

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING – 19 NOVEMBER 2014
REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Scrutiny Committee has met on two occasions, the evenings of 23 September 2014 and 28 October 2014.

A) 23 September 2014

The first item considered by the committee was the list of **Matters Arising**. It agreed to remove the items from the list with the following exceptions where further updates/clarification was requested.

12/08/14 - Member Development Plan Outturn report 2013/2014 and draft Member Development Plan 2014/2015 – min. no.13 (4), (5) & (6).

12/08/14 - Scrutiny Review of External Communications - Final Progress Report – min. no.14 (1), (2), (6).

12/08/14 - Scrutiny Review of Health Inequalities - Progress Report – min. no.15 (2).

The next item looked at by the committee was the **Worden Park Vision Plan**. The committee acknowledged that Worden Park was a jewel in the crown of South Ribble. It was concerned at the apparent length of time taken to prepare and present the Worden Park Vision Plan. The committee subsequently requested a copy of the Worden Park Management Plan and any other background documents referred to by the Cabinet member or Parks & Neighbourhoods Manager. It looked forward to receiving a breakdown of the council's capital funding allocated to parks including Worden Park. The committee requested regular updates on the letting of the Derby Wing and the Worden Arts Centre including options for future use. It also requested a further report be presented on the short, medium and long-term actions to achieve the Vision.

The committee then turned its attention the **Response to the Scrutiny Review of Planning**. The committee appreciated the Cabinet member for Strategic Planning and Housing's responses to the review's recommendations. It looked forward to receiving a progress report on its recommendations in 6 months.

The penultimate item was the **South Ribble Local Health Scrutiny Protocol** which was noted.

The final item discussed by the committee was an **Update on Scrutiny Reviews and Scrutiny Matters**. The Chairman took the opportunity to express his concern regarding Delegated Decision 795. In that aspects of this decision appeared to have been implemented before the end of the Call-in period. The Chairman planned to raise the matter with the council's Chief Executive.

In respect of the Scrutiny Review of Drainage and Flooding, the task group had met, and there was appreciation this was a complex topic and further task group meetings were planned. In connection with the Scrutiny Review of Welfare Reform there was currently no update but further meetings of the task group were planned. The Ageing Population and Road Casualties & Deaths task group would meet shortly and it was agreed that Councillor Mrs Woollard be added to the task group.

The Chairman provided a verbal update confirming his attendance at the recent meeting of the county council's scrutiny committee whose discussions had included School Nursing and Health Visiting. The committee received feedback from Councillor Martin that the Chairman and he had attended on behalf of the committee, a session on Community Health Advocacy Training. The committee noted the Cabinet and Scrutiny Forward Plans.

B) 28 October 2014

The first item discussed was the list of **Matters Arising**. It agreed to remove them from the list, except:

12/08/14 - **Scrutiny Review of External Communications - Final Progress Report** – min. no.13 (6 – e-learning) – to clarify whether this had actually been actioned.

It was agreed that the committee informally discuss further the following with the appropriate Cabinet member:

12/08/14 – **Scrutiny Review of Health Inequalities - Progress Report** – min. no.15 (2).

23/09/14 – **Worden Park Vision Plan** – min. no.21 (2-7).

The next item considered was the **City Deal**. The committee acknowledged that this was an exciting project affecting South Ribble and the wider Central Lancashire area. It felt that as the project developed; the committee would liaise with counterparts at Preston City Council and Lancashire County Council and there would be areas the committee would want to monitor, such as the impact/progress/success of schemes and overall governance arrangements. The committee welcomed the comments that impacts on health and education provision/services would be taken into consideration as the project developed. It looked forward to being involved as the project progressed and developed over the next 10 years.

The penultimate item was the **Performance, Budget and Risk Monitoring Report: mid-year 2014/15 (April 2014 – September 2014)**. The committee welcomed the good progress being made and the forecast for the remainder for the year. It requested in future that the Corporate Plan contains SMART targets with more robust indicators. The committee recommended a joint publicity campaign to keep the borough tidy, using such as the Forward newspaper and social media. It requested that the referenced Health Strategy be presented to a future meeting. The committee looked forward to the Building Control deficit to continue to decrease. It requested careful monitoring of progress of items/expenditure in the Capital programme to minimise underspend. The committee welcomed the efficiencies achieved to date and anticipated further efficiencies being achieved during the remainder of the year.

The final item discussed by the committee was an **Update on Scrutiny Reviews and Scrutiny Matters**. The Scrutiny Review of Drainage and Flooding – there would be a further meeting before the task group's report was finalised. The Scrutiny Review of Welfare Reform – would meet tomorrow and intended to present its report to the next meeting of the committee. In respect of the newly created task groups: Ageing Population - would meet on Friday and Road Casualties & Deaths - the county council's scrutiny committee had declined to be involved in the review. The Chairman confirmed he attended the recent meeting of Lancashire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee on 7 October 2014 whose discussions had included public health actions to address the economic downturn. Concerning member feedback on meeting and training attended on behalf of the committee – the Chairman had attended a meeting of the NW Strategic Scrutiny Network, whose discussions had included appointment of chairman and vice-chairman and receiving a talk from Greater Manchester's Police & Crime Commissioner. Finally, the committee noted its Forward Plan. In respect of the Cabinet Forward Plan, the Chairman stated that for the meeting to be held on 5 November 2014, he had been consulted on and agreed to consideration of an item.

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

COUNCILLOR MICK TITHERINGTON
CHAIRMAN
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE