



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

27 September 2023

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COUNCILLOR AFRASIAB ANWAR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PR1- We will contribute to the strategic direction of local, sub-regional and regional partnerships, and will position the borough for economic development investment.</p>	<p>County Combined Authority</p> <p>At the last Full Council meeting, Members agreed with my disappointment that the three upper tier authorities had contacted the Government to consider forming a non-Mayoral Combined Authority for Lancashire without consulting with district councils.</p> <p>I understand that the three upper tier authorities are having formal discussions and developing the text for the draft deal for the non-Mayoral Combined Authority for Lancashire. It appears likely that the three upper tier authorities will want to agree a draft deal with DHLUC before our next Full Council meeting for a non-Mayoral Combined Authority.</p> <p>A high-level “capital ask” has been shared with me that I have shared with Burnley Council Group Leaders and the Executive who generally agreed that it is underwhelming (put mildly). I am meeting with Lancashire Leaders on 21st September 2023, and I shall put forward my views that it does not represent Burnley’s ambitions or consider Burnley’s challenges. I will not be supporting this proposal and I have heard similar sentiments from fellow Burnley Council Group Leaders. I shall also provide a verbal update to Full Council after the Lancashire Leaders meeting.</p> <p>Members will be aware that this Council’s position has consistently supported a Mayoral Combined Authority. The Government has also made it clear that a Mayoral Combined Authority secures the largest devolution. This Council also did not support local government re-organisation as a precursor to the establishment of a Combined Authority.</p> <p>Regeneration</p> <p>Along with fellow Members, and partners, it was an absolute pleasure to attend the official opening of the Reel Cinema and Pioneer Place Development. This flagship development demonstrates what we can achieve through partnership, with a clear vision and with hard work. I would like to thank all officers and partners (past and present) who have helped the Council deliver this strategic priority.</p>

	<p>You will also note from the updates from my fellow Executive Members that we continue to strengthen strategic relationships and partnerships to drive investment into the Borough to allow Burnley to continue to develop as a major force across the region.</p>
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Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PE1- PE1- We will continue to work with partners to make the borough a place of aspiration and pride. This will include supporting efforts to increase education attainment and skills development.</p>	<p>HAF The summer holiday activities with food (HAF) programme was a great success with 31 holidays clubs offering free places for children eligible for benefits related free school meals. We had our first ever Burnley young MasterChef's training at Down Town with 30 children learning essential cooking skills, all ending in them serving a celebratory meal to their friends and families. Other new clubs included Basically Cheer and Fitness, and Rookie lifeguards. In addition, the CR8 programme, for 12 to 16 years gave young people the opportunity to enjoy a range of activities independently, such as mini golf, swimming, bowling and trampolining.</p> <p>Primary Engineer 10 teachers from 6 schools took part in the Primary Engineer Construction Project, to inspire the next generation of engineers in Burnley, and benefit from a one-day CPD training course, supplied kit and resources to build up to 30 projects across two classrooms in each school and a celebration event to bring the schools together and celebrate the power of engineering. This project provides a fantastic opportunity to engage with engineering, meet and work with engineering professionals and develop engineering skills. Thanks to our partnership, we worked with local Burnley companies such as VEKA and Futaba Manufacturing. In June, we hosted the Celebration Event at Burnley Mechanics. 5 schools and 54 pupils attended the day engaging with the engineering professionals and testing their built vehicles.</p> <p>Our partnership also facilitated 5 schools to take part in The Primary Engineer Early Years Programme, raising awareness of engineering in our youngest learners.</p> <p>Exam Results I was pleased to see Burnley College's students record an overall pass rate in A Levels of 99%, 85% of students receiving at least one A*-C grade, and 60% of students receiving at least one A*-B grade.</p>

The college has also seen learners achieve 100% high grade pass rates in Further Mathematics, Statistics, Classical Civilization, Dance, Polish and Textiles.

Burnley College Students have been awarded places at some of the world's leading Universities to study Dentistry, Medicine, Politics, Mathematics and more.

It was also great to attend Burnley College's Award for Excellence evening to hear more about and recognise our student's achievements as well attending the graduation ceremony for the various university courses that the College runs.

I also had the pleasure of attending one of UCLan's Graduation Ceremonies in Preston, which included many students who had studied in Burnley.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our high performing GCSE pupils, who performed well despite impact of the pandemic on their education. As soon as they are available, I will give an update on the official results at a future meeting.

COUNCILLOR SUE GRAHAM, DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PL5- We will implement our Climate Change Strategy.</p>	<p>Following the Climate Change Strategy Updates and Carbon Budget report, work is progressing on the Council's 'Roadmap to Net Zero' to outline the costs and timeframes for each climate action. This piece of work will help to identify if an earlier net zero target can be achieved for the Council, or if 2050 remains the most feasible target.</p> <p>Research is being carried out across departments to identify potential costs for each main area of climate actions, and realistic timeframes for actions, this includes decarbonisation of buildings, transition to fully electric fleet, and transition to renewable energy tariffs.</p> <p>Work is also being carried out to incorporate further scope 3 emissions into the Council's carbon budget including procurement, waste, and staff commuting.</p> <p>The first Climate Change Scrutiny Review Group was held at the end of July, members of the group will review the Revised Action Plan 2023 and identify any areas that they would like to bring to the group for discussion and review. The group also agreed to consider the prioritisation of actions and how this is expressed in the strategy.</p> <p>The council is set to receive £330K from a grant that was awarded for Burnley Leisure from the National Lottery Community Fund's Climate Action programme. This focuses on the link between nature and climate and aims to fund projects that encourage community-led climate action. The Council will deliver the project as part of the 'Burnley and Outdoor Town' initiative over a four-year period and will use the funding to organise and deliver volunteer activities, including tree and woodland planting, creation of wildflower meadows and other environmental activities and improvements. The budget will employ a Green Activities Coordinator, provide EV transport and pay for materials and equipment including trees and wildflower seed, etc.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PF1- We will manage our contract with Liberata robustly, so it delivers value for money and good services.</p>	<p>Liberata have again achieved their key targets in the benefits service.</p> <p>Against a target of 9 days, the Q1 result for the average number of days to process benefits new claims and change of circumstances was 2 days, which is lower than the same period last year.</p> <p>The latest available data for comparison with other areas is from Q4 22/23 (this measures housing benefit processing only) and shows that Burnley’s housing benefit processing time overall was 2 days. The district average in the North West is 3 days.</p> <p>In the contact centre, 76% of calls were answered within time. The target is 80% but there has been a strong improvement from the same quarter last year (58%). The caller abandonment rate remains within target at 3%. Performance to date in Q2 suggests that the target will be achieved by the end of this quarter. All other KPIs in Q1 were achieved.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PF2- We will adopt a Medium Term Financial Strategy that will put the Council on a sustainable financial footing. This strategy will set the framework for preparing annual budgets, ensuring the annual budget strategy is set within the context of the longer-term outlook.</p>	<p>Revenue Budget</p> <p>The Council is reporting a projected net overspend of £243k at the end of quarter 1 for the 2023/24 financial year. This is in line with the position in previous financial years. We expect to balance the books by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>The Medium-Term Financial Strategy for the period 2024/27 has been updated and is included elsewhere on the agenda. The updated MTFs has identified a potential budget gap of up to £1.2m over the 3-year period. A number of savings proposals have been put forward for approval with the remainder, required to balance the 2024/25 revenue budget, to be recommended for approval in February 2024 once the outcome of the provisional budget settlement is announced in December 2023.</p> <p>Statement of Accounts</p> <p>The Council published its draft Statement of Accounts by the extended deadline of 30th June 2023. Grant Thornton, the Council’s external auditor, are finalising the completion of their audit and plan to present their audit findings to the September 2023 meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee for approval. Grant Thornton is continuing their</p>

	<p>annual Value for Money review of the Council which will be reported to the following meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee in January 2024.</p> <p>Council Tax and Business Rate Collection Rates</p> <p>It is estimated that business rates collection rates for 2023/24, up to the 31st August, are on target to achieve 97.5% for the year. Council tax collection rates are 0.3% below the target of 94.5% for the year. As at the 31st August, collection rates for council tax and business rates were 43.33% and 48.68% against targets of 43.65% and 46.60% respectively.</p>
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Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PF3- We will develop our digital strategy, so that more residents transact with us online and we will continue to deliver services more efficiently.</p>	<p>In September the Executive is being asked to consider an investment in building control systems. This investment will deliver a new customer portal to improve customer self-service options, and mobile and remote working functionality will increase back office efficiency.</p>
<p>PF4- We will deliver our Organisational Development strategy, ensuring we plan for the structures and capabilities that the organisation needs, and empowering our workforce to deliver the objectives of the Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>We held a successful Team awards event on 20th July at which a number of employees were recognised for their excellent performance and commitment to our values. The Council's learning plan for this year has been finalised and the programme starts from September. The plan is developed from the training needs identified through our Performance Development review process as well as corporate need identified by Senior Managers.</p>
<p>PL6- We will invest in our heritage assets for the benefit of this, and future, generations.</p>	<p>Council Chamber Works</p> <p>The restoration works in the Council Chamber, due to extensive issues of dry rot, are due to be completed during the Autumn of 2023. Progress is being made on accessibility and audio-visual equipment upgrades that will commence once the restoration works have been completed.</p>

COUNCILLOR LUBNA KHAN, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PE4- We will continue to work on the wider determinants of poor health. This will include reducing food insecurity and responding to the cost of living crisis with practical support. We will work closely with the Integrated Care Board and ensure that the Borough Council plays an active role on the proposed placed based partnerships.</p>	<p>The Down Town community grocery has 715 new members with 4085 shops undertaken since opening. The shop is supported by 27 volunteers. In addition, there were 131 paid on shops used during July.</p> <p>There have been nearly 700 shops for school uniform at Down Town and as we move into the colder months the Winter Warmer shop will open.</p> <p>A wide range of partners are providing support sessions from Down Town including health checks, mental health groups, budgeting and debt advice and employment support.</p> <p>The number of emergency food parcels provided by the BFCitC food bank, which is supported by the council, was 522 in April, going down to 404 in July. At the start of the cost of living crisis and end of the pandemic, the monthly average was around 600.</p> <p>A Burnley food network has also recently been established to enable those tackling food insecurity to support one another and share resources.</p> <p>By the end of September, the council will launch a discretionary fund for households that have savings of less than £2000, and that are struggling with the cost of living but are not necessarily on benefits. Members can find details by searching for “HSF Burnley.”</p>
<p>PL1- We will implement a range of initiatives to maintain a clean, safe, attractive and environmentally friendly borough. This will include community engagement and cleansing in ‘hotspot’ areas</p>	<p>Waste & Cleansing Update: I am pleased to update that with the opening of the Pioneer Place development, Urbaser, the Council’s waste and cleansing contractor will be supporting the scheme, in undertaking regular cleansing duties to ensure that the high standard across the whole of the town centre is maintained.</p> <p>Enforcement Update: The Council’s Enforcement Officers continue to work across the borough with residents and local businesses to promote the Council’s waste and cleansing service. I am pleased to announce that the recently established Education & Enforcement Team have been shortlisted for the Best Team in the UK Award at the Annual LARAC (Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee) Conference. The Team have been recognised for their innovative approach to tackling</p>

waste & recycling issues particularly their community outreach and engagement work with local residents and businesses within the Borough.

Environmental Enforcement

During June - August 2023, the Enforcement Team along with the Council's litter enforcement contractor issued 137 FPN's (Fixed Penalty Notices) for litter and dog foul offences and 18 FPN's for fly tipping and commercial waste offences. They have also served over 289 legal notices and warning letters to residents and businesses regarding correct waste management.

Community Safety performance update

Compared to July in 2022, in July 2023 there was a 2.7% reduction in all crime in the borough. Comparing month on month during this summer, the Borough has seen a slight 0.4% increase from June 2023 to July 2023. However, this is marginal in comparison to the Lancashire average of +8.5% and is the best performance in the County.

These successes can be attributed to the strong partnership and thematic approach forged via the Burnley Council led MATAC, that ensures that partners are responsive quickly to emerging trends and threats. The culture of multi-agency, partnership working encourages a focus on initiative and collaboration. This local partnership is recognised across the county as an example of good practice in a partnership approach. This has been born out in the way local partners have come together to address youth issues in the town centre, and more recently an initiative to address 'cost of living' associated shoplifting working with businesses to promote the food bank and alternative means of support with individuals.

July 2023 also saw a 27.4% reduction in ASB reports to the police compared to June 2023 – this includes a 7% reduction in the Town Centre. Furthermore, there is a 30.9% reduction from July 2022.

Looking at Youth related ASB specifically, July saw a 32.5% drop from June this year, and a 48% reduction from July 2022. The proportion of ASB that is youth related now sits at 17.9% having been 24% last July, and as high as 35% earlier that year.

Looking at issues in the town centre, the police have recently held a day of action to tackle the issue of e-scooters. On the day officers seized 7 e-scooters from a range of individuals. Police will continue to monitor the issue and there will be signage going up to advise people that it is illegal to ride e-scooters on a public highway – including the pedestrianised areas of the town centre – or on private land without the permission of the landowner. This initiative is supported by

the Council and work is undertaken with the identified individuals.

Partners are also continuing to work together to address issues around begging, shoplifting, and anti-social behaviour around street drinking. Attempts will always be made to ensure all opportunities for support are offered, and colleagues from support services work hard to engage with individuals. Where that support and engagement is present, priority is given to improving behaviour and working with these individuals however, where support is refused and there is a long history of non-engagement and offending, partners will develop individual enforcement plans to use all available powers to stop the behaviour. There are currently three priority targets who meet these criteria, and Streetscene Officers are putting together prosecution files to take them to court.

Operation Centurian

The Home Office funded operation to tackle ASB hotspots has been running in Padiham for the past month with positive results. Police patrols are out and about in the area for 4 nights of the week, targeting the locations and times where increased ASB is common, and engaging with young people. Feedback from the community has been positive, and to date the following activity has taken place:

- 200 stakeholder visits
- 22 intel entries
- 2 youth referrals
- 20 incidents deployed to within the hotspot area
- 41 stop checks and searches
- 2 FPNs issued

PCC Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund

To date, with the support of Burnley Council, the PCC has funded project work, to be delivered by partners such as Burnley Leisure, Participation Works, BFC In The Community, and The Flowhesion Foundation, totalling £40k in Burnley and Padiham, with the aims of addressing local community safety priorities. All the projects funded are aimed at working with young people to address behaviour and prevent ASB.

The PCC's Community Fund remains open to community groups and can be accessed via <https://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/grant-funding/safer-lancashire-neighbourhoods-fund/>

Electric Vehicle Charge Points

Charging points at eight car parks within the borough have now been installed and the electrical connections to the charging units are currently taking place. These units are to be provided with the aim of encouraging the use of more energy efficient vehicles by the general public.

Pavement Café Licences

The Engineering team are currently working with LCC Highways to ensure that premises apply for and adhere to the terms and conditions of their pavement café licences. This has involved speaking directly to businesses to explain the importance of compliance and the risks associated with unlicensed items on the highway. These activities will continue to be monitored and where businesses do not comply, LCC Highways will seek to utilise their enforcement powers to take further action.

COUNCILLOR JOHN HARBOUR, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND LEISURE

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PL2- We will improve the management and condition of rented accommodation in the private and social sectors and enforce standards in a robust way.</p>	<p>Selective Licensing</p> <p>Selective Licensing: Trinity, Queensgate with Duke Bar, Gannow and Daneshouse & Stoneyholme areas 2019-2024</p> <p>The total number of properties that are required to be licensed is 2644 across all four areas. We have received 2,787 applications since the start of these designations. 87% of licensable properties are currently licensed; a further 147 applications are being processed by the licensing team.</p> <p>Final reports have been published on the selective licensing area of our website for the completed audits in parts of Gannow and Queensgate which took place from May to July 2023.</p> <p>Audits were also undertaken in August in parts of Trinity and Stoneyholme; identifying external disrepair, dirty back yards and ensuring all properties have valid documentation in place. Full reports on the outcomes of these audits will be published in October.</p> <p>Selective Licensing: Burnley Wood with Healey Wood and the Leyland Road area 2022-2027</p> <p>The designations for the above areas came into force on 21st July 2022. Since this date we have received 759 applications. 61% of those properties that require a licence have been licensed, with the team currently progressing a further 135 applications.</p> <p>The first area audit took place in August in part of the Leyland Road area. A full report of the outcomes of this audit will be published in October. In addition, following monitoring by one of our officers, we will be undertaking a mini audit of Pine Street in the Burnley Wood area; this area is not due to be audited until November, however we have concerns about the condition of some of the properties, so we are prioritising this street ahead of schedule.</p>

Civil Penalties/Prosecutions

The priority for all six licensing areas is securing applications for all properties that are required to be licenced and enforcing the conditions of the licence. During the current designations we have prosecuted landlords in respect of four properties and issued eight civil penalties where landlords were operating without a licence. We have recently reviewed the outcome of the area audits to prioritise further cases for legal action, focusing on properties which have been unlicensed for long periods, or where we have concerns about the condition of the properties.

Landlord and Agent Training Days

The first training day in our new contract with the National Residential Landlords Association (NRLA) was held on Monday 11th September for managing agents in the borough. We will be holding further events throughout the autumn aimed at landlords as well as bespoke training on damp and mold.

Private Rented Disrepair

Since the start of April 2023, the Council has received and dealt with 152 new disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants. The Housing Standards Team has a current caseload of 160 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair/proactive inspection cases. Since April 2023, the Housing Standards Team have served 9 formal improvement notices requiring owners to complete specified repairs within a given timescale, as well as 2 emergency remedial action notices, and 5 prohibition orders that prevent the occupation of a dwelling, or part of a dwelling, due to serious disrepair.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
PL3- We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock, and reduce the blight of empty properties	<p>Calico Homes are pressing ahead with their affordable housing programme and remain on schedule to deliver 93 units of Extra Care Housing at the Dovestone Gardens development next to Burnley Hospital by late summer 2024. The development of 61 houses at Kinross Street is due for completion and occupation in March 2024. This year has also seen Calico embark on phase 7 of their empty homes programme working in partnership with the council's empty homes team to help offer good quality affordable homes in our inner urban neighbourhoods.</p> <p>McDermott Homes housing site Valour Park, built on the former Hambledon School site, is nearly complete with just</p>

the last few properties remaining before the site is sold out. Gleeson's site at Canal Walk in Hapton has been another very popular development and is also down to the last few properties for sale on site. Miller Homes site at Red Lees Road is selling well with 64% reserved or sold and Barratt Homes development Brun Lea Heights is now on site bringing further new homes to the market giving residents a choice of properties and strengthening the housing market in our borough.

Empty Homes Programme

The compulsory purchase programme is progressing with several further CPOs programmed to start in the next few weeks. We are also pursuing several acquisitions by agreement with the owners, with one already underway with legal.

Renovations are underway at six properties with tenders expected to go out for another five properties shortly. Two of these properties are nearing completion and will be on the market soon. Sales are progressing on two properties, and another has just gone on the market.

The facelifting scheme is nearing completion at the rears of Windsor and Ivory Streets. The Piccadilly Road scheme will commence before the end of September.

Enquiries for the loans scheme are slow at the moment despite information going out in the recent Selective Licensing newsletter.

PL4- We will implement our 2015-25 Green Space Strategy.

Bereavement IT System

A new IT system called Plotbox has been installed to facilitate management of burials and cremations. Plotbox has been installed following the COVID pandemic which illustrated the need for more robust on-line management system that can be accessed remotely. Funeral directors will now be able to make out of hours bookings using an on-line diary, which will benefit bereaved families by reducing the time spent arranging funeral dates.

Towneley Hall

Work is progressing well, with the re-roofing of the Great Hall (west wing) nearing completion. The scaffolding will then be transferred to the South wing (overlooking the flower garden), before work starts on the North wing in 2024

A programme of engagement activities took place during the heritage open weekend (8th – 10th September) included demonstrations of different stonework and roofing techniques on the front lawn and lectures on the history of the Hall and on the

hexifoil markings (more popularly known as witch markings) that have been discovered on furniture and architectural features. Volunteers are vital to the operation of Towneley Hall and I'm pleased to report that Towneley Hall has secured funding from the Art Fund for a part time Volunteer Coordinator who will be able to support to our 25 current volunteers and develop opportunities to increase the diversity volunteers.

Stables Café

A firm that specialises in restaurant design and fit out has been contracted to undertake the extensive work needed to refurbish the interior of the café with the aim of opening before Christmas.

Towneley Park Masterplan

Extensive consultation is currently taking place with user groups and the public, with over 1,000 people taking time to complete an online and paper survey. As the consultation phase ends, the consultants will use the data to inform the development of the masterplan which aims to ensure that the heritage, ecology, recreational and economic potential of the park is developed over the next 10 years.

Play Strategy

The refurbishment of Clifton Street, Healey Wood and Memorial Park (Park Rd) play areas have been completed and the new play areas are open. Design and consultation on the schemes at Piccadilly Gardens, Barden Lane/Disraeli St and Underley St is getting underway.

Tennis Court Improvements

The programme of tennis court improvements, funded by a grant from the Lawn tennis Association has been completed> Scott Park and Memorial Park courts have been resurfaced/painted and smart phone operated pay and play gate access systems installed on these and Queens Park and Ightenhill Park courts. There have been good levels of use at Queens and Memorial Park but some vandalism particularly at Scott and Ightenhill parks. The tennis coaching programme did not take place due to a shortage of coaches and it is hoped that this will start from easter 2024.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PE2- We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer in partnership with Burnley Leisure.</p>	<p>Gym Equipment Replacement Full Council is being asked to agree to the establishment of the new budget in the Capital Programme to purchase brand-new gym equipment for both St Peter's and Padiham leisure centres together with refurbishment of the gym areas. If approved, the new equipment will be installed by Christmas ensuring that the 5,200 gym members continue to enjoy use of the very latest equipment as well as benefiting from free support from expert instructors.</p>

Gym membership has continued month on month growth throughout the year despite the economic headwind and increased competition and is significantly higher than pre-COVID levels. Golf membership has also steadily increased and is currently at an all-time high of 478 and the swim academy now has more than 970 members.

Beat the Street

The end of game report has been completed for this year's edition of Beat the Street which ended in June. Over the 6-week game phase, 12,364 children and adults from across the town took part and walked and ran a cumulative total of 155,121 miles which is equivalent to five times round the world! 32% of adults and 45% of children self-reported as being inactive or less active at registration. 58% of registered participants were living in the top 20% deprived areas in Burnley and 20.6% were from ethnically diverse communities. These groups are all more likely to experience health inequalities.

Post game data demonstrated that 38% of adults and 40% of children were lifted out of inactivity (adults) or low levels of activity (children). There was an 8% increase in the number of adults reporting meeting the CMO recommended guidelines for physical activity. There was also a 10% decrease in child inactivity and participants reported a significant improvement in their wellbeing.

BLC were also successful in achieving high participation levels with all 33 primary schools taking part.

Watch the [BTS video](#)

The next edition of BTS will take place in 2025. In the meantime, many other activities will be promoted through the emerging 'Burnley an Outdoor Town' initiative.

Burnley Nature Festival

As part of the Outdoor Town initiative, Burnley Leisure is working with the Council to deliver the first Burnley Nature Festival in Towneley Park on Sunday 29th October. The festival will encourage people to explore and learn about nature and being active in the beautiful autumnal surroundings of Towneley Park.

Mechanics

The funding application to the Arts Council's Capital Investment Programme reported to the last Council meeting was unfortunately not successful as it did not fully meet the

	criteria for grant funding. Alternative sources of funding including the National Lottery Heritage Fund are being explored.
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COUNCILLOR MARK TOWNSEND, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND GROWTH

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PR2- We will proactively support the borough's businesses to innovate and expand, and make the borough a natural choice for business relocation.</p>	<p>Business Support</p> <p>During this week the Business Support Team have delivered its 11th annual Business Week in partnership with UCLan. The team have worked with several different partners and industry experts to make sure our businesses are being provided with the best support available to help them. The week delivered 27 free workshops, seminars and drop-in sessions on a range of topics to support all types and all sizes of businesses. Business week is only possible due to the generosity of our partners who deliver high quality workshops free of charge. We would like to thank the following organisations for their support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- UCLan- East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce- Burnley Leisure and Culture- Advance Performance- Awakening Horizons- Bellyflop TV- Community Foundation for Lancashire- Cube HR- Customer Love- Door4- Edge Hill University- Profit Optimiser- Hays- Lancaster University- Root Fifty-Two- Burnley College- PM+M- +24Marketing- Six Connections- Forbes Solicitors <p>The business support team recently received some very positive feedback from DWP on the work the Council does to support our businesses and the relationship between DWP and the Council and our joined-up approach to supporting our residents. At a recent meeting with DWP's Lancashire/Cumbria and Merseyside senior management</p>

team they were impressed at all the work we do and have requested more information on our activities. They were not aware of any other local authority doing what we do here in Burnley to support businesses.

The Business Team are currently working with 25 businesses looking to relocate into the borough or expand within it. Some enquiries are for significant requirements exceeding 50,000 Sq Ft. The team recently helped a security company relocate into the area bringing their existing 20 staff whilst also providing space to continue their growth aspirations.

Work has now begun on the new Frontier Park Business Park adjacent to Network 65. The development will see 5 new units constructed providing commercial space from 39,000 – 159,000 Sq Ft. This will provide much needed space for growing businesses in the area and will help attract new businesses. The business team are in contact with one large local operator who have shown strong interest in the site to help with their continued growth and the agents also have strong interest from an out-of-town party.

Vision Park

Vision Park remains at 100% occupancy with a waiting list should any units become available.

Padiham Town Hall

The fixed office space remains at full occupancy with leases recently renewed and a waiting list for the offices.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Support Local Business Theme

Following a County wide tender exercise by Lancashire County Council for the delivery of BOOST across Lancashire, Growth Lancashire has been appointed to deliver the initial business diagnostic service together with general business advice. The business support element for growth businesses was won by The Growth Company, and the start-up support provision was won by Selnet. Freshfield have again secured the contract to market the BOOST offer and to develop and maintain the BOOST website. The service will be operational from the beginning of October.

The Regional Technology Centre (RTC) has been appointed to deliver a specialist manufacturing support programme in Burnley, particularly focused on supporting the sustainment, growth and innovation of businesses and assisting businesses to adopt the governments Made Smarter initiative. Businesses

will be able to access the service from October, RTC also deliver the national innovation agency programme -Innovate UK.

Burnley Brand and Burnley Bondholders

Since last full council there have been 22 pieces of positive news on Burnley.co.uk. Burnley has featured in 697 pieces of online, print and broadcast news with a combined AVE of £505,000 and reach of 161 million.

Burnley Lifestyle Magazine will now be published twice a year – spring/summer and autumn/winter, allowing for increased advertising revenue and more seasonal content. On September 12th, 8,500 copies were distributed across the country.

On September 22nd, 200 people attended the 10 Enterprising Years bondholder event to celebrate the ten-year anniversary of Burnley being named most enterprising area in 2013. Alastair Campbell and Gary Neville have partnered with the Burnley Brand team to give away football tickets on social media to promote the 10 Enterprising Years milestone.

On September 29th, there was an exclusive Burnley Bondholders event during Burnley Business Week to discuss retaining and developing young talent in the borough.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PR3- We will deliver the Town Centre and Canalside Masterplan, and strategic projects in Padiham Town Centre.</p>	<p>Pioneer Place Further to the opening of the Icaro Lounge, previously reported, Starbucks have also been open for a few weeks. REEL cinema opened on Friday 8th September with a VIP opening on the 12th September.</p> <p>Nandos have completed a very high quality fit out and opened for trade on the 20th September.</p> <p>Unit 6 has been let to Heavenly Desserts and they have already completed their fit out. Staff training is due to finish soon ready for opening.</p> <p>Maple Grove and Eric Wright have continued to carry out snagging and defects work whilst mobilising to commence works on the Manchester Road Site.</p> <p>We continue to liaise with LCC to try to manage the impact of the works on Curzon Street.</p>

Town 2 Turf Public Realm Transformation

Works to Harry Potts Way are complete and we have had positive feedback from the public and the football club. Works to the culvert, including stone cleaning and re-painting have been completed over the summer. The roundabout/Yorkshire St roundabout has been removed in readiness for works to create the new four way junction with pedestrian crossings.

The overall program remains approx. 8 weeks behind schedule with a projected completion of September 24.

Lower Saint James Street Heritage Action Zone

Restoration works to 156 are now completed excluding signage. Externally the building has benefited from a new traditional shopfront, reinstatement of the original bay windows to the upper floors, rainwater goods, repair of architectural features to the facades.

Restoration work to 158 Lower St James Street is underway including the reinstatement of a traditional shop front, bay windows, rainwater goods, Doff cleaning and architectural repairs. This is due to be completed at the end of October. The Property owner is investing internally with a change of use from taxi office to retail unit and two apartments to the upper floors.

Works have commenced to 123-125 St James Street the HSHAZ Exemplar building. The chosen contractor was Halestone Restoration. This project includes stained glass window restoration to the upper floors, new roof and rainwater goods, stone cleaning, architectural and structural repairs along with internal conversion works. Once this building is completed in early 2024, Creative Spaces Burnley CIC will take over the lease, Mid Pennine Arts will occupy the ground floor as the anchor tenant with artist studios to the upper floors.

In celebration of Heritage Open days between 8th – 17th September the HSHAZ has delivered 4 memory workshops, gathering and sharing people's memories of Burnley making collages and soundscapes. A very successful Always Look Up Heritage Trail took place around the Conservation Area encouraging people to appreciate our beautiful historic buildings. Public tours took place inside the Empire Theatre which tickets sold out within minutes, along with giving out to the public and business owners, a how to maintain your heritage property pocket guide and a free HSHAZ pocket bag.

Footfall figures increased in the HSHAZ area throughout Junes Words Festival Events to 81417, an increase of 34621 based on June figures the previous year.

The Chair of Historic England Sir Laurie Magnus visited Burnley on the 1st of August and was delighted with the progress that has been made in the High Street Heritage Action Zone and the Conservation Areas. The Council was commended and its contractors on the quality of the work in the area.

The HSHAZ Social media pages continue to see a significant increase in new followers and interactions with 7.1K reach within the last 90 days and 5% new followers.

Burnley Market

Burnley Market continues to offer retail premises to rent with a package of support for new commodities to the market.

Recent additions to the market are Pasta Blends, Discount Den and Cave of Treasures (bespoke, unique jewellery out of resin). Pieaze has moved to larger premises within the market and is doing extremely well. An existing tenant, Time Piece Electricals, has moved to a more prominent stall and is already benefitting from this. In Stitches continues to expand and has taken on additional space. These new leases and business expansions have increased occupancy rate to 62%.

During the week beginning the 7th August 2023 Burnley Market hosted Re-Fashion Challenge which is a collaborative project run by Gawthorpe Textiles collection, Uclan and the British Textile Biennial.

Burnley Market continues to host a popular Bi-Monthly Record Fair. On average footfall increases by 17% on these dates.

Padiham Town Centre

In celebration of Heritage Open Days between 8th and 17th September. The town centre officer has been working with partners Padiham Library and The National Trust Gawthorpe Hall to create a High Street Heritage Trail which will take place within the conservation and town centre area, encouraging people to find and appreciate heritage features whilst browsing the shops and businesses. Participants can ride the free vintage bus or collect a shop local bag, with the chance to win a Padiham shop local prize voucher.

Other successful Padiham events include the Padiham Duck Race & Summer Fair and Party in the Park delivered by Padiham Town Council and supported by the town centre officer.

Padiham Townscape Heritage

Works continue at No. 25 & 27 Burnley Rd (Woof & Tumble and Party Glitz) including general repairs to roof, stonework/pointing and rainwater goods. New timber sliding sash windows have been installed to upper floors and repair and redecoration to the existing shop frontages is underway. Works due to complete within 4 weeks.

Works have also commenced at No. 12-14 Burnley Rd (vacant, formerly Timeless) with re-rendering of gable and reroofing of stone slate roof. The scheme will include a comprehensive package of external repair and restoration works. Current programme sees completion in March 2024.

These will be the final two building schemes to utilise remaining capital funds.

Exemplar Project – Tenants have been secured for the retail units. No. 35 will be occupied by 'Hugs for Free', a charity organisation that also operate 'The Hub'. The unit will be for retail use, primarily pre-loved clothing. Heads of terms have been agreed and signed. The tenants are fitting out and signage design is being agreed.

No. 33 will be occupied by a Millie & Ruby's Doggy Bakery, selling luxury dog treats and accessories. The tenant has operated previously in Great Harwood and will be a nice addition to Padiham's specialised retail offer. Head of terms are being agreed.

As the programme nears completion, the TH Officer in partnership with an independent consultant is developing a project evaluation (a requirement of the funders). A written report and evaluation video will be produced.

Under our current agreement with the Heritage Fund, the programme is due to complete by end of Sep-2023, however a further extension has been granted up to June 2024 to allow for completion of final building works, snagging/defects periods, financial completion, and completion of the project evaluation.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PR4- We will implement the Local Plan, delivering new housing, employment sites, and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Local Plan Review and Local Development Scheme</p> <p>The 5-year statutory review of Burnley's Local Plan was considered by Executive on 12 July 2023, following consideration by Scrutiny Committee on 5 July 2023. Executive resolved that an update of Burnley's Local Plan 2012- 2032 was not required at the present time. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) was updated accordingly.</p> <p>Allocated Housing Sites:</p> <p><i>Sites Under Construction:</i></p> <p>Site HS1/1 Former Hambleton School site (Valour Park, McDermott Homes) is nearly complete with all but 7 properties reserved or sold). Site HS1/3 Former Blythe's Site (Canal Walk, Gleeson) is also nearing completion with all remaining plots released and only 7 remaining for sale. Site HS1/8 Red Lees Road (The Calders, Miller Homes) has over 64% reserved or sold and the on-site affordable housing (discounted sales) is now being marketed. Amended plans and elevational details have been approved for some plots (NMA/2023/0264). Site HS1/4 Rossendale Road (Barratt Homes - Brun Lea Heights) is well under construction with 6 properties sold. There has been a slowing of the sales rates at most sites, due at least in part, to the increase in mortgage rates.</p> <p><i>Applications and Approvals:</i></p> <p>An appeal against the non-determination of the full planning application for site HS1/2 Hollins Cross Farm for the erection of 200 dwellings has been made, and a public inquiry is scheduled for October 2023 (FUL/2022/0149). Amended plans have been submitted for the reserved matters application for 73 affordable homes at site HS1/29 Lodge Mill (REM/2023/0169). Amended plans have also been submitted for the southern part of site HS1/4 Rossendale Road (Seddon Homes).</p> <p>Allocated Employment Sites:</p> <p><i>Sites under Construction</i></p> <p>Following the outline approval in September 2022 at site EMP1/5 Land South of Network 65 ('Burnley Bridge South') (OUT/2020/0366), and the approval of a reserved matters application for Phase 1 of the site (REM/2022/0568), construction commenced. Two further reserved matters applications for phases 2a and 2b have been approved and</p>

	<p>the final application for Phase 3 has also now been received (REM/2023/0565).</p> <p>Following the dismissing of the appeal against the refusal of an earlier planning application (REM/2021/0735), a revised application the erection of 3 industrial units (Use Classes B2/B8/E(G)) has been received for site EMP1/2 (Burnley Bridge) (FUL/2023/0445).</p>
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Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PR5- We will support UCLan’s expansion, transforming Burnley into a University Town</p>	<p>Newtown Mill Work is progressing well with all the internal steel framework in place. To the SW part of the building the roofing has been completed along with concrete floors and internal wall partitions, and windows, allowing some of the external scaffolding to be dismantled. Construction of the retaining wall to the rear is now well underway as is the roofing on the NW portion of the building.</p> <p>Sandygate Halls Repair works and deep cleans have taken place over the summer ready for the start of the new academic year. Two commercial units have been occupied by Ridgewood School who are a Special Educational Needs school. One unit will be used as a classroom facility and the second will be converted into a high-quality coffee shop providing real life work experience and on the job training for pupils. The coffee shop with its Sandygate square frontage will be a welcome addition to the amenities for students, and residents and businesses located in the area.</p> <p>Expansion Plans The Burnley Brand team continue to support UCLAN to market the Burnley Campus and on the 29th September had a stand at the UCLan freshers fair to promote studying, living, exploring and working in Burnley.</p>
<p>PR6- We will work with partners to ensure that residents are able and ready to participate in the workforce.</p>	<p>Burnley Employment & Skills Group (BSEG) Representatives have met with the team from the Lancashire Skills Hub/LEP to ensure that local provision is aligned to wider initiatives across Lancashire and the wider region. They will also attend future Steering Group meetings to provide additional wider strategic direction.</p> <p>Thrive Youth Hub The summer period has been fairly quiet, as is usual at this time of year. The current caseload at Thrive is 236, compared to 216 in July.</p>

We are With You, a charity providing support for those with drug, alcohol, or mental health issues, have started a weekly presence in the hub, with private facilities available given the nature of what they do.

The DWP have had a reduced presence in the hub over the summer given staff holidays/absences.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund – People & Skills Theme

2 UKSPF participants have signed onto the HATCH programme delivered by BFC in the Community – both working at KFC. HATCH is an employability project, in partnership with KFC which provides workshops and work experience to those aged 16 -25 who are not in education or employment. The HATCH programme currently has a 50% conversion rate into work.

36% of the current UKSPF caseload are aged 16-25.

Delivery partners such as Burnley College, The Princes Trust & BPRCVS are gearing up to delivery as the new academic year starts.

Claimant Count

The claimant count rate in Burnley as of July 2023 was 5.6% compared to 4.2% for Lancashire and 3.7% GB. These figures are fairly static since the last figures up to March 2023. The economic inactivity rate in Burnley to March 2023 was 28%, Lancashire 24.8% and GB 21.6%. These remain fairly static since the last figures up to Dec 22.

The Office for National Statistics reports that nationally there has been an increase in the number of people classed as NEET, entirely driven by young men. Something we will keep an eye on at local level and discuss with Lancashire County Council.