

Scrutiny Chair Cycle 2 Report to Council

The Committee has met twice during this cycle of meetings.

On 9th August the Committee considered a report on the Empire Theatre, and the proposal that had been received to form a Building Preservation Trust to kickstart the regeneration of the site. Whilst the sentiment was that it would be great to see the building made safe, and brought back into use, the Council had to consider the best use of its limited resources. With that in mind, the Committee recommended that the Executive should not proceed with the Building Preservation Trust, and that the site be considered as part of the Town Centre Masterplan.

At our meeting on 13th September we received a presentation from Liberata, one of the Council's strategic partners. We received an update on their performance in 2016/17, where all performance indicators were achieved. We also received information about job creation and the increased delivery of online services, and the support that was being provided for vulnerable customers.

The meeting then moved on to budget matters, firstly receiving the most recent Capital and Revenue Budget Monitoring Reports, setting out the revised budgets for the current year. Following this, the Committee reviewed the proposed Revenue budget for 2018-19, including the savings that are proposed to help to reduce the funding gap.

Committee members then considered the draft report of the Railway Review Group, with the report to be considered by the Executive on 19th September 2017. Members noted the progress that has been made at the station, but were keen to ensure that outstanding issues, such as parking, access and rolling stock continued to be addressed, and progress made as quickly as possible.

As the Railway review has come to an end, Members have been considering options for future work, with three topics to work on in the coming months and are considering other items that can be added to the work plan. I look forward to bringing you updates in due course.

Cllr Andy Tatchell

Scrutiny Chair