

Scrutiny Cycle 3 report

In October we held a special scrutiny meeting to consider proposals for investment in new facilities and essential repairs to Burnley Market Hall. The Committee's recommendation to the Executive was to defer a decision on the proposals in order to enable a more comprehensive examination of costs, logistics, and a business plan and to be able to explore further the basis for potentially long-term decision making. Whilst the Executive may have noted this recommendation it approved the reconfiguration of the interior of the market hall for inclusion in the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 capital program. It did nevertheless defer a decision relating to the repair of the building and a tender for the roof works.

Following on from this I initiated a discussion with the Democracy Officers on how recommendations from Scrutiny on particular issues could be transparently reported to the Executive. I am pleased to report that the Member Structures Working Group agreed that future comments/recommendations from Scrutiny will be formally reported to the Executive and published as a supplement to the relevant Executive report. This will ensure a clear audit trail for Scrutiny and strengthen the working relationship with the Executive.

On 9th December the Committee received reports on the Food Safety and the Health and Safety delivery plans for the coming year. These plans ensure the Council meets its regulatory obligations and also provide an opportunity to review some of the work that has been undertaken over the previous twelve months. The Committee then reviewed the latest suite of budget reports - noting the capital and revenue budget position as at 30th September and the mid-year update on the Council's Treasury Management activity. The Committee also considered the annual fees and charges report, which is part of the budget setting process for 2020/21. On consideration of the Quarter 2 Performance Indicators the Committee agreed to keep a watching brief on those failing to meet their targets. The Committee had intended to review the Leisure Trust Accounts for 2018/19 which had been deferred at the last meeting, unfortunately the Trust's Chief Executive was unable to attend the meeting and he will now be invited to attend a special Scrutiny meeting to be held in January.

Regarding the scrutiny review groups we had hoped to have concluded the review on Burnley Manchester Road Railway Station however we experienced delays in communications with Lancashire County Council and Northern Rail due to changes in personnel. I am pleased to report we are now scheduled to meet on the 16th January 2020 where updates on developments at the railway station from both Lancashire County Council and Northern Rail will be considered. Also on 16th January we will commence the scoping of our second review on the processes of resolving housing

disrepair issues for residents in social housing as compared to the private rented sector particularly upon the intervention of the Housing Needs Service.

Councillor Andy Tatchell

Chair of Scrutiny

2019