

Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel
Update on Recommendations made at previous Scrutiny Panel Meetings



Date & Min	Recommendation	Lead Member	Lead Officer	Accepted ?	Implemented?	Completed?	Progress/Comments
22/03/21 Min 33.5	The costs associated with refurbishing Penwortham Leisure Centre be provided to members	Finance, Property and Assets	Mark Lester	Yes	Yes	No	The costs of refurbishing Penwortham Leisure Centre are being pulled together and will form part of a wider investment plan for the Council's four Leisure Centres which will go to Full Council in April.
15/11/21 Min 52.3	Asks that future performance indicators choose more appropriate comparators which are similar to South Ribble and our Borough, to help make the most of the benchmarking data available	Leader of the Council	Vicky Willett	Yes	No	No	This recommendation will be taken into account when reviewing future performance indicators
15/11/21 Min 52.4	Expresses gratitude for the offer of the outcomes from the post-COVID Economic Summit and updated key issues for South Ribble being provided to Members	Finance, Property and Assets	Vicky Willett	Yes	Yes	Yes	Executive Summary of Economic Summit appended.
15/11/21 Min 52.5	Requests that the plans to improve the time taken to process new housing benefit claims are expedited and additional resources be	Planning, Business and Regeneration	Asim Khan	No response provided	No response provided	No response provided	No response provided

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	made available to improve performance						
15/11/21 Min 52.6	Requests that further information be provided on how the number of trees that are planted that survive and thrive are monitored and managed	Health and Wellbeing	Vicky Willett	Yes	N/A	Yes	<p>The trees are monitored and checked as part of the Parks teams regular site maintenance and visit schedule. As part of this any trees that are identified on a site as not surviving are then programmed into the next years tree planting programme. Only surviving trees are counted as part of the Corporate measure.</p> <p>Time to maturity varies depending on the species of the tree (Only native tree species are planted). On average it takes 10 years for a tree to start looking semi mature and not like a sapling (few branches and leaves), full maturity can take 25 – 50 years. However, trees like Oak can take a much longer to mature.</p>

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15/11/21 Min 53.2	Asks that consideration be given to the housing benefit surplus of £149,000 being used to improve the speed of processing housing benefits claims	Finance, Property and Assets	Louise Mattinson	No	No	N/A	<p>Having checked with the Service Lead for Customer Services, I can confirm that the processing time for new HB claims performance was ahead of the target of 16 days in October at 13.22 days</p> <p>The £149k underspend is only an estimate at this point in time and at the close of the financial year any over or under spend against the HB Subsidy allocation will either be paid over to us, or re-paid to the government.</p> <p>These monies can only be used for the actual payment of HB and not for any other purpose - monies paid through the HB Subsidy account are subject to an external audit each year (our is undertaken by Grant Thornton) to verify and confirm that funds have been applied correctly and this is reported to DWP, with a clawback of funding made, based on an extrapolation of</p>

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							the value of the error identified.
15/11/21 Min 53.3	The committee looks forward to an update on the recruitment of apprentices and reducing the £44,000 underspend	Finance, Property and Assets	Louise Mattinson	Yes	Yes	Yes	<p>There are 4 Apprentice posts (2 of which were filled and 2 of which were vacant at the start of the year).</p> <p>2 apprentices secured other posts within the council during the year however due to the pressures of Covid, and the resource focus and work of the team on Business Grants, the team have been unable to undertake any further recruitment as yet.</p> <p>The team are now focusing on 'post-grant work' and are developing options on future resourcing and workload planning in readiness for the new year.</p> <p>Whilst recruitment to apprentice posts can be undertaken at any time during the year, timing is a factor when it comes to school and college leavers</p>

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							and getting a pool of talent from which to select.