



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

24 February 2021

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COUNCILLOR MARK TOWNSEND, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL .....	2
COUNCILLOR LIAN PATE, DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING .....	5
COUNCILLOR SUE GRAHAM, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE .....	9
COUNCILLOR JOHN HARBOUR, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING .....	13
COUNCILLOR AFRASIAB ANWAR, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	17
COUNCILLOR ASIF RAJA, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND GROWTH .....	20

## 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><b>Lancashire Ministerial Task Force</b> As part of the negotiations with Government when Lancashire was moved into Tier 3 restrictions, a Ministerial Task Force was established. An evidence base has been submitted to the Task Force which included a strategic overview of Lancashire before, during and post Coronavirus pandemic. It suggested initial propositions and solutions to the challenges facing Lancashire and how Lancashire is responding to current national policies, The next stage will look at how Lancashire can work more closely with Government over the coming months to agree clear economic asks and offers to maximise the potential for Lancashire through the Levelling Up Agenda and towards the adoption of a strategic Greater Lancashire Plan.</p> <p>At a recent meeting to consider feedback from the Lancashire Ministerial Task Force meeting, I stressed the need for the Government to deliver for Lancashire on its levelling up agenda and the need for Lancashire Leaders to come together to have a united voice. As part of this, as we hopefully approach coming out of lockdown, I will continue to push for a Lancashire wide approach to any future tiered approach to restrictions.</p> <p>The next Ministerial Task Force meeting is due to take place later this month and I will report back at the next Council Meeting.</p> <p><b>Lancashire Skills and Employment Framework</b> I sit on the Lancashire Skills and Employment Advisory Panel and I am pleased to report that it has now published the Lancashire Skills and Employment Framework 2021 Refresh. The Framework sets out the agreed skills and employment priorities of Lancashire. It has been developed in consultation with stakeholders including employers, local authorities, schools, colleges, universities, private training providers and the third sector. The Framework is structured into four themes: Future Workforce, Skilled &amp; Productive Workforce, Inclusive Workforce and An Informed Approach and articulates the skills and employment priorities for Lancashire.</p> <p><b>Economic Recovery Board</b> I recently chaired our first Economic Recovery Board and I am pleased to report that there was great senior input from</p>

	<p>many of our partners and key businesses. The Board will oversee the delivery of the Strategy and three Task Forces are now being established covering Business, People/Skills and Place.</p> <p><b>Devolution</b> There has been no further progress on devolution, although we have been informed that at some point a Devolution White Paper will be published</p>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<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>Following the motion at Full Council regarding examinations in the summer, you will be aware that the Government cancelled this year's GCSE and A level examinations. Students who were due to sit exams this summer will receive grades determined by teachers, to maximise fairness and help young people progress to the next stage of their education or training. The Government are currently consulting on how to award grades in a way that reflects students' performance accurately, recognising the disruption they have faced this year.</p> <p>Grades will be based on teacher assessment, with teachers supported in making decisions with guidance and training from exam boards.</p> <p>The consultation considers the range of evidence teachers use to award a grade, which could include coursework, other forms of assessment and papers provided by exam boards, to support consistency and fairness across schools and colleges.</p> <p>The consultation also seeks views on results being issued to students earlier than usual to allow enough time for appeals to be processed ahead of the start of the new term.</p> <p>Our schools are still open for key workers and vulnerable children and young people and they are doing a great job during these challenging times. However, I want to take this opportunity to thank all those parents who are doing home-schooling, many of whom are balancing this with full time jobs. This is a major ask and one that many parents have risen to.</p>

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

The provision of ESOL classes has had to adapt for current learners and is now being delivered online through Zoom classes. Whilst this is not ideal, it still provides an opportunity for current learners to engage with learning and social activities.

The social activities after formal taught classes are important to learning and have again adapted with WhatsApp provision for family time learning, talk time conversational English and learning time videos.

The difficulty in recruiting due to the pandemic remains but we have established strong links with the Job Centre and planning remote assessments with more potential learners. This is the same across the Country.

### **Mental Health Support Teams in schools**

All the emotional mental health practitioners have started their training courses, with a view to delivering interventions around Easter time.

In addition, a DfE wellbeing for education project provides training and resources to schools and colleges supporting staff and pupils with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on their mental health and well-being. LCC has commissioned Lancaster University to support staff and Child Action North West to support young people. The focus for CANW will be Year 5 adopting a sustainable approach and supporting with transition. While currently in the planning stages, delivery will be virtual and pilot schools will be identified. In total, the project will work with 33 primary schools across the County.

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

## Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><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 improve residents' health.</p>	<p><b>Covid-19</b></p> <p>We now have a team of 5 covid information officers working across the borough to help promote Covid-19 safety across the borough.</p> <p>The information officers are marshalling at the 3 new lateral flow testing sites at the Methodist Church, Burnley boys and girls club and Gannow community centre where they support the customers and provide assistance. They also undertake regular patrols, shop and business visits supporting environmental health colleagues in advising business and customers how to keep covid safe. They also respond to requests for service and information provided by third parties.</p> <p>Whilst overall there has been a good level of compliance from businesses within Burnley there is an increasing sense of frustration from some of the smaller businesses and advice is being given to them where appropriate.</p> <p><b>Testing</b></p> <p>I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, councillors, volunteers, the army, the LRF and businesses for their support in setting up the lateral flow testing sites. The lateral flow testing stations are at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burnley Boys' and Girls' Club, Barden Lane Mon/Thurs 9am-4pm</li> <li>• Gannow Community Centre, Adamson Street Tues/Fri 9am-4pm</li> <li>• Central Methodist Church, Wed (9am-4pm)/Sat (9am-3pm)</li> </ul> <p>The stations operate on a walk-in basis - no need for an appointment - and test results are available within around half an hour (no need to wait, the results will be sent to your phone).</p> <p>Lateral flow tests are only available to those workers who cannot work from home.</p> <p>The tests are for people without symptoms and should be repeated every 3-5 days to quickly identify and isolate those who may not know they are infectious. Up to a third of people who test positive for Covid-19 have no symptoms at all, so it's important to test people without symptoms to identify these cases.</p> <p>By way of reminder the local testing site at Centenary Way and the MTU remain open and can be booked online. These sites remain open to both symptomatic and asymptomatic residents.</p>

### **Contact Tracing**

In a report compiled by the Dept. of Health and Social Care, during Jan 2021 Burnley were reported to have successfully contact traced 89.28% of its allocated cases. Over 40 cases were contacted by Burnley Council staff from across the Council who have been trained to support this important work in addition to their usual roles and duties. This is a fantastic achievement and another example of the commitment and dedication of our staff. This puts Burnley's Tracing performance 3.4% above the national average and the top of the North West table and is clearly important work in preventing positive cases from spreading the virus in our community.

### **Vaccination Programme**

The dedication of the NHS Staff, volunteers and relevant public sector agencies has been commendable in the roll out of the vaccine in Burnley. As well as the impressive roll-out from St Peter's Health Centre which remains ongoing, I am advised that all residents living in regulated Care Homes received their first dose of the vaccine last month. I would like to place on record my thanks to everybody supporting this effort directly and indirectly.

The NHS will be opening another vaccination centre in Charter Walk before the end of February.

### **Community Champions**

The Council has been awarded community champions funding by the Government. This will fund projects to provide hard to reach and those most at risk from COVID-19 with accurate information about the pandemic and in particular the vaccination programme. Half the funding will be given in small grants to local VCFS organisations who will use their networks to increase the reach of, and engagement with, the campaign messages.

### **Burnley Together**

Since its launch in March 2020, Burnley Together has dealt with over 10,000 enquiries and made over 4,000 outbound contacts to those potentially in need of support during the pandemic.

Satisfaction surveys suggest very high levels of satisfaction with the service- 97% of people asked had seen an improvement in their situation after contacting Burnley Together.

Over 4,500 referrals have been made to a foodbank, nearly 600 have been supported with shopping, over 300 with prescriptions, and nearly 300 with financial advice.

	I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Calico, BFC in the Community, Burnley Leisure and the many other partners for their support.

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<b>PL4-</b> We will implement our 2015-25 Green Space Strategy.	<p><b>Parks &amp; Green Spaces</b> Parks have remained busy, despite the winter weather and children’s play areas and park toilets are open daily. The Government required the closure of sports facilities including ball courts, on which floodlights have been turned off and ‘facility closed’ notices provided. The Park Ranger Service is undertaking joint patrols with Kingdom to tackle dog fouling enforcement and is currently tackling hot spots including Padiham Greenway and Scott Park.</p> <p><b>Burnleywood and Hart Street Community Garden</b> Funding from the Safer Streets Programme is being used to provide new play equipment and an outdoor gym together with tree, shrub and spring bulb planting.</p> <p><b>Worsthorne Recreation Ground</b> Work to install the car park &amp; ball games area has been delayed by winter weather and the current CoVid restrictions but will resume on site in March.</p> <p><b>Bereavement Services</b> Demand for funeral services has risen steadily since early October with particularly high demand in recent weeks. The service continues to liaise with the Lancashire Resilience Forum to ensure consistency of service provision across the county.</p> <p><b>Towneley Hall</b> The Hall remains closed to the public. However, staff are continuing to work on the new exhibition programme. The major exhibition of the year is an exhibition of paintings by the artist Evelyn De Morgan. This will open on schedule but will initially be on-line and the new exhibition of local wildlife photographs taken during CoVid will be held outdoors.</p>
<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<b>PE2-</b> We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer in partnership with Burnley Leisure.	<p>Burnley Leisure's facilities remain fully closed during the current lockdown with all staff furloughed.</p> <p>Council officers are continuing to work with the Trust on a Covid Recovery Plan which I propose to report on when completed. However, whilst the situation remains so uncertain</p>

with regard to re-opening of facilities, the recovery plan remains in draft form.

The Trust has secured some additional financial support from the Government's Leisure Recovery Fund.

## 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.	<p>You will note from the Budget Reports that Full Council has been asked to approve a budget to continue with the climate change funding of £50,000 for the second consecutive year.</p> <p>I have asked officers to begin work on a Climate Emergency Strategy so that we set out our strategy and commitment to this area. I shall also ask officers to consult with the Climate Emergency Working Group.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<b>PF1-</b> We will continue the successful partnership with Liberata.	<p>In Q3 Liberata achieved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With 81% of calls answered within time, the target of 80% was achieved.</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 sustainable financial footing. This strategy will set the framework for preparing annual budgets, ensuring the annual budget strategy	<p><b>Revenue Budget 2020/21</b></p> <p>The Council is projecting a revenue budget net overspend of £1.09m, excluding potential collection fund losses currently estimated to be £1.1m. However, to offset this it is estimated that £1.04m is to be received through the Government's Sales, Fees &amp; Charges Income Compensation scheme, which reduces the forecast net overspend to £49k. The Government has introduced legislation to allow collection fund deficits to be recovered over a three-year period, 2021/22 to</p>

is set within the context of the longer-term outlook.

2023/24, together with an income compensation scheme which will allow the Council to recover 75% of losses. Please see 'Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2020/21 Quarter 3' elsewhere on the agenda.

The final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2021/22 was announced on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and was in line with the funding announced in the provisional settlement in December. The settlement was a one-year rollover rather than the anticipated three-year settlement expected pre-Covid. Please see 'Revenue Budget Report 2021/22' elsewhere on the agenda.

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy has been updated to cover the financial years 2022/23 to 2025/26. Assumptions and risks built into the strategy have been reviewed and updated. The Council is estimating a cumulative budget gap of £4.1m over the period, which equates to 27% of the proposed 2021/22 net revenue budget of £15.4m. Please see 'Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2022-2026 Report' elsewhere on the agenda.

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

The statutory deadlines for local authorities to present and to have the 2019/20 accounts audited has been delayed by Government to allow local authorities to prioritise their response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The deadline for the approval of the audited 2019/20 Statement of Accounts was 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Work on the audit has been delayed, due to Covid-19 pressures, and the auditors are expecting to complete the audit in March 2021.

### **Grants to Businesses**

The Government has announced a range of Local Restrictions Support Grants to provide support to local businesses who have been impacted by local and national opening restrictions. As at 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021, the Council had paid 3,457 grants totalling £7.1m, since the introduction of local restrictions in August 2020.

### **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 vulnerable people and households within the borough. It 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 1<sup>st</sup>

	<p>February 2021, £1.25m 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 during 2020/21, which in turn drives an increase in the number of council tax support claimants. As at 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, the number of claimants in receipt of Council Tax Support was 10,482 in comparison to 9,961 claimants at the same date in the previous financial year.</p> <p><b>Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Rates</b> Collection rates have fared better than expected at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. This has been due to the Government funded reliefs that have reduced the amounts to be collected from ratepayers. The Council is currently forecasting a 4% reduction in business rate collection and a 2% reduction in council tax collection, on what would be expected in a non-Covid year.</p>
<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<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>I have been pleased that the Council's Organisational Development has continued remotely during the pandemic.</p> <p>The Council has a strong track record in delivering the Talent Management Programme and this year's programme has continued remotely. The teams are presenting their work to senior management on Thursday (18<sup>th</sup> February 2021).</p>

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

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
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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>A recent contract award under the Safer Streets project for home security packages has been made to a local supplier. The review of procurement strategy is work in progress, it will include introduction of measurement and reporting of procurement expenditure in the local economy. New regulation has been issued including the ability to reserve procurement opportunities by supplier location to support local economies and supply chains. Both this and the new tender publication arrangements, following the end of the Brexit transition period, will be incorporated into Council Contract Standing Orders, and applied as appropriate in future tender opportunities.</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> Officers have reduced property visits in line with latest restrictions, however we are attending in urgent/emergency cases. Officers continue to support tenants, landlords and agents to ensure they are meeting their legal obligations, including spot checks to enforce licence conditions.</p> <p><b>Selective Licensing: Burnley Wood with Healey Wood, Leyland Road area, Ingham and Lawrence area 2016-2021</b> Officers have recently prepared two Civil Penalty due to be served imminently on landlords, one for failing to acquire a licence and one for not comply with the licence conditions. We have also prepared a prosecution case against a landlord for two properties for failure to licence. The landlord in question has already received a Civil Penalty so we are now escalating action.</p> <p>Our key priority for these areas in the last year of the scheme remains ensuring continued high levels of compliance by closely monitoring new ownership and occupancy, so we are able to enforce the licensing conditions as appropriate. Our records show 95% of properties in this area that are required to be licensed are so, with officers working to secure applications for those outstanding.</p> <p><b>Selective Licensing: Trinity, Queensgate with Duke Bar, Gannow and Daneshouse &amp; Stoneyholme areas 2019-2024</b> We have received just over 2000 applications for properties in these areas since the schemes came into force in November 2019. This accounts for around 80% of properties in the area which we believe require a licence. Officers are working to make individual contact with those landlords who have failed to apply.</p> <p>Officers have granted just over 1600 licences in these areas and are working with applicants to ensure ongoing applications are completed.</p> <p>These figures demonstrate that good progress is being made despite the challenges presented by the pandemic and taking account that Danehouse and Stoneyholme is a new selective licensing area.</p> <p><b>Private Rented Disrepair</b> Since the start of April 2020, the Council has received and dealt with 210 new disrepair complaints from private rented</p>

	<p>sector tenants. The Enforcement Team has a current caseload of approximately 100 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair/proactive inspection cases, with an additional 80 planned inspections to complete.</p> <p>Where possible we are dealing with enforcement cases over the telephone/or by email in order to keep to social distancing guidelines and minimise the number of visits during the current lockdown. However, where necessary property inspections are taking place in a well-managed and Covid safe way in properties where very serious hazards and defects are present.</p>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<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 at Tay Street developing 42 homes that will provide affordable rented accommodation for families. Their scheme of 18 bungalows at Florence Avenue is now completion and the Perseverance Mill development in Padiham to convert the former office block to 10 apartments is due to complete in August this year.</p> <p>Calico's development at Station Road, Padiham is also progressing well with the final 26 homes due to be finished by the end of March 2021, completing the development and bringing forward another brown field site with a mixture of homes to meet local need.</p> <p>At January's planning committee Calico received permission for their latest proposals at the land off Sycamore Avenue in Burnley. This scheme will see 22 family homes and 12 apartments that will complete a stalled development with much needed new housing.</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, and we are now preparing the next phase of the programme to start in the</p>

	<p>new financial year. The compulsory purchase programme is continuing with evidence being gathered for further reports to Executive. Renovation work on properties that we own is still suffering supply issues with increased prices for goods, but the situation is improving over time. We now have works ongoing at four properties. We are still on track to achieve our target of 20 properties purchased by year end. Four properties are currently on the market for sale which have slowed during the pandemic, but an offer has been accepted on one of these properties.</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>Along with the properties acquired at the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic to accommodate homeless households we have leased an additional 2 properties through the private sector and are in the process of acquiring a 4 bed HMO to accommodate homeless households. This will provide 17 units of accommodation in the Borough consisting of 8 rooms in the two HMOs and 9 houses of varying sizes. In addition to these we also have the 10 units commissioned through A Bed Every Night, Burnley latest supported housing scheme to assist the homeless.</p> <p>Multi-disciplinary team meetings chaired by housing continue to be 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>Between 1st April 2020 and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 the housing needs team have received 1179 enquires for housing assistance. We have provided temporary accommodation for 166 households; this is an increase from the same period last year of 97 households, this increase is due to the pandemic and the call for everybody in. We have successfully prevented or relived 223 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><b>Garden Waste Subscriptions</b></p> <p>The garden waste subscription service re-opened on the 29th January 2021. The scheme this year will have an early bird discount for any customers who subscribe before 30th April 2021. The early bird discount is a £5 saving, meaning the service is £30 rather than £35. SMS text messages and emails have been sent out over a 4-week period to all customers who subscribed to the service in 2020. The early signs are that this approach is working well. During the first week almost 1200 customers subscribed, mainly online with only 80 of those customers ringing the contact centre to pay.</p> <p>Collections for the service re-commence on 15th or 22nd March after the usual winter break.</p> <p><b>Lateral Flow Testing - Clinical waste Collections</b></p> <p>The waste collection team is now supporting the Lateral Flow testing across the town. Special clinical collections are being made from workplace testing sites across Burnley.</p> <p><b>Waste &amp; Recycling Tonnages</b></p> <p>Waste and Recycling tonnages continue to be much higher than in previous years. Early estimates show that across all waste and recycling collections, the amount of waste collected in 2020 compared to 2019 was approx. 20% higher.</p> <p><b>Environmental Enforcement</b></p> <p>During Aug to Dec 2020, the Council in partnership with LA Support - continued to tackle environmental related offences. During this period over 180 FPNs were issued for Dog fouling, Littering and Fly Tipping offences. As lockdown continues and pressure remains on environmental services, tackling these offences remains a priority for the team.</p> <p>Residents are reminded to report any intelligence to the Council as part of the 'Whodunit' publicity campaign with any information about those who are committing dog fouling. Reports can be reported online via <a href="http://Burnley.gov.uk/whodunit">Burnley.gov.uk/whodunit</a> or via the dog fouling reporting line by calling 01282 475932. All other reports of environmental crime can be made via the usual Council reporting methods.</p>

## **Taxi Initiatives**

The Council has secured external funding to support its response to Covid locally. This funding has supported targeted publicity activities to reinforce the wearing of face coverings in taxis and to also develop the rollout of protective screens in local vehicles. Since December, the Council has been working with the local taxi trade and has provided and distributed a number of 'Face Mask' stickers to be displayed on rear offside and nearside door windows and had promoted the initiative.

The Council continues to ensure that all licensed vehicles have them displayed. Displaying the stickers is now a condition of a vehicle licence. The purpose is not meant to be a way of getting the driver to 'police' the wearing of face masks by passengers. It's a message for passengers to wear a face mask thereby respecting the safety of the driver and any other passengers using the vehicle. To date, over 170 screens have also been fitted to local taxi vehicles. The scheme is still in its early implementation stage, but good progress has been made.

## **Safer Streets Project**

Despite facing challenges brought by the pandemic the last quarter has seen significant progress in the last quarter.

The two large contracts have undergone a tender process which will deliver a home security project focused around improvements to locks and doors of domestic properties, security lighting, and improved back yard gates.

Work is continuing on the delivery of improved CCTV in the project areas. Funding from the Safer Streets fund will provide 6 new CCTV camera locations that will be managed through the Pennine Lancashire CCTV Hub.

A further 11 new alleygate schemes will also be installed within the focus areas.

Work is being undertaken with Parks and Green Spaces to improve the amenity of the local areas. The play areas in Burnley Wood and Hart Street will be improved, and work will be carried out on green spaces throughout the area.

A second round of funding for Safer Streets has been announced by the Home Office. Burnley Council will, as part of the Pennine Lancashire CSP, submit an expression of interest in line with the analytical approach taken during the

	<p>first roll out. As with Round One there is qualifying criteria relating to crime data and any proposed project will focus on the area that ranks highest.</p> <p><b>Operation Provide</b></p> <p>A joint funding application between all East Lancashire districts has funded a project that provides IDVA support for police responding to domestic violence incidents. This means that victims of domestic abuse will have the support at the earliest possible opportunity after an incident and enable support services to have the fullest opportunity to make a positive impact.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PF3- We will develop our digital strategy, so that more residents transact with us online and we will continue to deliver services more efficiently.</p>	<p>The pandemic continues to accelerate online engagement with the council.</p> <p>73% of “report it” or “request it” transactions were conducted online in Q3. This compares to 45% in the same period in 19/20. By the end of 20/21, it is anticipated that for the first time, the number of sessions conducted on burnley.gov.uk within a year will be over one million.</p> <p>Face to face and telephone customer services have remained available through the pandemic for those unable to report or apply online.</p>

## 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>Business Support</b> The Business team has worked with Environmental Health Colleagues to set up rapid Covid 19 testing in Businesses. Staff are now fully trained and able to undertake rapid Covid testing helping to keep their workforce safe at Safran, Boohoo, BCW, Futaba and Birchalls Food Services.</p> <p><b>Economic Recovery</b> The Economic Recovery board met for the first time in January and three taskforces based around Business, People and Place have been convened to address specific issues around business innovation, higher level skills and town centre regeneration. The Business Support Team continue to work with colleagues in finance and at Liberata to distribute grants to businesses. Total payments for eligible businesses as of 3<sup>rd</sup> February for all the Local Restriction Support Grants is £5,712,012. 90 Additional Restriction Grants have been approved with £396,069.00 of grant being paid. A further 151 applications are being processed. The Council's new Employment &amp; Skills Co-ordinator is now in post. The role will focus on working with partners including the Burnley Together Partnership, Calico, and the Department for Work &amp; Pensions to deliver a joint approach to providing employment support and skills development primarily targeting young people through the development of a Youth Hub.</p> <p><b>Vision Park</b> There has been strong interest in Vision Park over the past 8 weeks with 6 viewings, 2 of which have moved to draft lease stage and should progress within the next two weeks.</p> <p><b>Padiham Town Hall Business Hub</b> The refurbishment works to the upper floor of Padiham Town Hall have progressed well, internal decoration, installation of CCTV and intruder alarms, re-plastering, IT &amp; Telecoms infrastructure and new kitchen facilities have all now been completed - the project is due to complete by the 31st of March. Viewings have already commenced on site with one company having agreed terms and are at draft lease stage.</p> <p><b>Burnley Brand/Bondholders</b></p> <p><b>Burnley Bondholders</b></p>

	<p>There are currently over 200 members of the Burnley Bondholder scheme. Three new bondholders signed up, with a further four in the pipeline. Work work has begun to deliver the 2021 PR and Marketing Plan with the themes of Burnley.co.uk - Work &amp; Invest, Live, Study, Explore, Play, Burnley Bondholders.</p> <p>New designs created to replace outdated and weathered lamppost Burnley.co.uk flags. New designs ceated for burnley.social flags along Trafalger Street.</p> <p><b>PR</b></p> <p>New Invest in Burnley pack being distributed along with In Business Burnley Magazine wc 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb/wc 1<sup>st</sup> March. The investment pack has been turned into a series of stat-driven press releases and will be distributed to business press throughout February and March.</p> <p>Advertorials promoting Burnley as a place for business published at the end of January by <a href="#">Lancashire Business View</a> and wc Feb 8<sup>th</sup> by Insider.</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</b>  A Town Centre Recovery Group continues to meet weekly to ensure a joined up approach between Council Services, the BID and Charter Walk to managing the Town Centre through the COVID pandemic. The Covid Marshalls are actively working in the town centre supporting shops and businesses to keep COVID safe. In response to concerns about people not wearing facemasks an information leaflet with a free face masks, funded through the Re-Opening the High Streets Fund, has been produced reinforcing the importance of the social distancing and the Marshalls are delivering these. They have also been provided to taxi drivers.  There are currently between 6,000 and 7,000 visitor per day during the current lockdown in the town centre.</p> <p><b>Burnley Business Improvement District</b>  A recent audit in the town centre identified a number of shops and businesses remain open. The BID is supporting these</p>

businesses to operate safely including using the new rapid testing centre at the Central Methodist Church and encouraging those that are eligible to apply for the grant funding available.

At the last BID board meeting on 26th January, it was reported that over 80% of the BID levy has been collected by Liberata. The BID is in its first year and this is very encouraging considering the challenges that businesses in the town centre are facing.

### **Pioneer Place**

A planning application for the revised scheme has been submitted. Work continues on the technical design for both Pioneer Place and the Manchester Road site.

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

Restoration & Repair works- The HAZ officer continues to engage with professional agents & property owners including the Empire Theatre Trust to develop the first cluster of properties up to pre-commencement stage. Initial discussions are positive although a little behind schedule due to the COVID restrictions.

Culture & Community Engagement- At bid has been submitted to the Arts Council for a programme of creative and cultural activities over the next four years celebrating the heritage of Lower St James Street. We are also working on a community engagement plan with UCLAN Creative Innovation Zone. Artists have been commissioned to deliver heritage focused street level artworks to be completed in spring this year. Communications ongoing with updates and engagement via the HAZ website and social media. Steering Group meetings held with representatives of partners including local business owners.

Public realm- The bridge works at the Brig are now complete. Civil works are approximately 90% complete, with 70% paving works yet to be completed due to poor winter weather condition disrupting the ability to complete paving. The works schedule for completion is the end of March 2021 however delays are expected due to the disruption to paving. The estimate currently is 3-4 weeks behind with a forecast of late April. There is currently no forecasted overspend.

### **Padiham Town Centre:**

#### **Town Centre Management**

The Padiham Town Centre Officer has continued supporting businesses with their Covid recovery, assisting with signage, risk assessment advice, 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.

Work continues 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.

**Padiham Public Realm Works**  
 Excavation and paving works to the southern section are largely complete and have now moved to the northern section. Works in northern section were originally to be completed under a full road closure however this is not feasible due to the need to maintain bus services. Works therefore are continuing under a lane closure but this will impact programme and finish date. Conversations are ongoing with bus services to schedule the road closures in order to resurface the highway.

**Padiham Townscape Heritage (TH) Initiative**  
 A total of nine building schemes have been approved by the TH Grants Panel and these projects are progressing at different stages on site. Two further schemes are currently under development for grant approval. Tenders are being reviewed to appoint a contractor for the Council's exemplar project (33-35 Burnley Rd) to include a fully comprehensive internal and external repair and restoration scheme. The properties require connection to services including water and electricity, which is likely to require below paving level works to the front of the buildings. LCC and UU are being consulted to avoid disturbance to the public realm works.

**Flood Defence Scheme**  
 EA continue to work up the detail scheme design ready to commence works on site later this year. A scheme for surface water drainage has been agreed between EA, LCC and United Utilities that will not require any disturbance to the new public realm works.

<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 were adopted by Executive on 8 December 2020 and the necessary notification and adoption procedures have been implemented. Early work is now underway on the Planning for Health SPD which is being supported by the Pennine Lancashire childhood obesity trailblazer programme.</p> <p>The annual Monitoring Report for 2019/20 has now been completed. This sets out information on plan-making progress and on the performance of the Local Plan policies.</p> <p>Good progress is continuing to be made on delivering the plan's housing and employment sites and in delivering the affordable housing target of 52 dwellings per annum. The policy team are continuing to assist development management colleagues with major planning applications and appeals, particularly where these relate to allocated sites.</p> <p>Results of the government's 2020 housing delivery test were released in January 2021 and the council once again passed the test with a performance score of 392%, and as a result there is no consequence of the Housing Delivery Test for the Borough. This test, as with the previously completed 5-year housing land supply assessment, 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>The team recently responded to a further consultation on planning reform by the government, this time the proposed permitted development rights for conversion of many commercial buildings to housing where strong concerns were registered. The outcome of the planning for the future white paper consultation is still awaited and the government is currently analyzing the consultation responses. The early indication is that some reforms to plan-making will proceed but the precise nature of these is not yet known.</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 Council and UCLAN are jointly commissioning a piece of work to develop a masterplan for the future expansion of the University across the former George Street Mill site.</p>

