



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

APRIL 14th 2021

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COUNCILLOR MARK TOWNSEND, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Progress against our strategic commitments

| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
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| PR1- We will contribute to the strategic direction of local, sub-regional and regional partnerships, and will position the borough for economic development investment. | <p>I am pleased to report that the Lancashire Leaders forum is up and running. A key priority for Leaders across Lancashire is economic growth and development which has heightened importance as we look to recover from the pandemic. Leaders across Lancashire have asked officers to develop a Greater Lancashire Plan that will (once approved) set out a strategy of how we want Lancashire's economy to move forward over the coming decades.</p> <p>I was also delighted to Chair the Economic Recovery Board that was established as part of the Council's Economic Recovery Plan. The Board has now met twice. Three separate task forces (People, Business and Place) have been established bringing together partners from public sector bodies and private businesses. Over the next few months, the board and taskforces will bring forward detailed proposals to address key issues identified in the strategy and begin formulating proposals for short and longer term interventions.</p> |

| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
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| PE1a- We will work with partners to make the borough a place of aspiration, including supporting efforts to increase education attainment and skills development | <p>ESOL (English as a second language) for pre-entry/entry level.</p> <p>The ESOL programme is coming to an end, with the final formal teaching class being delivered in the last week of March. Learners will still have opportunities to practice their new language skills, however, through social activities delivered by Burnley Youth Theatre during April.</p> <p>In February we started to receive referrals from DWP and have since received 45 referrals. 26 learners attended appointments to be assessed and all learners have been moved onto appropriate level classes with the ESOL project and other provision with Lancashire adult learning.</p> |

Mental health teams in schools

The teams have started to go into schools now that schools are re-opened and referrals are coming into the teams to work with children in need of support. Information leaflets on the role of the teams have also been developed.

Not all team members have a base in school but virtual tours have taken place with the schools who have expressed an interest to host a mental health practitioner. This will include space to hold face to face sessions with children and young people.

Primary and Secondary engineers

The programme is progressing well with online training being delivered to schools. There is funding available for a CPD course for Burnley schools and refresher training to enable schools to continue with the engineering programmes. Online programmes include 'the if you were an engineer – what would you do?' competition with exciting engineers from real life supporting the programme.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Officers are working with colleagues from the county council on plans for holiday activities and holiday hunger action during 2021. Burnley will get a share of over £4m that has been allocated to the programme across the county. The aim is to make free places available to children eligible for and in receipt of free school meals for the equivalent of at least 4 hours a day, 4 days a week, 6 weeks a year.

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

Progress against our strategic commitments

| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
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| PE4- We will work on the wider determinants of poor health and will deliver our COVID-19 community recovery plans | <p>Covid Information Officers</p> <p>With the reopening of Burnley College the covid information officers have increased patrols in the town centre to advise on covid safe behaviour. Links have been made with the college to ensure this. The officers are also supporting activity in the market, bus station and on public transport. In addition to their regular shops' visits across the borough, to advise on safe working practices, the offices are working with environmental health colleagues and undertaking pre-opening visits to pubs and clubs to gather information on plans and practices in advance of opening on 12th April. The officers continue to marshal at the lateral flow testing stations as required and are preparing to support all the key steps of the Government's Recovery Roadmap.</p> <p>Testing</p> <p>The Council continues to support LCC Public Health colleagues in the delivery of lateral flow testing in addition to existing community testing sites that are available across Burnley and Padiham. Lateral Flow Testing remains high on the Government's agenda as part of the country's roadmap to recovery.</p> <p>A 3-week mass testing campaign has been completed with Burnley College to support students return to 'in college' studies and to become familiar with lateral flow testing. The testing was supported by Burnley Leisure colleagues and over the period more than 8,000 tests were completed. The students and staff are now equipped to undertake 'home testing'.</p> <p>The three lateral flow community venues across the borough are currently delivering circa 350 / 400 tests per week to local employers, with the aim of providing repeat testing to keep workplaces safe. It is anticipated that the Council's delivery of lateral flow testing will continue to at least the end of June. Wider rollout of testing to support schools and broader groups as part of the Government's community collect (home-testing) scheme will continue to be rolled out with the Council supporting wherever possible.</p> |

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| | <p>Contact Tracing The Council continues to deliver a local contract tracing service to help to contact positive cases within 24 hours that are identified by the national team and with the aim of controlling the spread of local cases. The service is currently delivered by Liberata on behalf of the Council and in line with current reductions in infection cases, the cases currently identified for contract tracing are low and manageable.</p> <p>Vaccination Programme The council has funded 14 organisations, who will use their networks to help promote vaccine take up. We are also working with public health partners to identify pop-up vaccination sites.</p> <p>Burnley Together Burnley Together has been established for one year and continues to provide essential support to our most vulnerable residents as part of our pandemic response. In recent weeks, it has handled on average around 600 contacts, and coordinates delivery of food parcels to around 200 households. Workers in the hub are now providing intensive support to a 16 households to help resolve underlying issues. The council and Calico recently increased the capacity of this “personalisation service” so the number of households being supported will increase in the coming weeks to 50.</p> <p>Once again, I would like to thank Calico, CVS, BFC in the Community, Burnley Leisure and the many other partners for their support.</p> |
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| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
| PL4- We will implement our 2015-25 Green Space Strategy. | <p>Parks & Green Spaces</p> <p>Outdoor sports facilities such as bowls and golf re-opened from 29th March, although access to pavilions are restricted until 17th May when the bowls leagues are likely to resume.</p> <p>Arrangements have been made for the football season to be extended to the end of June to allow the Sunday league to complete fixtures.</p> |

In Thompson Park, the Boathouse café has been serving take-aways since early March and the boating lake and miniature railway re-opens from 18th April.

Park Rangers have been active with enforcement of dog control orders. In Thompson and Queens Parks, from which dogs are excluded, rangers have issued 17 fines of £100 each to people who have brought dogs into these two parks.

There has been a significant increase in dog ownership during the Covid pandemic and it is likely that many new dog owners are not aware of the Public Space Protection Orders that apply to dogs. Additional signage is being installed to remind owners that dogs.

Parks are expected to continue to be extremely busy and additional litter bins are being provided at Towneley and new arrangements are in place for each of the three neighbourhood teams to have one person dedicated to litter and bins, using a small utility vehicle to be able to access areas quickly.

Worsthorne Recreation Ground

Work has resumed on site, with a contractor installing services and preparing foundations for the building, to be followed by completion of the ball games area / car park.

Bereavement Services

There has, thankfully, been a significant reduction in funerals taking place in both the cemetery and crematorium and the numbers of services are expected to fall below average over the coming months.

The cemetery office will re-open to public callers from 17th May and staff will be able to catch up on the backlog of work that has accumulated during Covid, such as the memorialisation.

During June/July major works will be undertaken to re-roof the crematorium.

Towneley Hall

The Hall is expected to re-open on 17th May. The first exhibition of paintings by Evelyn de Morgan will open in the Stocks Massey gallery shortly afterwards, as soon as repair work to the ceiling on the Jacobean staircase is complete. The tender to secure a new operator for the Stables café will be concluded by the end of April. The café will re-open as

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| | soon as refurbishment works are complete. In the meantime, temporary catering arrangements are in place. |
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| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
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| PE2- We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer in partnership with Burnley Leisure. | <p>Burnley Leisure has survived a very difficult year thanks to the financial support that has been provided by the various government schemes and by this Council, through the waiver of charges, and through the strong financial stewardship of the Burnley Leisure management team and board.</p> <p>The re-opening facilities will take place in line with the Government's road with Prairie and Towneley golf centres already open and gyms re-opening from 12th April.</p> <p>The Covid pandemic has highlighted how health inequalities have impacted on Covid mortality rates and the challenge for Burnley Leisure is to capitalise on opportunities to engage with more people, through programmes such as Together and Active Future, which aims to increase participation in exercise in some of Burnley's most deprived communities.</p> <p>During the late summer, an innovative programme called Beat the Street will be coming to Burnley, this challenges people of all ages and abilities to become more active and the game will take place in locations across the borough including in parks and green spaces.</p> |

COUNCILLOR SUE GRAHAM, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE

Progress against our strategic commitments

| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
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| PL5- We will prepare and deliver a new Climate Emergency Strategy. | <p>The cross-party climate change working group met at the end of March and had a very productive meeting. Proposals will be put forward to the Executive by the cross-party climate change working group for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a tree planting scheme to remember our dear residents who sadly lost their lives to Covid-19; and • the purchase of electric mowers. |

| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
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| PF1- We will manage our contract with Liberata robustly, so it delivers value for money and good services. | The Q4 performance results will be available in time for the next reporting cycle. |

| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
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| PF2- We will adopt a Medium Term Financial Strategy that will put the Council on a sustainable financial footing. This strategy will set the framework for preparing annual budgets, ensuring the annual budget strategy is set within the context of the longer-term outlook. | <p>Revenue Budget 2020/21</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 & 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 2023/24, together with an income compensation scheme which will allow the Council to recover 75% of losses. Work is underway to finalise the 2020/21 revenue budget and the outturn position will be report to Full Council in July 2021.</p> <p>Statement of Accounts</p> <p>The audit of the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts has been finalised and approved at Audit and Standards Committee on the 24 March 2021. The Council received an unqualified opinion from its external auditors, Grant Thornton.</p> |

Work has commenced on the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts. The deadlines for the publication of the unaudited and audit Statement of Accounts have been extended from the 31 May 2021 and 31 July 2021 to 31 July 2021 and 30 September 2021 respectively.

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 of 1 March 2021, £1.27m 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 of 1 March 2021, the number of claimants in receipt of Council Tax Support was 10,497 in comparison to 9,971 claimants at the same date in the previous financial year.

Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Rates

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 5% reduction in business rate collection and a 2% reduction in council tax collection, on what would be expected in a non-Covid year.

| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
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| <p>PF4- 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. This will include embedding hybrid working patterns where this improves productivity.</p> | <p>Consideration is being given to update the council's home working policy following the easing of restrictions. Whilst, the council will look to promote flexible working, any such arrangements will be dictated by the needs of the service.</p> <p>Further upgrades to IT equipment and infrastructure will most likely be inevitable to ensure that we have the correct equipment to work in a flexible manner.</p> |
| <p>PL6- We will invest in our heritage assets for the benefit of this, and future, generations.</p> | <p>Burnley Town Hall – work to repair the decayed stonework to the front and side elevations are continuing within the original 52-week schedule and budget cost. Works should be completed by the target date of November this year.</p> <p>Towneley Hall - The “Quinquennial” report on the works commissioned on the Hall has been received and additional intrusive/specialist investigations reports have been commissioned to fill in any gaps prior to tendering the main works. Work on repairing the Jacobean plasterwork is underway.</p> |

COUNCILLOR JOHN HARBOUR, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING

Progress against our strategic commitments

| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
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| PL2- We will improve the management and condition of rented accommodation. | <p>Selective Licensing</p> <p>Selective Licensing: Burnley Wood with Healey Wood, Leyland Road area, Ingham and Lawrence area 2016-2021</p> <p>Officers have recently increased their physical monitoring of the areas, undertaking external property audits and dirty back yard checks. We are liaising with landlords and agents where any areas of concern have been identified. Officers have also been working to ensure properties in the area meet the minimum energy efficiency standard by the end of the designations and are working with landlords to achieve this.</p> <p>As these designated areas come to an end in November our focus is to ensure we enforce the licence conditions for maximum impact during the remaining lifetime of the schemes. Officers are also now reviewing evidence to determine whether these areas, or others, would benefit from future licensing designations. Compliance with these schemes remain high with approximately 96% of licensable properties licensed. Officers continue to pursue any outstanding unlicensed properties, with four properties currently subject to ongoing legal action due to failure to licence.</p> <p>Selective Licensing: Trinity, Queensgate with Duke Bar, Gannow and Daneshouse & Stoneyholme areas 2019-2024</p> <p>Since coming into force in November 2019, we have received applications for approximately 86% of properties we believe require a licence in these areas. Of those applications received, we have granted over 1700 licences across the four areas, accounting for 87% of those received. Officers are working with landlords and agents to progress the remaining 13% of ongoing applications, as well as identifying and pursuing those who have not yet applied. Officers have begun preparing statements for legal action in respect of a number of these unlicensed properties.</p> <p>Despite the challenges of the last year the figures above show that the team have made great progress with applications and continue to implement the designations and improve the standard of rented properties in the areas</p> |

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| | <p>Private Rented Disrepair</p> <p>Since the start of April 2020, the Council has received and dealt with 250 new disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants. The Enforcement Team has a current caseload of approximately 90 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair/proactive inspection cases, with an additional 90 planned housing 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. As the Covid-19 lockdown restriction are eased we will carry out property inspections in a well-managed and Covid-19 secure way focusing on cases with very serious hazards.</p> |
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| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
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| <p>PL3- We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock, and reduce the blight of empty properties</p> | <p>New Homes</p> <p>The programme of new homes in Burnley remains strong and new properties are coming to the market across the borough offering residents a broad choice of homes and locations. 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. Miller Homes are now advertising properties for sale on their current development at Red Lees Road.</p> <p>Calico's affordable housing programme continues to gather pace with 42 affordable homes at Tay Street well under way, 67 properties at Station Road in Padiham now complete and handed over to the lettings team, and the conversion of the old perseverance mill office block into 10 apartments progressing well and due for completion in August. Calico's latest development at the land off Sycamore Avenue in Burnley is undergoing the initial preparation works with a planned start on site in June. This scheme will see 22 family homes and 12 apartments.</p> <p>Barnfield Homes development at the Barden Marine is also progress well. The sales team have launched the development and a range of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom properties are now on the market for sale, adding further to the range of properties that Burnley's housing market has to offer.</p> |

Empty Homes Programme

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 new financial year.

The compulsory purchase programme is continuing with evidence being gathered for further reports to Executive. The target for 2020-21 of the acquisition of 20 properties has been achieved. Payments to some owners of the properties acquired by CPO are still in negotiation. Loans this year, whilst slower than previous years, have still spent almost £124,000 and since the inception of the programme over 100 loans have been completed and more than £1.5m lent out.

Renovation work on properties that we own has been challenging this year given supply issues. We have recently accepted offers on three properties that were for sale and we are currently looking at further sales to Calico homes in the Burnley Wood area to help complete their programme of works. There are several more renovations that are due to start early in the new financial year.

| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
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| PE3- We will work with partners to provide the necessary support systems to end rough sleeping in the borough. | <p>We continue to accommodate all rough sleepers / homeless households who require accommodation.</p> <p>We currently have 10 units for temporary accommodation in the Borough consisting of 1 x 4-bedroom HMO and 9 properties made up of 2 and 3 bed houses. In addition, we have commissioned 10 units through A Bed Every Night. We now also have access to two small B&Bs in Burnley if all our accommodation is full, this means fewer people are being placed outside of the Borough for temporary accommodation. Multi-disciplinary team meetings chaired by housing continue to be held fortnightly bringing in other agencies and partners to assist with health, addiction and housing providing a comprehensive approach to assisting rough sleepers and people at risk of sleeping rough. We now have attendance from a health care practitioner who completes a health assessment on people referred in.</p> <p>The homeless and rough sleeper strategy 2021 – 2026 has now received final approval.</p> <p>Between 1st April 2020 and 24th March 2021 the housing needs team have received 1390 enquires for housing assistance. We have provided temporary accommodation for 192 households. We have successfully prevented or relived 276 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 |
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| 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>Garden Waste Subscriptions</p> <p>The Garden waste service has resumed after the winter break. The current rate of sign up is excellent with over 6,400 subscribers already signed up to the service for the coming year. On average we expect approximately 10,000 to subscribe each year. Over 80% of these customers have signed up online via the simple to use online form, which has assisted the Contact Centre having to handle additional calls.</p> <p>A reminder that the Garden waste service has an early bird discount for customers who subscribe before the 30th April 2021. During the early bird period residents can save £5 off the price of the annual subscription.</p> <p>Waste & Recycling Tonnages</p> <p>As the Country remains in lockdown and people are spending more time at home, completing the daily waste and recycling collection rounds continues to be a challenge. During Jan & Feb 2021 waste and recycling tonnages continue to be higher than normal. The tonnages collected compared to 2020, remain approximately 10-15% higher.</p> <p>Environmental Enforcement</p> <p>The Streetscene team continue to target environmental crime. During Jan and Feb 2021, the focus has been on tackling irresponsible dog owners. The Council have sent approximately 60 warning letters to owners and have been active in the community speaking to dog walkers. In addition, 31 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for dog related offences.</p> <p>The Council has also re-launched the 'Who Dun It' campaign, which encourages residents to report or provide information of those dog owners that are breaking the law by allowing their pets to foul and not picking up after them. This detailed information informs the Streetscene team of where to undertake patrols in order to tackle the irresponsible dog owners. The Council's webpage can be found at http://www.burnley.gov.uk/whodunit/ or residents can ring the dog fouling hot line on 01282 475932</p> |

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Team continue to be extremely busy responding to complaints and requests for covid-secure advice as business restrictions change. The team has worked with colleagues across the borough and the county to prioritise the Council's continued response to the Pandemic. Yet again, I wish to thank the Team and all the council officers and partners that continue to work tirelessly to keep our Borough safe.

During the national lockdown the Team in conjunction with the Covid Information Officers have been proactively contacting local businesses including those that are due to re-open on the 12th April to provide support and advice with reopening safely. This includes help in accessing lateral flow testing for employees via workplace and home testing schemes, provision of webinars and posters regarding covid secure restrictions, and helping get appropriate permissions in place to allow hospitality venues to trade outdoors. In addition, the Environmental Health team have continued to support employers and LCC's Public Health Team, where required with outbreak management plans.

Compliance audits have also taken place across various sectors including faith settings for reassurance purposes, and a promotional piece has been completed to share with the public the efforts of the taxi trade to reduce the risk of coronavirus spread in vehicles by fitting screens, cleaning and the wearing of face coverings.

A number of new business ventures have been started through the pandemic as people have adapted to new circumstances. Those activities have been supported by the team via licensing and new business inspections, alongside other `business as usual` interventions including high risk food premises visits, neighbour nuisance, air quality monitoring, and policy reviews.

Safer Streets Project

Home Security - Work is now under way with the delivery of the two main workstreams for this project – home security improvements and defective back yard gate replacements. Following a joint comms campaign between partners referrals have been coming in that will meet the capacity of the project.

CCTV – 6 new locations have been identified and work will begin on site shortly.

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| | <p>Green Space Improvement – The Project has purchased bulbs, trees and shrubs to improve some of the green spaces and also provided materials to improve the presentation of community areas and reinvigorated and upgraded a children's play area.</p> <p>Alleygates – 11 new schemes are being introduced into the project area. This is in addition to the 6 schemes installed as part of the Council's capital program. Funding is available for further schemes in 2021/22 and work identify them will commence in Q2.</p> <p>Streetscene officers will also be undertaking a programme of review to identify those schemes that may be falling below the expected standards of ownership. Work will be carried out to reinvigorate buy-in from residents to improve conformance.</p> <p>Operation Provide & Domestic Abuse</p> <p>Burnley, in partnership with the other districts in East Lancashire, provides funding contribution to the Operation Provide initiative.</p> <p>This project looks to provide an earlier opportunity for accessing support, pairing up Individual Domestic Violence Advocates with Police officers in East, the service will be targeted at those who are not accessing safeguarding measures and who are recognised as not engaging with services to improve take up of support.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Bill is still making its way through the House of Lords but is expected to receive Royal Assent shortly. It is expected that the Bill, once statute will place additional duties on local authorities to ensure domestic abuse continues to be prioritised and help and support is maintained to domestic abuse survivors. In anticipation of the Bill, local delivery and governance arrangements are being reviewed across the County. I am pleased to update that Council Officers are represented in this key work and further updates will be provided of local implications.</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>Since the last report to full council on 24th February up to the end of March 2021, burnley.gov.uk had over 124,000 sessions. This is a 9% increase on the same period last year. The top 5 pages are for council tax and benefits, covid-related information including business grants, vaccination sitei nformation, green garden waste, and planning enquiries.</p> |

COUNCILLOR ASIF RAJA, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND GROWTH

Progress against our strategic commitments

| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
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| PR2- We will proactively support the borough's businesses to innovate and expand, and make the borough a natural choice for business relocation. | <p>Business Support</p> <p>Currently the business team are working with 33 companies who are either looking to expand or relocate into the borough. The two companies who have recently relocated to workspace in Vision Park have made a combined total investment in the region of £44,500.</p> <p>Vision Park</p> <p>Two new tenancies have been secured which will take the occupancy level in the building to 82%.</p> <p>Padiham Town Hall Business Hub</p> <p>The works to refurbish the first floor offices to create high quality managed office accommodation and Co-work space are close to completion. Of the 7 available fixed offices in the building, 4 have already been let to two businesses in the financial services sector.</p> <p>The co-work space, in the former Committee Rooms, will be launched for occupation later in the spring subject to Covid Restrictions.</p> <p>Burnley Brand and Burnley Bondholders</p> <p>A new In Business Burnley Magazine and the Invest in Burnley pack was published on 5th March and distributed to 660 direct mail recipients. 2,500 copies distributed across north west at service and train stations between Penrith and Warrington and in local businesses.</p> <p>With COVID restrictions it has been difficult to convene Bondholder Network Events. An online bondholder event was held 17th March, hosted by Burnley FC. Approximately 70 bondholders attended a lively Q&A with manager Sean Dyche and chairman Alan Pace.</p> <p>3 Work and Invest Press Releases sent to local, regional and national press. These were about Burnley's 1) digital and creative 2) logistics 3) education sectors. These were covered in outlets including Lancashire Telegraph, Burnley Express and North West Business Insider</p> <p>Boohoo expansion plans in Burnley Press Release distributed to help change perceptions of the retailer. Covered in outlets including Manchester Evening News and Business Desk.</p> |

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| | <p>A press release resulted in Lord Wajid Khan on Granada Reports 26th Feb to discuss becoming a Lord, advertising value equivalent on appearing on Granada is approx. £1.5 million.</p> <p>7 national publications have been approached contacted for Live in Burnley campaign, to promote the borough's work-life balance, focussing on case studies of people who moved from Manchester to Burnley for a better work-life balance.</p> |
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| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
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| <p>PR3- We will deliver the Town Centre and Canalside Masterplan, and strategic projects in Padiham Town Centre.</p> | <p>Burnley Town Centre</p> <p>Burnley Business Improvement District Burnley Business Improvement District continues to support the Council in safely re-opening and managing the town centre. The BID is also assisting the Council and hospitality sector to work towards a Purple Flag award.</p> <p>Pioneer Place A major milestone was achieved with the approval of a revised planning permission on the 25th March. With planning permission in place and the hospitality/retail sector re-commencing work Maple Groves agents will be promoting the scheme and meeting prospective occupiers. Maple Grove is undertaking additional surveys work on the site and completing work to submit a planning application for the Manchester Road Site.</p> <p>Burnley Market The market is being prepared and made COVID safe ready for the re-opening of all of the stalls on 12th April. Market staff continue to support new start-up businesses having secured 4 new businesses to the market in the last 4 weeks. The covid pandemic has seen many businesses start from home and many now need a 'shop front' as they expand.</p> <p>Lower St. James Street Heritage Action Zone The public realm works, funded by Historic England, LCC, BBC and LEP, have progressed in parallel with work to The Brig to avoid prolonged and/or intermittent closure of the road. The bridge works at the Brig have now been completed and the street re-opened to pedestrians. Other completed works include the underground (e.g., drainage, utilities) works and the kerbing. Civil works are approximately 90% complete, and overall, the programme is 70% complete. New bus shelters have been installed.</p> <p>The works were scheduled for completion is the end of March 2021 however due to weather related delays earlier in the year, the programme is expected to be completed by the end of April/beginning of May. Access to all properties will be</p> |

maintained at all times and works are prioritised on the stretches with active retail units to ensure that paving is completed prior to re-opening on 12th April.

Repair works to the roof of Empire theatre have also been carried out over the last quarter and Historic England has awarded the HAZ an extra £96,000 from underspends nationally, to target asbestos works on the theatre.

The HAZ officer is working with three property owners to progress schemes for implementation over the next 12 months.

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, applying for grants and Pavement licences.

Padiham Public Realm Works

Excavation and paving works are largely complete to the southern section and have moved to the northern section under a lane closure. LCC are liaising with partners and bus operators to programme a road closure to allow for resurfacing of the highway, which is likely to be during May/June school holiday period. Current estimated completion of the public realm is end of June 2021.

Padiham Townscape Heritage Initiative

Two further schemes have received Grants Panel approval including 41-47 Burnley Rd and 33-35 Burnley Rd. A total of twelve schemes have been approved and these are progressing at different stages on site. A contractor has been procured and instructed for the Council led scheme (33-35 Burnley Rd) which is expected to commence on site in late April with works is expected to last 16 weeks. The project will see the upper floors converted to apartments and two “pop up” shops on the ground floor.

Flood Defence Scheme

Over the last month intrusive site investigations have been carried out and will be completed by late April, which will enable EA to complete the detailed Civil engineering and planning designs. EA have also been obtaining various consents ready for construction to commence over the summer.

| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
|--|---|
| <p>PR4- We will implement the Local Plan, delivering new housing, employment sites, and infrastructure.</p> | <p>Early work is now underway on a new Houses in Multiple Occupation and Flats SPD and the Residential Extensions SPD; and work is continuing on the Local List and Planning for Health SPDs.</p> <p>Good progress is continuing to make on delivering the plan's housing and employment sites and in delivering the affordable housing target of 52 dwellings per annum. Since the last update, a number of allocated housing sites have continued to build-out at pace HS1/1 Former Hambledon School site (McDermott Homes) HS1/3 Former Blythes Site (Gleeson) HS1/31 Barden Marina (Barnfield Homes); and HS1/13Tay Street (Calico) is now well underway.</p> <p>The local plan is also providing the Council with a sound policy basis to resist inappropriate and poor-quality development with decisions backed by Inspectors on appeal.</p> |

| Strategic commitment | Progress update |
|---|---|
| <p>PR5- We will support UCLan's expansion, transforming Burnley into a University Town</p> | <p>The Council continues to work in partnership with UCLAN to grow the University Campus. Due to COVID restrictions all learning is "on-line" except where access is required to specialist equipment, and laboratories.</p> <p>To address concerns from staff and students about Anti-Social Behaviour around Sandygate new CCTV cameras are being installed and the ASB team and Police are working closely with UCLAN.</p> |
| <p>PR6- We will delivery our COVID-19 economic recovery plan.</p> | <p>Reopening High Streets</p> <p>The Town Centre recovery group has now become the Re-opening the High Street Group. Action plans have been developed to guide the safe and phased reopening of the Burnley and Padiham Town Centres and neighbourhood shopping areas including Accrington Rd, Colne Rd, Rosegrove, Lyndhurst Rd, Briercliffe Rd, Harle Syke, Pike Hill and Coal Clough Lane, over the next few months. , based on information gathered from businesses through an online survey.</p> <p>Funding from the Reopening the High Street and the new Welcome Back Fund will be used to implement initiatives to support businesses to open and trade safely and also give confidence to the public that it is safe to come into the Town Centres and neighbourhood areas.</p> <p>COVID Marshalls continue to support businesses and are working closely with colleagues in the Environmental Health Team who continue to provide advice and guidance to businesses.</p> |

Youth Employment and Skills Hub

As of the end of February the youth hub had engaged with 86 people, 69 individuals are currently on a programme, and 4 have secured employment.

The youth hub has so far been virtual due to Covid restrictions. The youth hub will have a physical presence from the end of April (subject to restrictions) based at Calico's offices allowing delivery partners to co-locate and for face-to-face delivery to happen.

Partners are working with +24 marketing and young people themselves to establish a name and brand for the Youth Hub that better connects with a younger audience.

COVID Grants

Over the last twelve-months officers in the Economy & Growth Unit together with colleagues in finance and Liberata have worked exceedingly hard and under significant pressure to distribute 3,149 grants to businesses totalling £34,586,000.

The Government announced in the March budget further grant support for businesses, known as Restart Grants, to help them with their reopening during the phases of the roadmap.

The grants are split into two strands. Under Strand One, grants of up to £6,000 will be paid to non-essential retail business premises, to help them reopen safely. Under Strand Two, grants of up to £18,000 will be awarded to hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym business premises.

These grants will be paid as soon as the Council receives its allocation from the government.

Economic Recovery

Using funding from its Additional Restrictions Grant allocation the Council has introduced a new Discretionary Hardship Fund which is open to larger businesses in key sectors that either provide an important service to the borough/provide a significant economic/employment benefit and that are facing significant and potentially longer-term financial difficulties due to COVID 19 which are impacting on jobs and investment. 4 businesses have been awarded grants totalling £205,500, leading to the safeguarding of 170 jobs and the creation of 20 new jobs. Between them they will be making investments of £557,000. Further applications are being assessed.