



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

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20th February 2019

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## COUNCILLOR MARK TOWNSEND, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PE1-</b> 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>As previously reported to Full Council, <i>Together an Active Future</i> is one of twelve national pilot areas chosen by Sport England to work on a bold new approach to help people to become more active and feel healthier and happier living and working in Pennine Lancashire. I am pleased to report that the programme is gearing up for delivery. It will focus on inactive people, those at risk of poor mental health and those affected by adverse life events. It is an opportunity to test new initiatives and learn from them, in the expectation that successful projects will be scaled up across the local area to lead to a shift in the health and wellbeing of the wider population. The Executive will report progress at future meetings.</p> <p>I acknowledge the scale of the challenge facing the County Council to reduce its budget deficit. We have, however, asked the County Council to deliver on a commitment to use its shrinking public health budget to support those areas most in need such as our Borough. At a time when policy makers at a local and national level agree that we must do more to prevent people getting ill, we will be asking the County Council to try, as far as possible, to protect services such as Up and Active in Burnley.</p> <p>We are currently working with Lancashire County Council to develop a Burnley, Pendle and Hyndburn Education Summit. The event will assess the current position, look at best practice and identify opportunities and partnerships that can deliver greater educational outcomes. The event is currently being planned to take place this Spring. I will update Members on progress after the Summit.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the bid to the NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) 'future ready' fund was unsuccessful, but we will continue to work in partnership with UCLan, to develop opportunities for young people to develop softer skills such as motivation, problem solving and goal orientation, which are critical to success in both school and the work place.</p> <p>With ongoing support from the Council, Primary Engineers is delivering a range of courses to primary teachers this year, including structures and mechanisms and coding for game</p>

	design. In addition, 4 of the secondary schools have signed up to the Secondary Engineers' bicycle club.
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<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.</p>	<p>Further to our meeting last year with the Northern Powerhouse Minister regarding our ambitions for Lancashire, we are still waiting for the Government's Devolution Framework, which we are told is due out imminently. We are still progressing pan-Lancashire collaborative working, and will be ready to respond to the new devolution framework when it is finally published.</p> <p>The governance review of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is progressing and the LEP is confident that it will meet the requirements of the Government's LEP review. David Taylor (Chair of UCLan) is currently acting as Interim Chair of the LEP until the new Chair is appointed.</p> <p>At the recent Pennine Lancashire Leaders (PLACE) meeting, Pennine Lancashire Authorities agreed to contribute £5000 each to match an offer of £30,000 funding support from the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), to develop a shared economic analysis of East Lancashire's productivity and growth prospects. This is a key piece of work and will be used to inform the Lancashire Local Industrial Strategy.</p>

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

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PL2-</b> We will improve the management of private rented accommodation.</p>	<p><b>Selective Licensing: Trinity, Queensgate &amp; Gannow</b></p> <p>The Trinity designation came to an end on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019. At its close, 98% of licensable properties had been licensed, representing a very high level of compliance with the scheme. The licensing team worked to ensure that all licensed properties had an appropriate standard of management in place and by working with landlords and agents only 17 properties were refused a licence during the designation. Appropriate action is being pursued for those non-compliant landlords.</p> <p>The Queensgate and Gannow designations will come to an end in July 2019; the focus for these areas is to take action against those landlords still failing to comply with the scheme. A total of seven civil penalties have been served for non-compliance, with one current ongoing prosecution relating to a further four properties. To date, 96% of licensable properties in Queensgate are currently licensed, and 97% in Gannow.</p> <p>Consultation has now ended for the re-designation of these three areas and the proposal to include Daneshouse and Stoneyholme in a selective licensing designation. The Council has carried out extensive consultation with residents, landlords and other stakeholders across all the areas. The results were reported to the Executive in February.</p> <p><b>Selective Licensing: Burnley Wood with Healey Wood, Leyland Road area and Ingham &amp; Lawrence Street area</b></p> <p>The Selective Licensing Team has processed over 1200 applications to date for properties in these three areas that require a licence. Of the completed applications received, 92% are now licensed. A high level of compliance has been achieved in the Ingham and Lawrence Street area, with only one outstanding application, and in the Leyland Road area, with just seven applications outstanding. The</p>

team continue to focus on achieving the same levels of compliance in the larger area of Burnley Wood with Healey Wood.

### **Private Rented Disrepair**

Since the start of April 2018, the Council has received and dealt with 143 new disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants and carried out 185 pro-active inspections relating to selective licensing areas, the Daneshouse Ward area and the Landlord Accreditation Scheme.

The Enforcement Team has a current caseload of 130 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair cases. The majority 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.

### **Empty Homes Programme**

Work on the programme is progressing well. So far this year we have acquired 8 properties with 5 further purchases underway. Renovation works have been completed on 6 properties so far this year, 3 properties have been sold and 3 are due to go up for sale very soon.

Officers are currently preparing a report for the Executive that will seek approval for more Compulsory Purchase Orders in 2019-20.

The Empty Homes Loan scheme has now seen more than £1 million loaned to owners of vacant properties with over 70 completed loans. The loans are an important strand of our empty homes programme, which allows the Council to assist landlords to bring their properties back into use. Accredited Landlords are offered a loan of up to £20,000 interest free to facilitate the renovation of an empty property. The properties must be in a selective licensing area and have been empty for a least six months.

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<b>PL3-</b> We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock.	Recent planning approvals are now being implemented at Manchester Road, Hapton (where Gleeson are reporting very strong interest and a high volume of sales) and at Kidrow Lane where McDermott are now on site. At these two locations we will see 450 family homes, improving the choice

	<p>of house types and locations for current and future residents of the borough.</p> <p>As the development of affordable rented housing is completed at the former perseverance mill site in Padiham, our partners Ringstones have wasted no time in securing planning permission for the land at Station Road and will be on site this summer building homes that will offer even more affordable routes into home ownership.</p>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PL4-</b> We will implement our 2015-25 Green Space Strategy.</p>	<p><b>Play Area Improvement Programme</b></p> <p>The scheme to refurbish Whittlefield Recreation Ground play area on Faraday St is nearing completion. The rubber safety surfacing under two items of equipment will be laid as soon as temperatures permit, and the paths are currently being re-surfaced by a local contractor.</p> <p>Work to refurbish Towneley riverside play area is in progress. The scheme includes provision of equipment for use by disabled children and the aim is to have the area substantially complete and open for Easter.</p> <p><b>Worsthorne Recreation Ground</b></p> <p>I am pleased to report that Fulleage Colts were successful in their application for funding from the Football Foundation for a scheme to provide changing accommodation and drainage for junior football pitches on Worsthorne Recreation Ground. This scheme will be progressed during 2019.</p>

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PE2-</b> We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer of Burnley in partnership with Burnley Leisure.</p>	<p><b>Mechanics</b></p> <p>The Mechanics held a very successful Christmas party season which was fully booked and already most of the dates for Christmas 2019 have been booked.</p> <p><b>St Peter's gym</b></p> <p>The newly refurbished gym at St Peter's Leisure Centre re-opened shortly before Christmas. It is proving to be very popular and has helped to push gym membership above 3,300 for the first time. Clearly, many of Burnley's residents are</p>

acting on their new year resolutions to become fitter and Burnley Leisure welcomes new members at both St Peter's and Padiham Leisure Centre.

### **Prairie Sports Village**

I am pleased to report that the funding application made by the Council to the Football Foundation for development of a new synthetic grass football pitch has been successful. The Football Foundation has awarded a grant of £423,000. The Council is very grateful for the support of the Football Foundation over many years and which has helped to develop the Prairie as a centre of excellence for football. Construction of the new synthetic pitch will take place during 2019.

## COUNCILLOR SUE GRAHAM, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PF1-</b> 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 Q3. All KPIs were on target.</p> <p>For contact centre telephone responsiveness, Liberata achieved the best result on record, with 88% of calls answered within the target time.</p> <p>Against a target of 7 days for processing of benefits, Liberata achieved 6 days.</p> <p>Liberata also achieved its targets for environmental health delivery, IT services, and payroll accuracy.</p>

Strategic commitment	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>Final revenue savings proposals totalling £133k are presented elsewhere on this agenda to enable a balanced revenue budget to be presented for 2019/20. These have involved 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. In total just over a £1m of savings have had to be found to plug the funding gap for 2019/20, with forward budget gaps also of a similar amount.</p> <p>December 2018 saw the Government publish the provisional 2019/20 budget settlement details, which form the basis of the budget reports in February 2019 detailed elsewhere on this agenda. The settlement saw the retention of the New Homes Bonus system for another year and confirmed that Lancashire's '75% Business Rates Pool' pilot application was successful. This represents a success for this authority, and its ability to work collaboratively with councils across the county. This will allow pool members to keep a bigger share of the business rates it collects and sets up the opportunity to start a strategic Lancashire-wide fund into which all pool members will contribute and benefit.</p> <p>The settlement also gave an indication of the Government's plan for its Fair Funding and Business Rates Review, which will impact on funding for future years. Although Burnley will not know the precise impact of this funding change until later in the calendar year, there are some concerns over the</p>

	<p>removal of deprivation factors in some calculations and the reliance on population growth as a key cost-driver. However, we await how this will affect Burnley's future funding.</p> <p>Work is on-going regarding 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>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PF4-</b> 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>Work has started on reviewing and updating the current Organisational Development Strategy which aims to guide the future developments, priorities and actions, including for our workforce, for the next two years. Suggestions from our recent successful Investors in People assessment (Gold) for further strengthening our people practices will also be incorporated.</p>

## **COUNCILLOR LIAN PATE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

### **Progress against our strategic commitments**

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PL1-</b> We will implement a range of initiatives to maintain a clean, safe borough.</p>	<p>Following the festive break, over 1,040 Christmas trees were collected from residents and, over the first two weeks of January, further increases in recycling volumes were experienced;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 136 tonnes of paper &amp; card were collected for recycling. This is the equivalent of 11 double decker buses</li> <li>• Over 216 tonnes of glass, plastic and cans were collected which equates to 18 double decker buses.</li> </ul> <p>The Year 3 Garden Waste scheme will commence shortly and further information for residents who wish to sign up to the</p>

	<p>scheme will be available from early March.</p> <p>The Council has been successful in securing £10,000 from Lancashire County Council to support the delivery of recycling and waste minimisation awareness within local primary schools. The work will be delivered by the Council later in the year.</p> <p>The Animal Welfare Regulations came into force at the end of 2018, replacing existing local authority powers for the licensing of animal welfare activities. The Licensing Team have successfully transferred all licenses on time, ensuring Council compliance and in accordance with legislative requirements for the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 completion date.</p> <p>The Council has secured £4,000 in funding via the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner to contribute to the delivery of the national 'County Lines' Project in local schools. The safeguarding project focuses on the vulnerabilities and risks posed to young people, via criminal exploitation and specifically the connection between criminality, drug activity and human trafficking. The funding will deliver content across all secondary schools in the borough, using film and group work.</p>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<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>To encourage residents to sign up for paperless council tax billing, for every 1000 households that switch, Liberata is going to donate £100 to Pendleside Hospice.</p>

## COUNCILLOR ASIF RAJA, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND GROWTH

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PR2-</b> 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 Growth Programme: A grant of £9,516 has recently been awarded to one company that has refurbished its premises and will be creating 8.5 jobs. Total expenditure for the project was £52,654</p> <p>Vision Park: In January three more units were taken in Block C by FloControl Ltd (existing tenant expanding), Gym Upholstery UK and Burnley College (providing warehousing and logistics training). The largest unit on the site (Units A-B, 5,500 Sq Ft) is currently under offer and at legal stage and once this is completed (estimated Feb 2019) the site will be at 80% occupancy.</p> <p>The recent bondholder event hosted by UCLan at Victoria Mill had a great turnout with over 120 guests. Businesses received an update from UCLan on their new premises and student numbers. The council's Chief Executive also provided an update on the key developments in the town.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PR3-</b> We will make the borough attractive to retail and leisure developers, and will identify a sustainable future for the Burnley Market.</p>	<p>Consultants, Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire &amp; Merseyside have recently been appointed to work on the development of a Business Improvement District for Burnley town centre. They have an estimated timetable of October/November for the ballot and with a view to establishing the BID in early 2020.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PR4-</b> 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>Following the adoption of Burnley's Local Plan in 2018 work is continuing on a number of supporting Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). A draft Shopfront and Advertisement Design SPD was issued for 6 weeks consultation on 1st February 2019.</p> <p>The planning application has been submitted for a student accommodation scheme on Sandygate, the completion of which will be key to the growth of UCLAN's student numbers.</p>