

**SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING 30 MARCH 2016**

**REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2016**

**Dismissal Procedure**

Legislation change requires new process for Protected Officers. This requires a new Disciplinary Panel to be created – Governance Committee recommended 2 x Independents + Chair of Standards. This recommendation was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 10 February and Cabinet's own recommendation is included in the Report of the Cabinet item on tonight's agenda.

**Claims Certification**

External Auditor has scrutinised Housing Benefit Claims for £24.7m and gave a positive response based on the presence of only a few minor errors which do not need reporting to DWP.

**GT Challenge Questions**

Following discussion at the November Committee meeting, status updates were presented to the Committee regarding Devolution Revolution, Government's New Homes Announcements & Council Tax Collection. Committee was pleased that Learning Hours were now planned to similarly update all councillors.

**Scrutiny Call-In Procedure**

Task Group reviewed the procedures in relation to notification of any Call-In meeting and visibility of who called in the decision and why. Committee recommendation is to amend Constitution.

**Budget Monitoring**

Current financial year status is positive but significant challenges lie ahead due to further grant settlement reduction. 2015/2016 efficiency savings plan forecast is positive. Capital expenditure plan has been subject to approx. 30% re-phasing into 2016/2017 which continues to be an area of disappointment for this Committee.

**Internal Audit Report**

Generally positive report with good progress against 2015/16 audit plan programme. However, significant discussion regarding current lack of visibility of the detail of Red rated issues to Cabinet Members who have responsibility for the relevant portfolio – a full Committee Task Group to review whether current procedures need amending.

**Revised Guidance for Governance Committee**

Committee were advised on new Terms of Reference for Governance – Internal Audit confirmed that we were already compliant with the new terms with just one area of weakness due to the need for a peer review of our Internal Audit function by another Local Authority. A Committee member self-assessment form is to be completed to inform future member development.

## **Corporate Governance Plan Update**

Status update presented by the Monitoring Officer and noted by the Committee.

## **Forward Plan**

Addition to Forward Plan - Following various discussions over recent months regarding visibility of S106 monies and the procedures for their allocation, Cabinet member for Finance will present a S106 Status Report at April 2016 Governance Committee Meeting.

I hereby commend the report to Council.

COUNCILLOR ALAN OGILVIE  
CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE