Brilliant Barrow Board Meeting

Friday 18th September 2026
University of Cumbria – Barrow Campus Rooms

Ref	Agenda Item	Time	P/R/ V	By
1	Welcome & Introductions (Chair)	9.00am	V	SC
2	Minutes and Matters Arising	9.05am	V	SC
3	UoC Update – " University of Cumbria's focus and progress in Barrow – from schools and arts, to engineering, computing and robotics " Presentation by Dr Kate Dixon - Director, Institute of Engineering, Computing and Advanced Manufacturing, UofC	9.10am	P	KD
4	Accountable Body & Assurance Programme Update	9.40am	R	LW
6	Brilliant Barrow Project Lead Updates	10.10am	P	Various
7	Team Barrow Update - Transition Arrangements	11.10am	V	ND
8	Communications Update	11.40am	V	KC
9	AOB	11.50am	V	KC
10	Meeting Close and Lunch	12.00pm		
11	Visit to Earnse Bay	12.30pm		

* Presentation / Report / Verbal

Brilliant Barrow Board Meeting

Friday 15 May 2026, 9am-12pm
Committee Room 4, Barrow Town Hall, Barrow

Board Members present:	Steve Cole (SCo), BAE Systems Fred Chatfield (FC), Barrow Town Council Cllr Anne Burns (AB), Westmorland and Furness Council Cllr Jonathan Brook (JB), Westmorland and Furness Council Julie Mennell (JM), University of Cumbria (online)	Graham Hadaway (GH), Futures Board Michelle Scrogham (MS), MP for Barrow and Furness Scott Cubitt (SCu), Furness College Janet Garner (JG), BAE Systems
Present:	Liz Watson (LW), Westmorland and Furness Council Gareth Candlin (GC), Westmorland and Furness Council Karl Connor (KC), Westmorland and Furness Council Brett Dayton (BDa), Westmorland and Furness Council (online)	Matt Williams (MW), Westmorland and Furness Council Neil Darwin (ND), Team Barrow Charlie Thornton (CT), Westmorland and Furness Council
Minutes:	Megan Purdham (MP), Westmorland and Furness Council	

1. Welcome & Introductions

SCo thanked all for their attendance and asked the Board and observers to introduce themselves. All Board members and observers introduced their name and organisation.

2. To consider minutes and actions from the last meeting

The minutes from the Brilliant Barrow Board Meeting on 19 March 2026 were considered and approved.

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Cllr Derek Brook (DB), Westmorland and Furness Council / Furness Locality Board
- Natalie Goodman (NG), Spirit Energy
- Lolli Fallon (LF), BarrowFull
- Paul Hodgson (PH), Barrow BID
- Peter Hepburn (PH), Spirit Energy
- Alysha Moore (AM), Futures Board
- Daniel Tyler-McTighe (DT), BarrowFull
- Suzanne Caldwell (SC), Cumbria Chamber of Commerce
- Andrew Jarvis (AJ), Westmorland and Furness Council

3. To consider and note the Accountable Body update

LW gave the Accountable Body update.

A summary of programme management processes was provided, noting that project progress is monitored and changes processed and agreed in line with the Local Assurance Framework.

A summary of the recent programme changes was provided, with reflection on the level of change within the programme. This included significant changes to the Marina Village project which the Board endorsed in line with the approved assurance framework.

A summary of draft change controls that are currently being progressed with support from the Council's Accountable Body and Assurance Team was also provided.

DRAFT

The Board acknowledged that programme spend continues to progress positively, along with project risks continuing to decline with appropriate mitigations in place for projects.

The Board considered where post mitigated risks remained amber and/or high, with particular consideration given to live risks. SCo acknowledged the recent Brilliant Barrow Performance Sub-Group in which a focus was on the Housing Market Renewal project.

ACTION: Updates to be obtained from Cycling and Walking and Hubs & Earnse Bay projects to provide further detail on the mitigation measures currently in place for active risks.

Consideration was given to the Cycling and Walking project, and it was requested that a project representative attend the next Brilliant Barrow Board to provide an update, particularly with regards to habit building and any educational work being undertaken by the project.

ACTION: Request project representative for Cycling and Walking attend the next Brilliant Barrow Board in September to provide update, particularly with regards to habit building and any educational work underway

JG referenced the recently updated BAE Systems Travel to Work Plan, and offered to share this with the Brilliant Barrow Board at the next meeting.

ACTION: Janet Garner to present revised BAE Systems Travel to Work Plan at the next Brilliant Barrow Board in September

The Board:

- Noted the Programme Change Log.
- Considered and endorsed the 'significant' change control relating to the Marina Village project.
- Considered and noted the project dashboards

4. Local Regeneration Fund Update

LW provided an update on the Local Regeneration Fund, which is a single consolidated pot which combines all former Levelling Up Fund Programmes (Barrow Town Deal, Barrow LUF, Kendal LUF and Eden LUF).

The Local Regeneration Fund aims to accelerate project delivery, simplify funding arrangements and enable greater local flexibility.

The Board acknowledged the need to transition the current governance arrangements.

The Board acknowledged the upcoming Westmorland and Furness Council Cabinet Meeting on 02 June 2026 where the Local Regeneration Fund programme will be considered as a whole.

The Board:

- Noted the update on the Local Regeneration Fund
- Noted there would be a proposal brought ahead of the September 2026 meeting regarding the transition to a new model for the Brilliant Barrow Board, reflecting the change in governance arrangements, and that this would be led by Team Barrow to ensure the experience and local voice was fed effectively into the Plan for Barrow.

5. Team Barrow Update

ND provided an update on Team Barrow.

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Views from the Board were welcomed with regards to transition arrangements. The importance of building on the strength of Brilliant Barrow was acknowledged, along with the need to adapt and evolve to ensure the wider partnership voice is accepted.

The importance of local representation and cross sector partnership working was acknowledged. ND noted the opportunity to shape any transition arrangements and the need to proceed with transparency, openness and inclusivity, considering local voices.

ND provided an update on upcoming milestones for Team Barrow and provided an update on programmes such as Social Impact Fund.

ND noted a proposal for transition arrangements will be shared with Brilliant Barrow Board members for comments and views.

ACTION: Team Barrow, working with Westmorland and Furness Council and Brilliant Barrow Board, to develop proposal for Brilliant Barrow Board transition arrangements and share with members at interim meeting in July

The Board acknowledged progress reported and welcomed future updates from Team Barrow regarding future progress and delivery.

The Board:

- Noted the Team Barrow update

6. Housing Update

GC provided an update on Housing.

GC provided detail on housing growth projections to meet demand over the next 20 years in Barrow, with recent evidence suggesting further need for development. GC provided some detail on challenges experienced, including limited new and volume developers/house builders in the market looking to deliver new homes and limited, small scale brownfield development sites.

SCu provided an update on numbers of young people studying construction which was welcomed by Board members. Reference was made to the need for construction skill development in the local area.

GC referenced the Spatial Framework and the Barrow Growth Strategy, along with recommendations made by Hive.

ACTION: Spatial Framework report and summary of recommendations from Hive report to be shared

GC provided an update on Marina Vilage, with work ongoing with Homes England and Hive (Strategic Development Partner) to progress the project. An update was provided to members on anticipated milestones and expected units numbers and design.

The Board:

- Noted the Housing update

7. Communications Update

KC provided an update on the Barrow Communications Forum which is a multi-agency forum meeting monthly to share insight and amplify key messages and stories.

KC provided an update on upcoming communications planned.

Members discussed the current position of Barrow Market, The Forum and Heart of Barrow, with concerns acknowledged. The need for further communications, addressing public feedback, was emphasised. Feedback from local representatives was noted.

The role of Brilliant Barrow as an advisory group to Team Barrow was noted, and the route to enable feedback to be shared with the Team Barrow Delivery Board was considered.

With regards to Brilliant Barrow projects, it was requested that specific communication requirements be considered for Cycling and Walking and Hubs & Earnse Bay.

ACTION: Karl Conner to consider specific communications requirements for Cycling and Walking and Earnse Bay

The Board:

- Noted the communications update

8. To consider and note the risks and opportunities update

The Board noted the ongoing management of programme and project level risks.

MW acknowledged that the scale of investment is positive. The opportunity to secure further investment through UKREIIF was acknowledged.

The Board:

- Noted the risks and opportunities update

9. AOB

SCo thanked KH for their contributions and support at the Board.

SCo noted a date for the next Board meeting in September, and an interim meeting in July, will be circulated to members once confirmed.

10. Meeting close

SCo thanked all for their attendance and contribution.

Meeting closed at 12:00

DRAFT

Brilliant Barrow Board Update

Agenda Item:	4
Date of Meeting:	18 September 2026
Title:	Accountable Body Programme Update
Reporting Officer:	Accountable Body and Assurance Manager

Executive Summary & Introduction

Westmorland and Furness Council, as Accountable Body for the Local Regeneration Fund programme which incorporates the former Barrow Town Deal, continues to monitor programme performance for oversight by Westmorland and Furness Council's Investment Board. This report provides an update on the elements of the programme relevant to the former Barrow Town Deal to the Brilliant Barrow Board during the Board's transition to a new model.

There are draft change controls for four projects currently being progressed, and the Board's feedback is sought on the outline proposals being developed.

Projects continue in the established regular reporting cycle with the latest reports relating to Quarter 1 2026-27 activity received in mid-July. The information received through this process has informed the programme overview updates provided in Tables 1-4, which are aligned with the revised formal monitoring requirements of the Local Regeneration Fund.

At this stage in the programme, steady progress continues to be made. 84% of the originally allocated £25 million has now been delivered and four of the eight projects are practically complete. Focus is now the completion of the remaining projects and ongoing monitoring of outputs and outcomes. Whilst some changes to projects continue to be progressed, key risks have now reduced.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Brilliant Barrow Board:

1. Note progress of the programme
2. Provide feedback on the proposed changes to the Place Development, Community Hubs and Earnse Bay and Housing Market Renewal projects

Report

Change Controls

Change control is the process through which all requests to change the approved baseline of a project are captured and evaluated, to allow an informed decision to be made. The former Barrow Town Deal funding had an agreed Change Control process as set out in it's Local Assurance Framework. This has now been superseded by the Change Control and Funding Allocation Policy for the Local Regeneration Fund (LRF), which was approved by the Council in its role as Accountable Body in June 2026. This followed funding simplification guidance issued by government, which consolidated multiple former Levelling-Up Funds into a single pot with greater local freedoms and flexibilities.

There are draft change controls currently being progressed in relation to the following projects:

- **Place Development:** Change required to consider delivery options for the public realm capital element of the project, in alignment with the wider Heart of Barrow scheme, which would require an extension to project delivery timescales and changes to the expenditure profile. The proposal outlines works to be undertaken to the public realm around the Dock Museum, increasing event space and enhancing the area supported through the project previously with the instalment of the amphitheatre. There is forecast to be a slight surplus in funding that is proposed to be allocated to the Housing Market Renewal Project.
- **Community Hubs and Earnse Bay:** Following the change approved by the Board in September 2025 to move to an alternative delivery model for the Town Centre Hub activities, submissions have now been reviewed, and it is felt there is a viable project that delivers well against the Town Deal desired outcomes. Support for this would result in funding remaining available (c£100k), and it is proposed that this is also allocated to the Housing Market Renewal Project.
- **Housing Market Renewal:** Following forecast surplus funding in the Place Development and Community Hubs projects, increasing the budget available to the Housing Market Renewal project accordingly is being considered to enable the scope of the public realm element to be enhanced, with value engineering currently required to deliver within budget. There is also potential to increase the scope of tenement improvement works, to cover a greater number of replacement windows. This change seeks to meet the principle in line with LRF guidance and embedded within the change control policy that any changes to funding seek to benefit the community that originally stood to benefit.
- **Barrow Learning Quarter - Rating Lane Campus:** Minor change to reflect a delay to financial completion of approximately 7 months (achieved in January 2026). Subject to ongoing discussions with Furness College, an extension to the completion date for project outcomes may also be requested, to support achievement of contracted targets.

Programme Monitoring & Evaluation Reporting

Projects continue in the established reporting cycle with the latest reports relating to Quarter 1 activity received in mid-July. Information from the latest project reports has been used to provide an overview of project and programme progress below in **Tables 1, 2 and 3**. Table 2's format has been updated to align with the formal monitoring requirements for the LRF, with reporting required at programme level. The first submission was made in May 2026, with the next being due in November.

The formal monitoring requirements focus upon practical delivery and have reduced the outputs and outcomes that are reported from c160 to 28 output indicators. The Accountable Body and Assurance team has undertaken a mapping exercise of all current projects, although local monitoring of additional outputs and outcomes for projects that are underway will continue.

Expenditure continues to progress steadily, with 84% of the programme now defrayed, an increase from 80% last quarter. Key risks are now significantly reduced at this stage of the programme and the focus continues to move to the monitoring of the achievement of the outputs and overall objectives targeted by the projects, to ensure that key lessons learned through the programme can be fed into the ongoing delivery of the Town Investment Plan and its successor documents. Recognising the evolution of the programme, **Table 4** provides an overview of the progress towards outputs and outcomes by projects.

Table 1 – LRF Award Defrayed by Project*

Project	Percentage of LRF Defrayed	Total LRF Award	Total LRF Defrayed
Barrow Island Campus	100%	£13,043,762	£13,043,763
Community Hubs and Earnse Bay	58%	£4,266,667	£2,483,496
Housing Market Renewal	22%	£2,066,648	£461,204
Place Development	59%	£816,667	£485,469
Marina Village	100%	£966,667	£966,667
Cycling and Walking	100%	£1,766,667	£1,766,667
Rating Lane Campus	100%	£1,400,000	£1,400,000
Business and Enterprise Support	100%	£172,924	£172,924
Programme Management	67%	£499,998	£337,284
Total Town Deal	**84%**	**£25,000,000**	**£21,117,474**

Table 2 – Project Status Overview (Period Q1 26/27)

Project Title	Project Status	Project Status - Commentary	Forecast End Date	RAG	RAG - Commentary
Barrow Island Campus	Completed	Practical completion achieved – ongoing monitoring of outputs and outcomes.	Sep-25	Green	Practical completion achieved.
Community Hubs and Earnse Bay	In Progress	In progress with Earnse Bay scheme anticipated to open in November 2026.	Mar-27	Amber	Minor financial variance and small delivery delays
Housing Market Renewal	Planning Started	Design work ongoing with public realm complete and subject to value engineering, and tenement design anticipated by October 2026, with planning have been submitted in May 2026. Submission of further required permissions anticipated in September with subsequent tenders and appointments with start on site anticipated to be Feb-Mar 2027.	Feb-28	Amber	Milestones delayed but recovery plan active
Place Development	Paused	One element aligned with the former Barrow Market Hall project is paused with options being assessed through change control process	Mar-27	Amber	Milestones delayed but recovery plan active
Marina Village	Completed	Project complete	Apr-26	Green	Project complete
Cycling and Walking	In Progress	In progress with practical completion anticipated 23 October 2026	Oct-26	Green / Amber	Project progressing with minor issues
Rating Lane Campus	Completed	Practical completion achieved – ongoing monitoring of outputs and outcomes.	Sep-24	Green	Practical completion achieved
Business and Enterprise Support	Completed	Project complete	Mar-24	Green	Project complete

Table 3 – Key Upcoming Project Milestones

Project	Milestone	Target Date	Status
Community Hubs & Earnse Bay	Second Stage Improvement Works Completed (Ormsgill Hub)	23/02/2026	Delayed (30/09/2026)
	Scheme Open (Bram Longstaffe)	06/03/2026	Delayed (04/01/2027)
	Scheme Open (Earnse Bay)	27/04/2026	Delayed (01/11/2026)
	Scheme Open (Town Centre Hub Investment Programme)	01/03/2027	Delayed (23/03/2027)
Housing Market Renewal	Designs completed	31/03/2026	Delayed (30/10/2026)
	Submission of any TROs, S278 (Public Realm)	28/11/2025	Delayed (18/09/2026)
	Appointment of Contractors	26/06/2026	Delayed (19/02/2027)
	Start on Site (Tenements)	17/07/2026	Delayed (29/03/2027)
	Start of Site (Public Realm)	12/03/2027	Delayed (29/03/2027)
	Completion of Works (Tenements)	27/08/2027	Delayed (14/01/2028)
	Completion of Works (Public Realm)	21/12/2027	Delayed (25/02/2028)
Cycling and Walking	Completion of construction	19/05/2026	Delayed (23/10/2026)

Table 4 – Project Outputs & Outcomes Overview (Period Q1 26/27)

Project	Output / Outcome	Target	Achieved
Barrow Island Campus	New Skills Facilities Created	1	1
	No. of temporary FTE jobs supported during project implementation	34	57.7
	No. of learners / trainees / students enrolled at new education and training facilities	390	175
	No. of learners enrolled in new education and training courses	245	111
	Amount of capacity of new or improved training or education facilities	445	498
	No. of closer collaborations with employers	1	1
	No. of learners / students / trainees gaining certificates, graduating or completing courses at new or improved training or education facilities, or attending new courses	365	95
Community Hubs and Earnse Bay	Temporary FTE jobs supported during project implementation	7.0	10
	Number of improved community/sports centres	2	1
	Number of new community/sports centres	4	0
	Amount of public realm improved (m2)	700	0
	Amount of existing parks / greenspace / outdoor space improved (m2)	32,500	0
	Full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent jobs created	7.5	1
	Estimated carbon dioxide equivalent reductions as a result of support (TCO2)	1.27	0
	Biodiversity net gain (%)	10	0
	Additional learners gaining basic qualifications	265	190
	Reduction in people who are digitally excluded	500	217
	People volunteering	130	118
Housing Market Renewal	Temporary FTE jobs supported during project implementation	11.5	2
	Residential units improved/refurbished	15	0
	Residential units with green retrofits completed	15	0
	Public realm improved	3,426	0
	Estimated carbon dioxide equivalent reductions	5	0
Place Development	Temporary FTE jobs supported during project implementation	3.8	3.8

	New cultural facilities	2	1
	Public realm improved	1,230	890
	Residents/visitors attending arts, cultural and heritage sites across Barrow	42,200	397,740
	Residents/visitors with better place perceptions	51,600	115,200
	Year-on-Year monthly change in footfall	6	0.32 (Average)
Marina Village	Number of sites acquired	3	3
Cycling and Walking	Total length of new cycle ways	1.1	0
	Total length of pedestrian paths improved	1.1	0.0
	Temporary FTE jobs supported during project implementation	10	0
	Strategic cycle routes created	1	0
	Estimated carbon dioxide equivalent reductions (tonnes)	30.44	0
	Additional cycle trips per year (%)	13	0
	Additional walking trips per year (%)	5	0
Rating Lane Campus	New Skills Facilities Created	1	1
	No. of temporary FTE jobs supported during project implementation	12	18
	No. of learners / trainees / students enrolled at improved education and training facilities	1,165	573
	No. of learners enrolled in new education and training courses	210	76
	Amount of capacity of new or improved training or education facilities	650	430
	No. of learners / students / trainees gaining certificates, graduating or completing courses at new or improved training or education facilities, or attending new courses	1,165	538
Business and Enterprise Support	No. of temporary FTE jobs supported during project implementation	0.5	0.5
	No. of enterprises receiving non-financial support (Base Assist)	43	48
	No. of enterprises receiving non-financial support (Intensive Assist)	18	18
	No. of potential entrepreneurs assisted to be enterprise ready (Base Assist)	30	30
	No. of potential entrepreneurs assisted to be enterprise ready (Intensive Assist)	11	11
	No. of permanent FTE jobs created through new business starts	8	8