

## Scrutiny Chair Cycle 4 Report to Council

The Committee met most recently on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

We were pleased to receive the Annual Community Safety update report. It was important to hear how the Community Safety Partnership is leading the way with the formation of new initiatives and taking the lead in Lancashire wide bodies such as the Serious and Organised Crime Panel. Congratulations must also go to the Team on securing funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver interventions in Burnley schools around the 'County Lines' criminal exploitation of vulnerable young people.

We also looked at the mid-year performance report and were informed of some of the initiatives that had been implemented – for example increased staff training in the contact centre, enabling staff to deal with a wider range of enquiries. This has had a positive effect on call answering targets. The Committee also noted the good work that has taken place in reducing sickness absence across the authority.

The draft Strategic Plan update was considered at our meeting with changes reflecting the aspiration to develop as a 'University Town', and the targets against which progress will be measured and updates given to Members through Strategic Plan Progress Reports.

The Committee reviewed the latest budget monitoring reports - both noting the capital and revenue budget position as at the end of December. The Committee then considered the suite of reports related to the 2019/2020 budget setting, including revenue and capital budgets, as well as the financial strategies that support these budgets. The Committee noted the ongoing financial challenges the Council faces.

We then considered a draft report from the Scrutiny Review Group that has been considering dementia services in Burnley. The group has focussed on the Herbert Protocol, a risk reduction tool which aims to assist Police and search teams when searching for missing people. The report was agreed by the Committee and will now be submitted for consideration by the Executive. In the new municipal year the committee will revisit the review they undertook on Manchester Road Station, to consider the progress that has been made since the review was completed. A future review topic will look to map resources that support people in need within the Borough, and how those resources can be accessed.

Cllr Andy Tatchell