

Scrutiny Cycle 2 report

This is my second report of the 2020/21 Municipal year.

Our first two meetings of the year were primarily devoted to scrutinising the Council's response to Covid-19 and members received presentations from all Service Heads detailing the activities that their departments were involved during this challenging time. Scrutiny members were able to ask questions and receive responses from officers which ensured that we were fully apprised of what was happening in Burnley.

Our meeting in September was postponed due to the change in administration. A special meeting of Scrutiny was held on 9th October to consider urgent items of business on Covid-19 Community Response Grant Agreement and the Former Contact Centre repair and reinstatement obligations, in both instances I agreed to waive call-in in respect of these items and this was fully endorsed by the Committee. We then reconvened on 19th October to consider the financial reports that had been through the Executive in August and also the reports due to go to the Executive on 20th October, Members once again commented on the lack of time between the scrutiny and executive meetings for scrutiny to effectively respond to decisions that were being taken the following day.

A further special meeting of Scrutiny is being held on 22nd October to consider the Economic Recovery and Growth Strategy, the request for a loan from Burnley College and the Pioneer Project and I will report on any significant outcomes in my next report. At the request of Scrutiny a further special meeting has been pencilled in the diary for 11th November to consider the Air Quality SPD document.

In respect of the Scrutiny review groups, these have been hampered somewhat by the Covid responses and the postponed meeting but the Housing Repairs Working Group has had an initial meeting and is making ongoing progress to report back to scrutiny when appropriate.

Councillor Andy Tatchell

Chair of Scrutiny

October 2020