



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

16 December 2020

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## COUNCILLOR MARK TOWNSEND, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	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.</p>	<p>I have continued to push for a Lancashire wide approach for the Covid alert level tiers. My concern is that to split up the county creates unnecessary borders which may see people not following the rules and transferring the virus to other areas. It could also see areas yoyoing up and down the different tiers which will add unnecessary complications and confusion.</p> <p>Lancashire Leaders have all written to the Government outlining their concerns that commitments made when Lancashire agreed to move to level three in advance of the national lockdown.</p> <p>There has been no further progress on devolution.</p> <p>There has been no response to LCC's request for 3 unitary Councils proposal. Lancashire was not included in the Government's first tranche of areas asked to submit proposals by the Secretary of State and finally the Government's Devolution White Paper has been delayed yet again.</p> <p>There is no consensus in Lancashire and no progress in getting Leaders discussions going again.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PE1a-</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>I am aware that the Secondary School Heads in Burnley have concerns about next year's exams because their pupils have had significant disruption to their school year. They are also concerned about the resumption of Ofsted inspections in 2021 which adds significant additional pressure whilst they are still dealing with the challenges Covid brings to their schools.</p> <p>They are unclear how the adjustments recently announced by the Government will address the huge inequalities from the differing levels of impact of coronavirus across the country. If all students nationally get all the adjustments suggested they are unclear as to how it will address the very real actual impact of coronavirus here in Burnley and the North West. I understand they feel that a plan needs to be formulated that makes allowances for the variability of disruptions and makes adjustments that work at a subject and qualification level.</p>

**ESOL (English as a second language) for pre-entry/entry level.**

Whilst Covid 19 continues to cause problems with recruitment and many potential learners are reluctant we are moving forward. This difficulty in recruiting is the same across the country. 19 potential learners, to date, have expressed an initial interest registering for the course, with 10 going for assessment.

We are pleased that we are now delivering our first face to face classes with 6 learners and 2 volunteers to support. A second class is planned to commence early in the New Year. Recruiting more learners continues to be the focus.

**Mental Health Support Teams in schools**

All Burnley schools are now signed up to the project and all 16 mental health practitioners have been appointed.

Discussions are taking place with schools to consider bases for the teams. The next stage is to agree school clusters and the provision already on offer within these settings and how the additional mental health teams will link in with and enhance these services.

**COUNCILLOR LIAN PATE, DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**Progress against our strategic commitments**

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<b>PE1b-</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	<b>Covid-19 Testing</b> There is sufficient testing capacity within Burnley for residents displaying symptoms. There are currently discussions taking place regionally led by the Director of Public Health at Lancashire County Council regarding mass testing that would extend the provision to asymptomatic residents.

<p>improve residents' health.</p>	<p><b>Vaccinations</b> Council staff are supporting NHS colleagues on the delivery of this operation. Progress in this area is moving very quickly and officers are working closely with NHS colleagues to ensure that the appropriate provision is available once the vaccine is available for Burnley residents.</p> <p><b>Burnley Together</b> The Hub is continuing to reach out to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable residents (CEVs) to make sure that those who are isolating are supported with essential supplies. By the end of the national lockdown, 2,500 had been contacted by phone or text and 179 had been provided with basic support. In addition, the Hub has been handling around 200 contacts per week from socially vulnerable residents, with around 100 households receiving a weekly food parcel.</p>
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Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PL4-</b> We will implement our 2015-25 Green Space Strategy.</p>	<p><b>Parks &amp; Green Spaces</b> The November lockdown restricted outdoor sports and these restrictions continue under Tier 3, with the exception of the 18-hole golf course which re-opened from 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Parks remain very busy, despite the onset of winter weather and children's play areas and park toilets are open. Over the Christmas period parks are expected to be busier than usual and the Council will ensure that park toilets are open as much as possible over the holiday period and staff will be on duty to undertake litter removal and emptying bins. The Park Ranger service, which works 365 days per year, will be on duty as normal ensuring that facilities are open and incidents are dealt with.</p> <p><b>Worsthorne Recreation Ground</b> Work to install the car park &amp; ball games area is ongoing and in January the Fulledge Colts Football Club will progress installation of the club house. It is hoped that the new pitch will be ready to play a few junior matches before the end of the football season.</p> <p><b>Bereavement Services</b></p>

Arrangements are being made to ensure that the Council can maintain burial and cremation services throughout the Christmas period, given the higher demand that the current wave of CoVid has created. A burial service will be available every day except Christmas day and Boxing day and the crematorium is able to operate extended days and hours to ensure that funerals can take place without any additional delay.

**Towneley Hall**

The Hall shop has re-opened following the relaxation of the November lockdown restrictions. However, under tier 3, museums must remain closed. Hall staff are working on next year's exhibition programme and I'm pleased to report that there will be a major exhibition of paintings by the artist Evelyn De Morgan from spring through to October, which has been funded by the Cultural Recovery Fund grant and a new outdoor/indoor exhibition of local wildlife photographs taken during CoVid.

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PE2-</b> We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer in partnership with Burnley Leisure.</p>	<p>Burnley Leisure's facilities have remained fully closed during the recent lockdown with all staff furloughed.</p> <p>The gyms and swimming pools at Padiham and St Peter's centre were permitted to re-open under the tier 3 restrictions from 2<sup>nd</sup> December and the 18-hole golf course and Prairie driving range have also re-opened. Exercise classes are not currently permitted.</p>

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

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<b>PL5-</b> We will prepare and deliver a new Climate Emergency Strategy.	Council officers have been working closely with our partner Calico and several other Lancashire local authorities preparing a joint bid to Round 1 of the Governments Green Homes Fund to establish a pilot project in Burnley. If successful, the funding will begin a programme of whole house retrofit in both social and private housing to improve the energy efficiency and thermal comfort of our housing stock. The aim of the pilot is to establish the delivery mechanisms and develop our local knowledge and skills with the intention to bid for more funding in future rounds of the Green Homes Programme.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<b>PF1-</b> We will continue the successful partnership with Liberata.	In Q2 Liberata achieved the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With 81% of calls answered within time, the target of 80% was achieved. Councillors are asked to note that an audit of telephone contacts has not uncovered a systematic problem with calls being dropped by the contact centre team. However, should this happen, councillors are asked to note the date, time and telephone number they are calling from and to submit their report.</li> <li>• Regards timely processing of benefit applications and changes of circumstance, against a target of 7 days, the Q1 result was 2.58 days, compared with nearly 7 day in the same period last year. The latest available data for comparison measures housing benefit processing only. Burnley's housing benefit processing time overall was 4 days, compared to the statistical nearest neighbour average of 9 days.</li> <li>• Liberata IT dealt with 92% of incidents on time. The target 95%. However, system availability and service request resolution were both on target over the quarter.</li> </ul>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<b>PF2-</b> We will adopt a Medium Term Financial Strategy that will put the Council on a	<b>Revenue Budget 2020/21</b> Due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic the Council is looking at a projected budget deficit of £1.2m over the current financial year. An estimated £1.1m is to be received through

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.

the Government's sales, fees and charges income compensation scheme which reduces the forecast net overspend to £118k. There is also an estimated deficit of £1.2m on its Collection Fund. The Government announced financial support to help meet this deficit, as part of the Spending Review, and has introduced legislation that allows the balance of the deficit to be collected over the next three financial years.

The date of the provisional budget settlement for 2021/22 was announced as part of the Spending Review and is expected during the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The settlement will be a one-year rollover rather than the anticipated three-year settlement. This is due to the uncertainties in funding caused the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Statement of Accounts 2019/20**

The statutory deadlines for Councils to present and to have audited the 2019/20 accounts has been delayed by Government, to allow local authorities to prioritise their response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, the deadline for the approval of audited 2019/20 Statement of Accounts is now 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Work on the audit has been delayed, due to Covid-19 related pressures, and the auditors are expecting to complete the audit in January 2021. This has been the case for a large number of other local authorities.

### **Grants to Businesses**

The Government has recently announced a range of Local Restrictions Support Grants to provide support to local businesses who have impacted by the recent local and national opening restrictions. As at the 30<sup>th</sup> November the Council had paid 473 grants, totalling £878k, during the previous 3-week period.

### **Council Tax Hardship Fund and Universal Credit**

The Council received a council tax hardship fund grant of £1.475m for 2020/21. This is to help fund vulnerable people and households within the borough. This is a ring-fenced grant with the expectation being that the majority of the hardship fund will be used to provide council tax relief up to a maximum of £150 to council tax support recipients. This financial assistance is applied directly to council tax bills. As at the 1st November, £1.221m of this grant allocation has been utilised to provide council tax relief to eligible residents. The number of new Universal Credit claims has increased significantly with a 20% increase on average up to November, which in turn drives an increase in the number of

	<p>council tax support claimants. As at 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 the number of claimants in receipt of council tax support was 10,514 in comparison to 10,013 claimants at the same date the previous year. It is therefore anticipated that the full hardship grant allocation will be utilised throughout the current financial year leaving no residual funding for a discretionary local hardship scheme.</p> <p><b>Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Rates</b></p> <p>Details of how the pandemic has impacted collection rates is included in the finance paper elsewhere on this agenda. However, collections rates have not been as low as expected due to the government funded reliefs that have reduced the amounts collectable, therefore the current forecast is a 4% reduction in business rate collection and a 1% reduction in council tax collection, on what would be expected.</p>
<p><b>Strategic commitment</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><b>Progress update</b></p> <p>Leaders across the organisation have ensured that the council’s organisational development has not been impacted because of the pandemic. Courses and training (including coaching) have successfully been delivered digitally.</p>

<p><b>Strategic commitment</b></p>	<p><b>Progress update</b></p>
<p><b>PF5-</b> We will undertake a review of the council’s governance structure.</p>	<p>Governance issues are now a standing item on the agenda of Members Structures Working Group.</p>

<p><b>Strategic commitment</b></p>	<p><b>Progress update</b></p>
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<p><b>PF6-</b> We will set up cross party working groups to investigate issues that matter to everyone in our borough.</p>	<p>Members will be aware that the draft homelessness strategy is being consulted on, and will be considered by the homelessness working group in due course.</p> <p>Please also refer to the climate change update (PL5).</p>
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<p><b>Strategic commitment</b></p>	<p><b>Progress update</b></p>
<p><b>PR6-</b> We will aim to localise public sector spend as far as possible.</p>	<p>The procurement strategy review remains in progress and is focused on developing measurement of procurement expenditure, including levels of spend in the local economy.</p>

## COUNCILLOR JOHN HARBOUR, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PL2-</b> We will improve the management and condition of rented accommodation.</p>	<p><b>Selective Licensing</b>                      The selective licensing team are continuing with a blended approach to work during the pandemic, working remotely where possible. They are ensuring that close contact is maintained with partner agencies including the Community Safety Team and Neighbourhood Police to tackle anti-social behaviour, monitor properties, supporting tenants and landlords, and ensuring compliance with the scheme. Officers are still visiting properties with appropriate safety measures in place in urgent cases where we have concerns regarding disrepair or anti-social behaviour.                      The team are also currently assessing two new managing agents operating within the licensing areas to ensure that they meet our required standard.</p> <p><b>Selective Licensing: Burnley Wood with Healey Wood, Leyland Road area, Ingham and Lawrence area 2016-2021</b>                      Officers continue to monitor properties in the licensing areas to ensure licences are in place where required. Our records show 96% of licensable properties in these areas have a licence, with approx. 20 applications due to be decided in the coming weeks. As we move into our final year of these designations our priority will be to ensure continued compliance with the scheme and enforcement of the licensing conditions.                      We currently have two ongoing cases where we are seeking to serve civil penalties to landlords who have failed to comply with one of the conditions of their licence.                      Whilst we are limited to the number of internal property checks we can currently carry out, as we enter the final year of the designations, we will continue to undertake external audits of the areas and will arrange for internal inspections for any properties where the external condition raises cause for concern or we are informed by tenants of a disrepair issue.</p> <p><b>Selective Licensing: Trinity, Queensgate with Duke Bar, Gannow and Daneshouse &amp; Stoneyholme areas 2019-2024</b>                      We have received over 1800 applications for these areas since they came into force on 1st November 2019. This accounts for around 72% of properties we believe require a licence. Our officers continue to contact landlords who have not yet made applications, and we will commence legal action where appropriate.                      The team have granted licences to approximately 70% of the applications we have received, and Officers are working with landlords and agents to ensure all applications are completed and issued.</p> <p><b>Private Rented Disrepair</b>                      Since the start of April 2020, the Council has received and dealt with 150 new disrepair complaints from private rented</p>

sector tenants. The Enforcement Team has a current caseload of approximately 90 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair/proactive inspection cases, with an additional 70 planned inspections to complete.

Where possible we are dealing with enforcement cases over the telephone/or by email in order to keep to social distancing guidelines. However, where necessary internal property inspections are taking place in a well-managed and Covid safe way prioritising cases with serious hazards and working with vulnerable tenants to address some particularly complex cases.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PL3-</b> We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock.</p>	<p><b>New Homes</b></p> <p>The programme of new homes in Burnley is progressing well and our developer partners are making good progress with bringing new properties to the market. McDermott Homes are progressing well with their development at Kiddrow Lane and Gleeson Homes continue to develop out their two sites at Barden Lane and Hapton.</p> <p>Calico are pressing ahead with their programme of affordable housing delivery and are now on site at Tay St. developing their programme of 42 houses that will provide affordable rented accommodation for families. Their scheme of 18 bungalows at Florence Avenue is now completion and phase 2 of the Perseverance Mill development to convert the former office block to apartments is well underway in Padiham. Calico's development at Station Road, Padiham is also progressing well with phase 1 and 2 now complete. The final 26 homes will be finished by the end of March next year completing the development and bringing forward another brown field site with a mixture of housing to meet local need.</p> <p><b>Empty Homes Programme</b></p> <p>The Council continue to work in partnership with Calico on their empty homes programme in Burnley Wood, with three properties currently being sold to them for renovation after acquisition by the Council. Calico's empty homes working in this neighbourhood is nearing completion which has seen them purchasing 49 properties to date, providing a significant boost to the housing market in Burnley wood.</p> <p>A further report went to October's Executive Committee that approved the next programme of Compulsory Purchase Orders to be worked on over the coming months. Renovation work on properties that we own is still suffering supply issues, but the situation is improving over time. Works on three properties are underway and a further three renovations are due to begin soon. We are also currently in the process of acquiring three</p>

	<p>properties by agreement that will bring the total so far this year to 14 properties keeping us on track to achieve our target of 20 by year end. Three properties are currently on the market for sale which have slowed during the pandemic. The empty homes loans are still popular with landlords with 17 applications received so far this year.</p>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PE3-</b> We will work with partners to provide the necessary support systems to end rough sleeping in the borough.</p>	<p>We continue to accommodate all rough sleepers/ homeless people who require accommodation.</p> <p>We have now commissioned 10 units through A Bed Every Night project and have extended the leases on 4 properties acquired through private landlords at the beginning of Covid 19 to accommodate homeless households. These are in addition to the temporary accommodation properties we already use and will provide additional capacity in the borough to assist homeless households.</p> <p>Multi-disciplinary team meetings chaired by housing are held on a fortnightly basis bringing in other agencies and partners to assist with health, addiction, housing and support to provide a comprehensive approach to assisting rough sleepers.</p> <p>We have produced a homeless and rough sleeper strategy that is currently out for consultation with a final version expected to come forward for approval early in 2021.</p> <p>Since 1<sup>st</sup> April the housing needs team have received 907 enquires for housing assistance. We have provided temporary accommodation for 127 households and have successfully prevented or relived 168 households from homelessness or the risk of becoming homeless.</p>

## COUNCILLOR AFRASIAB ANWAR, 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, attractive and environmentally friendly borough. This will include a focus on reducing dog fouling.</p>	<p>I speak on behalf of all Executive Members and wish to recognise the exemplary and agile work of Officers and our Strategic Partners, in continuing to work fearlessly to address the unprecedented issues associated with Covid whilst also juggling the day-to-day work of the Council.</p> <p><b>Waste &amp; Recycling Collection Services</b></p> <p>The annual waste collection calendars have been delivered to all households across Burnley. Key dates from the calendar are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden waste services will pause for its winter break from 14<sup>th</sup> December and resume on 14<sup>th</sup> March.</li> <li>• Real Christmas tree collections will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.</li> </ul> <p>Christmas collection day changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheduled collections for Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December will take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December.</li> <li>• Scheduled collections for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January will take place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.</li> </ul> <p>This year has been an extremely challenging year for the waste and recycling collection teams. During the pandemic a significant amount of extra waste and recycling has been collected due to residents spending more time at home. Urbaser collection crews have done a fantastic job of maintaining service as normal whilst dealing with the extra pressures which Covid has placed upon the service.</p> <p><b>Enforcement Work</b></p> <p>Residents have continued to inform us that tackling environmental related offences needs to remain a key priority for the Council. During the pandemic, there has been extra pressures placed on all of the Council services, in particular the street cleansing service. Unfortunately, a minority of irresponsible individuals have continued to blight our community by committing environmental related offences such as dog fouling and fly tipping. The Council's recently established fly tipping and dog fouling intelligence gathering websites continue to receive reports of this anti-social behaviour that enables the Council to act on such reports.</p>

Residents can share information with the Council to report individuals who commit environmental related offences. The dog fouling website is [www.burnley.gov.uk/whodunit/](http://www.burnley.gov.uk/whodunit/) and the fly tipping website is [www.burnley.gov.uk/flytipping/](http://www.burnley.gov.uk/flytipping/)

During August – November 2020 the Council have issued fines for a range of environmental offences. Despite Covid disruptions and operational challenges, the results are summarised below:

Fixed Penalty Notices;

- Litter £80 FPN – 55 Issued.
- Dog Fouling £100 FPN – 16 Issued.

Dog Control (not on leads or in exclusion areas)

- £100 FPN - 25 Issued.

Fly tipping

- £150 FPN - 23 Issued.

Household Waste Dumping bags on the street for collection

- £150 FPN - 17 Issued.

Businesses incorrectly presenting their waste (e.g., dumping bags on the street)

- £300 FPN - 1 Issued.

Feedback from residents tells us that the tackling of environmental related crime remains a priority, as such the Council intends to continue with a fair but firm stance.

### **Community Safety**

Together with community safety partners from other East Lancashire Community Safety Partnership districts, funding has been committed to Op Provide. The initiative funds two IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) who will attend DV incidents with police officers to ensure the best possible support for victims.

The Safer Streets Project. £549,500 funding has been secured from the Home Office for a home security and crime prevention initiative focused on two areas of Burnley. Subject to Executive approval (8<sup>th</sup> December 2020) the funding will provide a range of crime reduction initiatives in Burnley Wood and Bank Hall. The project will work with the community to ensure sustainability.

	<p><b>Covid Work</b></p> <p>We currently have two Covid marshals who, during lockdown, have been patrolling the town ensuring that those businesses that shouldn't be open comply with the restrictions. Going forward into the New Year they will be working in partnership with the Environmental Health Team, Licencing and the Police to ensure compliance with the new Tier 3 restrictions and to offer advice and support to those businesses or members of the public that require it.</p> <p>In general, the restrictions have been well observed by local businesses and the enforcement work has been kept to the minimum that has been required. Many businesses that have been given advice have acted upon it, thus negating the need for further intervention.</p> <p><b>Flood Recovery and Resilience</b></p> <p>Following the earlier flood Events of Storm Ciara and Dennis the Council has continued to support local residents and businesses in the immediate 'recovery' aftermath and the longer-term work of future resilience. In administering the Central Government funding in accordance with the grant arrangements, I am pleased to report that this Council has swiftly administered the recovery grants for those who were eligible and adversely affected by the storms. The nature of resilience schemes and their rollout often requires longer term implementation, in response of the assessment of each individual scheme and requirements. I am pleased to update that to date the local residents and businesses that have and continue to be supported are as follows;</p> <p>48 residential and business premises have accessed recovery funding.</p> <p>17 residential and 11 businesses have accessed funding for future resilience work.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
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>60% of "report it" or "request it" transactions were conducted online in Q2. This compares to 41% in the same period in 19/20. Face to face and telephone customer services have remained available through the pandemic for those unable to report or apply online.</p> <p>In addition to the traditional press release, digital communications has been the focus of the council's strategy</p>

in informing residents about covid-29 restrictions and support to residents and businesses. While not everyone is on social media, its reach is significant: so even if a resident is not on Facebook, close family members and friends are and will pass on messages to the harder to reach. On average **per day** since August, 1,000 unique people engage with council content on Facebook (click, like, comment, share) and 11,000 had council content enter their screens.

## 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><b>Inward Investment/Business Support</b> The business support team are in the process of finalising areas of support for two companies wishing to relocate into Burnley and once this is in place they are expected to relocate before Christmas. The team is currently working with another 36 companies who are looking at relocating into the Borough or expand from within. They include businesses from logistics, legal, manufacturing and digital sectors. 11 of the companies are inward investments with the remainder being existing Burnley businesses.</p> <p><b>COVID Grants</b> The Business Support Team has been working with Finance to deliver the latest Local Restrictions Support Grants, particularly raising awareness, answering enquiries and supporting businesses with applications. As at the 30<sup>th</sup> November the Council had paid 473 grants, totalling £878k, during the previous 3-week period.</p> <p><b>Burnley Brand/Bondholders</b> The Brand Team continue to promote positive messages about the borough as a place to live and invest. The new Live in Burnley and Explore Burnley videos are aimed at existing residents and potential future residents highlighting the borough's countryside and leisure opportunities. Since September 2020, the session duration for burnley.co.uk has increased by over 68% with 100% user retention, which we believe we can attribute to the website now being video led. A Christmas Advent Calendar, with high quality video material promoting a Burnley business/artist/retailer/attraction behind each window is running on burnley.co.uk facebook and social media accounts. Burnley.social (the youth brand) has launched a #madeitinburnley campaign, a video interview of young entrepreneurs in the town. This forms part of our strategy to raise the aspirations of young people in Burnley. The Bondholder scheme continues to go from strength to strength and is widely recognised as best practice. I am pleased to announce that Neil Hart, CE of Burnley Football Club has recently been appointed as the new Chair. This is a</p>

	<p>good appointment. Neil knows the town well and will be a great advocate for the borough through the football club's worldwide network.</p> <p>We have enjoyed another Bondholder online event, this time hosted by Burnley College. It was a fantastic event and we continue to provide value where possible during these times to our bondholders.</p>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>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 Pioneer Place</b>  Following last month's full council decision officers are working with Maple Grove Developments to progress the scheme with a revised Planning Application expected this month. The Chancellors recent announcement to reduce the PWLB rate by 1% is particularly welcome and will significantly reduce the cost of the scheme to the Council. I know that Cllr Briggs when he was leader of the Council lobbied for this change</p> <p><b>Lower St. James Street Heritage Action Zone</b>  LCC are progressing public realm improvement works along Lower St James's Street, paving work will start in the new year with scheme completion due in March 2021. The HAZ Officer is busy promoting grants for property repairs and renovation to property owners and tenants in the area. Grants of up to 80% are available for eligible works that restore the historic fabric and bring vacant space back into use.</p> <p>A funding proposal for Historic England/Arts Council funded Cultural Grants has been submitted. If successful the HAZ partnership and cultural consortia will have resources to put on a programme of arts events and festivals over the next four years.  Information and updates on the HAZ scheme are available at <a href="http://www.burnleyhaz.org.uk/">www.burnleyhaz.org.uk/</a></p> <p><b>Burnley Business Improvement District</b>  The business improvement district has been working with the Council to ensure the safe re-opening of the town centre after the national lock down, supporting with advice to businesses and the public.</p>

The private sector led BID continues to promote the town centre as a safe place to visit and actively encouraging people to shop in Burnley.

### **Padiham Town Centre:**

#### **Town Centre Management**

The Padiham Town Centre Manager has continued supporting businesses with their Covid recovery, assisting with new support grants and the application process. All the town centre Covid signage has been refreshed along with Shop Local and Support Local messages from businesses to encourage locals to still support local businesses. Direction signage has been put up signposting visitors to alternative car parks due to the Public Realm works contractor LCC taking up two carparks for supplies.

The Town Centre Manager has been working with businesses updating the padiham.org website and social media pages to promote the business that are open, their opening times, and services being offered such as click and collect, delivery and takeaway during the national lockdown.

Burnley Council along with Padiham Town Council held a "Halloween with a Padiham Theme" competition to encourage families to visit the Padiham.org.uk website and social media pages. The competition had over 15,000 engagements online and it brought 300 new visitors to the padiham.org.uk website. 4 winners received £100 in Padiham Vouchers, funded by Padiham Town Council that can be redeemed in participating shops and restaurants. This is the first in a series of promotions to encourage local spending power in Padiham and participation from businesses is very high.

#### **Padiham Public Realm Works**

Works commenced on the 7th Sept 2020 and are focussed on the southern section (Town Hall area) including drainage, excavation and construction of new paving surfaces. Some paving works were brought forward to utilise the close down to minimise business disruption. Work is due to commence to the northern section (on the hill) from 4th January 2021 under a road closure. The overall scheme is due to complete in April 2021.

#### **Padiham Townscape Heritage**

A total of nine building schemes have been approved by the TH Grants Panel. Four of these schemes are due to complete in December including 5-9 Central Buildings (Bertwistles Bakery), 19 Burnley Rd (Barber Bros), 21 Burnley Rd (Blackwells Blinds) and 18-22 Burnley Rd (The Block). Completion of the decoration of new shopfronts and hand painted signage may slip into the new year subject to weather conditions.

	<p>Development of the Council's exemplar scheme (33-35 Burnley Rd) is progressing with amendments to planning and discharge of conditions underway. The scheme is currently out to tender for a suitable contractor to undertake a full external and internal repair and restoration project. A contractor is expected to be appointed pre-Christmas. It is anticipated works will commence in Jan 2021 and complete in Summer 2021. The overall TH programme is due to complete in September 2022.</p>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
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<p><b>PR4-</b> We will implement the Local Plan, delivering new housing, employment sites, and infrastructure.</p>	<p>The ‘Developer Contributions’ SPD and the ‘Air Quality Management: Protecting Heath and Addressing Climate Change’ SPD are to be considered for adoption by Executive on 8 December.</p> <p>An update to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) is being finalized setting out progress on the infrastrure needed to support the development in the Local Plan. One major scheme is the work Rosegrove junction of Rossendale Road (A646) and Accrington Road (A679). This has been a big project and has caused significant disruption to residents but <b>Accrington Road should re-open shortly check sith Simon Bucknall</b></p> <p>The Council's updated 5-year housing land supply assessment was completed and published in October 2020 as planned. This shows a 10.1 year supply of deliverable land for housing. Having at least a 5-year supply is important in avoiding the ‘tilted balance’ of the national planning policy framework whereby the need for housing can override local policy requirements including e.g.allowing poorer quality developments and development on greenfield sites outside of development boundaries.</p> <p>I am particularly pleased that the application for the Rossendale Road Employment site EMP/1 has recently been approved as this will provide much needed business space to support economic recovery and growth.</p> <p>Work on the Gypsy and Traveller DPD, the review of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and the new ‘Design Guide: Addressing Quality and Climate Change’ SPD has been put on hold pending an indication of the outcome of the recent planning White Paper consultation. This is in order to avoid abortive work and expenditure as the White Paper reforms, if implemented in anything like their draft form, would necessitate an immediate review of the entire Local Plan.</p>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PR5-</b> We will support UCLan’s expansion, transforming Burnley into a University Town</p>	<p>The Sandygate Halls of residence are now fully completed an occupancy is on target for this academic year. The Council is continuing to work with UCLAN to plan for their future growth.</p>

