

# Council

Wednesday, 27th January, 2021, 6.00 pm

## Accessible via Microsoft Teams and YouTube

### Supplementary Agenda

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the above meeting of the Council, the following additional and updated information:

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <p><b>5 Cabinet</b></p> <p>Report of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 20 January 2021 attached.</p>  | <p>(Pages 172 - 173)</p> |
| <p><b>6 Governance Committee</b></p> <p>Report of the Governance Committee held Tuesday, 19 January 2021 attached.</p>   | <p>(Pages 174 - 175)</p> |
| <p><b>17 Questions to the Leader of the Council</b></p> <p>Question from a member of the public attached.</p>  | <p>(Pages 176 - 177)</p> |
| <p><b>18 Questions to Members of the Cabinet</b></p> <p>Questions from a member of the public attached.</p>  | <p>(Pages 178 - 181)</p> |
| <p><b>19 Questions to Chairs of Committees and My Neighbourhood Hubs</b></p> <p>This item has been withdrawn from the agenda and was initially published in error.</p>         |                          |
| <p><b>20 Questions to Member Champions and Representatives on Outside Bodies</b></p> <p>This item has been withdrawn from the agenda and was initially published in error.</p> |                          |
| <p><b>21 Exclusion of the Press and Public</b></p>   |                          |

To consider the exclusion of the press and public for the following items of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

## **22 Future management of Leisure Centres**

(Pages 182 - 189)

Updated report of the Director of Communities attached.

Gary Hall  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Electronic agendas sent to Members of the Council

# Agenda Item 5

## Report of Cabinet

1. Any Cabinet recommendations on the reports that require a decision by full Council appear as separate items on the agenda.

## GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CABINET HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2021

### Housing Assistance Policy Review

1. The report proposed amendments to the existing Assistance policy to reflect the findings of the 2019 Stock Condition survey. The report explained the key findings of the survey after comparison with the previous stock condition survey which had been carried out in 2012.
2. The policy as it stood did not provide any help for elderly residents who had a CAT1 Hazard but were not in receipt of a qualifying benefit. This, along with affordability issues means residents who needed the help would not qualify for it. This results in occupiers being left in the property with a hazard until such time as they were able to afford the work, or the council has to seek assistance from external funders which takes time and may not cover all the costs.
3. The Government's new Green Homes Grants scheme may not fully fund measures required which would mean that although qualifying an individual may not be able to have the work carried out. The scheme is split into 2 types of measures, primary and secondary, either measures do not include for boiler replacements only heating controls.
4. Cabinet therefore approved proposed amendments to the existing Housing Assistance Policy.

### Future Management of Leisure Centres

5. The Cabinet a report bringing forward options on the future management of leisure centres in South Ribble.
6. Cabinet approved the following:-
  - 1) That Cabinet recommends to Full Council that the future management of the Council's Leisure Centres be taken back to an in-house management arrangement. This will mean the Council decides not to extend its current leisure management contract with Serco Leisure Operating Ltd at the end of March 2021.
  - 2) Subject to approval by Full Council on the above recommendation, officers will bring a further report to Cabinet as to how the proposed new in-house management arrangement will operate. This will balance the requirement for the council to maintain influence over the borough's leisure services whilst ensuring the most financially efficient approach is undertaken.
  - 3) That Cabinet requests that officers continue working with SERCO to finalise any compensation payable to Serco Leisure Operating Ltd with respect to loss of income in relation to the closure of the Leisure Centres and delegates that decision to the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Leisure in consultation with the Section 151 Officer of the Council.

7. As per the report from the LGA in July 2020, culture and leisure has been among the parts of the economy worst hit by Covid-19. This has meant that councils throughout the country are having to review the current operating models for providing leisure services to residents.
8. As well as the effects of Covid-19, the current contract with Serco Leisure Operating Ltd was due to expire at the end of March 2021 and as such the council was required to review the approach to delivering leisure services.
9. Considerable work has been undertaken on looking at a variety of future options for the management of the council's leisure centres. This has included setting up alternative in-house delivery models or extending the existing contract with Serco Leisure Operating Ltd (SLOL) and then going through a tender exercise to outsource the management of leisure centres to a third party. The decision is a result of the work undertaken taking on board the current and future impact of the COVID crisis.

COUNCILLOR PAUL FOSTER

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

# Agenda Item 6

## **Report of the Governance Committee**

1. Any Governance recommendations on the reports that require a decision by full Council appear as separate items on the agenda.
2. Please note the following report may not reflect the wording used in the minutes, as they have yet to be formally agreed.

## **GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2021**

### **Matters Arising from the previous minutes 22 December 2020 – Update on 2018/19 and 2019/20 Statement of Accounts and Audit**

3. Mark Stocks, External Auditor reported to the Committee that the following the previous meeting the 2018/19 Audited Statement of Accounts and the 2019/20 Audited Statement of Accounts had been concluded and that a Section 24 notice had been issued.

### **South Ribble Corporate Risk Register 2021**

4. The Deputy Chief Executive presented a report to Committee giving details of the Corporate Risk Register, a vehicle by which the Council aims to identify and address any potential risks to the organisation and the delivery of its functions which therefore need to be managed strategically.
5. The report provided members with an updated SRR which included 16 existing strategic risks to the council, including existing controls as well as actions planned to further mitigate identified risks.
6. Vicky Willett, Shared Services Lead – Transformation and Partnerships explained that the Register was a 'live' document, regularly reviewed by Senior Management particularly in the light of the COVID pandemic. It was currently reviewed twice a year by the Committee but this could be more often as determined by members.
7. Members raised queries and made comments in relation to Strategic Partnerships (particularly City Deal), Agile Services (consideration post COVID 19), Council's reputation, Shared Services Agreements, Staff Satisfaction and morale (particularly the impact of the current pandemic, homeworking and Shared Services), and Data breach or action leading to complaints or ICO investigation.
8. Regarding staff satisfaction and morale, Ms Willett highlighted that the result of the latest survey of staff satisfaction was 78%, following work to address the issue of staff wellbeing over the last six months and this would be progressed further this year especially in light of the current pandemic.
9. With regard to Agile services and Council reputation, it was explained this relates to the ability of the Council to adapt to changing circumstances and thus impacting on customer satisfaction and effectiveness in engaging with residents. They were identified as risks to the Council if not managed effectively.
10. In relation to Strategic Partnerships, particularly the City Deal, the Chief Executive explained that the residual risk score has resulted in 'green' on the Action plan due the fact that the Council has mitigated the risk as well as it

can in that the Council has made its position clear i.e. that it will stick to the existing financial deal.

11. In relation to R15 Data breach or action leading to complaints or ICO investigation, the Chief Executive explained that the risk relates to specific third party access to our systems and how the Council is looking to better share its intelligence e.g. with health partners and how the associated risks will be mitigated.
12. The Committee thanked officers for the information and noted the strategic risks, the controls in place and actions planned to further mitigate the strategic risks as outlined in appendix 1 to the report.

### **Insurance Brokerage Procurement**

13. The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report informing members of the recent brokerage insurance procurement. The report indicated that the Insurance Broker contract was last procured in 2016 which established a 2-year contract on a fixed fee basis, with the option to extend on an annual basis for a further 2 years. Both councils chose to extend the contract into years 3 and 4 with the contract coming to an end on the 31 December 2020. A procurement exercise was therefore necessary during 2020 to obtain a new contract. The report identified the successful bid as £840.00 which represented a substantial saving.
14. In response to a query, it was confirmed that there were 3 bids received and that the criteria weightings were 70% quality and 30% price, with additional criteria relating to due diligence. The successful bidder scored highest on quality and price. The contract would be for 2 years, with the option to extend for a further 2 years.
15. The Committee agreed to note the report.

### **Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA) Act 2000 Update**

16. The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report providing a brief update to members regarding the use of the Council's powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).
17. The Committee agreed to note the report.

COUNCILLOR IAN WATKINSON  
CHAIR OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

# Agenda Item 17

Question to the Leader of the Council.

Councillor Foster

For obvious reasons it is common and good practice to award the chair of Scrutiny to a member of the opposition. You seem to have gone against that good practice and awarded that position to your subs bench leader Councillor Howarth. It may be OK for the Lib Dem councillors and their leader to sell their souls for “mess of Green Bins” etc. but this is not good for the ratepayers who expect the opposition to be scrutinizer of your business.

My Question is as follows:-

Will you replace the head of scrutiny with a true member of the opposition?

Mr Bernard Derbyshire

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# Agenda Item 18

Question to the Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets).

Councillor Tomlinson,

This statement was read out not by Margaret Thatcher but Sir Keir Starmer commenting on the governments awarding of contracts and I quote.

*“This is not the Prime Minister’s money, its taxpayers’ money. The PM may well not know the value of the pound in his pocket, but the people who send us here do, and they expect us to spend it wisely,”*

Councillor Tomlinson when I send my rates money to SRBC I expect it, as Sir Keir Starmer stated, to be spent wisely, and the process of that spend to be fully visible to the ratepayer.

I consider the awarding contracts “behind closed doors” to be an affront to the ratepayer.

It may be considered magnanimous of you to award contracts to local businesses but I consider that does not satisfy the economic necessitates of good transparent business practice.

Another issue that may arise is the problem of perceived corruption. I am not accusing you of corruption but this method of awarding building contracts leaves you open to accusations that you may be.

My Questions are as follows:-

1. Will you cancel the awarded contract and put out the scheme to tender?
2. If you won’t cancel the project will you publish to the ratepayers its cost?

Mr Bernard Derbyshire

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Question to the Cabinet Member (Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building).

Councillor Gelder

I live in Penwortham and I am a little confused where I address my council issues.

Do I contact Penwortham Hub, Penwortham Town Council, South Ribble Council, Lancashire CC or my MP? (At least I lost my MEP).

I am a true believer in devolved democracy but even I believe this level of representation is going too far.

My Questions are as follows:-

1. Do you agree with me that this multiple level of democracy is taking thing too far?
2. If not will you provided a detailed list of which committee etc. I contact if I wish to solve a problem I consider is a council issue. i.e. who cuts the grass etc.

Mr Bernard Derbyshire

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# Agenda Item 22

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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