

## Scrutiny Chair Report to Council

Since the last report to you at September's Full Council, the Scrutiny Committee met on 19<sup>th</sup> October and 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

At its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October, the Committee received a report seeking authority from the Executive to extend the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to manage all current and future applicable alleygate schemes in the Borough for a further three years. There are currently 178 schemes in Burnley, with 80 schemes on the current consideration list and new applications being received each year. Alleygating sites are based on crime and disorder data over a three year rolling period and applications for new sites are expected to have already secured the support of neighbours so as to avoid objections at the consultation stage. Comprehensive information about eligibility and the application process is available at [Alley gating - burnley.gov.uk](https://www.burnley.gov.uk/Alleygating)

The Committee also received a report seeking authority from the Executive to advertise for the tender of asset and development management services at Charter Walk as the current Asset Management Agreement is due to expire on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Members asked a number of questions and it was confirmed that occupancy rates were on target and measured both in terms of square footage and rental income. Rising inflation and other costs had been factored into the budget for the new management services and tenderers would be asked to include proposals in their tender submissions for how they should be paid, such as, based on the size of development or as a percentage of income generated.

The final substantive item was an update on Scrutiny Review Groups. I reported that the Climate Change Review Group would report to the Committee once it had concluded its current work in the New Year. The Committee also received a detailed verbal report on the Queensgate Review Group, including a reminder of the initial Task and Finish Group approach with one current and one former elected member, along with key Council officers, meeting with residents from the Burnley Lane Residents Group to discuss their areas of concern including rubbish & littering, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and empty properties and to identify a number of actions that were taken promptly as a result. The Committee also discussed issues of concern that remain, including ASB and speeding, in relation to which the Council can take preventative and reactive actions but not solve.

In relation to the Committee's Work Programme it was agreed that reports on Charter Walk and Pioneer Place, including planned purchase costs versus actual operating income and expenditure, would be added to the 2023/24 and 2024/25 work programme.

At the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, the Committee received the Quarter 2 Performance Report which highlighted that 87% of Liberata telephone calls were answered within the target time, with the caller abandonment rate also within the target of 1%. In terms of missed bins, at 79 per the 100,000 collections, the target of 75 per 100k collections was narrowly missed. Lastly, the average number of days per employee lost to sickness absence, had increased to an average of 1.6 days during Q2.

The Committee received a presentation from Burnley Leisure and Culture on their annual report. It provided figures which highlighted the highest ever numbers of fitness members, swimmers in the swim academy, visits to the driving range and golf memberships. A breakdown of the financials was provided in terms of earned income, grant income, insurance, investments, expenditure and funds. Some impact stories were provided along with the vision, mission and priority aims for the next 3

years; which are putting people first; improving health and wellbeing; destination of choice for leisure and culture; fostering partnerships; and delivering business excellence.

A further presentation was given on the culture document: Our People, Our Culture – A Cultural Re-imagining of Burnley 2023-2027. The presentation provided a definition of culture; the framework context; the vision and mission; challenges; driving change; infrastructure development priorities; Burnley 2027; what success would look like; community change outcomes; and systems change outcomes. The Committee were keen to see community involvement and Members were asked to send any suggestions to link in with other communities to the Cultural Strategy Manager.