

Scrutiny Chair Cycle 2 Report to Council

The Committee has met once during this cycle of meetings.

At our meeting on 17th September we received a presentation from the Chief Executive of Burnley Leisure, one of the Council's strategic partners. He gave an update on the activities of the Trust throughout 2017/18, and some areas that the Trust would look to focus on in the future to strengthen the business and support the charitable aims. Members found the annual report extremely encouraging and asked searching questions as to future direction of the Trust and its financial liabilities.

We also received feedback from the recent Peer Review follow up visit. It is pleasing that both the review team and partners gave positive feedback regarding the progress that has been made across a range of projects which have secured significant investment into the borough. The report also highlighted some potential areas for development, which will be explored in the near future. The Chief Executive fielded questions from members in an informative agenda item.

The meeting then moved on to budget matters, firstly receiving the most recent Capital and Revenue Budget Monitoring Reports, setting out the revised budgets for the current year, highlighting variances that have occurred and how expenditure has been re-profiled.

Following this, the Committee reviewed the medium-term Revenue Budget position, for the years 2019-20 to 2021-22, which set out the estimated level of savings required over the next three years. The report also identified a number of areas where savings had been identified that would assist with balancing the budget. Although the financial situation continues to be challenging, it is clear that in identifying savings options, the focus is on making efficiencies whilst maintaining service delivery wherever possible.

Committee members then considered the Scrutiny Review group looking at Dementia Services. The group is keen to support the rollout of the 'Herbert Protocol' across Lancashire. The protocol has been developed to help the emergency services in the event that someone living with dementia goes missing. The families and carers of those who have signed up to the scheme will be able to provide the emergency services with valuable information to assist with their relocation. This can include favourite places, previous addresses, places of work and suchlike. The group will be meeting again on Wednesday 31st October 2018, all Scrutiny members are encouraged to participate.

Cllr Andy Tatchell

Scrutiny Chair