

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING 23 JULY 2014

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2014

Budget outturn report 2013/14

- Informed of some of the complexities of the technical calculations within the Business Rates Retention Scheme and looked forward to a dedicated Learning Hour on the details of the scheme on 8 July which all members would be recommended to attend
- Acknowledged the challenges of the scheme in the short term but looked forward to the positive opportunities it might bring in the longer term, given the borough's promising economic development situation
- Discussed reasons for re-phasing of some of the projects in the Capital Programme and looked forward to receiving reports of progress on Disabled Facilities Grants as in-house provision of the service bedded in

Draft Core Financial Statements for year ending 31 March 2014

- Received a report highlighting the salient points in the draft core statements and looked forward to considering the full Statement of Accounts in detail at a session over the summer

Draft Annual Governance Statement

- Received a report outlining the Council's governance arrangements, including actions taken to build and strengthen arrangements in 2013/14 and new identified actions to be taken in 2014/15
- Welcomed the ongoing commitment to member development in the report, acknowledging that this would be particularly crucial following the 2015 borough, parish and town council elections
- Learned more about procedures introduced to streamline the recording of / responses to corporate complaints

Treasury Management Outturn Report 2013/14

- Pleased that the Council was continuing to comply with its Prudential and Treasury Indicators and that the return on investments (0.83%) had exceeded the benchmark of (0.34%)
- Reminded that the return on investments was impacted by the Council's Treasury Strategy which dictated the counterparties with which the Council could invest and the permissible limit and duration of investments

Internal Audit Annual Report 2013/14

- Received a report summarising the work of the Internal Audit Service and providing an evaluation of the effectiveness of the council's internal audit system and giving an Audit opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the control environment in the Council and for individual reviews
- Discussed the reviews of Payroll – Self Serve and Disabled Facilities Grants and looked forward to updates on both areas in due course

Compliance with International Auditing Standards

- Pleased that information requested by Grant Thornton, gathered in the course of a review by the Internal Audit Service, provided assurance on the council's management processes to prevent and detect fraud, and to ensure compliance with law and regulations
- Authorised me as committee chairman, and the Chief Executive as the Section 151 statutory Chief Finance Officer, to sign the assurance letters requested by Grant Thornton

Year End Risk Monitoring Report 2013/14 Outturn and Revised Corporate Risk Register 2014/15

- Pleased to note the progress made to address the key risks and opportunities in the Corporate Risk Register during 2013/14
- Reassured that specific risks and opportunities around the City Deal would be firmed up as the project developed and that it would probably be given its own risk register in due course

Review of the Constitution

- Agreed to the following programme of work for 2014/15:
 - Any changes required as a result of the reduction in Council membership size
 - Protocol for members involved on the Council's behalf on outside bodies and partnerships

Forward Plan

- Noted the heavy agenda for the 24 September meeting and agreed to move the *Funding Report of the Actuarial Valuation* as at 31 March 2014 to the 26 November meeting

I hereby commend the report to Council.

COUNCILLOR WARREN BENNETT
CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE