

Scrutiny Chair Report to Council

Since the last report to you at December's Full Council, the Scrutiny Committee met on 11th January.

The Committee received its annual update of Burnley's community safety performance as part of the required statutory duty, in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The report outlined the Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Partnership priorities 2022-2025, along with Community Safety projects and activity in Burnley 2023/24. It was reported that in 2023 Burnley Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) won 'Most Improved Locality' award at the National CAP Awards. It was further reported that new alleygates continue to be rolled out, with a further six schemes installed in 2023. Lastly, the Council has maintained White Ribbon accreditation demonstrating its commitment to standing against violence against women and girls.

The Committee considered the Executive report on the Fees and Charges Tariff 2024/25, which recommends to Full Council an increase of 3% from 1st April 2024 due to the current high levels of inflation. As at September 2023 Consumer Price Index inflation was at 6.7%. It's appreciated that this is not palatable to increase fees and charges by this rate, therefore the increase of 3% is proposed to help fund the increasing costs of the provision of services. There were however, a number of exceptions outlined in the report, these included no increase to garden waste collection charges or pay and display and contract parking fees. There will be no increase to Fixed Penalty Notices with the exception of Littering which it is proposed will increase by 25%.

Quarter 2 budget monitoring reports were discussed, along with the mid-year Treasury Management update. It was also highlighted that in terms of the Strategic Risk Register, there had been a change from the 3 by 3 matrix to a 5 by 5, in line with other national risk registers.

Both the Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 24/25 and the Health and Safety Intervention Plan 24/25 were also considered by the Committee ahead of being submitted to the Executive.

Finally, I would like to draw Members' attention to the recently circulated link to the Authority Monitoring Report (formerly known as, and still generally referred to as the Annual Monitoring Report or AMR) which sets out the Council's progress in plan-making and monitors the performance of policies in the Local Plan to see whether they are helping to deliver the vision and objectives of the Plan as set out and whether there is any need to formally update the Plan. The AMR also sets out a wide range of contextual information to inform any future planning policy development and to inform other Council plans and strategies. Any queries on the report should be directed in the first instance to the Planning Policy Team, to either Axel Cotzec (GIS and Monitoring Officer) acotzec@burnley.gov.uk or Elizabeth Murphy (Planning Policy Manager) emurphy@burnley.gov.uk

Cllr Gail Barton