

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING – 30 MARCH 2016
REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

On this occasion the Scrutiny Committee met on three occasions namely Tuesday 26 January, Thursday 4 February & Tuesday 8 March 2016.

A. 26 January 2016

At the start of the meeting, further to min. no.35, 8 December 2015, the chairman took the opportunity to inform those present that a consensus of the committee felt a meeting of the committee should be convened to look at the draft Corporate Plan, Budget and Risk Register 2016-2017 before it was considered by the Cabinet on 10 February 2016. The most convenient date for this meeting was Thursday 4 February 2016.

Initially the committee looked at matters arising from its previous meetings and removed all items except those relating to

23/06/15 – **Performance, Budget and Risk monitoring report – year end 2014/15 (April 2014 – March 2015)** – min. no.5 (6 & 7)

22/09/15 – **Cabinet Member Update – Housing & Healthy Communities** – min. no.13 (3)

08/12/15 – **Cabinet Member Update – Finance & Resources** – min. no.34 (2, 3 & 5)

The committee then turned to the **Cabinet Member Update – Neighbourhoods & Streetscene**. It noted the progress being made in the Neighbourhoods & Streetscene portfolio. The committee expressed concern at the low levels of enforcement around dog fouling and litter and asked a report be provided to a future meeting to outline what steps the Cabinet member was going to take to increase the level of enforcement (including use of benchmarking and best practice etc). It requested confirmation that residents could report cleansing and environmental issues to the council through social media. The committee requested the Cabinet member investigate the use of the borough's parks and open spaces by commercial dog walking companies. It also requested the Cabinet member gave further consideration to making more use of the Community Payback Scheme on local projects.

Next on the agenda was the **Waste Management Partnership**. The committee commended the Cabinet member and Director for the smooth transition to the new Waste Management Partnership and the significant savings generated. It requested that further information be provided to explain the reduction in the council's recycling rate. The committee also requested that it received updates on Lancashire County Council's Waste Review and this council's proposed actions to address the £1m reduction in income when the Cost Sharing Agreement ceased.

The committee then looked at a progress update on the **Worden Park Vision Plan**. The committee requested that a SMART and target based action plan be developed for the short, medium and long term actions, aims and aspirations that would implement the Worden Park Vision Plan. It expressed concern about the feedback the council received following the Green Flag inspection and asked that a report be presented to a future meeting explaining what the council had and was doing to respond/address the feedback. The committee welcomed the Cabinet member's offer to look at extending educational visits to Worden Park. It requested that the maintenance of the public toilets on Worden Park be closely monitored with a view to their refurbishment. The committee requested the Cabinet member provide a response to the member of the public regarding concerns raised (including football pitches and vandalism).

Finally the committee received an update on scrutiny matters and looked at both its and the Cabinet's forward plans.

B. 4 February 2016

This meeting had been specifically arranged to look at and comment on the **Draft Corporate Plan, Budget and Risk Register 2016-2017**. The committee agreed that its comments/suggestions on this topic be forwarded to the Cabinet for its consideration as part of its meeting on 10 February 2016. It looked forward to receiving feedback from its comments from 8 December 2015 and also receiving the Cabinet's feedback on the committee's comments/suggestions relating to the Draft Corporate Plan, Budget and Risk Register 2016-2017.

C. 8 March 2016

The committee started by looking at matters arising from its previous meetings and removed all items except those relating to

23/06/15 – **Performance, Budget and Risk monitoring report – year end 2014/15 (April 2014 – March 2015)** – min. no.5 (7)

08/12/15 – **Cabinet Member Update – Finance & Resources** – min. no.34 (3 & 5)

26/01/16 – **Cabinet Member Update – Neighbourhoods & Streetscene** – min. no.41 (3, 5 & 6) – for (5) & (6) more information was requested

26/01/16 – **Waste Management Partnership** – min. no.42 (3 & 4)

26/01/16 – **Worden Park Vision Plan – progress update** – min. no.43 (2, 3, 4 & 6)

04/02/16 – **Draft Corporate Plan, Budget and Risk Register 2016-2017** – min. no.47(2)

The committee then looked at the **Draft Housing Framework**. It welcomed the council's Housing Framework and endorsed the three priorities. The committee asked that the final framework outlined the process and data/evidence it used to develop the Housing Framework. It looked forward to seeing action plans and measuring the progress on the three priorities in the Housing Framework. The committee welcomed the Cabinet member's assurance that the period of consultation on the Housing Framework would be extended to enable feedback from all the council's My Neighbourhood Forums.

Next on the agenda was the **Cabinet Member Update – Regeneration & Leisure**. The committee congratulated the portfolio holder on the progress and achievements in the report. It looked forward to measures being introduced to enable an assessment/measure of the impact of the council's Economic Development Team. The committee welcomed measurable outcomes of the Boost Programme and looked forward to being made aware of the second programme. It congratulated the portfolio holder and those involved with the creation of the South Ribble memorial to World War 1. The committee looked forward to receiving a copy of the Air Quality Action Plan document or summary following feedback from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). It would like to see the business case for the efficiency savings proposals for environmental health. The committee recommended more promotion of the council's achievements/successes.

Finally the committee received an update on scrutiny matters and looked at both its and the Cabinet's forward plans.

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

COUNCILLOR MICK TITHERINGTON
CHAIRMAN
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE