



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 29th 2021

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COUNCILLOR AFRASIAB ANWAR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>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>	<p>Lancashire Leaders are now meeting regularly with a key focus of delivering a Greater Lancashire Plan. This will create a single vision for Lancashire. Again, I will keep Members informed of progress and I am sure Scrutiny Committee will want to review the draft Plan as it is developed.</p> <p>We are still waiting the outcome of our Levelling Up Fund Bid. The results are due to be announced this autumn. At the recent Economic Recovery Board meeting, we reviewed progress against our Economic Recovery Plan there are clearly positive signs of recovery but there are still challenges ahead and it was very apparent that both a successful Levelling Up Fund Bid and the County Community Renewal Fund Bid would further speed up our economic recovery from the pandemic. I will keep Members informed.</p> <p>On the matter of recovery, it is pleasing to see our town centres recovering from the difficulties created by on-going restrictions over the last 12 months. Centre for Cities have been tracking changes in footfall and spend throughout the recovery and Burnley is consistently in the top 10 nationally. This is of course testament to the efforts of our local partners and staff to make our town centre safe and welcoming. Council staff and Burnley Business Improvement District have run a programme of events over the summer. I was particularly pleased to attend the opening of a new Artisan Market on St James Street last month which proved very popular with both visitors and traders.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PE1- We will work with partners to make the borough a place of aspiration, including supporting efforts to increase education</p>	<p>ESOL (English as a second language) for pre-entry/entry level.</p> <p>We were successful in our application for additional ESOL funding to deliver the Esol for Integration Fund (EFIF) in 21/22 to 60 learners. Courses will start in October 21 and recruitment and initial assessment are underway in</p>

attainment and skills development

September. Any suitable learners at pre-entry/entry level can be assessed.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme

The Summer Burnley HAF programme, Fun, Food and Friends has come to an end. Funded places were available for children on benefits related free school meals. The project was a success with 100s of children benefiting from free summer activities and healthy food. Monitoring data is now being collated and a summary of activity will be available in October.

GCSE and A-level success

This is the first opportunity for the Council to congratulate our young people and their teachers, for their educational achievements and hard work in the last year. Year 11s were awarded with excellent GCSEs, particularly given the challenging circumstances in which they have been achieved. Burnley College students achieved a 100% A-Level Pass Rate, with 45% of students achieving at least one A Level A*- A grade and 74% of students achieving at least one A Level A*- B grade. Well done to the class of 2021.

Afghan Resettlement Scheme

The Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme (ACRS) will provide protection for people at risk identified as in need. The scheme prioritises those who have assisted the UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for values such as democracy, women's rights, freedom of speech, and rule of law, and vulnerable people, including women and girls at risk, and members of minority groups at risk (including ethnic and religious minorities and LGBT+).

Burnley is playing its part and is looking to accommodate up to 5 families.

Officers are currently trying to identify properties with private and social landlords. We have received contact from landlords offering properties for Afghan Families and these are being followed up to assess suitability. Currently the national situation for Afghan families arriving in the UK is that they are in hotels either quarantining or waiting for accommodation. Once accommodation has been found, Calico is contracted to provide integration support alongside council officers.

COUNCILLOR SUE GRAHAM, DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PL5- We will prepare and deliver a new Climate Emergency Strategy.</p>	<p>I was particularly pleased to learn that this Council's partnership with the Pennine Lancashire Tree project (PLanT) has helped secure £158K from the Forestry Commission's Local Authority Treescapes Fund – further details can be found at Cllr Lishman's update.</p> <p>Members will also note that we intend to trial an electric refuse vehicle as part of our recent procurement of the waste fleet.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PF1- We will manage our contract with Liberata robustly, so it delivers value for money and good services.</p>	<p>Against a target of 7 days, the Q1 result for the average number of days taken to process benefits new claims and change of circumstances claims and changes, was 4.45 days, the same as Q1 last year. The latest available data for comparison with other areas is from Q3 20/21 (this measures housing benefit processing only) and shows that Burnley's housing benefit processing time overall was 4 days, compared to the statistical nearest neighbour average of 6 days.</p> <p>However, the number of telephone calls answered within target time was below target: 69% against the target of 80%. This compares with 81% in Q1 last year. The main reason for the decrease in responsiveness is the higher than usual volume of calls connected to council tax arrears. There is a common trend in other districts. Nevertheless, only 2% of callers abandoned their calls to the council, which is below the target of 5%.</p> <p>I note that Members have had concerns with regards to accessing council services via the telephone and I have raised this with Liberata. They have requested key information is e-mailed to them to enable them to address the issue (i.e. time and date of call, number dialled and issue experienced).</p> <p>Scrutiny Committee members will receive a detailed presentation from the Liberata contract director at the November meeting on the performance of the contract.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PF2- We will adopt a Medium Term Financial Strategy that will put the Council on a sustainable financial footing. This strategy will set the framework for preparing annual budgets, ensuring the annual budget strategy is set within the context of the longer-term outlook.</p>	<p>Revenue Budget</p> <p>The Council has reported an estimated net overspend position of £195k for the 2021/22 financial year, included elsewhere on the Full Council agenda, which will be met from the Covid Reserve. This is after taking into consideration £237k from the Sales, Fees & Charges Compensation Scheme and £719k of un-ringfenced Central Government funding.</p> <p>The Medium-Term Financial Strategy for the period 2022/25 has been reviewed, included elsewhere on the Full Council agenda, and remains at a similar level to that approved at Full Council in February 2021. The budget gap for 2022/23 is estimated to be £0.7m and savings have been identified to bridge this gap, £139k of which are contained elsewhere on this agenda. We are expecting MHCLG to announce a 3-year budget settlement later this year which will provide the Council with some funding certainty over that period.</p> <p>Statement of Accounts</p> <p>The Council has published its draft Statement of Accounts by the extended deadline of 31st July 2021. Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditor, have recently commenced their audit of the draft accounts.</p> <p>Universal Credit</p> <p>The number of new Universal Credit claims has increased by around 15% since the start of the pandemic. This in turn drives an increase in claimant numbers for council tax support. As at the 1st September 2021, the number of claimants in receipt of council tax support was 10,476, compared to 10,508 at the same date last year. The Council will closely monitor the impact on claimant numbers when the Government's furlough scheme comes to an end on the 30th September.</p> <p>Council Tax and Business Rate Collection Rates</p> <p>The Government has extended the Expanded Retail Discount into 2021/22 which provides eligible retail, hospitality and leisure properties with 100% business rate relief until 30th June 2021 and reduces to 66% for the remainder of the financial year. As a result, the collection rates for business rates are difficult to compare with previous years. It is estimated that the collection rates for 2021/22, up to the 31st August, are 4.5% below the target of 97.5% for the year. However, we are expecting this to improve by the end of the financial year and will continue to monitor the position. Council tax collection rates are on target and expected to meet 94.5% for the year. As at the 31st August, collection</p>

	rates for council tax and business rates were 43.3% and 42.6% against targets of 43.2% and 47.1% respectively.
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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.	In Q1 there were 295,000 users of burnley.gov.uk. Nearly 60% were on mobile devices. We will work to improve the mobile experience for our customers during 2021/22 through an improved website. We will also improve mobile working for staff, by introducing mobile apps for the food safety team and the planning team.
Strategic commitment	Progress update
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>Hybrid working</p> <p>Although office staff are currently attending places of work more frequently, this is currently on a rota basis because of health and safety requirements. I note that plans are being developed to promote hybrid working across the organisation. I hope to report on these plans over the coming months.</p> <p>Kickstart</p> <p>I am pleased to report that the Council has established 9 Kickstart placements and 7 of these will be filled by the end of September. Interviews are ongoing for the 2 outstanding placements. The placements are being hosted in Legal & Democratic Services, Green Spaces & Amenities, Economy & Growth and Policy & Engagement.</p> <p>We are also working with Burnley Leisure to support the appointment of their Kickstart placements.</p> <p>In partnership with Burnley College, we will be providing all Kickstart placements with employability training and they will all complete a 6-week online training programme and will be allocated a mentor who will assist with interview practice for future roles. We will also be providing training to help them develop their team working skills in October/November.</p>
PL6- We will invest in our heritage assets for the benefit of this, and future, generations.	<p>Town Hall Stone works</p> <p>The stone works are still on target to be completed by the 31st March 2022 and costs remain within the budget approved at Full Council in February 2020. The Town Hall is a Grade II listed building, and the Council has a legal responsibility to maintain it to a certain standard.</p>

Towneley Hall works

Following approval of an Expression of Interest, the Council has been invited to submit an application to the Arts Council's Museum Estate Development Fund (MEND). The Council is requesting a contribution of £810k towards the costs of repair work with the full application to be submitted in October and the award of grant notified in February. The application process for the MEND programme is competitive, but the Council is in a good position because of the extent of the preparatory work that has been undertaken.

COUNCILLOR MARGARET LISHMAN, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
PE4- We will work on the wider determinants of poor health and will deliver our COVID-19 community recovery plans	<p>Testing</p> <p>Free PCR testing is still available locally across Burnley and Padiham and appointments can be made by telephone by ringing 119 or online via; www.gov.uk</p> <p>LCC are currently scoping Phase 2 of the community testing programme, following confirmation from DHSC that community testing activities will continue until at least March 2022. The revised community testing programme will take a targeted approach of businesses and groups based on need and will support the provision of free home testing kits that are available locally via pharmacies, libraries and ad hoc pop activities across the town.</p> <p>All the workplaces taking part in the County's lateral flow testing programme are being assessed against the criteria, and where there is a fit, support with test kits will continue.</p> <p>Regards workplace outbreaks, a small number of workplaces are being monitored, though most are now out of outbreak management arrangements.</p> <p>Contact Tracing</p> <p>We continue to operate 'Local 24', where uncontacted cases are referred to us for tracing from NHS Test and Trace after 24 hours, with help from the County's out of hours service at weekends. The Director of Public Health for Lancashire is currently reviewing the future potential service requirements for Lancashire's Contract Tracing service.</p> <p>Vaccination Programme</p>

NHS data shows that 70% of people over 16 in Burnley were double-jabbed by 20th September (60,232 have had one dose, 54,798 have had both doses). This compares with 68% in Pendle, 68% in Blackburn with Darwen and 71% in Hyndburn. Regarding the booster programme, phase 1 includes: those living in residential care homes for older adults, all adults aged 50 years or over, frontline health and social care workers, all those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, adult carers, and adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals. Practices are expecting to start the booster programme around the 25th September, with all eligible patients in care homes for older adults and care home staff being offered a vaccination by 1st November.

Burnley Together

The number of residents asking for help from Burnley Together remains high. On average, Burnley Together receives around 400 contacts per week. Of these, 200 are food bank referral requests. I was pleased to host a partnership workshop at Burnley FC earlier in the month to discuss the priorities for Burnley Together in the next year. This council's ongoing commitment to this partnership will help us deal with the potential fallout from the cut in Universal Credit and the end of the furlough scheme. The workshop has led to an updated action plan for Burnley Together that will give shape to the requirements of residents and resources over the next twelve months. Dealing with mental health and social isolation, food and fuel poverty and being joined up with the NHS and social care are the key policy areas.

PL4- We will implement our 2015-25 Green Space Strategy.

Bereavement Services

The contract to re-roof the crematorium has progressed well and works were due to be completed by 17th September, allowing funeral services to return to normal times of operation.

Internal redecoration of the crematorium chapel, including re-varnishing pews and parquet flooring will be taking place later in the autumn.

Towneley Hall

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A new outdoor exhibition of photography has opened on the lawns at the rear of the Hall, displaying images of wildlife photographed in Towneley and the surrounding area during the COVID-19 pandemic. The exhibition showcases both the diverse wildlife of Towneley and the incredible skills of local photographers.

The new operator of the Stables café has opened an outdoor catering operation whilst work is in progress to complete external repairs and the internal refurbishment of the café, which is expected to be completed in November.

Parks & Green Spaces

The summer event programme has been restricted due to COVID-19 but park friends' groups have held some hugely successful fun days and concerts. The Council is grateful for the tremendous effort that friends' groups put into these events.

The Wileout/Retro music festival in Towneley Park took place in sunny weather over the August bank holiday weekend was a success with more than 8,000 attending. The organiser is keen for the event to be repeated next year.

The Towneley bonfire & fireworks display will be back on 5th Nov thanks to support from sponsors including BooHoo and Urbaser. Through the partnership with Burnley Leisure e-tickets will be available online from Monday 4th Oct. For those who may have difficulty purchasing on-line, physical tickets will be on sale in the town centre during the half term week.

Padiham Greenway

The greenway remains closed whilst Sustrans, the charity which owns the greenway, completes geotechnical investigations in the cause of the significant subsidence. The greenway is an important and popular route for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders and an important route to work for people who work on the Shuttleworth Mead Industrial Estate

Worsthorne Recreation Ground

The clubhouse/ community room has been installed on site and the Fulfilled Colts club will be refurbishing the building in accordance over the coming months.

Following the end of the mowing season Greenspaces staff will install the perimeter footpath and undertake landscaping work

and officers are working with Worsthorne Parish Council to secure funding for an outdoor gym.

Ash Die Back Disease

This disease is continuing to progress and during the coming winter the Council's tree team will be removing affected Ash trees in Ightenhill, Scott and Thompson Parks. The tree officer continues to monitor the condition of trees in locations where affected trees present a hazard.

The trees that were removed from Queens Park last winter are being chipped for use as a playground safety surface.

Play Strategy

The play strategy is being revised and will be circulated for consultation in November. The updated strategy will also cover pump tracks and skate parks because there have been a number of requests for the provision of these facilities and the Council needs to have in place a clear strategy to support external funding applications and ensure equitable provision across the borough.

Climate and Biodiversity Action

I am pleased to report that this Council's partnership with the Pennine Lancashire Tree project (PLanT) has helped secure £158K from the Forestry Commission's Local Authority Treescapes Fund. The funding will enable 16,000 native trees will be planted in 48 micro woodlands located in green spaces across the Borough before next March. There will be opportunities for local people and school children to take part in the tree planting and to do something positive for the local environment linked to the COP26 climate conference taking place in Glasgow in in November.

To commemorate the people of the borough who have died from COVID-19, the Council is providing 15 Cherry trees that will be planted between September and October in the main parks and other locations identified in consultation with parish councils. The first tree will be planted 30th September in Towneley by the Mayor with a multifaith service led by the Bishop of Burnley. The dates and times of the planting ceremonies will be publicised to allow people who have lost families and friends to attend.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
PE2- We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer in partnership with Burnley Leisure.	COVID19 recovery Burnley Leisure is showing a strong recovery in participation following the COVID19 closures. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gym membership has already recovered to 86% of pre-pandemic levels and an additional 1,800 UCLAN

students are being enrolled shortly, will take membership above previous levels.

- Swimming lessons are 21% above previous levels with 200 children currently on waiting lists. BL are currently training more swimming instructors to accommodate demand.
- The 18-hole golf course is up 30% on pre-pandemic levels and 1.3 million balls have been hit on the Prairie golf driving range already this year.
- 'Dry' booking for exercise classes have not recovered so well and remain at 64%.

Padiham Leisure Centre

The steam room facility is due to be refurbished and should be back in use by the end of the year.

Beat the Street

The 'Beat the Street' game has been launched with more than 100 beat boxes located on streets and in greenspaces across the borough. Players of all ages are challenged to walk, run or cycle to different beat box locations and tap their card to earn points for each Beat Box visited.

The game has been designed by doctors to encourage people to be more active and become fitter. Members will be pleased to see that they have each been given Beat Box cards and maps so that they can participate!

Burnley Leisure Board

Donna Livesey has been appointed as the new chair of the Burnley Leisure board. Donna has considerable experience working in this field and I am looking forward to working with her. I would also like to express my gratitude, on behalf of the Council, to the outgoing chair, Antony Preston, who has successfully guided the Trust through some challenging times and helped create a highly successful organisation that benefits everyone in the borough.

COUNCILLOR JOHN HARBOUR, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PL2- We will improve the management and condition of rented accommodation.</p>	<p>Selective Licensing A resident newsletter has been delivered in August for the Queensgate and Stoneyholme and Daneshouse areas. Newsletters are being prepared for the Trinity and Gannow areas.</p> <p>Selective Licensing: Burnley Wood with Healey Wood, Leyland Road area, Ingham and Lawrence area 2016-2021 As these three schemes come to an end in November 2021, we are no longer pursuing or accepting new applications for licences. The team have recently served a civil penalty on a landlord who failed to licence a property in the Leyland Road area during the required timeframe, and a further Final Notice is due to be served in the Burnley Wood area against another landlord for the same offence.</p> <p>We are currently halfway through a public consultation into designating Burnley Wood with Healey Wood and the Leyland Road area as new licensing schemes. Questionnaires have been sent to those with an interest in properties in the area, and officers have held drop-in sessions to allow interested parties to meet with the team to discuss the plans. Further sessions are planned for 18th-20th October. The consultation ends on 24th October, after which we will gather the results and report on our findings.</p> <p>The team continue to monitor properties in the area and have been undertaking back yard audits and external property checks. The remainder of the scheme will be spent continuing to enforce the conditions of the licence, including property checks, referencing and document spot checks, and responding to complaints of ASB.</p> <p>Selective Licensing: Trinity, Queensgate with Duke Bar, Gannow and Daneshouse & Stoneyholme areas 2019-2024</p> <p>In relation to the four designations that commenced in November 2019, we have received applications for approximately 91% of properties we believe require a licence in these areas. Of those complete applications received, we have granted over 1863 licences, accounting for 81% of those received. Officers are continuing to identify any other houses that are required to be licensed were applications have not been made. Witness statements have been produced for several cases, these</p>

cases are now progressing to the issuing of financial civil penalties or prosecutions for the failure to licence a property.

A financial penalty for £5000 has now been served in respect of a property not being licensed.

5 applications have been refused where the management arrangements for the properties are not satisfactory. Further action will be taken in order to ensure these properties become licensed.

Private Rented Disrepair

Since the start of April 2021, the Council has received and dealt with 95 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 120 planned housing inspections to complete.

The majority of disrepair cases are dealt with informally over the telephone/ or by email and resolved promptly. Property inspections are being carried out in a well-managed and covid secure way focusing on cases with the most serious hazards. In cases of serious non-compliance, formal enforcement action will be taken to ensure that tenants in the Borough live in decent homes, free from disrepair.

The council has been successful in a bid to BEIS for Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) funding. This money together with some internal resources will fund a project that will run from September 2021 to March 2022, and focus on privately rented properties with low rated F and G Energy Performance Certificates. Landlords with low EPCs will initially be asked to provide a valid EPC of an E rating or above. Landlords failing to comply may result in formal enforcement action being taken against them.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
PL3- We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock, and reduce the blight of empty properties	New Homes 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 well underway with their current development at Red Lees Road. Calico's affordable housing programme continues to gather pace with 42 affordable homes at Tay Street well under way and due to be fully complete by March 2022. 67 properties at Station Road in Padiham are now complete and being occupied and the conversion of the old Perseverance Mill office block into 10 apartments has been completed which has been the final phase a transformational housing project to deliver housing on a very challenging brown field site. Calico's latest development at the land off Sycamore Avenue in Burnley has now got all the pre-commencement conditions discharged by Planning and has started on site. This scheme will see 22 family homes and 12 apartments.

Empty Homes Programme

The Council continue to work in partnership with Calico on their empty homes programme, and suitable properties are targeted for Calico in the compulsory purchase order programme. This programme is continuing and a report to Executive in July seeking approval to carry out more compulsory purchase orders was approved. These orders will be worked on in the coming months. Loans are again available this year and we are currently undertaking a review of the loans policy, and proposed changes will be reported to the Executive. Renovation work on properties that we own has been slow starting again this year with some supplies hard to come by and with prices still rising for raw materials. There are 3 properties under renovation with a further 2 at tender stage.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PE3- We will work with partners to provide the necessary support systems to reduce homelessness and end rough sleeping in the borough.</p>	<p>We continue to accommodate all rough sleepers who require accommodation. We continue to manage 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 of A Bed Every Night. This gives the service access to 20 units with the ability to be flexible and increase or reduce the numbers as required. 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</p>

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.

The homeless and rough sleeper strategy 2021 – 2026 has been approved and is now available on the Council's website. Between 1st April 21 and 31st August 2021 the housing needs team have received 667 enquires for housing assistance. We have provided temporary accommodation for 73 households. We have successfully prevented or relived 114 households from homelessness or the risk of becoming homeless.

Burnley have been part of a successful bid along with other Pennine Lancashire Councils, for AFO funding (accommodation for ex-offenders) and have been successfully awarded £198k. This funding will help people with a history of offending behaviour find and secure settled accommodation. Burnley are also part of a successful Lancashire wide bid for Changing Futures Funding that has received £6.8million to assist people with multiple and complex needs. Navigators will be employed to help service users build trust and confidence in the system, connecting people to Enhanced Service Hubs and advocating on their behalf. The hubs will respond to the diverse needs of the individual and provide integrated care across the whole spectrum of needs.

COUNCILLOR BEA FOSTER, 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>Waste & Recycling Equipment</p> <p>Members will note that there is a report to be presented to September’s Executive seeking approval to roll out additional recycling bin provision to more residents across the town. The project that was first introduced in October 2019 and has been positively received has identified a further 600+ properties and a further 800 households to be considered, following an ongoing consultation with local residents. Subject to approval, the further rollout work could commence later this year.</p> <p>Waste & Recycling Services</p> <p>The current operating environment remains challenging for Waste and Recycling services. In addition to the impacts Covid has had upon the service, there are additional challenges relating to the national driver shortages.</p> <p>This continues to be managed closely by Streetscene and Urbaser to ensure there are no adverse impacts upon the services being delivered. The following steps have been put in place to hopefully avoid any service suspensions that have adversely affected other local authorities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with local driver agencies to secure additional drivers on a short-term basis • Training of 5 members of the workforce to upskill them so they can drive (likely to be completed early Jan 2022) • Recently recruited 2 additional drivers to the workforce • Contingency plan – Managers and Supervisors can drive as an emergency back-up plan <p>The upcoming winter break for the garden waste service will help with contingency planning and shortages.</p> <p>Garden Waste</p> <p>The Garden Waste service has again proved popular during 2021. As the current years subscriptions begin to slow down as we approach winter, we have yet again had almost 10,000 subscriptions. 75% of these customers have signed up online</p>

which is a great success. The forms are simple to use and popular with repeat customers.

Annual Recycling Calendars

Collection calendars containing recycling advice will be distributed to all Households across Burnley during October / November this year. Residents are also reminded that they can check their bin day online by simply entering their address into our webform at the following address:

<http://www.burnley.gov.uk/binday>

Reuse 360 Shop

During August the County Council opened its Burnley Reuse360 shop, located at its household recycling centre on Balderstone Lane on Heasandford Industrial Site. The Council are pleased to support this initiative and to encourage residents to re-use useful household items and to give them a new home, rather than throwing away. The shop is part of the County's Council's ambition to reduce unnecessary items going to landfill and this obviously contributes to our commitment to climate change. The reuse shop accepts donations and sells the following items:

- Bric-a-brac
- Electrical goods
- Furniture (with fire labels if required)
- Spare parts
- Bits'n'bobs
- Pre-loved bargains

The Shop is currently open Thursday – Monday, 10am-4pm each week. Opening times may fluctuate, depending on staffing volunteers. Further details of the service and opening times can be obtained <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/recycling-centres/burnley/>

Electric Refuse Vehicles

As part of the Council's commitment to climate change, we are monitoring technological developments currently being made in this area by manufacturers. At present, the available vehicles are in high demand. The current lead time for electric refuse collection vehicles currently stands at over 18 months. The Council is on a waiting list to trial an electric refuse collection vehicle. This trial is expected to be during 2022 and will hopefully inform any future vehicle procurement when the current tender is up for re-procurement in 2025.

Electric Vehicle Charge Points

Two rapid (50kw) charge points are in the process of being installed at each of the King St and Centenary Way car parks. Connection to the electricity network is expected to occur at the end of September and the charge point operating company will commission the units soon after. These units are part of a joint project across several district councils which is aimed at encouraging a switch to electric across the taxi community. The charge points will also be available for the general public to use.

The Council is developing an Electric Vehicle strategy as part of the work to prepare a bid for funding to provide charge points for residents who have no off-street parking. The strategy will identify the various user groups and their needs, and the various strands of activity that the Council might undertake to provide charge points and to encourage and assist others to do the same.

Scoping work around the provision of charge points at various Council sites to support the existing EV fleet is under-way. The work will assess the existing power supply arrangements for future demand planning. Alongside this similar consideration is being given to planning for public charging at Council sites.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) & Burnley Youth Panel

Anti-social behaviour continues to be a priority for partners across the borough. The Council are working with partner agencies, as part of the Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC) Group to address concerns for members of the community. As covid restrictions relax and agencies begin to operate in the community again, partner agency resources available to deal with youth related ASB are increasing again. It is important that if our residents or communities are experiencing anti-social behaviour, incidents need to be correctly reported via the correct channels to enable the Council and partners, (Police etc...) to obtain accurate statistics to identify the areas requirement the greatest focus and partnership priority.

Safer Streets Project

The project implementation is now drawing to a successful conclusion with most work streams completed. The project has provided new additions to the CCTV network, 11 new alleygate schemes, improvements to green spaces and play areas within the project areas. The project has also delivered home security improvements including improved locks and doors, and security lighting, as well as improved back yard

gates. Members will be informed of the impacts of the scheme as part of the ongoing evaluation.

Burnley, as part of the Pennine Lancs CSP have submitted an application for the third round of Safer Streets funding. This bid is focused on personal safety in areas associated with the night-time economy, following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard in London. The proposal covers Burnley, Blackburn, Darwen, Haslingden, and Accrington.

Community Safety & Domestic Abuse

The Council has been awarded White Ribbon Status by the White Ribbon Campaign, demonstrating the authority's commitment to raising awareness of Domestic Abuse and Gender violence. The Council will be working with partners as part of our activities locally to promote White Ribbon messages as well as other national campaigns such as the 16 Days of Action in November.

Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Communications Plans

As mentioned above, November sees the start of the national 16 Days of Action campaign to raise awareness about gender violence. The Council will co-ordinate with partners comms activities across this time to raise awareness. The Council will also be publicising the recent award of White Ribbon status to highlight the Domestic Abuse.

As the Safer Streets Project draws to conclusion the Council will publicise the good work and outcomes that have been carried out.

The Council will also join with partners on other seasonal comms priorities, such as Bonfire Night and preparation for Christmas Community Safety message campaign.

Alleygating

Capital funding will provide approximately 6 new schemes for gating from a consideration list of 85 applications from across the borough. A decision on which schemes to take forward will be made using crime data provided by the partnership analyst.

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>Business Support The business support team are currently working with 23 companies looking to relocate into the borough or expand within it. These include enquiries from various sectors including Food & Drink, Aerospace, Advanced Manufacturing and Creative & Digital. We have recently assisted three businesses through the Council's Business Growth Programme. This support was given to businesses in the Creative and Digital and Professional Services sectors and will lead to the creation of 23.5 FTE jobs and an increase of nearly 20,000 Sq Ft of commercial office space. One-to-one business advice has been delivered to 10 Burnley businesses so far following their support from the Start-up Workshop held in June. Further one-to-one support from accredited business advisors will be offered to other attendees.</p> <p>Vision Park Unit 3 was recently let to The Workwear Co and there are 2 remaining units in block C giving an occupancy level of 89%.</p> <p>Padiham Town Hall Business Hub - Room and Power The re-furnished managed offices and co-workspace on the first floor of Padiham Town Hall has been branded Room and Power. The brand celebrates Padiham's textile heritage where a number of Room and Power Mills existed during the 19th Century allowing small businesses to rent space for machines and power from the Mill Engine or waterwheel – the original managed workspace concept. 4 of the 7 offices are now let, with terms agreed on 2 more offices currently. The co-working space has not been completed due to delays in completing the roof works. External works should be completed with all scaffolding removed in early October and the co-work space opening before the end of the year.</p> <p>Burnley Brand and Burnley Bondholders The first Burnley Bondholder event in over 18 months was held on 26th August at the recently renovated and re-opened Finsley Gate Wharf. The event was attended by over 110 people from the business community including 30 new bondholders who have joined the network since January 2020. Bondholders have also established an informal advice and guidance service - Ask A Bondholder - to support other businesses to address challenges. 37 bondholders have</p>

	<p>already offered their expertise which ranges from digital tech innovation to HR.</p> <p>Burnley featured in Good Homes Magazine October edition. The “Postcards from Burnley” feature covers where to visit and stay and shines a national spotlight on our borough.</p> <p>14 news/positive PR articles published on Burnley.co.uk and the subsequent social media channels.</p> <p>The Brand team continue to deliver an on-going campaign to encourage young people to live and study in Burnley. The brand team filmed at Retro and Wile Out Festival at Towneley Park over bank holiday weekend, which saw 6,000 attendees on the Saturday and the Sunday. Video event previews, overview and individual artist interviews have been released on both the Burnley.co.uk and burnley.social websites and social media platforms.</p> <p>The Brand team have provided UCLan Burnley staff members with familiarisations tour around the town centre in July so they can understand our offering and promote to students.</p>
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Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PR3- We will deliver the Town Centre and Canalside Masterplan, and strategic projects in Padiham Town Centre.</p>	<p>Burnley Town Centre Pioneer Place On 13th August, Planning Permission was granted for the Manchester Road supermarket development. Work is ongoing to finalize all legal agreements.</p> <p><u>Burnley Market</u></p> <p>Over the summer the Burnley Markets Staff have been instrumental in organising the 6-week Burnley Staycation Celebration Event along with the BID and Charter Walk. Included in this event was Burnley Markets Street market where traders sold their goods on the street at ground floor level.</p> <p>Footfall in the market increased by 28%, on the Saturdays that the event took place, compared to the previous 6 weeks. The public enjoyed the event and the traders found it beneficial. Burnley Market have three more street markets planned for September, October and November, raising the profile of the indoor market</p> <p>The market team have a programme of speciality markets planned utilising vacant space in the market hall including a Pre-Loved market is on every Wednesday; a monthly Arty-Crafty Market, a genuine Antique and Collectables Market to bring in additional income and footfall in the market. As part of a campaign to attract new market traders a Pop up Start-up market is taking place once a month until</p>

Christmas giving potential entrepreneurs an opportunity to test their products and get a flavour for market trading
2 new businesses - A new hairdresser and a new tailoring business are due to start trading.

Lower St. James Street Heritage Action Zone.

We are working with several property owners to develop building restoration schemes. Detailed proposals for three schemes have been drawn up ready to secure planning permission and grant approval.

Padiham Town Centre

Town centre businesses continue to be supported with their Covid recovery.

The Painting Padiham event took place on the 11th September with 50 artists participating. The event was well attended by the public and included wider activities for families to get involved. The event was delivered in partnership by The Picture House Gallery, BBC and supported through local sponsorship/fund raising and the Heritage Lottery funded Townscape Heritage scheme.

Four new businesses have recently opened in Padiham town centre. Rawes Gazing Deli, Turtle Bee, Restorations by Lindsay and Olivia Houghton Hair & Beauty.

Padiham Public Realm Works

Excavation and paving works are largely complete albeit for a few small sections outstanding where other works have been ongoing. Resurfacing of the highway was completed in August under a road closure. Specifications for street furniture including bins, bollards, planters and seating, as well as plans for the northern node public art area have now been finalised and instructed.

The Council is working with LCC and the Police to resolve illegal parking and loading throughout the town centre.

Padiham Townscape Heritage Initiative

To date, twelve TH grant funding applications have been approved to undertake repair and restoration works to buildings. Five of these schemes are complete and others are progressing on site at different stages and works are continuing to the Council's exemplar scheme (33-35 Burnley Rd).

Strategic commitment	Progress update
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<p>PR4- We will implement the Local Plan, delivering new housing, employment sites, and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Drafting work is progressing on the Local List SPD, the Houses in Multiple Occupation and Small Flats SPD, the Residential Extensions SPD, and the Planning for Health SPDs with a view to presenting drafts to Executive from October 2021 onwards to seek approval for formal public consultation.</p> <p>Construction is continuing to progress on a number of the allocated housing sites.</p> <p>Applications at housing sites HS1/4 (Rossendale Road - part), HS1/30 (Land West of Smithfield Avenue) and HS1/32 revised scheme at Butchers Farm Worsthorne) and employment sites EMP1/2 and EMP1/5 are still pending.</p> <p>Since the last Update:</p> <p>An outline planning application has been received for housing site HS1/29 Former Lodge Mill, Baden Lane).</p> <p>An application to discharge conditions at site housing site HS1/9 Higher Saxfield has recently been received.</p>
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Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PR5- We will support UCLan's expansion, transforming Burnley into a University Town</p>	<p>Over the summer holidays the Council has worked with Barnfield to complete defects on the Student Hall and Liberata have carried out summer deep cleans and re-decorating prior to students returning in the autumn.</p> <p>Work has commenced on the first phase of the UCLAN masterplan with terms agreed for the Princes' Trust to relocate into smaller premises on the lower ground floor of Sandygate Halls releasing Sandygate Mill to accommodate UCLAN's immediate requirements for additional space for teaching and a larger more accessible library. The outcome of the Levelling Up Fund bid is crucial to the implementation of the next phase of the masterplan</p>
<p>PR6- We will delivery our COVID-19 economic recovery plan.</p>	<p>Reopening High Streets/Welcome Back Fund</p> <p>The Council Markets team, the Town Centre Business Improvement District and Charter walk have worked exceedingly hard over the last few to months in delivering the Summer Staycation Celebrative Events which brought a taste of culture from around the world to the town over six successive Saturdays.</p> <p>Burnley's Staycation Celebration got underway on Saturday 24th July with visitors being able to enjoy food and culture from different countries alongside music and dance, while street performers and demonstrations provided fun and entertainment for people of all ages.</p> <p>Funding for the events was provided by a combination of the Welcome Back Fund, the BID and Charter Walk.</p> <p>The events have been very well received and the team will be undertaking an evaluation to establish what both visitors and businesses thought about the events to assist when planning future events.</p>

The Council's Green Spaces team have been working with the TC BID manager and Wildflower Meadow sites have been planted on Hargreaves Street, Bankfield and Yorkshire Street. Funding from the Welcome Back Fund has been used for these environmental improvements around the Town Centre.

Thrive - Youth Employment and Skills Hub

Thrive now has a dedicated phone number - 01282 686313 - and a dedicated telephone advisor.

We continue to promote the Kick Start programme and as at the end of August there were 85 kickstart opportunities available in Burnley. Burnley Council has created 9 kick start opportunities that will commence this quarter.

Unfortunately, decisions on the allocation of Community Renewal Funding has been delayed, which will reduce the impact that Thrive partners will be able to deliver.

The number of unemployed people aged 18-24 in Burnley at end of July stood was 830 down from 920 at the end of May. Apprenticeship numbers in Burnley have dropped by 32% comparing Q2 2020/21 with Q2 2019/20. Addressing this is a key focus for partners.

COVID Business Grants

At its meeting on the 14th of July the Executive agreed to allocate funding from the Council's Additional Restriction allocation to introduce a new discretionary Covid outbreak closure grant. The grant is to support small businesses that are forced to close due to employees testing positive for COVID 19 or are required to self-isolate which, as a result, prevents the business from operating. To date we have received 9 applications.

Economic Recovery and Growth Strategy

The Economic Recovery and Growth Board received a report at its last meeting setting out key trends. The unemployment rate (claimant count) remains higher than pre-pandemic but has continued to fall since the peak in February 21, following national and regional trends. The Claimant Count at the end of June was 8.1%. The number of positions Furloughed has reduced from 17% of all positions in June 20 to 5% at the end of July 2021 which is in line with the national average. Universal Credit claims have also continued to decline. The number of job vacancies has risen steadily over the last 12 months, the highest demand being for professional occupations. Discussions with businesses locally show skill shortages and difficult to fill vacancies across all sectors.