



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Wednesday, 29th November, 2017 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Councillors A Tatchell (Chair), M Brindle (Vice-Chair), J Cunningham, D Heginbotham, S Malik and P Reynolds

OFFICERS

Rob Dobson	– Corporate Policy and Projects Manager
Sam McConnell	– Community Safety Manager
Gerard Vinton	– Chief Executive, Burnley Leisure
Alison McEwan	– Democracy Officer

In attendance Cllr Lian Pate – Executive Member for Community & Leisure Services

33. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Johnstone and White.

34. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

35. Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings

Members considered the Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings.

They discussed the following:

- Children's University and Aspirations Strategy. Members were keen to receive further information on the Strategy, as they felt it could have a great impact in improving the situation of local young people. They discussed when this might be appropriate. An update to Members will be provided later in 2018 once the strategy has been active for some time.

IT WAS AGREED

That the NKDPM be noted, and the update on the Children's University and Aspirations Strategy be added to the Work Programme for 2018/19.

36. Half Year Performance Update

Rob Dobson presented the report which provided performance highlights from across the Council's services, as a measure of strategic significance, or in order to highlight service performance that had been particularly strong or poor.

Members discussed the following:

- Households in Temporary Accommodation – This indicator was off target – often the families involved had complex needs and therefore finding suitable accommodation was more difficult. Burnley's statistics were comparable to other local areas. All homelessness applications were processed on time. Was a breakdown of family sizes available? One would be provided to Members if available. Had there been an increase due to the roll out of Universal Credit? Following roll out of Universal Credit, it is not possible to accurately compare the current benefit claimant numbers with historical trends or with other areas that have not transferred to Universal Credit. Clarification would be sought and information provided to Members around the impact of Universal Credit rollout, financial hardship and homelessness.

IT WAS AGREED

That the report be noted.

37. Community Safety Annual Report

In addition to the Report, Sam McConnell gave a brief presentation on campaigns and initiatives that the Community Safety Team was involved with across a broad range of issues.

Members discussed the following:

- Safer social media usage – new threats and ways to circumvent security measures were being identified constantly.
- An emerging threat regarding human trafficking. Young people who had debts to criminal gangs were being trafficked to Blackpool on a temporary basis, and being forced to commit criminal acts such as drug dealing to pay off their debts. They would then be returned to their place of residence.

- Positive work being carried out to target specific issues in local wards in partnership with Councillors. This was much appreciated by local residents and Members.

IT WAS AGREED

That the report be noted.

38. Leisure Trust Annual Report

Gerard Vinton gave a presentation which identified some of the key points from the Annual Report.

Members discussed the following:

- The excellent venue at the Mechanics, especially with the Bistro opening on Saturdays.
- The high standard of events, and creativity.
- Aspirational vision.
- Distance travelled – the future had seemed bleak at one point, so it was excellent to see the transformation.

IT WAS AGREED

That the report be noted.

39. Scrutiny Review Groups

A date would be circulated for the postponed Dementia Review Group meeting.

The Food Hygiene Ratings presentation would take place at the February meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

40. Work Programme 2017/18

The work plan for the remainder of the year was noted.