

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING – 18 NOVEMBER 2015
REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Scrutiny Committee met on two occasions Tuesday 20 October 2015 and Tuesday 10 November 2015.

A) Tuesday 20 October 2015

The committee had been convened to consider the **Call-in of Delegated Decision No. 847 – Grant Funding to Cuerden Valley Park Trust**. The Leader of the Council and Chief Executive had been invited to attend and address the committee. The reasoning behind the call-in had been re-produced on the agenda for the meeting.

The Leader of the Council and Chief Executive were thanked for their attendance, and for answering the committee's questions.

The committee felt that delegated decision no.847 (Grant Funding to Cuerden Valley Park Trust) should stand. It recommended that future delegated decisions include more detailed information and evidence that due process has been followed, including consultations. The committee recommended that a documented process for grants requests be developed, including due diligence on projects. It also recommended that a clear process for the allocation and spending of Section 106 monies be developed, including links and consultation with the council's appropriate My Neighbourhood Forum.

B) Tuesday 10 November 2015

Initially the committee looked at matters arising from its previous meetings 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 (3, 6, 7 & 9) and Cabinet Member Update – Housing & Healthy Communities – min. no.13(3).

The committee then welcomed the Cabinet member for Corporate Support (Councillor Mrs Caroline Moon) to receive an update on her portfolio. The committee requested councillors be provided with further information and support to enable them to encourage residents to use the council's electronic online services such as E-Citizen. It supported Gateway's endeavours encouraging and providing support to residents to access and use the council's electronic online services such as E-Citizen. The committee also requested that as more council services transferred to Gateway, the council was mindful of its capacity. The committee also welcomed the current work to help tackle homelessness and looked forward to receiving the outcome of this work in the New Year.

Next on the agenda was the **Performance, Budget and Risk monitoring report – mid-year 2015/16 (April 2015 – September 2015)**. The committee welcomed the appointment of 10 new apprentices. It noted with concern the external factors making both the Waste Cost Sharing Agreement and the City Deal a red risk and, looked forward to an update when the Leader next met the committee. The committee requested future reports include more measureable outcomes and performance measures and looked forward to being involved with the outcome of the first phase of the strategic asset and property review in the New Year.

Finally the committee received an update on scrutiny matters. The chairman verbally reported back on his attendance at the county council's Health Scrutiny Committee. He also reported feedback on attendance at the NW Strategic Scrutiny Network, the county council's Public Health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (with Councillor Wharton), the Centre for Public Scrutiny session on developing a new approach to scrutiny (The Game Change). Also on behalf of Councillor Mrs B Nathan, that she had attended the Older People's Network and spoke on the committee's Review of Loneliness and Social Isolation and its Health Steering Group. The Health Steering Group would meet on Friday 13 November and, the Scrutiny Committee agreed to create a Highways Task Group with a membership of Councillors Mrs Ball, Mrs Blow, K Jones, Martin, Watkinson and Mrs K Walton. 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