



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

19th December 2018

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COUNCILLOR MARK TOWNSEND, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PE1- We will work with partners to make the borough a place of aspiration, including supporting efforts to increase education attainment and skills development, and improve residents' health.</p>	<p>A further 4 schools have signed up to the Children's University, now totalling half of the Burnley primary schools. There remains an upwards trend in children engaging in extracurricular learning in the 70 learning destinations in and around Burnley. Pop-up events, such as the Chinese activity day and Spooky Science Halloween event, all give additional learning opportunities to Burnley's children. This is an excellent response as we move in to year 2 of the programme.</p> <p>Lancashire Adult Learning is continuing to work with us in Burnley. With our support they are working with more schools supporting more children and their parents/carers in family learning. We are in discussions with LAL to work further together to engage more learners in the areas of digital inclusion, social isolation and elderly people's health.</p> <p>In partnership with UCLan, we are submitting a bid to NESTA 'future ready' fund for an early intervention to provide opportunities for young people to develop wider softer skills such as motivation, problem solving and goal orientation.</p> <p>I have been informed by the Board of Burnley FC in the Community that they have recruited the new youth mental health workers that will work in our secondary school. The Council is helping to fund these posts. Improving youth mental health is an issue of national importance, so I am delighted that the Council and our local partners are taking the initiative.</p> <p>Construction of The Heights Burnley is underway. The school will be opening in 2019 as an Alternative Provision (AP) Free School for pupils aged five to sixteen. The school will provide high quality vocational education in addition to core subjects for pupils who have found it difficult to achieve in their mainstream setting. Preparation for the world of work will form a key element of the curriculum.</p>
Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PR1- We will contribute to the strategic direction of local, sub-regional and</p>	<p>Along with the Leaders of Lancashire County Council, Blackburn and Blackpool, I recently met with the Northern Powerhouse Minister regarding our ambitions for Lancashire.</p>

regional partnerships, and will position the borough for economic development investment.

The meeting was positive and constructive and provided some clear and positive steers.

We will continue to progress the ongoing pan-Lancashire collaborative working and be ready to respond to the Government's new devolution framework, which is due to be published shortly.

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is currently restructuring as part of its review to implement the requirements of the Government's LEP review. The Chair, Edwin Booth, will shortly be standing down and the appointment of a new Chair will commence in the New Year.

COUNCILLOR JOHN HARBOUR, DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND LEISURE

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PL2- We will improve the management of private rented accommodation.</p>	<p>Private Rented Disrepair</p> <p>Since the start of April 2018, the Council has received and dealt with 98 new disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants and carried out 178 pro-active inspections across the selective licensing areas, the Daneshouse Ward and for the Landlord Accreditation Scheme.</p> <p>The Enforcement Team has a current caseload of 226 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair cases. Most of these cases are dealt with informally and resolved promptly. In cases of serious non-compliance, formal enforcement action will be taken to ensure that tenants in the Borough live in decent homes, free from disrepair.</p> <p>Selective Licensing: Trinity, Queensgate & Gannow</p> <p>The Selective Licensing Team has processed over 2200 applications, for properties in these three areas that require a licence. Of the completed applications received, 91% are now licensed.</p> <p>In addition, 5 civil penalties have been served on landlords that have failed to apply for a licence.</p> <p>Consultation has now ended for the re-designation of these three areas and the proposal to include Daneshouse in a selective licensing designation. The Council has carried out extensive consultation including residents and landlords across all the areas. It is anticipated that the results will be included in a report to the Executive in February.</p> <p>Selective Licensing: Burnley Wood with Healey Wood, Leyland Road area and Ingham & Lawrence Street area</p> <p>The Selective Licensing Team has processed over 1100 applications to date for properties in these three areas that require a licence. Of the completed applications received, 91% are now licensed. The Team continues to work to secure applications for the properties that are not yet</p>

	<p>licensed along with preparing Civil Penalty Notices for non-compliance.</p> <p>In total 59 properties have been refused a licence. Of these, there are currently 29 subject to an appeal at the Tribunal.</p>
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Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PL3- We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock.</p>	<p>New Housing Development</p> <p>Interest in Burnley's housing market remains strong with work now underway to build 250 homes on the former school site off Kiddrow Lane. Now that Calico Homes have almost completed their development of 56 houses at Perseverance Mill they have secured planning permission and will shortly be on site at Station Road in Padiham with an initial scheme of 20 homes for sale and one rented bungalow. This development will begin the process of completing a quality residential scheme that will introduce much needed new housing close to Padiham Town Centre.</p> <p>Empty Homes Programme</p> <p>Work on the programme is progressing well. So far this year we have acquired 7 properties with 4 others purchases underway. Renovation works have been completed on 6 properties and 3 properties have been sold.</p> <p>A report to November's Executive Committee approved several more Compulsory Purchase Orders and these are being progressed.</p> <p>From its peak in 2010 we have seen a 30% reduction in empty homes from 3,226 to 2,267. With the appointment this year of a dedicated empty homes officer we are applying more resources to work with the owners of empty properties and use the powers we have under legislation to tackle the problem of empty homes across the Town.</p> <p>Grants & Assistance</p> <p>The Disabled Facilities Grant Programme is progressing well with 149 adaptations completed and a further 69 in progress. A total of 18 Emergency Works grants have been approved to eliminate serious disrepair in residential properties. The Heating Rebate Scheme is available to eligible households and 86 grants have been awarded this year to install new, efficient boilers/central heating</p>

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Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PL4- We will implement our 2015-25 Green Space Strategy.</p>	<p>I am pleased to report that works to improve Hargrove Park in Padiham have been progressing, with the construction of more than 240 metres of new footpaths.</p> <p>Schemes for construction of new footpath links from Bedford Park to the Padiham Greenway and for path improvements in Calder Park are also currently being developed. Creating and maintaining a good network of paths is key to encouraging more walking, running and cycling and this links with the aims of the new Together and Active Burnley Strategy which is covered in section PE2 of this report.</p> <p>Work on the refurbishment of Faraday Street play area at Whittlefield has also started on site and is expected to be complete in the new year. This scheme has been funded by a grant from Gannow Big Local together with funding from the Council's Play Area improvement scheme.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PE2- We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer of Burnley in partnership with Burnley Leisure.</p>	<p>Together and Active Burnley</p> <p>The Executive has adopted a new physical activity and sport strategy which is called "Together an Active Burnley".</p> <p>The Strategy identifies that physical inactivity is a major cause of ill health and early death and that in Burnley, 68% of adults are overweight or obese and rates are also rising rapidly amongst children. Tackling this problem is becoming the top priority for the health of the UK.</p> <p>The good news is that nearly 60% of residents do want to do more physical activity and sport and the vision for the Strategy is that: "Burnley will be a place where the choice to be active is easy, attractive and enjoyable".</p> <p>The new Strategy provides a framework for the partners in the Health and Wellbeing Partnership to work together over the next 5 years to encourage and enable Burnley's residents to become more active and healthier.</p> <p>The strategies actions will be further developed by</p>

	<p>individual partners and the overall action plan will be coordinated by the Burnley Activity and Wellbeing Partnership.</p>
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COUNCILLOR SUE GRAHAM, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PF1- We will embed the partnership with Liberata within the Council's budget, strategic vision and commercial strategy.</p>	<p>The latest available contract performance data is from Q2. Telephone responsiveness in the contact centre was back on target, and targets for benefit processing, revenue collection, IT performance, environmental health service delivery, facilities management and payroll processing, were all 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>The third quarter saw the approval by Full Council of a further £0.877m worth of savings to assist in balancing future-years' budgets. This leaves a provisional £127k to find to balance the 2019/20 budget – proposals will be brought to Full Council in February 2019. Savings proposals involve difficult choices, and wherever possible there has been a need to try to minimise the impact on services and on staff in reaching the budget savings targets.</p> <p>Government will publish provisional 2019/20 budget settlement details in December 2018, which will form the basis of the budget reports in February 2019. The settlement may also give an indication of the Governments plan on its Fair Funding and Business Rates Review processes, which will impact on future years' funding. Government is also expected to announce in December whether Lancashire's 75% business rates pilot application has been successful, of which Burnley is constituent applicant.</p> <p>A key focus for the Finance team this quarter has been to support the business cases of the two major projects that are elsewhere on his agenda, namely the Pioneer Place Scheme and the On the Banks–Sandygate Square development. These projects represent transformational opportunities for the borough and Finance has undertaken a key support role in developing the business cases for these schemes.</p> <p>Work is on-going with regard to the Financial Transformation Project. We are investing in systems to deliver long-term efficiency gains in accountancy support and to increase the Council's financial management capabilities.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PF4- We will deliver our Organisational Development strategy, ensuring we plan for the structures and capabilities the organisation needs, and empowering our workforce to deliver the objectives of the Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>In October the Council received confirmation that it had successfully retained its Gold Investors in People accreditation and liP Health and Wellbeing Award – both of which are externally assessed national awards that measure the way we develop and manage our workforce.</p> <p>The Council has agreed with the trade unions the process for migrating employees onto the new national pay spine which comes into effect in April 2019.</p>

COUNCILLOR LIAN PATE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PL1- We will implement a range of initiatives to maintain a clean, safe borough.</p>	<p>As lead Member for Health, I was delighted to be present at the opening of a new fully accessible toilet facility in St. Peter's Centre last month. At the opening we welcomed Zack Kerr, who has campaigned for greater access for disabled people. I would like to thank Zack for his work in raising awareness of the importance of facilities like this.</p> <p>Year 2 garden waste subscriptions have gone extremely well during 2018 with over 9,500 bins registered for the scheme. Garden waste collections have now ceased for the winter break and will resume in early March 2019. Preparations are also ongoing for the delivery of a Year 3 garden waste scheme for 2019/20.</p> <p>In the run-up to the festive break, the Council will promote targeted community safety messages with the aim of offering supportive communications to ensure a safe festive season is enjoyed by our residents and visitors. A key focus this year will also be to raise awareness of the vulnerable within our communities and the local support that is available.</p> <p>The Council is proud of its continued work to support the White Ribbon Campaign. During December, work will be undertaken in partnership with other agencies to raise awareness of the White Ribbon Campaign.</p>

	<p>Key agencies of the Community Safety Partnership will deliver a campaign aimed at raising awareness of the risks of proxy sales of alcohol. The campaign will work positively with licensed premises across the town as well as providing publicity and communications advising people not to buy alcohol for under 18's.</p> <p>10 alleygating schemes across the borough will be completed by the end of March in 2018/19 and will provide additional security to 246 properties in the Borough.</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 are able to deliver services more efficiently</p>	<p>The council is currently implementing a new IT system in planning, land charges and housing. The project replaces outdated systems, and is expected to complete in April. The project will reduce the number of systems used and will help to drive efficiency in the back office. The new system will also result in a better customer service experience, as customers will be able to transact with us online more easily.</p>

Remembrance Sunday: As chairperson of the Armed Forces Covenant, I would like to thank the Royal British Legion, and all other partners, for making our remembrance commemorations a success.

COUNCILLOR ASIF RAJA, 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>The Business Team are currently working with 19 companies who are looking to relocate into the Borough and 30 existing businesses with expansion plans.</p> <p>Following assistance from the Business Support Team, Veka have now completed their acquisition of additional premises at Rossendale road for warehousing & office space creating an additional 25-30 jobs.</p> <p>In partnership with Burnley Bondholders the Council held an Invest in Burnley event entitled "Burnley - 10 years of Growth". Held in Manchester, 160 key decision makers and property industry influencers attended the event to hear about Burnley's growth story and commercial and housing development opportunities.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PR3- We will make the borough attractive to retail and leisure developers, and will identify a sustainable future for the Burnley Market.</p>	<p>Last month the Executive approved a Town Centre and Canalside masterplan. This sets out the Council's vision for the Town Centre for the next 20 years, identifying ambitious development and public realm projects that will bring new leisure, business and residential uses to the town centre as well as accommodating the future growth of UCLAN, together with residential uses alongside the Canal.</p> <p>The market team has continued to make improvements to the market hall with the opening of a new eating area in October which has had a positive impact on footfall and sales in the hot food businesses. 2 units have been refurbished to accommodate hot food businesses and work is underway on a third one ready for occupation early in the new year.</p> <p>Burnley Literary Festival took place over 4 days at the end of September and included 66 events across 20 Burnley town centre venues, plus 3 venues in Padiham town centre. Over 2,200 people attended the Festival, which is double those who took part in 2017, and footfall was up in the town centre by over 5%. The Council was successful in securing over £14,500 Arts Council England funding to help make the event happen.</p> <p>Burnley's Christmas Party took place on Saturday 17 November to mark the start of the festive season and switch</p>

	<p>on Burnley town centre's Christmas Lights. Footfall was up in the town centre by 16% compared with the Saturday of the switch on weekend in 2017, and up by 30% compared with the previous Saturday. Hugely positive feedback has been received from businesses and visitors.</p>
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Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PR4- We will develop and deliver the Local Plan. This will act as the key supporting framework for encouraging future employment and investment in a range of housing stock.</p>	<p>Burnley's Local Plan was adopted by Full Council on 31st July 2018. Work is now underway on a number of supporting Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). The Executive will be considering a Shop Front and Advertisement SPD for consultation at its 11th December 2018 meeting.</p>