

**SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**COUNCIL MEETING 1 OCTOBER 2014**  
**REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Scrutiny Committee met on the evening of 12 August 2014.

The first item considered was **Matters Arising** which listed the outstanding matters from previous meetings. The committee agreed to remove items 3 (corporate customer survey), 4 (review of Corporate Plan targets) and 7 (publicity campaign to encourage residents to keep their area clean) from the list of matters arising but retain items 5 (breakdown of how the proposed efficiencies for the current financial year will be delivered and their impact), 8 (Member Learning Hour on the Council's business support service) and 9 (information on the occupancy rates of other town and district centres).

The next item considered was the **Cabinet Member Response to the Scrutiny Review of Planning**. The committee was pleased to welcome Councillor Hughes to the meeting and thanked him for his support to the review. The committee looked forward to receiving his written response to the individual recommendations and welcomed the opportunity to comment on this response.

The next item discussed was the **Member Development Plan Outturn report 2013/14 and draft Member Development Plan 2014/15**. The committee took the opportunity to ask questions about the employee appraisal process and the number of appraisals still outstanding and asked for a report to the next meeting on the status of the number of appraisals outstanding at that time. The committee welcomed the news that prospective candidate sessions would be held in the run up to the 2015 elections and requested that preparation for the member induction programme commence and be included in the Member Development Action Plan. The committee also requested that further consideration be given to achieving Level 2 of the Member Development Charter. The committee welcomed the offer to investigate the possibility of providing access to the ECDL qualifications at times convenient for members and the offer to revisit the approach to e-learning, and looked forward to an update on access to Cllr CONNECT following the roll out of tablets. It was agreed that the committee would meet to consider how the Council's action plans could be made more SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timebound).

The next item on the agenda was the **Final Progress Report on the Scrutiny Review of External Communications**. The committee welcomed the Leader's commitment to consider a borough-wide campaign to encourage cleanliness and resident pride in the borough and looked forward to the re-consideration of a business process review of public relations policies and procedures in the autumn. It welcomed a copy of the council's social media strategy and development of success measures, requested a further report on the effectiveness of the Council's website and its measures of success, a progress report on the development of mobile applications and individual member web pages, and welcomed the Leader's assurance that webcasting would be considered as part of the wider exploration of equipment requirements in light of new legislation and requested that the committee be involved in any decision going forwards.

The penultimate item for discussion was the **Scrutiny Review of Health Inequalities – Progress Report**. The committee noted the recommendations in the report and looked forward to a written response from the Leader to the recommendation to consider South Ribble becoming a World Health Organisation Healthy Borough.

The final item discussed by the committee was an **Update on Scrutiny Review and Scrutiny Matters**. The committee agreed the membership of the Ageing Population Task Group and the Road Casualties and Deaths Task Group. Councillor M Gardner reported on

the good progress being made on the Review of Drainage and Flooding. I reported that the Welfare Reform task group was in the process of meeting with representatives of relevant organisations and officers and would formulate a number of recommendations in due course. I reminded the committee that I had circulated LCC Health Scrutiny Committee minutes for members' information and explained that public health in the county was split into three themes: Early Living, Living Well and Ageing Well. In respect of meetings and training attended by members I had recently attended useful seminars on Health Impact Assessments and Welfare Reform. The committee noted its Forward Plan and that of Cabinet and I suggested it would be appropriate for the committee to consider the Waste Contract before it was taken to Cabinet in November.

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

COUNCILLOR MICK TITHERINGTON  
CHAIRMAN  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE