

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING 19 NOVEMBER 2014

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2014

Revised Whistleblowing Policy

- Received a policy revised in line with the national Whistleblowing Code of Practice
- Pleased to note that the authority had no history of whistleblowing but keen to see greater public awareness of it and other relevant policies

Internal Audit – 1st Interim Report

- Received a report advising on progress on Internal Audit Plans, giving an appraisal of the work of the Internal Audit Service and informing members of any general developments involving or impacting on the service
- Welcomed the fact that the majority of indicators had been achieved or exceeded
- Applauded the fact that all members of the Internal Audit team were now professionally qualified

External Audit – Audit Findings Report (a hard copy is available on request)

- Pleased that the external auditors were satisfied in relation to City Deal that we had appropriate governance arrangements in place and our financial commitments were being appropriately managed
- Received affirmation that our Value for Money arrangements continued to present a very positive picture and that our track record of sound financial performance had continued during 2013/14
- Welcomed confirmation in the report that our healthy level of reserves provided a useful base to help the Council meeting future funding gaps
- Received assurance that internal resource issues at Grant Thornton would not occur again and thanked Shared Financial Services staff for the extra work they had put in to facilitate the successful completion of the audit
- Regretted the lack information of benchmarking against other local authorities which the committee had found very useful in last year's report

SRBC Statement of Accounts 2013/14

- Received an explanation of some changes that had had to be made in relation to the restatement of IAS 19 pension costs for 2012/13 due to changes in the accounting standard
- Welcomed the news that a national exercise was underway to examine (and simplify) the way local authority statements of accounts were presented

- Approved the Statement of Accounts and authorised them for issue
- Authorised the Chief Executive and myself to sign the Letter of Representation

Review of Constitution 2014/15

- Agreed the timetable of this year's review, acknowledging that the protocol for members involved in partnerships was a major piece of work which would need careful scoping

Forward Plan

- Noted the forward plan without further debate

I hereby commend the report to Council.

COUNCILLOR WARREN BENNETT
CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE