

<b>REPORT TO</b>	<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>
Governance Committee	28 <sup>th</sup> of November 2012

Report template revised June 2008



<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>ITEM</b>
Action Plan on Transparency	Leader	David Whelan	6

## **SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

The aim of this report is to update members on action taken in relation to the previously agreed Action Plan on Transparency.

The Council is fully committed to acting in an open, transparent and publicly accountable fashion.

The Action Plan on Transparency could have an impact on the achievement of all the Council's key objectives but is particularly concerned with making South Ribble an efficient, effective & exceptional council.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Members note the contents of this report and in particular note the successful implementation of the previously approved Action Plan on Transparency.

## **DETAILS AND REASONING**

### **BACKGROUND**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2012 a report was taken to Governance Committee which advised members of the implications of the Government's "Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency" (The Code).

The Code sets out key principles for local authorities to have regard to in order to achieve the goal of greater transparency through the publication of public data. In addition in December 2011 the Localism Act made it to the statute book. That Act also contained provisions that require local authorities to make more information publicly available – in particular it introduced the requirement for a Council to publish a "Pay Policy."

At the 1<sup>st</sup> of February meeting Governance Committee agreed the adoption of the Action Plan on Transparency to address all issues arising.

### **DETAILS AND REASONING**

Members will find attached the updated Transparency Action Plan which highlights the action that has been taken.

Members should note that all agreed action has now been carried out in relation to this Action Plan.

With regard to Action 7 (publication of all contracts) Members will recall previous discussions on this issue. For a number of years now the Council has published a contract register which has relevant contractual information readily accessible for the public. Officers were concerned about publishing all contract documentation – some contracts by definition often contain commercially confidential information. At the meeting of Governance Committee on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2012 Members agreed that they were happy with the proposed approach not to publish all contract documentation but instead to continue to rely on the contract register and update accordingly.

## WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these.

<b>FINANCIAL</b>	There are no direct financial implications arising directly from this report
<b>LEGAL</b>	<p>The Council has carefully considered the contents of the Government's Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency.</p> <p>We have fully complied with our statutory duties set out in the Localism Act 2011.</p> <p>In any event this Council remains fully committed to conducting its business in an open, transparent and accountable manner.</p>
<b>RISK</b>	<p>Clearly it is imperative that the Council should act in an open and accountable way. A failure to act in a transparent fashion can reduce public confidence in a local authority.</p> <p>This Council is fully committed to being as open as possible in all of its dealings.</p>
<b>THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY</b>	It is considered that the Transparency Action Plan does not impact adversely on equality issues.

<b>OTHER (see below)</b>			
<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS