

## SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING – 24 JULY 2013

## REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Scrutiny Committee has met on one occasion, namely the evening of 25 June 2013.

The committee started by considering **Matters Arising** which listed the outstanding matters from the last ordinary meeting of the committee. The committee felt that the item relating to the out-turn on Preston Guild could be removed from the list, whilst the two relating to E-Citizen/Firmstep and the efficiency savings proposals 2013/14 should for the time being remain on the list.

It then turned its attention to the **Performance Monitoring Report – Year End 2012/13: April 2012 to March 2013**. The committee looked forward to the member development target being measured and reported to the committee later in the year. It requested more detailed information be provided on the customer satisfaction survey and the way in which this was carried out to measure indicators. The committee appreciated in light of the customer survey the Leader's offer to review the targets in the Corporate Plan and requested further thought be given to whether it was appropriate to have a target on temporary accommodation. It would explore further the crime figures and police levels when it looked at the Community Safety Partnership on 8 October 2013. The committee continued to acknowledge and appreciate the work of the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) and in light of the discussion offered to assist in strongly encouraging those partners currently declining to provide financial support to the IDVA to do so.

The next item considered was a progress report on the **Scrutiny Committee: Review of External Communications**. The committee appreciated the progress made in the report on the recommendations from the scrutiny review. It also appreciated the Leader's comments that; the council's new website will be launched by September 2013, this would meet the Society of IT Managers (SOCITM) 4 out of 4 standard by 2014 and, Firmstep and E-citizenship would be fully functional with the new website. The committee accepted the comments that individual councillors had responsibility to be aware of and champion communications in their own areas. It looked forward to receiving a further progress report on scrutiny review of external communications in 12 months.

The committee then looked at the **Select Move Allocation Policy**. The committee appreciated the opportunity to comment on the Select Move Allocation Policy. It suggested amendments to the policy in respect of; explicit wording on the approach to applicants in arrears of £1,000 or more and, explore child access arrangements where a court order was in place.

The penultimate item was a draft report on the **Scrutiny Review of Health Inequalities in South Ribble**. The committee resolved that the comments received be considered and to enable further meetings and consultation with interested and partner organisations, the chairman be authorised to finalise the report for submission to a meeting of the council.

The next and final item discussed by the committee was an **Update on Scrutiny Reviews and Scrutiny Matters**. The committee discussed the Draft Scrutiny Committee Review Programme 2013/14 and agreed this as outlined in the report. It appointed Councillors Coulton, M Gardner, M Green, Ogilvie, Otter and Miss Walker to its Planning Review Team and agreed that when developed review scoping sheets be submitted to the committee. It was reported that the Lancashire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee had not met since the last meeting. In respect of meetings and training attended by members of the committee, Councillors Ms Pryn and Miss Walker reported that they had attended a Health Impact Assessment workshop. This had been very helpful and interesting, illustrating that those assessments were relevant whenever something was done and could be a topic for a future Members' Learning Hour. Finally the committee considered and noted its forward plan and also that of the Cabinet.

I hereby commend the report of the Scrutiny Committee to the Council.

COUNCILLOR MICK TITHERINGTON  
CHAIRMAN  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE