



# BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

17<sup>th</sup> April 2024

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COUNCILLOR AFRASIAB ANWAR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.....	2
COUNCILLOR MAGGIE LISHMAN, DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.....	4
COUNCILLOR HOWARD BAKER, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES .....	6
COUNCILLOR LUBNA KHAN, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL .....	9
COUNCILLOR SCOTT CUNLIFFE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH .....	13
COUNCILLOR JACK LAUNER, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH, CULTURE & WELLBEING .....	22

## COUNCILLOR AFRASIAB ANWAR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Milestone and Progress update
<p><b>PR1-</b> We will contribute to the strategic direction of local, sub-regional and regional partnerships, and will position the borough for economic development investment and skills.</p>	<p><b>County Combined Authority</b></p> <p>Following the conclusion of the statutory consultation, Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, and Blackpool Council presented reports to their respective Councils in March.</p> <p>All three upper tier councils in Lancashire supported the proposal to create a non-Mayoral CCA for Lancashire and have submitted their proposal to The Secretary of State. I have been advised that the Secretary of State is expected to lay an order in Parliament to establish the non-Mayoral CCA for Lancashire before the summer recess, with a view to it being established by Autumn this year.</p> <p><b>Long-Term Plan for Towns</b></p> <p><i>Establishment of the Town Board</i></p> <p>I am pleased to report that the Town Board was established well within the Government’s target of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. The inaugural meeting of the Town Board took place on 15th March 2024.</p> <p><i>Boundaries</i></p> <p>DLUC have advised that there is scope to alter the geographic boundaries eligible for the funding “where an amendment remains within the spirit of the programme and includes, as part of the revised area, the town that was originally selected. For example, your town’s local station may lie just outside of the boundaries provided or essential green spaces may have been excluded, due to the emphasis on ‘built up’ areas. Alterations to the boundary should not bring in additional, separate population centres (i.e. different towns) and must remain contiguous.” Any such representations were to be made to DLUC by the end of March 2024.</p> <p>The Town Board have requested that DLUC consider amending the eligible geographical boundary so that Townley Park, Thompson Park, Bank Hall Park, Brun Valley Forest Park, key Active Travel routes and some stretches of the Leeds and Liverpool canal are included.</p>

	<p>Members will be aware that Padiham, Cliviger, and Worsthorne were not included within the areas for which funding can be provided. As Padiham, Cliviger, Worsthorne and Hapton are separate Built Up Areas the Government has made it clear that they could not be included in the proposed alterations by the Town Board.</p> <p><i>Pre-plan consultation</i></p> <p>The pre-plan consultation is open until the 19<sup>th</sup> April and members of the public are invited to submit their views via a questionnaire at <a href="https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/burnleylongtermplan/">https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/burnleylongtermplan/</a></p> <p>Consultants have been appointed to work with the board and themed sub groups to produce the long term vision and three year investment plan. Residents, businesses and local organisations will have an opportunity to comment on this prior to submission. You can follow progress via the Long Term Plan for Town's web site <a href="https://burnleylongtermplan.co.uk/">https://burnleylongtermplan.co.uk/</a> and follow on Facebook.</p>
<p><b>PR5-</b> We will support UCLan's expansion, transforming Burnley into a University Town</p>	<p>Members will agree that it is great to see the strong progress being made to redevelop the former Newtown Mill. This strategic intervention will accelerate Burnley's ambition to be a University Town.</p>
<p><b>PE1-</b> 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>Students in Burnley of all ages are soon approaching exam season. I would like to wish all of them the best of luck in their forthcoming exams.</p> <p>I was pleased to see that our Burnley Bondholders have been actively engaging with schools at a recent Coffee and Collab event. The borough's businesses play an important role in raising aspiration and attainment.</p> <p>Burnley continues to punch above its weight, and I was delighted to see the filming of Netflix's "Bank of Dave: The Sequel" taking place in Burnley (further details can be found in the progress report for the Executive Member of Economy and Sustainable Development).</p>

## COUNCILLOR MAGGIE LISHMAN, DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Milestone and Progress update
<p><b>PF1-</b> We will manage our contract with Liberata robustly, so it delivers value for money and good services.</p>	<p>The end year performance report will be presented to Scrutiny in July.</p>

Strategic commitment	Milestone and Progress update
<p><b>PF2-</b> 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><b>Revenue Budget</b></p> <p>The Council reported a projected net overspend of £60k at the end of quarter 3 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 2025/29 and Budget for 2024/25 was approved at the February 2024 Full Council meeting. The MTFs has identified a potential budget gap of between £2.8m to £4.4m over the 4-year period. Savings and growth proposals were approved at that meeting with a balanced budget set for the 2024/25 financial year.</p> <p><b>Statement of Accounts</b></p> <p>The Council's Statement of Accounts and annual Value for Money review for 2022/23 were formally approved at the meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee in December. Work has started on the production of the draft Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 which are due to be published by the statutory deadline of the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024. The Council's new external auditor, Mazars, have commenced their pre-audit work for 2023/24.</p> <p><b>Council Tax and Business Rate Collection Rates</b></p> <p>The Council Tax collection Rate by the end of March was 93.74% which is 0.51% up on this time last year. The business rates collection rate by the end of March was 96.96%. This is 0.83% above this time last year.</p>

<p><b>Strategic commitment</b></p>	<p><b>Milestone and Progress update</b></p>
<p><b>PF3-</b> 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>An updated digital strategy will be considered by the Executive in June, however some priority actions are underway. The building control service is on target to start using their new business system from July. The new system includes an efficient and easy-to-use process for members of the public to search building control applications.</p> <p>In response to the rising threat of malicious cyber actors, the council is testing key systems to reduce the impact of any attack.</p>
<p><b>Strategic commitment</b></p>	<p><b>Milestone and Progress update</b></p>
<p><b>PF4-</b> 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>The Learning &amp; Development programme for 2023/24 has been completed successfully and we have facilitated training in management skills as well as completing the Talent Management programme.</p> <p>Following the roll-out of Carbon Literacy Training and work undertaken by the Climate Change Programme Manager, the Council have successfully achieved the Silver Carbon Literacy Award.</p> <p>The Council continues to support the wellbeing of our employees through our Corporate Health &amp; Wellbeing Group and the quarterly News publication.</p> <p>We currently have 18 employees accessing training via the apprenticeship levy which will lead to a recognised qualification. 55% of these are in apprenticeship posts whilst the remaining 45% are current employees developing their skills.</p> <p>The LGA has set up a Skills Hub to address the workforce challenges that councils are facing. Five occupational areas have been identified which are legal, finance, civil engineering, digital &amp; ICT and environmental health. Each region has a representative on each of the five groups and the Council is representing the North West in the legal skills hub. Work is progressing and recommendations and actions from the LGA are expected over the Summer months.</p> <p>I would like to commend Alisha Panners, who works in the Economy and Growth unit, and Macy Pratt who works in the reception at the Town Hall. Alisha and Macy represented the council at the Young Local Authority of the Year Competition in Lancaster last month. They are great ambassadors for the council.</p>
<p><b>PL6-</b> We will invest in our heritage assets for the benefit of this, and future, generations.</p>	<p><b>Council Chamber</b></p> <p>The restoration works in the Council Chamber, due to extensive issues of dry rot, were completed in December 2023. Progress is being made on accessibility and audio-visual equipment upgrades, the procurement process has now ended and bids are being evaluated.</p>

# COUNCILLOR HOWARD BAKER, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

## Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Milestone and Progress update
<p><b>PL1-</b> 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><b>Waste &amp; Cleansing Update</b></p> <p><b>Food Waste Funding from DEFRA</b></p> <p>The Council are required to introduce weekly food waste collections from April 2026 from every household in the borough, as part of the Government's new Waste Reforms. We have been informed from DEFRA that we are to receive £700k of capital funding to purchase vehicles and containers, as 'one off' new burdens funding for the introduction of food waste collections. Whilst the funding is welcomed, as with many local authorities, the Council recognises that this will not cover the full costs associated with the implementation of the new service.</p> <p>In an effort to achieve best value, the Council in collaboration with other Council's across Lancashire, is looking at the joint procurement of waste caddies. In addition, officers have recently attended a food waste vehicle supplier open day, to evaluate potential collection options.</p> <p><b>Missed Bins</b></p> <p>I am pleased to report that the number of missed bin collections where the council is shown to be at fault is currently down to between 0-2 per 100,000 collections. This is in the top 1% of industry standard and demonstrates the hard work and focus that has been put in by Streetscene officers and our contractor to address and improve performance.</p> <p><b>Pest Control</b></p> <p>I am pleased to report, that as a result of the additional budget allocation this year, that the Council's annual sewer baiting programme has been extended. The baiting will start in April and will now extend into the New Year, covering all wards across the borough and will include an intensive baiting programme in the town centre.</p>
	<p><b>Garden Waste</b></p> <p>Residents can subscribe to the 2024/25 Garden Waste service. I am pleased to report that 4,000 residents have already subscribed, with 80% using the online platform.</p> <p><b>The British Spring Clean</b></p> <p>The Council supported Keep Britain Tidy's national campaign at the end of March. Its aim is to encourage community litter picking volunteering. The Council already has a well-</p>

established campaign but over the duration of the British Spring Clean event we supported an additional 15 litter-picking events, and all were a huge success. Further details of how residents can start litter picking in their area or obtain equipment can be found on the Council's website; [Volunteer to litter pick - burnley.gov.uk](https://www.burnley.gov.uk/volunteer-to-litter-pick)

### **Streetscene Environmental Enforcement**

Enforcement Action Figures - 1st January 2024 - 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

- **22** individuals prosecuted for waste offences. These prosecutions are for failing to remove waste after legal notices were served.
- **12** individuals have been scheduled to attend a formal interview at the Town Hall for continually presenting excess waste.
- **75** individuals have been referred to the Magistrates Court for prosecution.

Alongside this, Council officers have also issued the following:

- **15** Fixed penalty notices for flytipping offences.
- **188** Fixed penalty notices for littering & side waste offences.
- **8** Fixed penalty notices for dog foul/dog exclusion.

Streetscene Enforcement Officers continue to educate residents on the correct way to present waste, those who choose to ignore the advice given will face a fixed penalty notice or prosecution.

Partnership working with the Council's waste and cleansing contractor has contributed to the success of side waste fixed penalty notices. In the first week of the introduction of this improved way of working, 22 FPNs have been issued over a 4 day period. This is really positive and assist in reducing incorrectly presented waste.

Increased early morning and evening dog foul patrols will be introduced during British Summer Time (BST) starting from the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Members are encouraged to use the following link to report any intelligence they receive.

<https://burnley.gov.uk/whodunit/>

### **Town Centre Cleansing**

A national Chewing Gum Task Force and campaign has been established by the Keep Britain Tidy Action Group. The aim is to tackle persistently stubborn areas of chewing gum staining and to change attitudes to gum disposal. The Council have submitted a bid to be part of the programme and if successful it will receive a small amount of funding that will focus on a specific area for intense monitoring, signage and cleansing. Our selected area, should we be successful, will be an area on Hammerton Street.

### **Community Safety & ASB**

Police data shows that all recorded crime in Burnley, for the 12 months March '23 to February '24, fell by 4.17%. The same period saw all recorded crime in Lancashire fall by 2.45%.



It is a similar story with anti-social behaviour where we have seen a reduction of 12.4% in reports to the police during the last 12 months. For comparison the Lancashire average over this period is -7.5%, so this is a re-assuring statistic. Youth related ASB is often raised as a concern by our residents and during the first two months of 2024 21.5% of all reported ASB was youth related. Youth related ASB in February 2024 marked a 47% reduction from February 2023. Again, this is a positive trend. In February the Council received 57 ASB reports from Burnley and Padiham meaning that, as of 1<sup>st</sup> March, officers were working with 108 active cases.

### **Joint work within Community Safety Partnership**

Implementation of the “Safer Streets 5” programme is underway. The funding, secured as part of a joint Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Partnership bid covering town centres in all four partner districts, will provide safety enhancements to the town centre with improved CCTV cameras.

The Operation Centurian pilot, providing increased police patrols to ASB hotspots, has been running in Padiham since July. During this time there have been:

- 240 extra police shifts within the focus area. Shifts must be conducted on foot to ensure maximum visibility. Many of these have been conducted in conjunction with youth outreach teams.
- Police conducted 520 stop checks, and 34 stop searches.
- 122 incidents attended
- 18 youth referrals issued
- 75 intel entries
- 700 stakeholder visits

Because Op Centurian is a Home Office funded pilot, the project is being carefully monitored to ensure it can be properly evaluated.

### **Engineering Team**

A condition survey of the culvert underneath Pioneer Car Park has been undertaken and will provide an assessment of its structural condition. The report is due to be completed before April 2024 and will enable the Council to develop a suitable programme for its future maintenance.

Lighting improvements have been carried out at Bank Parade, Clitheroe Street, Padiham Town Hall and Sutcliffe Street Car Parks. The upgraded lighting will provide greater illumination within the sites with the aim of benefitting all car park users. Works have also been undertaken to upgrade the CCTV network. Better switches have been fitted so that we can take full advantage of camera potential, as this will improve image quality to assist with identification, provide better evidence and support future camera additions to the system.



## COUNCILLOR LUBNA KHAN, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Milestone and Progress update
<p><b>PL2-</b> 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><b>Selective Licensing</b></p> <p><b>Selective Licensing: Trinity, Queensgate with Duke Bar, Gannow and Daneshouse &amp; Stoneyholme areas 2019-2024</b></p> <p>The total number of properties that are required to be licensed is 2735 across all four areas. We have received 2945 applications since the start of these designations. 88% of licensable properties are currently licensed; a further 160 applications are being processed by the licensing team.</p> <p>The audit of the fifth area of Queensgate and the final area of Gannow was completed and reports are available on our website.</p> <p><b>Selective Licensing Consultation</b></p> <p>The council is consulting on proposals to re-introduce selective licensing in the above four areas, as well as two new areas in Padiham and the Lyndhurst Road area. The council is also proposing to extend the boundaries in Trinity, Queensgate and Gannow. The consultation will run from 25<sup>th</sup> March to 14<sup>th</sup> June, after which the results and recommendations will be presented to the council's Executive in August/September. Further information on the consultation is available on our website: <a href="http://www.burnley.gov.uk/sl2024">www.burnley.gov.uk/sl2024</a></p> <p><b>Selective Licensing: Burnley Wood with Healey Wood and the Leyland Road area 2022-2027</b></p> <p>The designations for the above areas came into force on 21st July 2022. Since this date we have received 834 applications. 79% of those properties that require a licence have been licensed, with the team currently progressing a further 138 applications.</p> <p>The area audit of the Branch Road/Parkinson Street area was completed in February and reports published online. The second area audit in the Leyland Road area is currently ongoing; a full report on the outcomes will be published in late April/early May.</p>

### **Civil Penalties/Prosecutions**

The priority for all six licensing areas is securing applications for all properties that are required to be licensed and enforcing the conditions of the licence. During the current designations we have prosecuted landlords in respect of five properties and issued 13 civil penalties where landlords have either failed to obtain a licence or breached a condition of the licence. We continue to review 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**

We hosted a second training session for landlords and managers on 31<sup>st</sup> January covering damp and mould. In addition, we held a further landlord training day online on 12<sup>th</sup> February and face to face training on 7<sup>th</sup> March. There are two further face to face training days planned for 2024, and three online. All sessions are delivered by qualified trainers from the National Residential Landlords Association.

### **Private Rented Disrepair**

Since the start of April 2023, the Council has received and dealt with 520 disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants. The Housing Standards Team has a current caseload of 155 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair/proactive inspection cases. Since April 2023, the Housing Standards Team has served 35 formal improvement notices requiring owners to complete specified repairs within a given timescale, as well as 8 emergency remedial action notices, and 10 prohibition orders. The Council has successfully prosecuted one landlord for a breach of an improvement notice, and has served 4 civil penalty notices.

Strategic commitment	Milestone and Progress update
<p><b>PL3-</b> We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock, and reduce the blight of empty properties</p>	<p><b>Empty Homes Program</b></p> <p>The compulsory purchase programme is progressing with several further CPOs programmed to start in the next few weeks and several properties will be coming into the council's ownership in the next 3 months. This is a rolling programme, and further reports will be prepared for Executive in the coming financial year.</p> <p>Renovations have recently completed at 4 properties and are underway at six further properties with tenders going out for further properties shortly. 3 of the properties that have recently completed have been done for temporary accommodation/refugee program.</p> <p>The Piccadilly Road improvement scheme is nearing completion but is being held up by the wet weather, but should be completed by the end of April.</p> <p>Enquiries for the loans scheme are still slow at the moment.</p>

Strategic commitment	Milestone and Progress update
<p><b>PE3-</b> We will continue to work with partners to provide necessary support systems to reduce homelessness and to end rough sleeping in the borough.</p>	<p>Burnley Council continue to support and accommodate rough sleepers and homeless households who have a connection to the borough. We have 17 properties that are Council managed, 6 of these are RSAP (Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme). All these properties are currently fully occupied with clients being provided with one-on-one support from the RSAP and temporary accommodation officers.</p> <p>We have been successful and received two further rounds of funding from the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF 2 &amp; 3) which will provide a further 5 properties making a total of 22 Council owned and managed properties for temporary accommodation and Afghan resettlement.</p> <p>In addition to the Council managed accommodation, we have 16 ABEN (A Bed Every Night) properties managed by Stepping Stones. From 1st November to 31st March 2024, we can also access 4 additional bed spaces in the Gateway Project to provide for cold weather provision.</p> <p>From 1st April 2023 to 25th March 2024, we received 2452 enquiries about homelessness, this is an increase of 450 from 2022/23 of which 880 were opened as a homeless case. We have successfully prevented or relieved 360 households who were homeless or threatened with homelessness last year. The pressures on temporary accommodation continue with 271 households being accommodated since 01/04/2023. Currently we have 35 households in temporary accommodation and 14 of these households have children.</p>

	<p>We continue to look for opportunities to apply for further funding to allow us to grow the temporary accommodation portfolio and reduce the reliance on private rented properties. This will assist with ensuring the B&amp;B/Hotel is only used in short-term emergency situations.</p> <p>We continue to work in partnership with agencies to increase the positive outcomes and prevent and relieve homeless households or those at threat of homelessness throughout the borough.</p>
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## COUNCILLOR SCOTT CUNLIFFE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Milestone and Progress update
<p><b>PR2- We will proactively support the borough's businesses to innovate and expand, and make the borough a natural choice for business relocation.</b></p>	<p><b>Business Support</b></p> <p>The Business Support Team are currently working with 22 businesses looking to relocate within the Borough or expand within it. This includes a mixture of office and industrial users with requirements from 1,500 Sq Ft of Office right up 100,000+ Sq Ft of industrial space.</p> <p>The first Phase of Frontier Park should complete in June this year and the Business Support team are actively engaging with interested parties and the owners. Barnfield Construction are now onsite at Advance Point on Rossendale Road with Phase one to be completed in Autumn this year and there have been high levels of interest in the site.</p> <p>The team are actively referring businesses to the delivery partners who are supporting businesses with their programmes under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Boost, SELNET (Flying Start – pre-start/new-start), RTC North (Manufacturing Technology Programme), UCLAN (Lancashire Universities Innovation Programme), East Lancs Chamber of Commerce (International Trade, Net Zero &amp; Decarbonisation), Growth Hub (Scale to Thrive, Growth Catalyst).</p> <p>The latest Help for Businesses newsletter was sent to businesses outlining potential areas of support currently available.</p> <p><b>Business Growth Programme</b></p> <p>The team are currently working with 6 growing companies with a view to supporting them with our Business Growth Programme on projects with investment values of up to £25m that would secure over 200 jobs.</p> <p><b>Padiham Town Hall</b></p> <p>The fixed offices at Padiham Town Hall remain fully occupied with two further tenants agreeing to renew their leases. The Co-Working space continues to be popular with 18 active members and we recently added two additional desks to the space to increase capacity.</p>

## **Sandygate Square**

We are now in the final legal stages on the last remaining unit at Sandygate Square which should complete in Spring this year. This would see the commercial element of the building fully occupied.

## **UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Supporting Local Business Theme**

A BOOST roadshow was held on 8<sup>th</sup> February at the Landmark in Burnley to outline the support available to Burnley businesses. UCLan hosted the event and showcased the Innovation Project that they are delivering under UKSPF on the 15<sup>th</sup> April. 32 Burnley businesses were supported in the quarter to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 23 of which 4 were new start businesses and 1 was a pre-start.

SELNET delivered their final workshop on financials as part of the suite of three workshops for pre- and new-start businesses.

17 businesses are currently engaged in discussions to receive support via the Manufacturing Technology Programme – discussions are on subjects such as new product development, research & development, product testing and 3D printing.

Through the Manufacturing Technology Programme, RTC North have been actively engaging with businesses in the Borough. As well as receiving consultancy support, 6 companies that have also been invited to apply for funding to implement improvements identified. One application is now at offer letter stage with a view to the programme's first grant being paid in Spring this year.

## **Burnley Brand and Burnley Bondholders**

Since last full council there have been 25 pieces of positive news on Burnley.co.uk.

The Burnley Business Awards 2024 entries closed on 28<sup>th</sup> March after opening in January. Our sponsors and expert judges have already shortlisted businesses to be invited to a final round of interviews in early May.

The Burnley Brand team have been assisting Netflix via the Film in Burnley service for the filming of Bank of Dave: The Sequel. They also granted permits for BBC Morning Live to film about geocaching at Towneley Park.

	<p>On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 3,500 copies of Burnley Lifestyle Magazine were printed and distributed began to deliver these across the country.</p> <p>On February 6<sup>th</sup>, Burnley Bondholders attended a COFFEE + COLLAB at Calico to learn about diversity in recruitment.</p> <p>On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Burnley Bondholders had a site tour of boohoo, where they learnt about automation and the expansion of the brands within the group.</p> <p>On March 15<sup>th</sup>, burnley.social held an under30s bondholder event with two former candidates of BBC The Apprentice to discuss goal setting and future career planning.</p> <p>On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Future Leaders cohort 1 graduated from their 12-month programme and enjoyed a celebration event for line managers and the Burnley Focus Group.</p> <p>On March 26<sup>th</sup>, Burnley Bondholders attended a COFFEE + COLLAB with Burnley's secondary schools and some pupils to hear how they could support schools by with showing the young people the amazing careers they could have here. Likewise, businesses fed back to schools the skills they believe to be missing in some young people so these can be addressed in school.</p>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Milestone and Progress update</b>
<p><b>PR3-</b> We will deliver the Town Centre and Canalside Masterplan, and strategic projects in Padiham Town Centre.</p>	<p><b>Burnley Town Centre</b></p> <p><b>Burnley Market</b></p> <p>We continue to offer incentive rents for new businesses selling new products to the market.</p> <p>The first Record Fair of the year took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. This is a really popular event with footfall reaching the highest level on a Saturday since the start of the year with over 4000 visits, an 11% increase on a normal Saturday. The next Record Fair is 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024.</p> <p>On the 9<sup>th</sup> March we held the first of our 2 Young Trader Markets in the Market Hall. The Young Trader Market is a National Campaign to encourage young people between 16 and 30 to try their hand at market trading and encourage entrepreneurship. The winners of the heats go through to the Regional Final in Bolton and if successful there, go through to the National Final in Stratford Upon Avon later in the year.</p> <p>Councillors Anwar and Cunliffe, Laura Diffey BID Manager and Jill Nolan from Growth Lancs judged the competition. Having spoken in depth with the traders they chose The Selfish Spirit</p>



Company as the winner and By Odin's Beard Products as highly recommended.

The footfall increased to 3889 on this Saturday surpassing all other Saturdays except for the Record Fair.

The reach from 7 Facebook posts was 13976 with post engagement reaching 867.

The second of the events takes place on the 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Utilisation remains steady at 60% with 8 traders renewing leases since January 2024.

### **Pioneer Place**

The cinema and restaurants at Pioneer Place are trading well. Terms have been agreed with a tenant for Unit 5.

### **Manchester Road**

Work continues on-site to redevelop the former cinema at Manchester Road. The junction work to improve accessibility is on programme. Work to strip out the building for redevelopment is progressing well.

### **UCLan Campus Expansion**

Redevelopment works to former Newtown Mill continue and are making good progress against the current programme. Works to external areas have also commenced at Canal St and Queen's Lancashire Way.

### **Charter Walk**

The former Wilco unit has now been occupied by One Beyond. Ramsdens Jewelers has opened on the Mall, and Specsavers has expanded to occupy a unit adjoining their existing premises.

Contractors have started work facelifting the Bankfield elevation. This includes repairs to and re-render of the concrete facades, cleaning and re-pointing brick work, replacement window openings, re-painting of louvered panels and new signage.

The Centre Management continue to provide a range of events and activities to attract visitors to the town centre. In February the team introduced our quarterly customer survey about the Centre and its facilities. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive reflecting our commitment to enhancing the customer experience and will be integral to our strategy for the Centre going forward. During February we launched our Charity of the Year Team Rise. Team Rise are a Charity that provides a safe and accessible environment to people with learning disabilities and those with autism.

Footfall for the quarter ending March 2024 was up 1.2% on the same quarter in the previous year. Despite the poor weather tenants reported good trading during January and February.

### **Town 2 Turf**

Works continue to make progress on site, focused on the Yorkshire St junction section. A temporary signalised arrangement is in place and diversion to Croft St. Preparations are being made for the decommissioning of the pedestrian subway. Works on current on track to complete in Summer 2024.

### **Lower St James Street Heritage Action Zone**

The High Street Heritage Action Zone project with Historic England was completed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

123-125 the Scheme Exemplar is almost fully refurbished. Creative Spaces Burnley, the building operator, will now complete internal fit out.

The Council was successful in February 2024 with an additional £112,107 of extra funding from Historic England. The extra funding was awarded for works to 123-125 St James Street for two new shopfront's, gold leaf gilding to the front curtain walling and the restoration of internal parquet flooring.

A ribbon cutting event took place on 1 March 2024, inviting Historic England, Burnley MP, Council members, property owners, contractors and agents to celebrate the success and the opening of 156/158/160 St James's Street.

Special shoes workshops took place throughout February, people donated shoes to the exhibition with the memories they held. A preview exhibition event took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> March as part of the ribbon cutting event. The Special Shoe exhibition is free to enter and is open every weekend until 21<sup>st</sup> April at 160 St James Street.

Mosaic Workshops took place on 25/26 March. The HSHAZ has upskilled over 100 people in learning new heritage skills.

Footfall in the quarter of January – March is up 63% compared to the same quarter in 2023.

### **Business Improvement District**

#### **Padiham Town Centre**

Town centre footfall analysis for February 2024, shows a 10.38% increase in footfall compared to the previous year.

During the Easter school half term week, an Easter Egg trail colouring competition has been supported throughout 12

Padiham High Street shops and invitations have been shared with local primary schools and over 2,000 students.

In recent weeks, 19 businesses have benefitted through a professional photoshoot and publicity on Padiham Town Centre social media platforms, increasing awareness and helping to build business profiles. Successfully reaching a significant audience total of 61,018 -

<https://www.facebook.com/padihamtowncentre>

Burnley Council continues to support Padiham businesses through the #ShopLocal initiative. 20 traders have introduced a new late-night opening scheme along the high street taking place every Thursday 4-7pm in a bid to boost sales, attract more people into the town centre and help to support the night time economy. Alongside a Loyalty Card incentive where customers can enter a free monthly prize draw to win vouchers and giveaways.

### **Padiham Townscape Heritage Initiative**

Works continue at 12-14 Burnley Rd (currently vacant) which includes a comprehensive scheme of external repair and restoration. This is final building project being supported through the Townscape Heritage Fund. The overall programme is due to complete end of June 2024 and a project evaluation is underway.

### **Padiham Flood Management Scheme**

The Environment Agency have been undertaking pre-construction investigations and surveys to the Bendwood Close area and construction of a new flood defence wall to this section is underway. More information on progress and planned works is available at the Flood Hub. [Padiham Flood Risk Management Scheme: Upcoming and Completed Works | The Flood Hub](#)

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Milestone and Progress update</b>
<b>PR4-</b> We will implement the Local Plan, delivering new housing, employment sites, and infrastructure.	<b>The Allocated Housing Sites:</b> <b>Sites Under Construction:</b> Site HS1/1 Former Hambleton School site (Valour Park, McDermott Homes and Site HS1/3 Former Blythe's Site (Canal Walk, Gleeson) are both nearing completion 2 and 3 plots remaining respectively). Site HS1/8 Red Lees Road (The Calders, Miller Homes) has 86% reserved or sold, including the 5 on-site affordable homes (discounted sales). At Site HS1/4 Rossendale Road (Barratt Homes - Brun Lea Heights) 18 properties are 'sold' – including all of the detached homes

offered for sale. Marketing is now underway at site HS1/30 Land West of Smithyfield Avenue, Brownside for 38 age-restricted specialist bungalows (FUL/2021/0274) (Applethwaite Homes) with 4 properties now reserved.

Construction is now underway at site HS1/9 Higher Saxifield and plans have been received to amend the layout and design of the approved scheme for the erection of 130 homes (McDermott Homes VAR/2024/0115). Marketing has not yet begun.

**Applications and Approvals:**

An application has been received for land at Oswald Street, Burnley for the rection of 105 dwellings (FUL/2023/0437) The application site includes part of the allocated site HS1/24 Land at Oswald Street but is much larger and includes the Biological Heritage Site to the north. Full Planning permission was previously granted on the allocated site for 8 dwellings on 24 May 2019 (APP/2019/0069).

A revised application for the erection of 35 bungalows for persons aged over 55 (FUL/2024/0040) has been submitted for Site HS1/22 Former Dexter Paints, Gannow Lane. A previous scheme for 36 age-restricted build-to-rent bungalows has was approved 12 June 2023 (FUL/2022/0136).

**Article 4 Direction – Housing in Multiple Occupation**

At its meeting in April the Executive gave approval to confirm the Article 4 Direction which will remove the permitted development rights for the change of use from Use Class C3 (dwellinghouses) to Use Class C4 (Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) in the nine wards of the Borough. The Direction will become effective on 14 October 2024 after which applications for small HMO's will require planning permission

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PR6-</b> We will work with partners to ensure that residents are able and ready to participate in the workforce.</p>	<p><b>Burnley Employment &amp; Skills Group (BSEG)</b></p> <p>Downtown is being well used by the partners providing employability support – they feel they are getting far better engagement levels in this environment. The DWP held a jobs fair on 31<sup>st</sup> January which was well attended by members of the public.</p>

### **Thrive Youth Hub**

A specific event organised by L.C.C was attended by Thrive partners at the beginning of March – the event was for young people at risk of NEET and was to outline local support available and local job opportunities such as apprenticeships.

Burnley College are holding bespoke ESOL classes at E-Habits and Calico which are being well attended.

### **High Schools**

A careers event, the first one in 10 years has now been confirmed for 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024. All Burnley High Schools are taking part and over 1,000 school children will attend. 43 Burnley employers, 6<sup>th</sup> form & university providers have been booked.

### **UK Shared Prosperity Fund – People & Skills Theme**

As previously reported the nature of this client group means that the journey to a successful outcome will be longer than those that are closer to the labour market. Therefore, the majority of the outcomes are weighted to Year 3 (March 24 – April 25). Over 100 economically inactive people are currently engaged with and receiving support in their journey.

### **WorkWell Partnership**

Burnley has been identified as a proposed pilot area for a new WorkWell Partnership Vanguard. The Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB has made a submission to deliver this programme. The Partnership's focus is on "stemming the flow" of economic inactivity - to prevent people with health conditions from becoming unemployed, whilst supporting newly unemployed people to re-engage with employment, ultimately to restrict the flow of people into economic inactivity. If successful this piece of work will be in partnership with our established partners in the borough including the Burnley Together network, Thrive and UKSPF projects. A decision is due towards the end of April 2024.

### **PL5- We will implement our Climate Change Strategy**

The 'Road Map to Net Zero' report is now complete and was approved by the Executive in March. This document outlines potential costs and timeframes for each main area of climate action, between now and 2050. This is an ongoing piece of work and information is still being gathered for some of the long-term actions. The document will be monitored and updated as needed and will also help to identify if an earlier net zero target can be achieved for the Council, or if 2050 remains the most feasible target. This document allows

priorities and timescales to be determined to help achieve the Council's climate change actions and targets.

The Council has achieved the Silver award from the Carbon Literacy Project. This was achieved by rolling out internal training and makes us only the fifth council in the UK, and the first in Lancashire, to achieve the Silver Award.

The Council has launched its climate action website to coincide with Global Recycling Day (18th March). The 'Our Journey to Net Zero' website highlights the actions the council has taken to reduce its carbon footprint since it announced a Climate Emergency in 2019. It gives advice to residents on how they can save money and help to protect the environment, as well as providing links to reports and information about the climate action work the Council is doing. The main aim of the website is to engage with residents about simple changes they can make, act as an easy source of information and guidance, and 'bring residents along on the journey' to net zero.

# COUNCILLOR JACK LAUNER, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH, CULTURE & WELLBEING

## Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Milestone and Progress update
<p><b>PL4- We will implement our 2015-25 Green Space Strategy.</b></p>	<p><b>Towneley Hall</b></p> <p>Work on the repairs to the hall are progressing well. The exterior of the west wing is 100% complete, the re-roofing of the south wing is 70% complete and scaffolding for the north wing is due to be erected in late April. Overall, the contract is expected to complete at the end of February 2025 which is 8 weeks later than originally planned.</p> <p>Because of the extent of work taking place affecting most of the rooms within the Hall, a decision has been taken to close the Hall completely from Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 with a phased reopening from February 2025 to enable the building repair programme to efficiently progress to completion. The toilets and shop and craft museum will remain open and a programme of other events together with volunteer training and development activities will continue.</p> <p>The new part-time Volunteer Coordinator, funded by a £40K grant from the Art Fund has taken up a part-time role providing training and support to the team of volunteers help to operate Towneley.</p> <p>An expression of interest has been submitted to the Heritage Fund for work to improve disabled access to the great hall and regency rooms, encourage a more diverse audience and improve the presentation and interpretation of the building and collections.</p> <p><b>Multi-Use Games Areas</b></p> <p>The Council provides 24 multi-use games areas across the borough and has approved funding towards the cost of a 5-year programme of improvements. During this financial year work will be undertaken at Barden Gardens, Every Street, Abel St, Park Rd (Padiham) and Underley St and will include (where necessary) resurfacing courts and relining, replacement of lighting with LEDs and repairs to fencing.</p>
	<p><b>Thompson Park Changing Places Toilet</b></p> <p>I'm pleased to report that the new Changing Places Toilet (CPT) in Thompson Park was opened in time for Easter. Located on the car park, the toilet provides accessible facilities for more profoundly disabled visitors with powered hoist, shower and space for multiple carers. The CPT compliments other the other inclusive facilities in the Park including the miniature railway, play area, cafe and gardens and demonstrates the Council's</p>



commitment to ensuring that everyone can enjoy Burnley's recreational facilities.

### **Play Strategy**

The proposed relocation of equipment from Baker St play area has been deferred to allow further consultation on the improvements to Picadilly Gardens play area. This has also delayed the relocation of the equipment from Barden Lane play area to a new play area on Disraeli St Park because the railings from Baker St were due to be re-used at Disraeli St. Schemes in this year's programme of play area improvements include Burnley Rd (Briercliffe), Underley St and consultation on improvements to Barden Gardens will be undertaken in preparation for implementing a scheme in 2025.

### **Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy**

Funding of approximately £48,000 has been offered by the English Cricket Board for the installation of four artificial grass wickets in Towneley Park. These allow cricketers to enjoy playing on a more consistent playing surface, with fewer games cancelled due to inclement weather and the time that staff spend preparing wickets for games will be significantly reduced. It is hoped that the new wickets will be available for play mid-summer.

### **Towneley Park Masterplan**

The Towneley Masterplan has been completed and will be reported through Scrutiny Committee.

### **Off-road Motorcycle Nuisance**

The Police's Designing Out Crime Officer has submitted a report with recommendations on how to manage issues with off-road motorbikes in South-west Burnley, Brun Valley Forest Park and Padiham Greenway. The report's recommendations will be worked into a costed action plan that can be implemented over the coming years.

### **Allotment Review**

Progress has been made over the winter period clearing allotments and splitting into smaller plots where suitable. The new temporary part-time post of Allotment Inspector is currently being advertised and, once in post, will help to improve the management of allotment sites. Work will be underway during the summer to identify potential new allotment sites to help meet demand.

### **Climate Action Fund – Outdoor Town**

	<p>With help from hundreds of Beat the Street and Trees for Burnley volunteers and school children, 7,500 woodland trees have been planted on <a href="#">15 sites across Burnley</a> over the winter. During the summer months the project is focussing on meadow management and supporting voluntary green activities with park friends' groups.</p> <p><b>Urban Tree Challenge Fund.</b></p> <p>With support from a Forestry Commission grant, 50 specimen trees have been planted with community involvement at 5 sites, with a further 50 trees planned for this later year.</p>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Milestone and Progress update</b>
<p><b>PE2-</b> We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer in partnership with Burnley Leisure.</p>	<p><b>Cultural Framework</b></p> <p>The Cultural Framework <a href="#">‘Our Culture, Our People’</a> was formally launched in March and provides the vision to create a high quality, people and place focused, cultural offer which drives social and economic development. The development phase will culminate in a large scale festival programme in 2027 which will showcase Burnley and its cultural offer, bringing sectors, organisations and communities together from across the towns and villages of the borough, building from our past, to create exciting new futures.</p> <p>Click this link to watch the video:  <a href="https://vimeopro.com/creativetalent/blc-a-year-of-culture-2027">https://vimeopro.com/creativetalent/blc-a-year-of-culture-2027</a></p> <p><b>Strategic Review of Leisure</b></p> <p>The Council and BLC have commissioned Strategic Leisure Ltd to prepare a Built Facilities Strategy (BFS) which will cover all of the leisure assets owned by the Council and operated by BLC. The BFS will provide robust evidence to inform strategic decisions on future provision and investment and help the Council to secure funding. The review is expected to complete in late 2024. At the same time, a more detailed feasibility study of Padiham Leisure Centre will consider options for future refurbishment or replacement and will include public consultation.</p> <p>Alliance Leisure will also complete a feasibility study for works at the Mechanics.</p> <p>The report for both these facilities will outline the capital investment required to deliver each project and a detailed business plan.</p>

	<p><b>Padiham Leisure Centre</b></p> <p>The new gym equipment has been installed (for which there has been excellent feedback) and the new Changing Places Toilet is now open</p> <p><b>St Peter's Centre</b></p> <p>Refurbishment of the changing areas is complete and the gym is currently closed for refurbishment and the installation of the new gym equipment. It is expected to re-open at the end of April.</p> <p>Gym membership currently stands at a record 5,728 whilst the number registered with the swim academy has increased to 1,100.</p>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Milestone and Progress update</b>
<p><b>PE4-</b> 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 government has announced that it will provide additional Household Support Funding to be spent by September. The funding is allocated via Lancashire County Council to districts. A report will be considered on the Burnley scheme at the June Executive.</p> <p>Officers recently attended the East Lancashire Transfer of Care Hub to explore how hospital discharges and community support can be improved to stop “bed blocking.” The council has a role in helping the patient return to a home that is safe, appropriate for their needs and that they have access to community care and support.</p>