

Scrutiny Chair's Cycle 5 Report to Council

At our meeting in March we received the deferred presentation on the annual customer satisfaction survey. Members were appraised of the efforts that have been made to encourage a wider participation in the survey which almost doubled the number of responses received. Members were encouraged by the positive feedback from the exercise and were interested to hear about the areas of concern for local residents.

The Scrutiny Committee received a presentation on the Prevent agenda. Members heard about the obligations placed on public bodies and some of the work that is being carried out in the local area. This includes working with those considered to be at risk of being radicalised, ongoing awareness work with schools and other frontline organisations and also work in the wider community. Members found the presentation very informative and felt it would be beneficial to brief all Members with this information. Following consideration by Members Structures Working Group an all Member Briefing will be timetabled in the next Municipal year.

The Scrutiny Committee also received an update on the State of the Local Economy Report. It was encouraging to hear that wage levels are increasing in the Borough.

Demand for business premises was reported as being high and a number of requests for assistance to relocate within and from outside the Borough currently being progressed.

We also heard about a number of successful promotional events which have been held in both Burnley and Padiham town centres. With more planned for the future these events encourage people to plan additional visits, extend their visits or to visit a wider area of the Town.

I recently attended a meeting of the Executive to present the Scrutiny Review of the Leisure Trust. I'm pleased to report that the Executive endorsed the recommendations worked up by the Review Group and ratified by the Scrutiny Committee. The Council Leader thanked all who assisted in this comprehensive piece of work.

The Railway Review Group have been working on their Scrutiny and, following site visits and internal meetings, are planning to explore some of the issues identified with representatives of Network Rail and Northern Rail when dates can be agreed.

I have asked Members to consider further topics for 'Member driven scrutiny' to be reviewed. Following the Appointments Council in May further consideration will be appropriate.

Councillor Andy Tatchell

Chair of Scrutiny Committee