

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 25 MARCH 2015

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Scrutiny Committee has met on two occasions 27 January and 10 March 2015.

A. 27 January 2015

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.

- 9/12/14 – Minute 35 – **Member Development – E-Learning** – In addition to this item being removed it was agreed that the new committee considers this as part of the next Member Development Plan re-refresh.
- 28/10/14 – Minute 29 – **City Deal** - In addition to this item being removed it was agreed that a general update should be included on the Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan for Autumn 2015.
- 9/12/14 – Minute 35 – **Health Strategy Document** – The Cabinet Member was asked about the status of this document within minute 51.

The next item looked at by the committee was the **Scrutiny Review of Health Inequalities – Healthy Borough Status Update**. The committee noted that despite being advised to the contrary, the council did not currently have a health strategy. The committee asked Cabinet to provide more timely and robust responses to the Scrutiny Committee in the future and that a written response be provided to the recommendations.

The committee then turned its attention to the **My Neighbourhoods – Annual Review of Arrangements**. The committee requested that the cost of the My Neighbourhoods be provided to the committee and that in future ward councillors attendance be recorded and included in the member attendance figures on the council's website. The committee also asked that Governance Committee again review the process for agreeing My Neighbourhood expenditure and give discretion and flexibility to the number of projects. Finally, the committee asked that further information on the amount, purpose and timing of the Section 106 funding be provided to the My Neighbourhood Chairmen and Forums.

The final item discussed by the committee was an **Update on Scrutiny Reviews and Scrutiny Matters**. The committee received updates on the scrutiny reviews of Drainage and Flooding, Ageing Population and Road Casualties & Deaths. Councillor Mrs Jones gave a verbal update on the meeting of the county council's Health Scrutiny Committee she had attended on behalf of the Chairman on 13 January. Members of the committee provided feedback on meetings and training attended on behalf of the committee. The committee note both its forward plan and that of the Cabinet.

B. 10 March 2015

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 exception.

- 27/01/15 – Min. No. 47(1) & (4) – **My Neighbourhoods – Annual Review of Arrangements** – the committee did not feel the presented responses answered the requests – it asked for further responses to these two recommendations.

The committee then considered a progress report on the **South Ribble Leisure Partnership**. The committee felt it was a positive report, appreciated the responses to its questions and the understandable way the report had been written. It welcomed the Leisure Academy initiative with Preston's College and looked forward to this being widened. The committee requested it be kept informed of developments in relation to the impact of Serco's disposal of its Environment and Leisure divisions. It welcomed and encouraged closer working with the council's Sports Development Team. The committee encouraged and looked forward to the development of a Leisure Strategy. It requested further consideration be given to the displaying of activity price lists in the leisure centres.

The next item was the **Scrutiny Committee's End of Term Report**. The Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Scrutiny Committee were authorised to finalise the Scrutiny Committee's End of Term Report prior to its submission to the council.

The committee then turned its attention to **Lancashire County Council Public Health's consultation on its Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment**. The committee noted its response to the county council's consultation.

The committee then considered and noted the **Scrutiny Review of Welfare Reform – Cabinet response**.

The final item discussed by the committee was an **Update on Scrutiny Reviews and Scrutiny Matters**. The report (as amended) on the **Scrutiny Review of Drainage and Flooding** was accepted and to be submitted to the council. The report (as amended) on the **Scrutiny Review of Loneliness and Social Isolation** was accepted and to be submitted to the council. The **Scrutiny Review of Road Casualties & Deaths** could not be progressed and a new/future committee might want to revisit the topic. The Chairman gave a **Verbal update on Lancashire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee** which had included a report on the county council's public health agenda. The county council Cabinet member and Director attended and gave an update. The Chairman had previously circulated that meeting's agenda to the committee and would circulate the minutes when they were available. On **Member feedback on meeting and training attended on behalf of the committee**, the Chairman reported that he and the Scrutiny and Performance Officer had attend a public health meeting on health checks in Leeds. This had been interesting and pleasing to note advances were being made in implementing these and there had been a sizeable increase in the number of people accessing them. Finally it was the **Cabinet and Scrutiny Forward Plans** and the committee noted the Cabinet Forward Plan. In respect of the committee's own forward plan, members were reminded of the on going matter regarding Bus Route 125 and the issue of the bus no longer going into the grounds of Chorley Hospital. It was felt that the approach by the bus operator had been lacking. It was therefore requested (and within the committee's remit) that a new Scrutiny Committee considers conducting a formal review of bus services in the borough.

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

COUNCILLOR MICK TITHERINGTON
CHAIRMAN, SCRUTINY COMMITTEE