

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING – 30 SEPTEMBER 2015
REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

On this occasion the Scrutiny Committee met on Tuesday 22 September 2015.

Initially the committee looked at matters arising from its previous meeting on 23 June 2015 and removed all items except those relating to Performance, Budget and Risk monitoring report – year end 2014/15 (April 2014 – March 2015) – Min. No.5 (1, 2, 4, 5, 6 & 7) refer.

The committee then welcomed the Cabinet member for Housing and Healthy Communities (Councillor Michael Green) to receive an update on his portfolio. The committee appreciated that this was a new portfolio which the Cabinet member was getting to grips with and requested that he attend and present a progress update to the committee in six months. It looked forward to receiving and commenting on the forthcoming Housing Strategy and this having ambitious SMART targets including around affordable housing. The committee thanked the Cabinet member for the offer to provide the committee with regular updates on the Health & Wellbeing Partnership and involving it in relevant projects. It was grateful to the Cabinet member agreeing to work with the committee's Health Steering Group.

The next item was the Cabinet response to the committee's review of loneliness and social isolation. The committee welcomed the Cabinet member's offer to meet with the 'My Neighbourhood' chairmen about loneliness and social isolation. It was pleased the Cabinet member confirms that the Lettings Policy for the Banqueting Suite was being reviewed and the committee encouraged the council to let the suite at a reduced rate to community groups. The committee requested a progress report be presented in six months.

The committee then turned its attention to the council's People Plan (out-turn 2014/15 and draft 2015/19). The committee was very pleased to receive and note the report and commended the council on a positive report and progress made with the People Plan. It applauded the council on the reduction of the level of sickness absence and hoped it would be able to reduce this further. In doing so, also recognising the effort of council staff to achieve the reduced level of sickness absence. The committee encouraged the council to aim for a 100% response to the employee appraisals. It welcomed the offer to look at the possible provision of a cycle shelter at the Civic Centre. The committee also congratulated the council on the new Apprenticeship Scheme.

Next on the agenda was the Member Development Plan (out-turn 2014/15 and draft 2015/19). The committee was pleased to receive the positive report. It welcomed the positive initial feedback on Member Induction following the full borough election in May 2015. The committee requested that alternative ways be explored to evaluate the effectiveness of member training, including feeding back the results to members. It strongly supported the importance of and endeavours that members attended mandatory training sessions.

In connection to the two previous items, the committee received a report on the Investors in People (IIP) findings on the council. It was more than happy to receive and note this report. Members of the council had previously received a presentation at council and many of the IIP recommendations had been included in the council's People Plan.

The penultimate item was the committee agreeing its work programme for 2015/16 and beyond. It adopted the draft work programme 2015/16 and beyond. The committee establishes its Health Steering Group consisting of no more than six members and that the chairman be councillor Mrs B Nathan. The names of the remaining five members of the Health Steering Group be submitted by the two political groups.

Finally the committee received an update on scrutiny matters. The chairman verbally reported back on his attendance at two meetings of the county council's Health Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Martin reported he and three other members of the committee had attended a course for scrutiny chairmen. The committee noted both its forward plan and that of the Cabinet.

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

COUNCILLOR MICK TITHERINGTON
CHAIRMAN
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE