



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

JANUARY 26 2022

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COUNCILLOR AFRASIAB ANWAR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.....	2
COUNCILLOR SUE GRAHAM, DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE.....	4
COUNCILLOR MARGARET LISHMAN, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING .....	7
COUNCILLOR JOHN HARBOUR, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING .....	12
COUNCILLOR BEA FOSTER, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES .....	16
COUNCILLOR ASIF RAJA, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND GROWTH .....	19

## COUNCILLOR AFRASIAB ANWAR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PR1-</b> We will contribute to the strategic direction of local, sub-regional and regional partnerships, and will position the borough for economic development investment.</p>	<p><b>County Deal</b></p> <p>Members will be aware that elsewhere on this agenda is a report regarding work that has been undertaken to start to develop a County Deal. Approval from Full Council will ensure that we are actively involved in the next stage which will involve negotiation with the Government on powers and funding being devolved to Lancashire.</p> <p>Future reports will then be brought back to Full Council for approval at the relevant stages of development of the County Deal.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PE1-</b> We will work with partners to make the borough a place of aspiration, including supporting efforts to increase education attainment and skills development</p>	<p><b>Burnley College</b></p> <p>I was pleased to hear at our most recent Economic Recovery Board meeting that the construction of Burnley College's latest building was on time and on budget and that the building was due for handover to the College on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022. This will create much needed additional teaching space for our excellent performing College.</p> <p><b>ESOL (English as a second language) for pre-entry/entry level.</b></p> <p>The first 3 cohorts of learners will be finishing their course in the next few weeks and will be signposted onto the next stage of learning at a level appropriate for them.</p> <p>WEA are going to support with the teaching this term as well as LAL. This will enable more learners to participate in the programme and for courses to be delivered more flexibly, in venues and times suitable for learners.</p> <p>20 learners have already been assessed for when new courses commences in February.</p>

### **Holiday Activities and Food Programme**

The Winter HAF programme was a great success with many children benefiting from Christmas pantomimes, activities, parties and games. Data is still coming in from the providers but we provided 1585 festive hot meals and 1046 festive ready meals for over the holiday period. 400 packs, each consisting of a family game and creative activity were also given out to children to keep them engaged over the holidays.

A full report will be available in February 2022

We have also received the good news that HAF will continue for 22/23

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

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<b>PL5-</b> We will prepare and deliver a new Climate Emergency Strategy.	The draft climate change strategy has been forwarded to all Group Leaders for consideration. I trust that all Group Leaders have shared the draft strategy with their Groups. It is envisaged that the climate change strategy will be considered by the Executive when it meets in February. Members are reminded to let officers have their comments on the draft strategy in a timely manner.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<b>PF1-</b> We will manage our contract with Liberata robustly, so it delivers value for money and good services.	<p>In Q3 Liberata achieved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With 52% of calls answered within time, the target of 80% was missed. As reported to scrutiny committee, Liberata has increased staffing in the contact centre which is expected to improve performance in the coming months.</li> <li>• Regards timely processing of benefit applications and changes of circumstance, against a target of 9 days, the Q3 result was 6 days. The latest available data for comparison measures housing benefit processing only. Burnley's housing benefit processing time overall was 3 days, compared to the North West average of 7 days.</li> <li>• Liberata IT dealt with 91% of incidents on time. The target 95%. However, system availability and service request resolution were both on target over the quarter.</li> </ul>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<b>PF2-</b> We will adopt a Medium Term Financial Strategy that will put the Council on a	<p><b>Revenue Budget</b></p> <p>The Council reported in December an estimated net overspend position of £86k for the 2021/22 financial year</p>

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.

which will be met from the Covid Reserve. A report will be taken to Full Council giving an updated position which will show a further improvement in reducing the estimated overspend for the year.

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy for the period 2022/25 continues to be reviewed with the updated position reported to Full Council in February 2022 following the provisional budget settlement announced by Central Government in late December. The provisional settlement was for a one-year period rather than the three-year settlement announced by the Chancellor earlier in the year. A report will be brought to Full Council in February 2022 containing proposals that will enable the Council to approve a balanced budget for 2022/23.

### **Statement of Accounts**

The Council has published its draft Statement of Accounts by the extended deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021. Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditor, have commenced their audit of the draft accounts and are expecting to present their audit findings to the January meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee.

### **Council Tax Support and Universal Credit**

As at the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022, the number of claimants in receipt of Council Tax Support and Universal Credit was 9,994 and 4,536 respectively, compared to 10,482 and 4,576 at the same date last year. The Council will continue to monitor the impact on claimant numbers following the closure of the Government's furlough scheme on the 30<sup>th</sup> September, although there doesn't appear to be an increase in the number of claims to date.

### **Council Tax and Business Rate Collection Rates**

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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> December, are 3.4% below the target of 97.5% for the year. At the end of October the collection rate was 4.0% below target so we are seeing some improvement on the collection rate as the year progresses and we are expecting further improvements by the end of the financial year. Council tax collection rates are 2.7% below the target of 94.5% for the year. As at the 31<sup>st</sup> December, collection rates for council tax

	and business rates were 76.8% and 78.2% against targets of 79.5% and 81.6% respectively.
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PF3-</b> We will develop our digital strategy, so that more residents transact with us online and we will continue to deliver services more efficiently.</p>	<p>In Q3 there were 209k visits to burnley.gov.uk. Over 60% were on mobile devices. We will work to improve the mobile experience for our customers, with plans for a new website by the end of Q4.</p> <p>In Q3, 65% of transactions (excluding revenues and benefits) were through burnley.gov.uk online forms. This is the target the council and Liberata expected to achieve for digital services.</p>
<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PF4-</b> We will deliver our Organisational Development strategy, ensuring we plan for the structures and capabilities 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>Members will be aware that the working from home guidelines were issued by the Government last year. Staff at the council who can work from home are doing so. Once again, I would like to express my appreciation to all of our dedicated staff and strategic partners who are making sure that essential services continue to be provided.</p> <p>Carbon literacy training is being rolled out across the organisation. The first cohort of staff will hopefully undertake the training by the end of this month. It is envisaged that all staff across the council will receive this training by the end of the year.</p> <p>I am pleased to confirm that Members also agreed to undertake carbon literacy training at Member Structures Working Group and arrangements are being made in this regard.</p>
<p><b>PL6-</b> We will invest in our heritage assets for the benefit of this, and future, generations.</p>	<p><b>Town Hall Stone works</b></p> <p>The stone works are still on target to be completed by the 31 March 2022 and costs remain within the budget approved at Full Council in February 2020. An outbreak of dry rot has been found in the Council Chamber which is currently being treated and is being funded from existing repair and maintenance budgets. The Town Hall is a Grade II listed building, and the Council has a legal responsibility to maintain it to a certain standard.</p>

# COUNCILLOR MARGARET LISHMAN, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PE4-</b> We will work on the wider determinants of poor health and will deliver our COVID-19 community recovery plans</p>	<p><b>Covid latest</b> Omicron cases have soared in Burnley; by the middle of January east Lancashire had some of the highest rates of transmission in the country. As a result, the Director of Public Health has recommended that for the majority of Lancashire that local contact tracing at the district / county level will cease due to its limited value. Contract tracing will still be delivered across Burnley via the national contact tracing teams that are set to continue at current levels into summer 2022. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the staff from the Council and Liberata that have undertaken this role, during the pandemic and often in addition to their existing duties.</p> <p><b>Vaccination Programme</b> Among over 21's, 70% have now received 2 doses and 47% have also received their booster. Burnley's vaccination rate is similar to Pendle and Hyndburn.</p> <p><b>Burnley Together</b>  In December, Burnley Together received around 1200 requests for help, of which 129 were seeking self-isolation support. A two-week food parcel was provided to 251 families and 879 individuals. The general trend since mid-November has been a steady reduction in the number of food parcel requests.</p> <p>The Christmas Toy appeal, organised by Burnley Together partner Calico, provided toys for 767 children. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone that gave so generously.</p> <p><b>Self-Isolation – support and recognition scheme</b>  We are delivering a pilot scheme from January to March 22 to support children and young people having to self-isolate due to a positive covid test. Schools can refer children into the scheme. A delivery will be made to the home address containing a support pack with various fun and engaging activities and food to last up to 8 days. Following successful isolation children can choose a reward voucher.</p> <p>The scheme went live on 10<sup>th</sup> January and 35 referrals have been received in the first 2 days.</p>

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

### **Parks & Green Spaces**

The Borough's parks were very busy over the Christmas and Green Spaces staff worked throughout the period to ensure that facilities were open and clean.

The clean-up following Storm Arwen has continued with the tree team removing fallen trees in parks and green spaces across the borough.

### **Memorial Park**

I am pleased to report that a grant of £35K has been awarded by the Lancashire Environmental Fund towards the £150K costs of developing a new wheeled sports area on Park Rd Padiham which will replace the 31 year-old skate ramp. The grant includes an extra amount to cover the cost of using low-carbon cement for the concrete skate ramps.

Padiham Town Council has generously offered £10K towards the project and I am very grateful for their support. The project will also see improvements to the well-used ball court and repainting of the tennis courts.

### **Climate and Biodiversity Action**

#### Pennine Lancashire Treescapes project

Planting of the 45 new micro-woodlands has already begun with two successful 'Big Plant' community tree planting days being held in Towneley Park and Bank Hall Park. More than 80 volunteers planted 1,100 woodland trees on the two sites.

More community planting days are being planned through to early April and members have been notified of the project and provided with a link to the [PLanT webpage](#) which gives details of the planting sites and the dates for community planting. Everyone is encouraged to take part and to plant a tree in Burnley.

#### Meadow Management

Members will be aware that this Council has been at the forefront in adopting urban meadow management practices with the aim of reducing CO2 emissions and increasing bio-diversity.

Officers will be undertaking consultation with ward councillors on further areas of grass that may be managed as urban meadow, following the Government's announcement on the restriction in the use of duty-free red diesel. Local authorities will no longer be able to use red diesel in amenity mowers and so to offset the significant additional costs (and reduce CO2 emissions) the



Council aims to reduce diesel use by identifying additional areas that can be maintained on reduced cut regimes.

The Council is switching from diesel and petrol mowers to electric versions as suitable commercial machines become available.

### **Worsthorne Recreation Ground**

The perimeter multi-user path has been completed and is already being well used by walkers and runners. It was constructed using gravel dredged from the River Brun in Thompson Park and is an example of how the carbon impact of park developments is being reduced. The car park is currently being completed and Fulledge Colts JFC are expected to start refurbishment of the pavilion building shortly and complete the connection of utilities.

### **Queen's Jubilee**

To commemorate the Queen's 70th Jubilee, a community tree planting event is being organised to take place at Jubilee Meadows on 6<sup>th</sup> February at which it is hoped to plant over 700 woodland trees as part of the Queen's 'Green Canopy'. An individual Oak tree will also be planted in Queens Park, as a civic event, to commemorate the date of the 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee and a beacon will be lit at the singing ringing tree.

### **Towneley Hall**

I am pleased to report that the stunning 'Artist of Hope' exhibition of 45 works by the Pre-Raphaelite artist Evelyn de Morgan has been extended until 5<sup>th</sup> June. Running alongside are stories of people of Lancashire who have served on the front line at different times in history.

An exhibition programme is being planned for the coming year, but will be limited by the hall repair works that will be commencing mid-year.

The contract for the repairs to Towneley Hall is currently being advertised as a two-stage tender, with the pre-qualification questionnaire due to be returned in mid-January. Suitably qualified and experienced contractors will then be invited to submit tenders. The Council expects to appoint a contractor in May and commence on site in July 2022. The repairs are expected to be completed by April 2025.

### **Stables Café**

Work on the refurbishment of the café interior has been delayed due the extent of external repairs that have been undertaken on the building and it is now expected that the refurbishment will be complete by the end of March so that the café is open for Easter.

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<b>PE2-</b> We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer in	<b>COVID19 Recovery</b> BLC is continuing to make a strong recovery from the impacts of the pandemic. Gym memberships, which make up a significant part of revenue have now returned to pre-pandemic levels. This is due to the hard work of Trust staff and the high

partnership with Burnley Leisure & Culture.

quality of the facilities that are provided. The Trust is also investing £60K to refresh the gyms in both St Peters and Padiham Leisure Centres.

Other activities are also doing very well, with swimming lessons currently over-subscribed and additional instructors being trained. Exercise classes have also recovered extremely well thanks to the efforts that instructors made to move classes on-line during lockdowns, which has maintained the loyalty of customers.

The Mechanics is currently hosting the Burnley Pantomime Society's Sleeping Beauty, for which tickets have sold extremely well and there is a full programme of shows in the coming months.

### **Governance**

The Council nominates two councillors to the Leisure Trust Board, which helps to maintain the important link between the Trust and the Council. A report to Member Structures group in February will review the arrangements for the appointment of Councillors to the Trust board to ensure that the arrangement is effective for both parties.

### **Active Together**

The COVID19 pandemic has contributed to a reduction in the number of people in Burnley who are active. Only 53% of adults and 40% of children achieving the recommended amount of exercise needed to stay healthy and avoid developing long term conditions.

Following the success of Beat the Street, in which 12% of the population participated, BLC is coordinating the activities of partner organisations to continue to keep families and individuals engaged through an Active Together programme which will develop key themes including:

- Encouraging active travel
- Building activity into people's lives
- Encouraging people to explore parks & open spaces
- Promoting the canal towpath for recreation
- Communicating opportunities to be active

### **The Tea and Play (PASTA) Plan**

Funded through Public Health, Tea and Play will be family focused after school clubs for 5-8-year-old children and their families. The after-school clubs will aim to promote healthier

eating and physical activity in a fun, interactive and safe environment.

Areas that will be targeted with the Tea and Play clubs are Daneshouse with Stoneyholme, Rosegrove with Lowerhouse and Hapton with Park.

- There will be 6-week programmes of sessions starting at 3.45pm and finishing at 5.30pm delivered from each primary school in the specified wards.
- The sessions will include cooking skills, food, and nutrition awareness, with physical activity provision and skill development, and the opportunity to sit down as a family and eat a hot meal. All food prepared will use easily obtainable and affordable foods.
- There are several partners contributing to the delivery of the sessions and supporting the sessions with either information for families or referrals to the programmes.

## COUNCILLOR JOHN HARBOUR, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PL2-</b> We will improve the management and condition of rented accommodation.</p>	<p><b>Selective Licensing</b></p> <p><b>Selective Licensing: Burnley Wood with Healey Wood, Leyland Road area, Ingham and Lawrence area 2016-2021</b></p> <p>The designations for the above three areas came to a close on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The final prosecution in these areas for a landlord operating without a licence is due to be heard in January.</p> <p>Officers have also begun proceedings in the form of three civil penalties for £5000 each where licence holders have failed to provide valid gas safety certificates to the Council. Statements have also been prepared for an additional three penalties in the Burnley Wood area.</p> <p><b>Selective Licensing: Burnley Wood with Healey Wood and Leyland Road area Consultation</b></p> <p>The consultation to designate new licensing schemes in the above areas finished on 24<sup>th</sup> October. Officers have collated and analysed the results which will be presented to the Council's Executive on 19th January 2022.</p> <p><b>Selective Licensing: Trinity, Queensgate with Duke Bar, Gannow and Daneshouse &amp; Stoneyholme areas 2019-2024</b></p> <p>In relation to the four designations that commenced in November 2019, we are making good progress and have received applications for approximately 90% of properties we believe require a licence in these areas. Of those complete applications received, we have granted over 1916 licences, accounting for 86% of those received. Officers are continuing to identify any other houses that are required to be licensed where applications have not been made.</p> <p>The Council has issued 3 summons in relation to 3 properties for the offences of failing to license the properties. This case is due in Court in January.</p> <p>Officers have also served 2 civil penalties for £5000 each where owners have failed to obtain a licence for an occupied rented property.</p> <p>Two applications have been refused and 4 are at the intention to refuse stage where management arrangements for the properties are not satisfactory. Further action will be taken in order to ensure these properties become licensed.</p>

	<p>An interim management order was made on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for a property in the Trinity area, because there was no prospect of the property becoming licensed. The Council are now managing the property and dealing with all tenancy-related matters. Urgent repairs have now been completed including obtaining a valid gas safe certificate and a satisfactory electrical installation condition report.</p> <p>An audit has been conducted in the Pheasantford Street area in the Queensgate designation to identify those properties that: were not licensed, were in breach of licence conditions, were suffering from disrepair or had a dirty backyard. The necessary action has been taken to address the findings.</p> <p><b>Private Rented Disrepair</b> Since the start of April 2021, the Council has received and dealt with 221 new disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants. The Enforcement Team has a current caseload of approximately 238 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair and proactive inspection cases. The majority of disrepair cases are dealt with informally over the telephone, or by email and resolved promptly. In cases of serious non-compliance, formal enforcement action will be taken to ensure that tenants in the Borough live in decent homes, free from disrepairs.</p>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PL3-</b> We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock, and reduce the blight of empty properties</p>	<p><b>New Homes</b></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 with 70% of the homes due for development on the site now sold or reserved. Miller Homes are progressing well with their current development at Red Lees Road with 25% of their planned homes sold or reserved, and Barnfield Homes have reported a very successful development at the Barden Marina with all the properties now sold. I am pleased to be able to report a very strong interest in new housing right across the Borough.</p> <p>The land at Brownside Road Worsthorne is also now underway that will see 18, 3- and 4-bedroom family homes in this popular location.</p>

Calico's affordable housing programme has had a very successful year with 42 affordable homes at Tay Street due to complete in March, 67 properties complete and occupied at Station Road in Padiham and 10 apartments in the conversion of the old Perseverance Mill office block. These properties will meet a range of different housing needs, contribute to our affordable housing offer and also making efficient use of previously developed land. Calico's latest development at the land off Sycamore Avenue has started on site and will see 22 family homes and 12 apartments finishing off a stalled housing site improving the appearance of the land and making a positive contribution to the local area.

**Empty Homes Programme**

The Council continue to work in close partnership with Calico Homes on their empty homes programme in the Trinity area and we are now working to contact owners of vacant properties there. Over the next 2 years, Calico is looking to complete a further 60 properties.

The compulsory purchase programme is continuing with a report to Executive in December which was approved, with three CPOs started in January so far.

Loans this year are continuing but have slowed recently. We are looking at advertising the loans once again to encourage more applications.

Renovation work on properties is progressing with 4 underway currently. Plans are being worked on to make our renovated properties more energy efficient and less dependent on fossil fuels.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PE3-</b> 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 rough sleepers who have a connection to the borough. We currently commission 10 ABEN (a bed every night) spaces and the housing needs team manage 13 temporary accommodation units. This gives a total of 23 temporary units within Burnley with the flexibility to accommodate both families and single people. We also have access to two small B&amp;Bs in Burnley if all our accommodation is full. We keep the demand and supply of temporary accommodation under review and are currently looking at all options for alternative or additional temporary accommodation in the borough. Multi- disciplinary team meetings chaired by housing needs continue to be held fortnightly bringing in other agencies and partners to assist with health, addiction, and housing. All people placed into temporary accommodation are referred to the MDT and referred for a full health assessment from a health care practitioner.</p>

The rough sleeper navigators continue to try to engage with rough sleepers and beggars in the borough and assist them to access support where needed.

Since 1<sup>st</sup> November we have placed 22 into temporary accommodation, giving a total of 122 accommodated since 1<sup>st</sup> April 21. We currently have 239 active cases.

Referrals are now being taken for the changing futures programme to assist people with multiple and complex needs. Navigators will work with the service user to build trust and advocate on their behalf. Enhanced Service 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><b>PL1-</b> We will implement a range of initiatives to maintain a clean, safe, attractive and environmentally friendly borough. This will include a focus on reducing dog fouling.</p>	<p><b>Covid Latest</b></p> <p>Our Waste and Cleansing provider, Urbaser are experiencing Covid operational challenges resulting from the sharp increase in Omicron cases locally. Sickness levels (predominantly Covid) are around 15-20% sickness across the workforce. This is proving extremely challenging in trying to sustain full-service delivery. However, all services continue to be delivered daily, albeit they are stretched, and the Depot are having to utilise the wider use of Agency staff. This can impact round completion times and residents may experience later than usual collection times during the day. It is a credit to the strong partnership working that exists between Streetscene and Urbaser, throughout the whole Covid pandemic, that no services have had to be suspended.</p> <p><b>Recycled Christmas Trees</b></p> <p>Even though there have been Covid operational challenges, I am pleased to report that the Council operated a Christmas tree collection service on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January, as normal. This is not a statutory required service, but we recognise the importance for our residents and in delivery of our recycling measures, as part of the Council's climate agenda. Over 1,000 trees were collected this year for composting.</p> <p><b>Waste &amp; Recycling Services</b></p> <p>I am pleased to report that the Recycling Wheeled bin service has been extended to over 600 properties which were suitable for a wheeled bin collection. These properties have now been delivered bins for recycling and started their wheeled bin recycling service prior to Christmas.</p> <p>An additional 800 properties have also been contacted as part of a consultation exercise to determine if they would like to join the recycling wheeled bin service. The Consultation response from residents was approximately 34%. The Consultation closed at the end of November. There was a mixed response from some areas and these responses are currently being considered with a view to any further service change being implemented in Spring 2022. All residents that took part in the consultation will be informed of the outcome.</p>



## **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) & Burnley Youth Panel**

Burnley Council, via MATAC (Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination) continues to co-ordinate responses to community safety priorities and emerging threats. Over December and the Christmas period, partners prioritised the town centre for partnership activity with increased police presence and youth outreach teams in the area. On December 17th (Mad Friday) a CANSAFE (Operation Staysafe) was conducted by local partners to patrol ASB hotspots and tackle vulnerabilities affecting young people. On what is an annually busy evening for partners it was reassuring that there were no safeguarding issues reported involving young people.

The town centre remains a priority for MATAC and working with the Police, BID, and local and statutory youth service providers the Council will continue to work to tackle ASB issues in this location.

The MATAC group maintains working addressing other issues such as localised geographic ASB hotspots, and local ward priorities.

There is strong partnership working in Burnley and the MATAC partner agency meetings continue to link well with other partnership structures; including the monthly Youth Panel and the Neighbourhood Policing priority meetings. I am pleased with the integrated approach that is adopted in Burnley, to join up partnership working to address key local concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and to prioritise multi-agency resources and responses. Throughout the pandemic partners have continued to work positively together forging and maintaining strong links that ensure timely and effective action is taken in addressing what are often very complex issues.

## **Alleygating**

7 new schemes will be installed in the Borough during this quarter, providing another 157 homes with the additional security of back street gates. Combined with the gates installed as part of the Safer Streets project 17 schemes have been installed in Burnley during 2021/2022.

## **Safer Streets Project**

The Safer Streets programme is approaching completion with the final addresses during January.

Once complete, over 500 homes will have received some form of security benefit, from improved locks and doors, security lights, back yard gates, and inclusion in one of 11 new alleygate schemes.

The funding has also paid for 6 new CCTV camera locations that have added further coverage to the public realm CCTV network, and significant green space improvement within the project areas. This was work carried out on the play areas at Hart Street and Burnley Wood. There were also other works carried out on the green spaces within the areas.

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

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PR2-</b> We will proactively support the borough's businesses to innovate and expand, and make the borough a natural choice for business relocation.</p>	<p>Business Support – the business support team continue to receive a high level of enquiries and are currently working with 28 businesses either looking to relocate into the Borough or expand within it. These come from a range of sectors including aerospace, finance, food and drink and advanced manufacturing.</p> <p>Two businesses, one in hospitality and one in aerospace, have been awarded hardship funding to assist them to implement their recovery plans creating 36 jobs.</p> <p>Vision Park - all units now sold/let with final tenant having moved into Unit 8 this month. We continue to market the site for further development.</p> <p><b>Burnley Brand and Burnley Bondholders</b></p> <p><u><a href="#">Burnley Brand</a></u></p> <p>The first #madeitinburnley video for 2022 was published week commencing 4 January featuring the first female engineers at Boohoo</p> <p><u><a href="#">Boohoo engineers Rochelle and Laura are interviewed by burnley.social... - YouTube</a></u></p> <p>As part of an ongoing focus on raising awareness of the Burnley offer to Manchester residents we recently invited a journalist from the MEN to the borough on a familiarisation visit. As a result, Crow Wood Hotel was named as Hotel of the Week, on 27<sup>th</sup> December, by the Daily Express, Daily Mirror, People on Sunday and Star on Sunday BS also named as one of the top five luxury hotels within a short drive of Manchester in the 8<sup>th</sup> January edition of the Manchester Evening News.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PR3-</b> We will deliver the Town Centre and Canalside Masterplan, and strategic projects in Padiham Town Centre.</p>	<p><b>Pioneer Place</b></p> <p>All partners worked tirelessly throughout December to get all the five contracts signed and completed.</p>

The project has finally moved to construction phase with Eric Wright construction commencing work on site on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January.

The first phase will involve the closure of the Pioneer Place Car Park for approximately 14 weeks. Local businesses and the public have been advised.

There has also been publicity through the press of the start on site.

### **Burnley Market Hall**

Occupation is at 80%, up from 56% in January 2019. However, the retail environment remains challenging.

Despite the college closing for Christmas, footfall continued to increase during the run up to Christmas with 5 out of the last 6 weeks surpassing those of 2019. Christmas themed events and promotions were held throughout December.

### **Levelling Up Fund**

#### **Town 2 Turf**

A project team has been established to plan and deliver public realm improvements connecting the town centre to Turf Moor as part of the Levelling Up Fund programme. The detailed design work is being undertaken by BBC and LCC.

#### **Manchester Rd Access to All Railway Improvements**

The Council is working with LCC and Network Rail to implement plans for a new footbridge link across the west-bound platform funded by Levelling up Fund. Design and delivery arrangements are being agreed between partner organisations.

### **Padiham Town Centre**

#### **Padiham Town Centre Manager**

The town centre manager continues to support businesses with covid business support.

A shop local campaign was promoted throughout December to encourage visitors to shop local in Padiham at Christmas, including a children's Christmas trail that took place throughout the town centre from 27<sup>th</sup> November to 24<sup>th</sup> December.

3 new start-up businesses have opened in properties which have been vacant for many years. The town centre officer is assisting these businesses with grant funding and marketing.

Padiham Virtual High Street was launched early January. This will give people an option to shop online in Padiham.

<http://padiham.org.uk/virtual-high-street>

### **Padiham Public Realm Works**

A team is scheduled to return to site end of January to complete outstanding paving sections to the front of the Town Hall and No. 33-35 Burnley Rd. Street furniture (bins, bollards, planters etc) are under manufacture. Timescales for installation are to be confirmed by the highways authority but are expected to complete by end of March.

### **Padiham Townscape Heritage (TH) Initiative**

There are currently three building schemes which continue on site including the former National School Building, 43-47 Burnley Rd and the Exemplar scheme (33-35 Burnley Rd), all are nearing completion. A scheme is under development to bring forward a repair and restoration project for 12-14 Burnley Rd. The Townscape Heritage Officer is liaising with other property owners in the TH area to potentially bring forward further grant funded schemes, subject to remaining funds.

### **Flood Defence Works**

The Environment Agency are planning Phase 3 (final phase) of investigation/enabling works which are due to commence next month. Development of the defence alignment and design continues in consultation with the Council and Homes England, which will inform the planning application.

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
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**PR4-** We will implement the Local Plan, delivering new housing, employment sites, and infrastructure.

#### **Supplementary Planning Documents SPDs:**

Consultation on the Local List SPD and Houses in Multiple Occupation and Small Flats SPD commenced on 15 December 2021 for 7 weeks ending on 2 February 2022.

(The drafts having been considered at meeting of the Executive Meetings on 25 October and 1 December 2021 respectively).

Work is continuing on the Residential Extensions SPD and Planning for Health SPD.

#### **AMR:**

The 2020/21 planning Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) was published in December 2021. [Burnley AMR 2020-21 Final.pdf](#)

#### **Progress on allocated housing and employment sites:**

The Planning Policy Team remains busy assisting colleagues in Development Control in assessing and securing amendments to planning applications for major housing and employment schemes, particularly those involving allocated sites.

#### **Housing:**

The planning application at housing site HS1/29 Former Lodge Mill, Barden Lane was 'approved' at Development Control Committee on 9 December 2021 subject to the signing of a S106 Agreement.

Build-out continues at sites HS1/1 Former Hambledon School site (Valour Park, McDermott Homes) and HS1/3 Former Blythes Site (Canal Walk, Gleeson) (70% of homes on these sites are now reserved or sold), and HS1/8 Red Lees Road (The Calders, Miller Homes 25% reserved or sold). Calico's development at site HS1/13 Tay Street is due to be completed in March and work is now underway at Calico's site HS1/19 Land NE of Sycamore Avenue.

An application has now been received for the remainder of site HS1/4 Land at Rossendale Road, from Seddon Homes (FUL 2021/0691).

#### **Employment:**

The planning application REM/2020/0442 at site EMP1/2 Burnley Bridge has been withdrawn and an amended application submitted (REM/2021/0735). The application at

	<p>site EMP1/5 Land south of Network 65 (OUT/2020/0366) is still pending.</p>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PR5-</b> We will support UCLan's expansion, transforming Burnley into a University Town.</p>	<p>Following the announcement of a successful Levelling up Fund bid at the end of November a project team and governance arrangements have been established to plan and deliver to the next phase of the UCLan expansion through the Levelling Up Fund (LUF). Day Architects have been appointed to draw up the detailed designs, working closely with representatives from UCLAN and the Council.</p>
<p><b>PR6-</b> We will delivery our COVID-19 economic recovery plan.</p>	<p><b>Omicron Financial Support &amp; Additional ARG Funding</b></p> <p>In December the government announced the introduction of further grant funding support for hospitality, leisure, and accommodation businesses, in recognition of the impact of the COVID-19 Omicron variant on these sectors.</p> <p>The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme provides a one-off grant to hospitality, leisure, and accommodation businesses. To be eligible business must occupy premises liable for business rates and have been trading on 30<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <p>Local Authority's are required to run an application process and the Council has contacted eligible businesses as set out in the guidance who have been in receipt of previous grant support to complete an online form. Any new eligible businesses that have not previously been supported can apply for the grant on the Council's website.</p>

The table below sets out the amount of funding available.

<b>Rateable Value</b>	<b>One-off grant payment</b>
Exactly £15,000 or under	£2,667
£15,000 - £50,999	£4,000
Exactly £51,000 or over	£6,000

The scheme will close on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

In addition to the Omicron financial support the government has provided further Additional Restriction Grant Funding to support those businesses most severely impacted by coronavirus restrictions and the rise of the Omicron variant, when most needed. The Council's additional allocation is £112,000. The scheme and details of the application process is currently being developed and once approved the same process as the Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grant will be used.

### **Reopening High Streets/Welcome Back Fund**

Five successive weekends of seasonal fun were delivered in the run up to Christmas in Burnley Town Centre. As with the Summer Staycation Events this was a partnership between the Markets Team, Charter Walk and the BID. The town centre saw Christmas themed activities each Saturday to encouraging visitors in to the town centre to experience some festive fun and to support our businesses by shopping local. We have used the funding to agree a twelve month contract with Burnley Football Club to utilise the large LED screen (at the junction of Yorkshire Street/Brunshaw Rd/Belvedere Rd and Todmorden Rd) to promote events and has been used recently to promote the many events in Burnley Town Centre, the Market and Padiham Town Centre leading up to Christmas. It is currently being used to promote the governments message to Boost vaccinations.

Working with colleagues in Environmental Health we have delivered three training courses on food hygiene/food safety to businesses located in our Neighbourhood Shopping areas where there are high numbers of food businesses. There was a very good response to the training with seventeen businesses taking part. Feedback from the businesses was they found the support and advice valuable. With the focus of encouraging people into the town centres two further promotional videos have been produced, one aimed at encouraging people to visit during the autumn and the second to promote businesses in the run up to Christmas and encourage visitors to support shopping local.

### **Thrive – Youth Employment & Skills Hub**

The team at Lancashire County Council who operate a “virtual school” for those young people classed as NEET are now engaging with Thrive and actively making referrals. This also includes the youth offending team.

The Princes Trust are now seeing customers face-to-face in the Thrive hub on a weekly basis. They started mid-Dec and join the other already established partners in the hub and



really encouraging cross referrals between partners whilst also building much stronger partner relationships.

The Burnley Together Community Link worker has already reported increased referrals from those partners working in the hub, particularly for additional wrap around support. This further builds on the increased engagement and impact on mental health previously reported.

Applications from employers to take on a new Kickstart placement have now closed. There are still 65 live Kickstart opportunities available in Burnley and eligible young people can continue to apply for these vacancies which offer a 6 month until the end of Feb 2022.

**Universal Credit Claims and Claimant Count**

The Claimant Count fell again in December 21 to 6.6 % - down from 7.2% in October 21, the lowest level since March 20.

As at the end of December 2021, there were 660, 16 – 24-year-olds in the Borough actively seeking work, a 3% reduction on the previous month.

During the four-week period ending 09.01.22 UC inflows reduced by 28.3% compared to the previous four-week period. Overall, the number of UC claimants reduced during December, with a –3.2% reduction in the number of claimants aged 18-24, although there was a small 0.3% rise in the number of claimants over 25.

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