

## SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING – 29 MARCH 2017

## REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on the evening of Monday 20 February.

On that occasion the Cabinet considered the matters set out below (except those that were considered at the meeting of council held on 1 March 2017. Decisions shown in boxed areas are subject to Council confirmation; the reports considered by the Cabinet were available to all members in advance of the Cabinet meeting.

### 1. Improvement Plan

Following the Cabinet's approval of the action plan arising from the Scrutiny Review of Licensing and the development of the council's Annual Governance Statement, it was asked to approve the council's Improvement Plan. This had been mentioned earlier in the Corporate Plan and was felt that whilst challenging, it was a very important document and needed to be moved forward as soon as possible.

The Leader responding to a concern expressed from the audience about the staffing resource to support the plan, indicated that the council looked to extend the contracts of the staff resource by three months and look at future support as part of a re-structure.

It was agreed that:

1. the Improvement Plan attached at **Appendix 1** be approved;
2. the progress made to date in relation to the improvement activities be noted; and
3. quarterly progress reports be provided to Cabinet, Scrutiny Committee and Governance Committee, and to the Employment Panel as appropriate be noted.

### 2. Pay Policy 2017-18

The Leader presented the report on the council's Pay Policy for 2017/18. In doing so he commented that the council's salary banding in the policy for an experienced Chief Executive appeared to be below the market level. This was confirmed by the Interim Chief Executive who whilst tendering for a recruitment agency had received comments from the tenderers about the salary level. Whilst the salary level in the policy (up to £107,095) might attract a good experienced second tier candidate, the salary level of an experienced Chief Executive was in the region of £110-115,000. It was proposed to update the report and present it to the meeting of the Council on 29 March 2017.

It was agreed:

That an updated Pay Policy for 2017/18 be submitted to the meeting of the Council to be held on 29 March 2017.

***[The updated policy is appended and the financial implications of the revision can be accommodated within existing budgetary provisions for 2017/18]***

### **3. Cabinet Forward Plan**

It was agreed:

That the Forward Plan submitted under Section 22 of the Local Government Act 2000 be approved.

### **4. Exclusion of Press and Public**

At this point in response to a question, the member of the public was advised that the next item of business (item 10) was exempt because of central government advice under DWP Circular S11/2011 and possible action that could be taken by the council.

It was agreed:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following two items of business. As they involve the discussion of information which is defined respectively as exempt from publication under paragraph 7 (Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime) and under paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and in which case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

### **5. Adoption of a Risk Based Verification Policy for processing Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support claims**

The Cabinet member for Corporate Support and Assets presented the report and commented that as the council moved towards an electronic claims based system it needed a policy in place.

It was agreed:

That the adoption of the Risk Based Verification Policy for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support applications with effect from 1 April 2017 be approved.

### **6. Standing Order 38 Decision – Land at Leyland**

The Cabinet considered a report to note on a decision taken between meetings of the Cabinet relating to land at Leyland.

It was agreed:

That the Standing Order 38 Decision relating to land at Leyland be noted.

I hereby commend the report of the Cabinet to the Council.

COUNCILLOR PETER MULLINEAUX

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL