Cabinet Agenda Item 5 – Communicating with Residents and Businesses

Reason for call in

“We do not believe that the decision was made in line with the Principles of Decision Making detailed within Part 2 of the South Ribble Borough Council Constitution as follows:

Paragraph 1.1 (a) – this decision is not proportionate in that it is unprecedented to look to publish three Foreward newspapers within a six month period. Standard practice has been to publish a maximum of one per quarter, furthermore, none have been published for the past 18 months. No evidence was provided whatsoever to support this revised timeline, with the Cabinet refusing to clarify when questioned at the meeting;

Paragraph 1.1 (b) – this decision did not take into consideration the recommendations of the Cross Party Working Group set up to review the future of the Foreward newspaper, nor did the Cabinet look to consult with them about the new proposals. The Cabinet’s revised proposals are at odds with the recommendation of the Working Group. Furthermore, the Cross Party Editorial Group has not met prior to the Cabinet decision, nor was it scheduled to meet, to agree content;

Paragraph 1.1 (d) – this decision is clearly unfair and thus not reasonable. For the Executive to make the unprecedented decision to publish three Foreword newspaper’s within the eight month period prior to an all-out election is attempting to utilise official Council publications for political gain and is clearly not reasonable as it favours the Executive. Additionally, the decision also doesn’t meet the presumption of ‘openness’ in that the financial costs associated with the development, production and delivery are not clear (only delivery costs are provided).”