

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING 27 MAY 2015

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 APRIL 2015

External Audit – Opinion Plan 2014/15

- Welcomed the news that preparatory work on the 2014/15 audit had started early and that initial findings were positive
- Reassured that the risks identified by the External Auditors were generic to all local authorities

Capital Programme for Parks and Open Spaces 2014/15

- Expressed concern that the report as presented was not wide enough in scope, and
- Agreed to defer to allow myself and the vice-chairman to agree with the Cabinet member the scope and level of detail required so that a report could be presented to the next meeting

Internal Audit Plan 2015/16

- Received a report outlining the proposed work programme for the 2015/16 financial year
- Sought clarification of the process used to formulate the programme including software analysis and consultation with the Senior Management Team
- Welcomed the forthcoming review of spend on fuel, especially timely given the imminent implementation of the new waste and recycling contract
- Commended the work of the whole Internal Audit team

Transparency Update

- Received a report on action taken to comply with the latest government Transparency Codes designed to make it easier for local people to contribute to the local decision making process
- Welcomed the progress made in meeting, and in some areas exceeding, the mandatory requirements of the Transparency Code

Review of the Constitution

- Recommend that Council agree that any changes required, as a result of the Boundary Review, to the quorum for a full Council meeting, the number of councillors and ward names be implemented

ITEM

- Recommend that Cabinet re-establish the Independent Remuneration Panel in accordance with the Local Authorities (Member Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and ask the re-established panel to review member remuneration in the light of changes to councillor numbers
- Recommend that the Monitoring Officer prepare a report in conjunction with Council on representatives Outside Bodies on the activities of each Outside Body (the report to cover all Outside Bodies over a two year period)
- Recommend that any request for appointment to a new Outside Body be subject to a report from the Monitoring Officer indicating whether the appointment met a series of agreed criteria
- Recommend that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to update the Constitution to reflect the recommendations above and to make provision for the changes required by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (Removal of Chief Officers from Post)