

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 29 MARCH 2017

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Scrutiny Committee met on three occasions Tuesday, 31 January 2017, Thursday, 16 February 2017 and Tuesday, 14 March 2017.

A) Tuesday, 31 January 2017

Initially the committee looked at **matters arising from its previous meetings** and it was agreed that certain items be removed from the list as they had now been dealt with.

Next the committee turned its attention to the **Corporate Plan 2017-18** and thanked the Leader and Corporate Improvement Manager for attending. The committee welcomed the positive steps and improved approach to involving Scrutiny in developing the Corporate Plan and taking its comments on board. It was suggested that consideration be given to including an action to deliver the Leyland Loop and adding an action on proactive environmental enforcement. The committee also suggested that consideration should be given to adding an action to continuing to monitor and ensure Licensing was fit for purpose. However, the committee was pleased by the Leader's assurance on the improvements made to the Council's Licensing Service. The Leader's commitment to carrying out a strategic review of leisure and his assurance that no decision about the future of leisure had been made, was welcomed. It was recommended that the plan be explicit on what was within the Council's control and accountable for and looked forward to receiving the outcomes of the strategic property and asset review. Finally, the committee welcomed the commitment to providing full impact assessments of the savings proposals.

The committee then looked at the **Employee Survey Results** and expressed its deep concern with the results. It was recommended that the Leader develop a detailed plan of the steps that would be taken to respond to the issues identified in the survey and that these be provided as a matter of urgency. However, the committee was reassured by the Interim Chief Executive's work to support employees and take the Council forward. It was suggested that all members and officers be encouraged to work together in "One Council, One Team" approach and that a 360 degree assessment process be introduced for members. In addition, a member Training and Development Plan should be developed. Finally the committee welcomed a review of the structure of the Council.

Finally the committee received an update on **Scrutiny Matters**.

B) Thursday, 16 February 2017

The committee had been convened to consider the **Councillor Call for Action – following recent reports that advanced plans had been developed for the closure of the current Bamber Bridge, Penwortham and Leyland Leisure Centres**. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Leisure and Director of Development, Enterprise and Communities had been invited to attend and address the committee. The reasoning behind the Call for Action was set out on the agenda for the meeting.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Leisure and Director of Development, Enterprise and Communities were thanked for their attendance, and for answering the committee's questions.

The committee recommended that a cross party Member Working Group be created to take a review of leisure forward and that Members be fully engaged in the review. The committee welcomed the Cabinet Member's commitment to fully consult and involve residents and stakeholders in shaping options for the future of leisure facilities in South Ribble. The committee recommended that a report be presented to a future meeting on the amount spent on the leisure review over the past five years and the procurement processes that were followed. It requested further information on the KKP external review of leisure in 2015, including the commissioning process, terms of reference, costs and outcomes. It asked for assurance that there would be full transparency in taking the review of leisure forward. The committee requested an action plan with timescales for how the leisure review would be

taken forward for presentation to a future meeting. The committee asked that it be fully involved at the key stages of the leisure review.

C) Tuesday, 14 March 2017

Initially the committee looked at the **South Ribble Community Leisure Partnership**

Performance Update. The committee thanked the Leisure Trust for attending and commended the Trust and Serco for the achievements identified in the report. It requested that further consideration be given to more joint working with the Council's Sports Development Team. The committee also congratulated the Trust and Serco for achieving 80% customer satisfaction level.

The committee then turned to the **Safeguarding Update and Self-assessment.** The committee thanked representatives of Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board, the Leader and the Director for attending. It welcomed the report and self-assessment being presented to the Scrutiny Committee and recommended that Safeguarding Training be made mandatory for elected members. The committee asked that the Council look into making Safeguarding Training via MILO available to Parish and Town Councils and that it be provided with anonymised case studies of where sharing of information protocols have been used. The committee recommended that the Members' Code of Conduct be reviewed to ensure safeguarding was effectively included and that details of the Council's Employee Safeguarding Champions be made available to members. It welcomed the reassurance provided by the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board on the Council's safeguarding arrangements. The committee agreed to review the safeguarding referral process. It asked that six months review of progress be presented to the Scrutiny Committee and that safeguarding training takes place on an annual basis.

Next on the agenda was the **Communications Strategy 2017/19.** The committee thanked the Leader, Improvement Manager and the Senior Communications Officer for attending. It welcomed the draft strategy and that the Scrutiny Committee's previous review had been included in the strategy. The committee asked that a rigorous and evidence-based review of the Forward newspaper be carried out. It looked forward to the employee survey results being made available to members and welcomed the reassurance that there was sufficient capacity/resources to deliver the strategy. The committee asked that clarification be provided on the action around allowing employees to access social media at work. It also recommended that a member survey on communications and wider issues be undertaken and an improved website that meets the society of IT Managers' ratings be prioritised higher on the action plan. It asked that six months progress reports be provided to the committee.

The committee then turned to the **Development of an Organisational Development Strategy.** The committee thanked the Leader and Improvement Manager for attending. It welcomed the development of the Organisational Development Strategy, particularly the development and support for the members' section. It looked forward to the strategy being presented to the committee in June.

The committee then looked at the **Review of Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the Constitution.** The committee thanked the Governance Manager for attending. It welcomed the updated Procedure Rules and appreciates the new style and plain English approach. The committee asked that the section on the role of full Council with Scrutiny Reviews be clarified further with regards voting and that the size of Task Groups to be a minimum of 4. It recommended that Scrutiny Reviews be more explicit in Section 1 of the Procedure Rules outlining the role of Scrutiny.

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