exceptionally large numbers of residents claiming benefits, with 9,470 in February 2007 claiming benefits such as Incapacity Benefit, Income Support, Disability Living Allowance and Jobseekers Allowance. This is the highest rate in Cumbria representing 21.9% of all adults of working age.

In terms of health, male and female life expectancy at birth in Barrow has continued to decline in recent years. This is despite increases in the national average and even the average in other areas of high deprivation.

Mortality rates from circulatory diseases fell between 2001-2 and 2002-4, however the baseline rate in Barrow is significantly higher than nationally, and the level of reduction was significantly less than across the rest of the country.

Since 1993 there has been a downward trend in Barrow's mortality rates from cancers, but the rate is falling more slowly than the national average, and in the three years to 2004 the mortality rate from cancer for women in Barrow actually increased.

## OUR ASSETS

Situated on the edge of England's most famous national park, the Lake District, the Furness Peninsula is the home to nearly 100,000 people and some of the most sophisticated manufacturing businesses in Europe. It has some superb schools, one of the North West's newest universities and a wide range of leisure and shopping opportunities to choose from. Barrow remains at the heart of the UK shipbuilding industry and is



still known throughout the world as a centre of excellence for marine engineering and the construction of sophisticated military ships and submarines. It is home to some of the world's finest shipbuilding and systems integration capability, and one of the UK's largest shipyards. The shipyard continues to dominate the local economy and directly employs around 4,000 people



However, while Barrow remains a shipbuilding town, the global decline in the shipbuilding industry has seen the Borough's economy diversify. Although manufacturing is still the dominant employment sector, significant numbers now work in public services, retail and hospitality. Barrow is also a commercial port that supports the shipbuilding activity of BAE Systems, provides a terminal for BNFL and facilities for the natural gas terminal and other offshore industries.

There is a growing entrepreneurial culture in the Borough and there are real opportunities for those with entrepreneurial flair. There have been notable successes from local entrepreneurs working in graphics, film, engineering and technology sectors.



Barrow Borough contains areas of high quality environment, including beautiful beaches and inspiring scenery, and is home to a rich variety of life. The Borough's coastline is internationally recognised for its wildlife, from Morecambe Bay, teeming with birds, to the natural sand dune systems of Walney Island and Sandscale Haws. The importance of these areas has been recognised by the designation of three separate Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and their classification as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites demonstrates their international significance.

In addition to the beautiful countryside within its boundaries, Barrow is located only around 20 minutes from the Lake District, and has been referred to as a 'gateway to the lakes and the sea'. This status will be enhanced by the new Waterfront marina complex and planned cruise ship facilities.

Barrow Borough itself has several tourist attractions, including the South Lakes Wild Animal Park which attracts around 250,000 visitors annually, and the Dock Museum which traces the history of shipbuilding in the town and offers gallery space to local artists and schoolchildren.

Barrow also has significant heritage attractions, with the historic Cistercian Furness Abbey, Piel Castle and grand Victorian architecture,

particularly along Abbey Road. Other close by attractions include Holker Hall, Levens Hall and Sizergh Castle.

The Borough's proximity to areas of great natural beauty, its unique wildlife habitats, and its rich heritage as a centre for industry and shipbuilding, all offer opportunities to attract visitors. In the longer term, the redevelopment of Barrow Port has potential to open the Borough to visitors arriving by sea, both for activities centred around the Marina itself, and as a gateway to the inland attractions of the Lake District. As well as creating a pleasant environment for people who live and work in the Borough, Furness Partnership aims to take full advantage of these opportunities to achieve economic benefits by attracting visitors from outside the area.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is that Barrow Borough will become recognised, both by local people and by those outside the area, as a prosperous, pleasant, healthy and safe place to live and work.

To achieve this vision we will need to concentrate on eight key priorities:

- **Worklessness:** providing more and better jobs for local people
- **Health:** improving health and life expectancy for people living in the area
- **Lifestyle and environment:** developing a more attractive place to live
- **Housing:** offering higher quality housing choices
- **Community safety:** reducing levels of crime, and people's fear of crime
- **Children and Young People:** ensuring our young people have the start in life that they deserve
- **Learning:** delivering better education for people at all levels
- **Deprivation:** giving extra help to those in the greatest need

## HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE THE VISION

The next section of the Sustainable Community Strategy makes clear what we need to achieve if we are going to deliver on our vision for the future of Barrow. Our priorities will be reviewed over time, at least every three years, to make sure that we are flexible, build on our success and respond to changing needs.

## LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

Local Area Agreements (LAAs) are a new way of working, to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the way government works with local authorities and their partners to improve public services. The



## Our local actions can have a real and positive effect

process is designed to deliver national outcomes in a way that reflects local priorities. A range of government funding streams are channelled through the LAA framework and LAAs will encourage partnership working to deliver better outcomes for local people.

Furness Partnership is committed to ensuring that locally identified priorities for Barrow Borough are reflected in the LAA for Cumbria and, similarly, that our work locally contributes positively to the achievement of county-wide and national outcomes; so it is important that this Sustainable Community Strategy fits closely in terms of priorities and targets with the Cumbria Agreement.

### MONITORING DELIVERY OF THE STRATEGY

It is important that the Partnership can report back to the community and its partners on progress in implementing the Strategy. Much of the work described in the Sustainable Community Strategy is already monitored by partners as part of their everyday work. To avoid duplication, Furness Partnership's reports will include only the main indicators of progress and achievement, and will act as "signposts" to the detailed activity being undertaken by each partner.

Our local actions can have a real and positive effect on the situation in Barrow, but achievement of our objectives will always be influenced by events and factors beyond our control. For this reason we will measure our own performance by how successfully we deliver our contributions towards the objectives set out in the Local Area Agreement for Cumbria. The most relevant national and local indicators from the Cumbria Agreement are included here, to show how our work joins up with the work of Cumbria Strategic Partnership and others across the County.

# Priority 1 | Worklessness

PROVIDING MORE AND BETTER JOBS  
FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

Furness Partnership is committed to increasing the number, variety and quality of employment opportunities within the Barrow area. We need to remove barriers to accessing employment, create new jobs and retain existing ones and encourage new business start-up and inward investment. We will work with the private and public sector to create and safeguard jobs, and to make sure that local people have the skills and expertise to access jobs created.

We will work with our partners to help reduce the number of benefit claimants, particularly in the deprived wards, and to remove barriers to employment for people with limiting conditions and those who have suffered long-term benefit dependency.

Furness Partnership will help the people and businesses of Barrow Borough to create wealth and a more diverse economic base for the area by offering financial and practical assistance to support access to employment. Furness Partnership actively supports local businesses and seeks to encourage the use of local skills and expertise wherever possible.

## AIMS

To help deliver more and better jobs for local people Furness Partnership aims to:

- Increase levels of employment in Barrow through strategies to create new jobs.
- Improve the employability of local people, particularly in the areas of greatest need.
- Support new and existing local businesses and encourage the use of local skills and expertise wherever possible
- Develop and promote Barrow Borough as a leisure destination, so that it is recognised by people from outside the area as an attractive and interesting place to visit and stay.
- Encourage inwards business investment in Barrow by improving the Borough's transport and technology based communication links, so that the Borough may realise its potential as a location for investment, growth and prosperity.



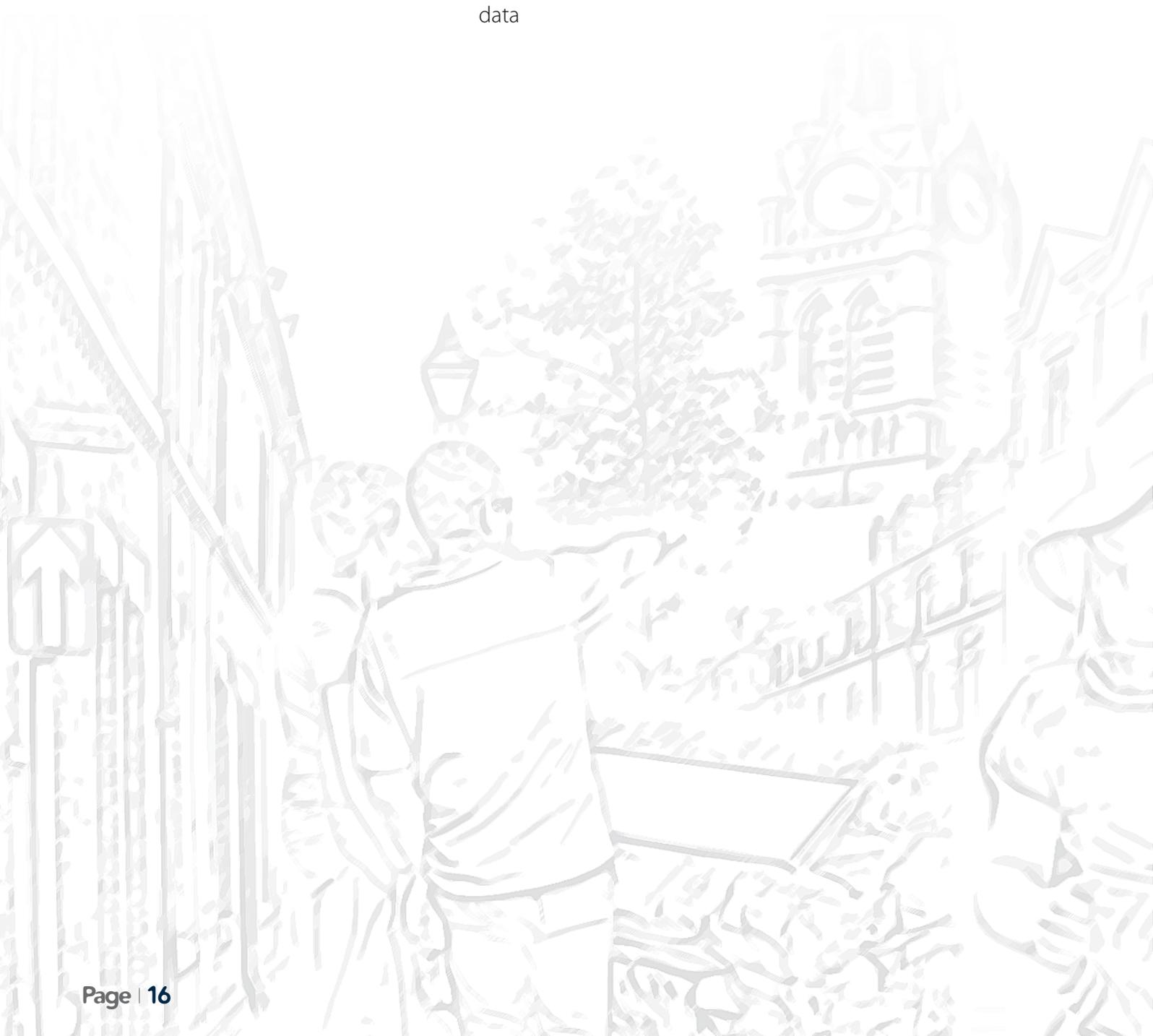
## KEY OUTCOMES

If more and better jobs are available for local people then we will see:

- A higher employment rate and lower unemployment rate
- Fewer people with no recognised qualifications
- A lower benefit claim rate, especially in our deprived areas

## RELEVANT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT INDICATORS

- **NI 153** Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods
- **NI 146** Adults with learning disabilities in employment
- **NI 171** New business registration rate
- **SI 1** Number of people who have been claiming incapacity benefit for at least six months helped by Cumbria County Council into sustained employment of at least 16 hours per week for 13 consecutive weeks or more as measured by local data



# Priority 2 | Health

## IMPROVING HEALTH AND LIFE EXPECTANCY

Good physical health and mental wellbeing are central to people's ability to participate fully in society and enjoy a high quality of life. Our vision for a healthy Barrow Borough is of a place where everyone is able to lead a healthy life, and all members of the community have equal access to opportunities take part in active recreation, eat a healthy diet and receive high quality, local healthcare services.

Furness Partnership recognises that Barrow has an ageing population and that older people may require services to be adjusted in order to meet their particular needs. We are committed to improving the quality of life, health and wellbeing of older people in the Borough by supporting their independence and offering services and opportunities that meet their individual needs.

### AIMS

To help deliver improved health for people living in the area, Furness Partnership aims to:

- Provide a sure foundation for children through healthy pregnancy and early childhood
- Support and enable people to eat a healthy diet and exercise regularly
- Support the development of new and enhanced sports and leisure facilities
- Tackle drug and alcohol misuse
- Help people to stop smoking
- Ensure access to high quality health care, which includes a focus on prevention of common health problems

### KEY OUTCOMES

If there are improvements in the health of people living in the area then we will be able to see:

- A higher life expectancy at birth
- Lower premature mortality rates (Fewer people dying aged under 75 from all causes, circulatory diseases, cancers and suicide)
- People enjoying a higher quality of life, with more people living free from chronic ill-health for longer





- Low infant mortality
- Improved breastfeeding rates and more children with a healthy weight

#### RELEVANT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT INDICATORS

- **NI 123** Stop smoking
- **NI 39** Rate of Hospital Admissions per 100,000 for Alcohol Related
- **NI 40** Number of drug users recorded as being in effective treatment
- **NI 122** Under 18 conception rate



- **LI 6** Reduce health inequalities between the Local Authority area and the England population by narrowing the gap in all age, all cause mortality in spearhead areas (Carlisle and Barrow)
- **LI 9** Increase the number of people with learning disabilities over 18 who have health action plans
- **LI 10** Percentage of mother recorded as smoking on delivery
- **LI 11** Number of people benefiting from Promoting Independence in Partnership with Older People Scheme
- **LI 13** Numbers of people successfully claiming pensions credit and gateway to other entitlements
- **SI 3** The number of supporting people service users who are supported to establish and maintain independent living aged 16 and over as measured by Communities and Local Government KPI A
- **SI 4** Average length of waiting time for major adaptations supplied via disabled facilities grant from assessment by occupational therapist to work beginning, as defined by CSCI self assessment survey guidance adult social care 2006 – 2007
- **SI 5** The number of people who have set a quit date and who are still not smoking at four weeks
- **SI 6** Percentage of adult population (aged 16 or over) taking part in moderate intensity sport and recreation (including recreational walking) for 30 minutes three or more days per week, as measured by the Sport England Active People Survey 05-06

# Priority 3 | Lifestyle & Environment

DELIVERING A MORE ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO LIVE

A vibrant town centre and high quality living environment are vital to attracting people and businesses to live and work in Barrow, and Furness Partnership works hard to create the physical and economic conditions that will help generate inward investment and new business start-up. In particular the Partnership will support initiatives to provide facilities and leisure opportunities that are attractive to young professionals and families, to help encourage people from these groups to stay or move into the area.

Furness Partnership recognises the important role that the quality of local cultural and sports facilities; the success of local sports teams; and the standard of local and visiting arts productions can play in building a positive image of the Borough.

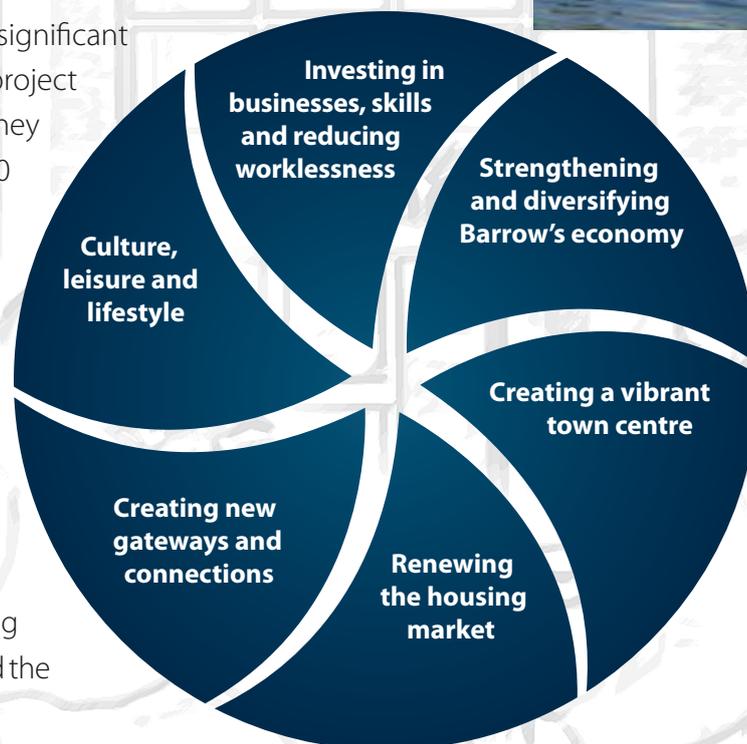
## Regeneration

In recent years Barrow has invested in a range of regeneration initiatives, mainly designed to deliver new employment opportunities or improve the physical environment. The Borough's regeneration plans for the future are built around six strands, shown in the diagram below.

The successful development of Furness Business Park has provided a model that has been shown to work in Barrow, while plans for the 'The Waterfront Barrow-in-Furness' development are for the most significant and ambitious regeneration project ever to be delivered in Barrow. They incorporate new housing, a 350 berth marina, cruise terminal, sports and leisure facilities and new employment land.

## Arts and Culture

In addition to providing enjoyment for participants, audiences and spectators, Culture, Arts and Sport permeate many aspects of daily life, including education, family, work, health and the



BARROW'S SIX REGENERATION STRANDS





economy, where they make a unique contribution to improving quality of life; helping to develop individual pride and community spirit, and making a valuable contribution to delivering key outcomes of lowering long-term unemployment, reducing crime, improving health and increasing educational attainment.

### **Sport and Active Recreation**

The energetic use of leisure time can help to deliver better health, greater longevity and improved

quality of life. Partners involved in sports development and provision will seek to increase public awareness of the benefits of participation in physical activity, and increase the rates of participation in sport and active recreation.



### **Biodiversity and Landscape Character**

Our rich natural environment is a "unique selling point" in attracting people and businesses to the area and, aside from providing a range of opportunities for leisure, exercise and enjoyment, access to green space and wildlife offers health and welfare benefits to all.

Furness Partnership recognises that the protection and enhancement of the landscape and natural environment can make a significant contribution to achieving our vision for the future of Barrow Borough. The Partnership is committed to valuing and caring for nature wherever it is found, and supports delivery of the Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan.

### **AIMS**

To help deliver a more pleasant environment to live in, Furness Partnership aims to:

- Promote a new identity for Barrow Borough, within the region and beyond
- Strengthen and promote arts, culture and heritage in the Borough
- Promote the sustainable regeneration of the Borough's built environment
- Encourage high quality design and the use of high-quality, sustainable materials in all developments
- Raise the profile of the Borough to enhance tourism and encourage inwards investment

## KEY OUTCOMES

If we are successful in delivering a more attractive place to live then we will be able to see:

- A vibrant town centre with a range of retail and non-retail offers
- Improved access to open spaces and opportunities for active leisure
- Higher levels of participation in the arts, sport and physical activity
- More sports facilities that are accessible to all and 'fit for purpose'
- A high quality built environment where people feel safe and comfortable
- A visible and thriving arts and cultural sector
- Evidence that the area is attractive to investors, business and tourist visitors

## RELEVANT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT INDICATORS

- **NI 5** Overall / general satisfaction with local area
- **NI 175** Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling
- **NI 168** Principal roads where maintenance should be considered
- **NI 154** Net additional homes provided
- **NI 155** Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)
- **NI 186** Per capita reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the LA area
- **NI 191** Residual household waste per household
- **NI 197** Improved local biodiversity – proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented
- **NI 195** Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting) provided that the gap in performance between the overall Cumbria target as a whole and that for the Barrow will not exceed the limit agreed for the area
- **LI 2** Percentage of conservation areas with up to date (within five years) character appraisals
- **LI 3 (NI 11)** Engagement in the arts
- **LI 5** Percentage of sites of special scientific interest in favourable /recovering condition
- **SI 15** The percentage of household waste arising sent for recycling or composting





## Priority 4 | Housing

DELIVERING HIGHER QUALITY  
HOUSING CHOICES

A choice of good quality housing, appropriate to local needs and aspirations, is vital to encouraging inward investment and attracting and retaining a high quality workforce. Good quality housing is also closely linked with improved health, reduced crime and greater fuel efficiency.

The high proportion of older terraced houses in the Borough has meant that finding affordable housing has not been seen a problem in the Borough. However such homes are not suitable for everyone, and Furness Partnership will seek to ensure that a range of good quality housing choices are available in the Borough.

Many older homes are in poor condition, and the housing market remains fragile in some areas of the Borough. Housing choices are poor for many people. The Partnership will support transformational activity to ensure that the housing market remains sustainable, and that the general quality of the housing stock is improved.

### AIMS

To help deliver higher standards of housing in the Borough, Furness Partnership aims to:

- Ensure the sustainability of Barrow's housing market, through housing market renewal and regeneration activities.
- Improve the quality and choice of accommodation available, including providing for people with special needs.

### KEY OUTCOMES

If we are delivering higher quality housing choices for people living in the area then we will be able to see:

- A larger proportion of social housing stock that is considered "decent"
- A larger proportion of homes occupied by vulnerable groups in the private sector that is considered "decent"
- A smaller proportion of housing that is empty
- A larger proportion of residents who say they are satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live

## RELEVANT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT INDICATORS

- **NI 154** Net additional homes provided
- **NI 155** Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)
- **LI 4 (NI 187)** Tackling Fuel Poverty – Percentage of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating





# Priority 5 | Community Safety

DELIVERING REDUCED CRIME AND FEAR OF CRIME

Crime in Barrow Borough is much lower than the national average but this does not mean that we can afford to be complacent in addressing problems of crime, disorder and community safety. Furness Partnership is committed to ensuring that Barrow is a safe and secure place for people to live and work.

We want Barrow Borough to be a place where every member of the community is able to live and work free from fear of crime, regardless of their age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation or religious belief. As well as taking measures to further reduce levels of crime in the Borough, tackling fear of crime will mean reassuring people about the true level of crime in the Borough, as well as helping people to take practical steps that will help them to feel safer.

## AIMS

To help improve community safety, tackle crime and reduce fear of crime in the Borough, Furness Partnership aims to:

- Reduce rates of violent crime, burglary, drug related crime, anti-social behaviour, and youth crime and disorder,
- Reduce fear of crime, as measured by an annual survey into the attitudes of local people.
- Reduce the number of road, home, and leisure accidents in the Borough.

## KEY OUTCOMES

If we are delivering a safer community, with reduced crime and the fear of crime then we will be able to see:

- A lower overall crime rate and a lower rate of violent crime
- Fewer residents saying that they are afraid of crime
- A narrower gap between crime rates in the best and worst areas
- Fewer incidents of arson
- More realistic public perception of relative levels of drug dealing and use
- Less anti-social behaviour
- Fewer people killed or seriously injured on roads

## RELEVANT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT INDICATORS

- **NI 19** Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders
- **NI 40** Number of drug users recorded as being in effective treatment
- **NI 4** Percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
- **NI 1** Percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
- **NI 20** Assault with injury crime rate
- **NI 30** Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders
- **NI 41** Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem
- **NI 32** Repeat incidents of domestic violence
- **NI 47** People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents
- **NI 195** Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting) provided that the gap in performance between the overall Cumbria target as a whole and that for Barrow will not exceed the limit agreed for the area
- **SI 7** The number of domestic violence incidents in Cumbria, as reported to Police
- **SI 8** Increase the percentage of convictions for domestic violence related offences
- **SI 9** The percentage of recorded domestic violence that are repeat incidents in the previous 12 months as reported to the police
- **SI 10** The percentage of priority prolific offenders who re-offend within 12 months as measured by Cumbria Partnership Support data
- **SI 11** The number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System as outlined by the Youth Justice Board KPI 1
- **SI 12** The percentage of residents who strongly agree or agree that by working together, people in my neighbourhood can influence decisions that affect their neighbourhood as measured by the Cumbria Quality of Life Survey
- **SI 13** Number of deaths and injuries (excluding precautionary hospital admissions) arising from accidental fires in dwellings
- **SI 14** To hold the total number of KSIs in which a driver aged 16-20 was involved to a five year rolling average of 89 for years 2007, 2008 and 2009



# Priority 6 | Children & Young People

ENSURING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE START IN LIFE THAT THEY DESERVE

The young people of Furness are at the heart of our vision for the future. If we are to achieve our vision we must strive to improve the health, well being and learning outcomes of children and young people, while ensuring that they acknowledge their responsibilities to the community.

## AIMS

Furness Partnership's priorities closely reflect the priorities of the "Every Child Matters" agenda, and we aim to help children and young people to:

- be healthy: enjoy good physical and mental health and live a healthy lifestyle
- stay safe: be protected from harm and neglect
- enjoy and achieve: get the most out of life and develop skills for adulthood
- make a positive contribution: be involved with the community and society and not engage in anti-social or offending behaviour
- achieve economic well-being: not be prevented by economic disadvantage from achieving their full potential in life.

## KEY OUTCOMES

If there are improvements in the health and wellbeing of children and young people of living in the area then we will be able to see:

- More children growing up adopting healthy lifestyles and supported in the development of emotional resilience and mental well-being
- Increase in relative educational attainment for all children and young people; decrease in number of schools requiring intensive support.
- Tangible reduction in the number of preventable admissions to hospital.
- Increase in number of children and young people from vulnerable groups engaged in education, employment or training.
- Packages of holistic support available for young people moving into independent accommodation.

- Reduction in teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases; reduction in young people engaging in risk taking behaviours linked to alcohol use.
- Increase in children and young people with severe disabilities and complex needs achieving their potential.



## RELEVANT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT INDICATORS

- **NI 110** Young people's participation in positive activities
- **NI 117 (and SI2)** 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment
- **NI 19** Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders
- **NI 57** Children and young people's participation in high-quality PE and sport
- **NI 50** Emotional health of children
- **NI 70** Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people
- **NI 65** Percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time
- **NI 112** Under 18 conception rate
- **LI 1** Reduce incidence of referrals to social care for child protection, repeat referrals and repeat incidence of abuse of children
- **SI 11** The number of 1st time entrants to the Youth Justice System as outlined by the Youth Justice Board KPI 1





# Priority 7 | Learning

DELIVERING BETTER EDUCATION  
FOR ALL

To achieve our vision for the Barrow Borough, we must ensure that local people have the education, training and skills that they need to be part of the community and to access employment opportunities.

Furness Partnership, through its Lifelong Learning Task Group, has supported schools in Barrow Borough in developing an Excellence Cluster, designed to help deliver improvements in pre-16 school provision in the Borough. The Cluster benefits from extra resources to help improve standards by:

- Enhancing learning and teaching practice
- Developing leadership learning, coaching and mentoring
- Reducing barriers to inclusion
- Using research to inform strategic planning

The Partnership is committed to the expansion of higher education provision within the Borough, to generate a culture of learning that is attractive and accessible to all. We are confident that this will help to retain and attract a skilled workforce and generate the kind of inward business investment that will encourage graduates to remain in the area.

## AIMS

To help deliver better education at all levels Furness Partnership aims to:

- Support development of the University of Cumbria hub in Barrow
- Support proposals for an 11 – 16 Academy School in Barrow
- Improve provision of post-14 education and training, and raise achievement of students aged 14 and over.
- Help and encourage more young people to continue in post-16 education and training.
- Provide more and better opportunities for adults to be engaged in training or learning within the Borough.
- Reduce barriers to learning and raise achievements through interventions to promote attendance, punctuality and the value of learning

## KEY OUTCOMES

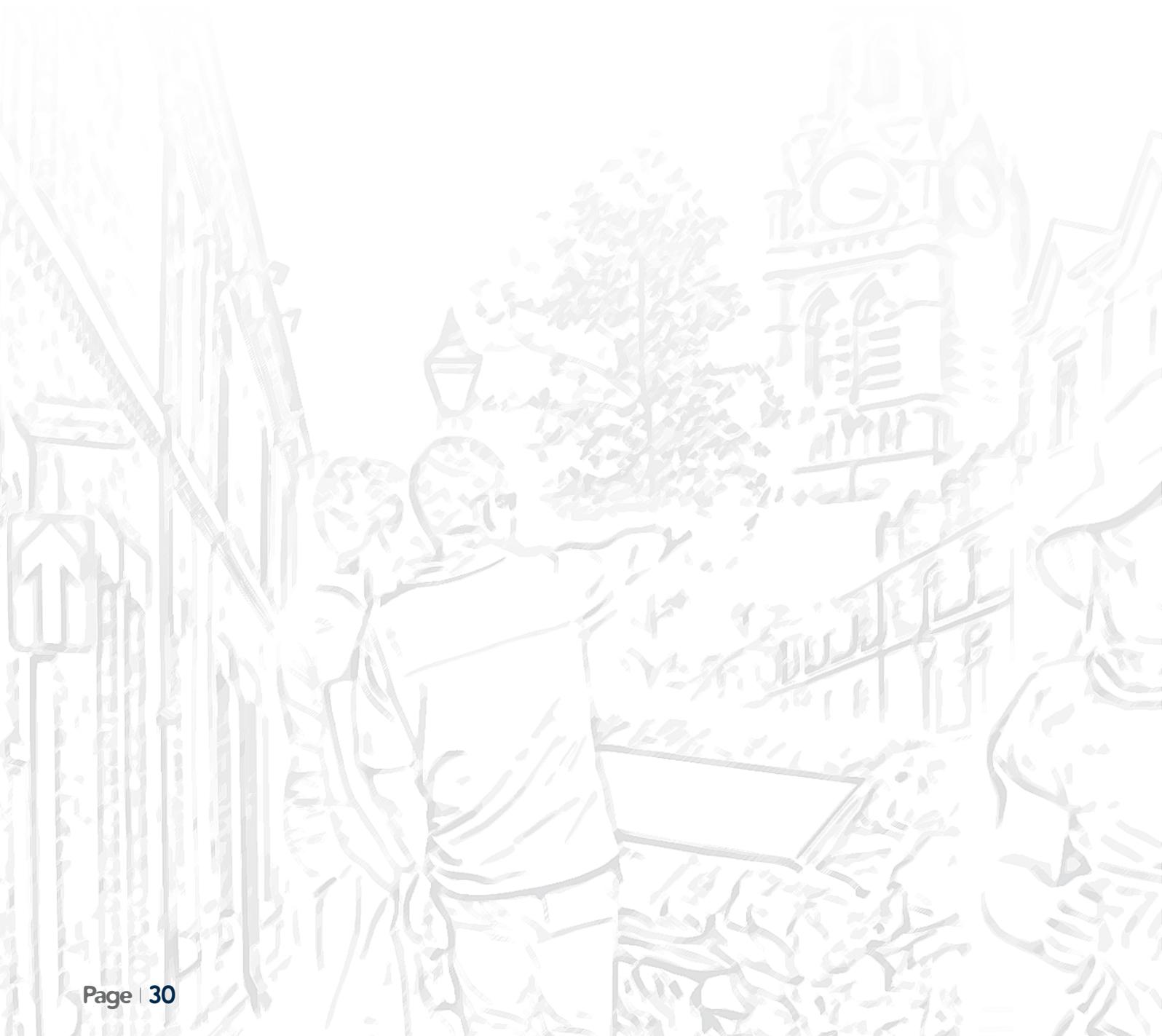
If there are improved learning opportunities for people at all levels then we will see:

- More 16 year olds with five GCSE grades A\* to C
- More pupils achieving level 5 at KS3 in English, Maths and Science
- More 16 year old school leavers continuing in full-time education
- Fewer 16 – 18 year olds not in education, employment or training

## RELEVANT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT INDICATORS

- **NI 163** Proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2 or higher
- **NI 165** Proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 4 or higher
- **NI 106** Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to Higher Education
- **NI 117 (and SI2)** 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment
- **NI 72** Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least six in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy
- **NI 73** Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Threshold)
- **NI 74** Achievement at level 5 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 3 (Threshold)
- **NI 75** Achievement of five or more A\*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (Threshold)
- **NI 83** Achievement at level 5 or above in Science at Key Stage 3
- **NI 87** Secondary school persistent absence rate
- **NI 92** Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest
- **NI 93** Progression by two levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2
- **NI 94** Progression by two levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2
- **NI 95** Progression by two levels in English between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3
- **NI 96** Progression by two levels in Maths between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3
- **NI 97** Progression by two levels in English between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

- **NI 98** Progression by two levels in Maths between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4
- **NI 99** Looked after children reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2
- **NI 100** Looked after children reaching level 4 in Mathematics at key Stage 2
- **NI 101** Looked after children achieving five A\*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Mathematics)



# Priority 8 | Deprivation

HELP FOR THOSE AREAS IN  
GREATEST NEED

The Sustainable Community Strategy is designed to improve life in Barrow Borough for everyone, wherever they live, but it is important to recognize that people in some areas are in greater need than others. The Strategy is underpinned by the need to improve basic services and address real problems in some areas of the Borough.

## Neighbourhood Level Working

Furness Partnership recognises that we need to do more to improve the way we deliver services. Too often, different agencies do not co-ordinate the way that they work in the same area. This can lead to confusion and duplication of effort. We are working to establish more effective joint working at a local level, better information sharing and improved provision of information to local communities.

In Central and Hindpool wards neighbourhood level working is being co-ordinated via the Neighbourhood Management project. Neighbourhood Management is about improving the quality of life and ensuring service delivery improves and is more responsive to community needs.

In the Central and Hindpool project the team are focussing on four key themes;

- Young people
- Crime and community safety
- Community development and engagement
- Environmental issues

## AIMS

Some parts of the Borough require more help than others to raise standards relating to all of the Sustainable Community Strategy's priorities. In some areas standards of housing, health and education are below average, while crime worklessness are higher. For this reason, help for those areas in the greatest need is not the responsibility of a single Task Group and must be seen as a collective priority for the whole Partnership. Our aims are to:

- Reduce inequalities in the standard of living within the Borough by targeting resources to improve conditions in the worst performing areas
- Ensure that nobody faces disadvantage because of where they live





## KEY OUTCOMES

If there are improvements in the quality of life for those in greatest need then we will be able to see narrower gaps between the worst performing areas and the average, across the whole range of indicators in this document.

## RELEVANT LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT INDICATORS

In areas of multiple deprivation people may face extreme difficulties in a several areas of life, from across the range of our priorities, therefore we aim to narrow the gaps between those in the most deprived areas and the average across the range of indicators in this document. The indicators here are concerned with narrowing the gaps between worst performing areas and the average wherever they occur.

- **LI 4 (NI 187)** Tackling Fuel Poverty – Percentage of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating
- **LI 6** Reduce health inequalities between the Local Authority area and the England population by narrowing the gap in all age, all cause mortality in spearhead areas – targets for Carlisle and Barrow
- **LI 13** Numbers of people successfully claiming pensions credit and gateway to other entitlements
- **NI 92** Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest



## Appendix 1 | About Furness Partnership

The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for Barrow Borough is called Furness Partnership. It is responsible for overseeing delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy. The Partnership coordinates the work of the thematic groups and helps to realign mainstream services to meet Sustainable Community Strategy objectives.

Furness Partnership elects a chair and a vice-chair every three years and its membership is prescribed in the Partnership's Framework Document. In addition to the Chair and Vice-Chair, members include chairs of the six task groups (see below), representatives of the Borough and County Councils, Police, Health Authorities and other public service providers. The membership detailed below is complemented by representatives of the community and voluntary sectors.

## THEMATIC TASK GROUPS

The Partnership has established a set of Thematic Task Groups to help deliver improvements in key areas. The Task Groups bring together people working in the priority areas to:

- act as a link between the LSP and the appropriate Thematic Partnership of the Cumbria Strategic Partnership, representing the LSP at CSP Thematic Partnerships and reporting to the Coordinating Group as necessary.
- provide a specialist resource to the LSP, reporting and advising on current and emerging issues
- respond on behalf of the LSP to relevant strategic and operational issues.

### **Children and Young People Group**

Works across the other task groups to ensure that the particular needs and aspirations of children and young people are properly addressed throughout the Partnership's activity, planning and delivery.

### **Community Safety Group**

The Crime Task Group is also the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The CDRP is split into five sub-groups to tackle the issues that people in Barrow have identified as important.

### **Employment Group**

The Employment Task Group works to develop employment opportunities and encourage inward business investment in Barrow. It explores job and skills shortages to help provide pathways to employment for workless residents of Barrow's most deprived areas. The Task Group is Chaired by Harry Knowles of Furness Enterprise.

### **Healthy Communities and Older People Group**

Focuses on improving the health of the most deprived, particularly in relation to tackling childhood disadvantage, improving services and life chances for young people and improving quality of life and independence for older people.

### **Housing Group**

Works to ensure that housing meets local needs and aspirations through projects based on regeneration of the private sector housing market and making improvements to Council owned stock. Seeks to improve the quality and choice of accommodation for all, including those with special housing needs

## **Lifelong Learning Group**

Priorities include improving standards of educational provision and achievement in Barrow (especially for ages 14+), establishing a Higher Education hub in the town and developing more effective multi-agency partnerships.

## **Current Members of Furness Partnership**

BAe Systems  
Barrow Borough Council  
Barrow and District CVS  
Barrow Excellence Cluster Partnership  
Cumbria County Council  
Cumbria Constabulary  
Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service  
NHS Cumbria Primary Care Trust  
Furness Enterprise  
Government Office North West  
Employment Service - Jobcentre Plus  
Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust  
West Lakes Renaissance



# Appendix 2 | Further Information & Key Documents

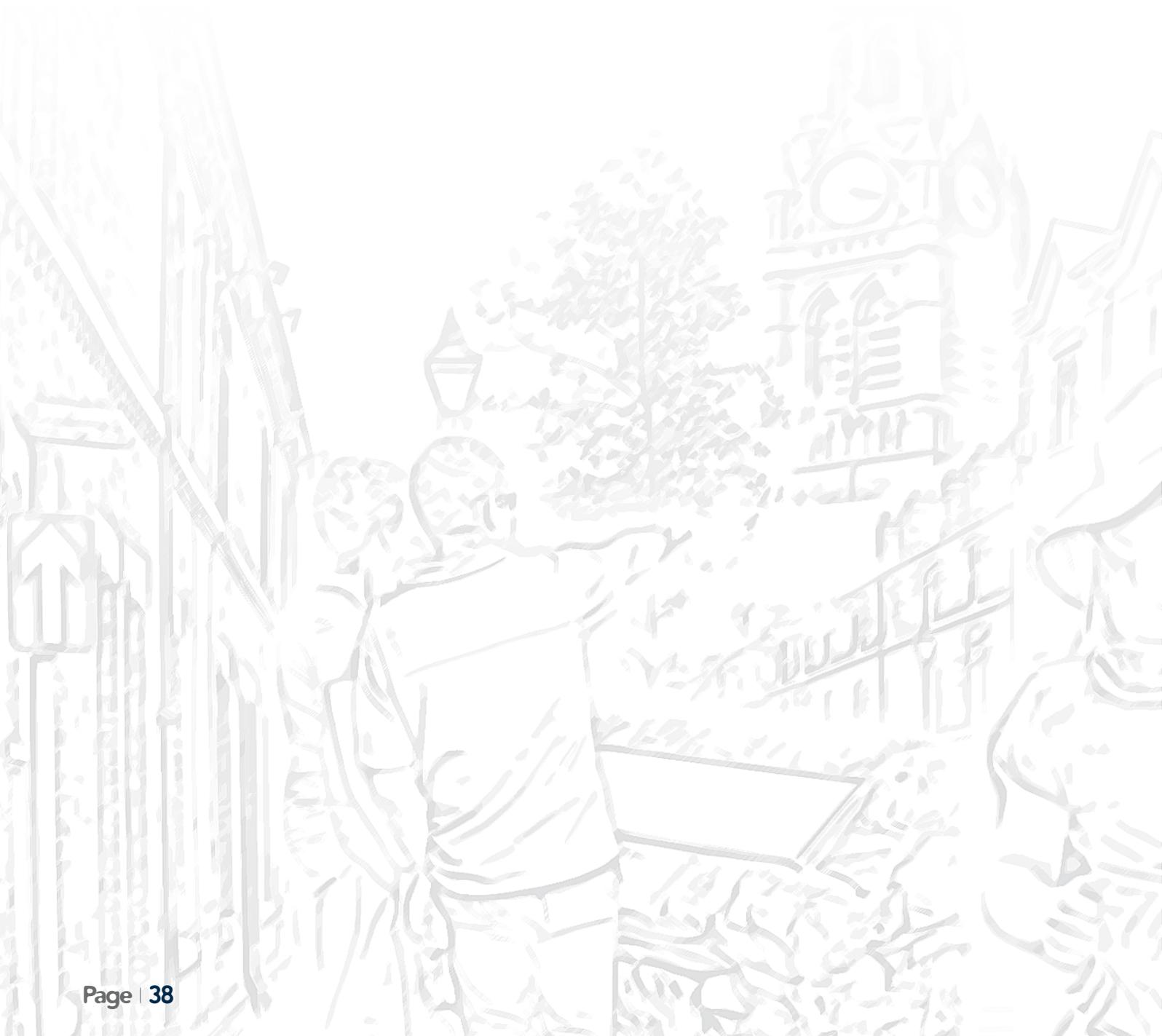
Below is a list of some of the key documents and publications that can help you to find out more about the work that is being done to deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy's objectives. The agency listed on the right will either have a copy of the document on their website or be able to provide a copy on request, however please note that in some cases the named agency is not the author of the document, or responsible for its content.

AGENCY	KEY DOCUMENTS
Barrow Borough Council Town Hall Duke Street Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LD <a href="http://www.barrowbc.gov.uk">www.barrowbc.gov.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A Strategy for the Arts in Barrow-in-Furness</li> <li>■ Barrow-in-Furness House Condition Survey</li> <li>■ Barrow-in-Furness Housing Needs Study</li> <li>■ Cumbria Housing Strategy</li> <li>■ Furness &amp; West Cumbria Housing Market Renewal Prospectus</li> <li>■ Barrow Borough Local Plan Review</li> <li>■ Barrow Borough Local Plan Housing Chapter Alteration 2005</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Barrow Borough Local Development Framework, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Development Scheme</li> <li>• Statement of Community Involvement</li> <li>• Annual Monitoring Report</li> <li>• Barrow Port Area Action Plan</li> <li>• Core Strategy</li> <li>• Town Centre Area Action Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Barrow Borough Sports Council c/o Nan Tait Centre Abbey Road Barrow-in-Furness Cumbria LA14 1LG <a href="http://www.barrowsportscouncil.org.uk">www.barrowsportscouncil.org.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Barrow Borough Sport and Physical Activity Strategy</li> </ul>
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership c/o Barrow Borough Council (as above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Barrow Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy</li> </ul>
Cumbria Biodiversity Partnership C/o Cumbria Wildlife Trust Sergents Barn Lowther Penrith Cumbria CA10 2HH <a href="http://www.wildlifeincumbria.org.uk">www.wildlifeincumbria.org.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cumbria Local Biodiversity Action Plan</li> <li>■ Biodiversity in Community Strategies Guidance Note</li> </ul>
Cumbria County Council Corporate Management The Courts Carlisle CA3 8NA <a href="http://www.cumbria.gov.uk">www.cumbria.gov.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Barrow Local Committee Plan</li> <li>■ Cumbria County Council Corporate Strategy</li> <li>■ Cumbria County Council Local Committee Plan</li> <li>■ Cumbria County Council Performance Plan</li> <li>■ Cumbria County Council Public Service Agreement</li> <li>■ Developing Youth Work in Cumbria</li> <li>■ Local Transport Plan</li> </ul>

## AGENCY

## KEY DOCUMENTS

Cumbria Vision Enterprise House Gillan Way Penrith 40 Business Park Penrith Cumbria CA11 9BP <a href="http://www.cumbriavision.co.uk">www.cumbriavision.co.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The Cumbria Economic Plan (and Strategy Action Plans)</li></ul>
Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service Barrow and South Lakeland Area Office Phoenix Road Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2NS <a href="http://www.cumbriafire.gov.uk">www.cumbriafire.gov.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan</li><li>■ Barrow Fire Station Community Action Plan</li></ul>
Cumbria Strategic Partnership Redhills Penrith Cumbria CA11 0DT <a href="http://www.cumbriastrategicpartnership.org.uk">www.cumbriastrategicpartnership.org.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Cumbria Local Area Agreement</li><li>■ Cumbria Sub Regional Spatial Strategy</li><li>■ Cumbria Sustainable Community Strategy</li></ul>
Furness Enterprise Waterside House Waterside Business Park Bridge Approach Barrow-in-Furness LA14 1AF <a href="http://www.furnessenterprise.co.uk">www.furnessenterprise.co.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Furness Enterprise Business Plan</li><li>■ Furness Enterprise Jobs Document</li></ul>
Cumbria Tourism Windermere Road Staveley Kendal Cumbria LA8 9PL <a href="http://www.cumbriatourism.org">www.cumbriatourism.org</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Destination Management Plan</li></ul>
Cumbria Primary Care Trust Tenterfield Brigsteer Road Kendal LA9 5EA <a href="http://www.mbpct.nhs.uk">www.mbpct.nhs.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Barrow-in-Furness Health Improvement and Health Inequalities Strategy</li><li>■ Baseline Assessment of Health in Furness</li></ul>
North West Development Agency Cumbria Office (Workington) Unit 1, Lillyhall Business Centre Jubilee Road Workington CA14 4HA <a href="http://www.nwda.co.uk">www.nwda.co.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ North West Development Agency Regional Strategy</li><li>■ Regional Economic Strategy</li></ul>
4NW, The Regional Leaders Forum Wigan Investment Centre Waterside Drive Wigan WN3 5BA <a href="http://www.nwrpb.org.uk">www.nwrpb.org.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ North West Regional Housing Strategy</li><li>■ North West Regional Spatial Strategy</li><li>■ North West Housing Statement</li></ul>
West Lakes Renaissance Unit 8, Campus Ventures Phoenix Road Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2UA <a href="http://www.westlakesrenaissance.co.uk">www.westlakesrenaissance.co.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ West Lakes Renaissance Business Plan</li><li>■ Improving Access to Participatory Sport in Barrow</li></ul>







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