

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING – 5 OCTOBER 2016
REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

On this occasion the Scrutiny Committee met on Tuesday 20 September 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 (7)**
- 26/01/16 – Cabinet Member Update – Neighbourhoods & Streetscene – min. no.41 (5) – more information was requested**
- 26/01/16 – Worden Park Vision Plan – progress update – min. no.43 (3)**
- 08/03/16 – Consultation on the Draft Housing Framework – min. no.53 (3)**
- 08/03/16 – Cabinet Member Update – Regeneration & Leisure – min. no.54 (4 & 7)**
- 19/04/16 – Chorley & South Ribble Community Safety Partnership – min. no.59 (5)**
- 19/04/16 – Strategic Asset & Property Review – Phase 1 – min. no.60 (3)**

The committee then looked at the final draft report of the **Scrutiny Review of Licensing** (the way in which the external licensing investigation was handled by South Ribble Borough Council). The chairman introduced the committee's task group's report and initially re-capped for clarity, the previously endorsed terms of reference. He confirmed that the task group took full ownership of the report. It had made a distinction between opinion and fact. Information had been collated and provided the basis of the findings. The chairman stated that any questions and comments should relate to the recommendations and matters of fact and not opinions. He confirmed that the task group had not dealt with any individual cases as this was not in the terms of reference and any issues relating to the handling of those matters would be dealt with under the council's procedures and go through due process. The chairman hoped that the report would be received as intended, identify where lessons needed to be learned, take those lessons on board, repair any damage done, make improvements and restore residents' trust and confidence in their council.

In conjunction with the report, the committee considered additional information (circulated prior to the meeting) regarding submissions received following earlier in the week relating to the report's recommendations. Those comments were noted with the exception of a point relating to Recommendation 6 for which it was agreed to amend the wording of that recommendation. There had also been a submission immediately before the start of the meeting questioning the formulation of the task group and suggested that a number of the findings were unsound. It was not felt that this submission changed the findings and/or recommendations in the report. It was moved and seconded that the report with an amended Recommendation 6 with the circulated Additional Information appended be approved for submission to council on 5 October 2016. There was a proposed amendment (that the report be returned to the task group to be considered further and that all the witnesses including the external solicitors be called in to be questioned in a public meeting). However, an amendment should not negate the proposal or introduce a new proposal. Therefore in this case it was a straight vote on the original proposal, which was carried (10 in favour, 2 against).

The next item considered was the draft final report of the committee's task group on the **Review of the Council's Response to Flooding**. The chairman apologised that due to the council's current circumstances this report had not been considered sooner. The committee endorsed the task group's findings/recommendations and agreed that the report be considered at the next meeting of the council on 5 October 2016.

It then turned its attention to the **Performance, Budget and Risk monitoring report year end 2015/16 (April 2015 to March 2016)**. The chairman again apologised that due to the council's current circumstances this report had not been considered sooner. The committee again requested that the corporate plan be reviewed to ensure that its actions and measures were SMART. It recommended that the Cabinet ensured that the efficiency programme did not adversely affect frontline services and that any affects were effectively assessed. The committee looked forward to the Leader providing further information on the Town & Village Centre Plans. It congratulated the council on the retention of the Green Flags but expressed some concern that the feedback indicated the number of council staff had reduced and requested further information. The committee requested that a report on the council's approach to risk management be presented to a future meeting of the committee. It welcomed the proposed Member Learning Hour on Economic Development and asked that it provide practical examples and outcomes of the council's economic development work. The committee supported the Leader's work in maintaining the women's refuge in the borough.

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