



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

April 13 2022

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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>Following the publication of the White Paper, Lancashire Leaders have had a number of meetings to consider next steps. It has been agreed to submit the outline "Our New Deal for a Greater Lancashire" that was considered at our last Council meeting as the initial draft basis for further discussion and development of a possible Devolution Deal for the Lancashire.</p> <p>Based on the White Paper, there may be a need to consider other governance arrangements to secure the best deal for Lancashire, but at the current time, we are awaiting the Government's response.</p> <p>As part of wider work, a strategic vision and plan for Lancashire is to be developed. This will provide the strategic framework and long term vision to assist in the negotiations for the future devolution deal.</p> <p>I will continue to ensure that Members are kept up to date and further reports will be brought back to Full Council at the appropriate time.</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 attainment and skills development</p>	<p>UCLan</p> <p>I am also very pleased to report that we have acquired Newtown Mill for the next stage of the growth and expansion of UCLan's campus in Burnley. This is yet another milestone in Burnley becoming a university town. As well as attracting students to the town, it will ensure that our young people can access a wide range of degree programmes on their doorstep.</p> <p>The development will see the retention and development of one of our historic buildings and I cannot wait to see its completion which is planned for January 2024.</p>

Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Winter 2021 - over the school Christmas holidays 9 providers, including the tennis and rugby clubs, Burnley Leisure, Sportscool and Daneshouse FC delivered a wide range of activities from sports, physical activity, Santa trails and pantomimes.

749 individuals participated in activities of which 511 (68%) reported eligible for free school meals.

2036 sessions of face to face support with hot meals were attended.

511 food hampers with 2 days meals were also provided by Burnley Leisure hospitality to support children at home and 599 activity packs with family games and creative activities.

The Easter programme is now being planned with 26 different offers and a 12 to 16 youth pick and mix offer.

English for Speakers of Other Languages- integration fund

The teaching programme continues to be valued with a further 6 cohorts of learners in term 2, a total of 65 learners

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

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
PL5- We will prepare and deliver a new Climate Emergency Strategy.	I am pleased to report that the Council has achieved bronze accreditation from the Carbon Literacy Trust. The Council is committed to build on this achievement and the implementation of the recently approved strategy shall help achieve this.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
PF1- We will manage our contract with Liberata robustly, so it delivers value for money and good services.	Following the report on Q3 performance at January's full council, the next update on contract performance will be reported in the new municipal year.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
PF2- We will adopt a Medium Term Financial Strategy that will put the Council on a sustainable financial footing. This strategy will set the framework for preparing annual budgets, ensuring the annual budget strategy is set within the context of the longer-term outlook.	<p>Revenue Budget</p> <p>The Council has reported an estimated net overspend position of £12k for the 2021/22 financial year which will be met from the Covid Reserve, although we are expecting to achieve a surplus position at year end. This is an improvement on the net estimated deficit for the financial year of £86k reported in December 2021. 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 was approved at Full Council in February 2022, as part of the budget setting process, which identified a potential budget gap of between £2.2m and £4.4m.</p> <p>Statement of Accounts</p>

The Council published its draft Statement of Accounts by the extended deadline of 31st July 2021. Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditor, presented their audit findings to the January meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee. They are in the process of finalising the audit findings which will be completed shortly. Work has commenced on preparing the accounts for 2021/22 financial year.

Council Tax Support and Universal Credit

The number of new Universal Credit claims increased by around 15% during the pandemic. This in turn drove an increase in claimant numbers for council tax support. Over the last few months we have started to see these numbers decline again. As at the 1st March 2022, the number of claimants in receipt of council tax support was 9,900, compared to 10,497 at the same date last year.

Council Tax and Business Rate Collection Rates

The Government extended the Expanded Retail Discount into 2021/22 which provided eligible retail, hospitality and leisure properties with 100% business rate relief until 30th June 2021 and then reduced 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 28th February, are 2.5% below the target of 97.5% for the year. Council tax collection rates are 2.0% below the target of 94.5% for the year. As at the 28th February, collection rates for council tax and business rates were 89.1% and 91.2% against targets of 91.1% and 93.7% respectively.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PF3- We will develop our digital strategy, so that more residents transact with us online and we will continue to deliver services more efficiently.</p>	<p>Work to upgrade the council's website continues and should be 'live' by the time of this meeting. The upgrade does not affect online accounts for council tax, benefits or other online services and forms. Rather, the upgrade improves the accessibility and ability to find information on burnley.gov.uk A pilot is about to begin to test a new way for councillors to report jobs. A working group of councillors will be asked to test a new app for reporting streetscene jobs. The app will give councillors updates on job status and photographic</p>

	evidence of when jobs are complete. If successful, the app will also reduce administrative tasks in streetscene meaning more officer time and be spent on education and enforcement.
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>I am pleased to report that APSE have delivered the first tranche of carbon literacy training to staff. It has been well received and further training is proposed for both officers and Members. The “train the trainer” approach is being used as it is both cost effective and ensures that new entrants into the organisation can be trained up quickly.</p> <p>The Council’s Organisational Development strategy is due for renewal during the next municipal year and work has started to refresh the strategy.</p>
PL6- We will invest in our heritage assets for the benefit of this, and future, generations.	Town Hall Stone works
	<p>The stone works are due to be completed by the 27th April 2022 and costs remain within the budget approved at Full Council in February 2020. Cracks have been identified in the keystone above the front entrance which require further investigatory works. These are currently taking place but may delay the removal of the scaffolding from that part of the building until any remedial works required have taken place. An outbreak of dry rot has been found in the Council Chamber and appears to be spreading in the timber frame that supports the ornate plaster and vaulted edges to the ceiling. The extent and cost of the work required is being identified but due to the nature of works required could be timely and expensive. 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>PE4- We will work on the wider determinants of poor health and will deliver our COVID-19 community recovery plans</p>	<p>Vaccination Programme</p> <p>Vaccination rates in our borough remain similar to neighbouring areas. Among over 12s, 78% have had at least one dose, 73% 2 doses and 51% have had a booster.</p> <p>Burnley Together</p> <p>Following a significant increase in support requests following the omicron spike in January, requests for help from Burnley Together have starting to reduce. The team is now focussing on resolving households’ underlying needs such as access to education, benefits and housing support.</p> <p>To date the council has supported over 2,400 households through the DWP’s household support fund, which offers vouchers worth £85 to low-income families. The current scheme is now paused. The Council is awaiting further details following Chancellor’s March statement on additional household support funding.</p> <p>Testing</p> <p>The PCR testing sites on Centenary Way and King Street have been stood down by the Government.</p> <p>Free LFTs (lateral flow tests) are no longer available to most members of the public, except for the over-75s and over-12s with weakened immune systems. Most people with symptoms aren’t entitled to free PCR tests either. Test can be purchased from high street pharmacies for £2.</p> <p>However, some groups will continue to get free tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS staff who care for patients • hospital patients who need PCRs before treatment • care home residents • people working in high-risk settings, including care homes and prisons • patients who are discharged from hospital into care homes or hospices

Self-Isolation – payments, and support and recognition scheme

Test and Trace payments (self-isolation payments) have now come to an end. In total the council dealt with 5,505 applications, with 55% eligible for the £500 payment.

The support and recognition scheme for children and young people that are self-isolating was popular with 343 children and 191 adults supported since the scheme commenced on 10th January. The scheme was delivered by the council's Policy and Engagement team following a successful bid for funding.

The law which required people with Covid to self-isolate has been lifted. Routine contact tracing has ended.

However, government guidance recommends that if you do test positive:

- you should stay at home for at least five days, and avoid contact with others - especially the vulnerable
- adults shouldn't go to work, although the legal obligation to tell your employer you have Covid has also ended. If you can't work from home, you may be entitled to Statutory Sick Pay
- children shouldn't go to school
- you shouldn't attend routine medical or dental appointments
- you should ask friends or family to deliver groceries

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

Parks & Green Spaces

Planning is well underway for a busy programme of events in parks and green spaces during the summer months.

The popular Brass Band programme will be back, with a bit of a twist to feature a more contemporary interpretation of brass band music, intended to appeal to a younger audience and a traditional brass band will be playing at Towneley for the Platinum Jubilee weekend.

The Retro/Wileout music festival will be returning to Towneley Park with an extended programme of four events over two weekends in early July, with an anticipated combined audience of 27,000 .

An additional fairground event has been added to the programme with a family fairground on Woodgrove car park in Towneley Park over the easter weekend. The income raised from events, such as fairgrounds and music festivals at Towneley contributes to the maintenance of the Park.

Climate and Biodiversity Action

The planting of 16,000 woodland trees in Burnley's parks and green spaces part of the Pennine Lancashire Treescapes Programme (PLanT) is complete.

Hundreds of volunteers from a variety of organisations including Trees for Burnley, Burnley College and local schools, together with local councillors helped with the planting of the 45 new micro-woodlands, including planting of 700 trees at Jubilee Meadows on 6th February to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.

Members will be aware that for many years the Council has managed areas of grassland in our greenspaces as meadows which are cut only once or twice per year. This reduces CO2 emissions and fuel costs, increases biodiversity and creates more attractive open spaces.

In response to the recent rise in fuel costs combined with the Government's ban on the use of red diesel, the areas of grass that we manage as 'low-mow' meadows will be increased to help manage the budget pressure and to progress achieving the Council's net zero ambitions.

Areas of grass that are used for active recreation, grass verges and ornamental areas, etc. will continue to be mown frequently and a plan showing the 'low-mow' meadows will be made available to councillors and the public on Google maps.

Worsthorne Recreation Ground

Construction of the stone-surfaced car park the ball court is complete. Fulfilled Colts have commenced refurbishment of the club house, which will be completed for the start of the football season and an application is in progress to the National Lottery Community Fund for an outdoor gym.

Bowling Greens

In response to concerns about the maintenance of bowling greens, Green Spaces has established a small team comprising a gardener and an apprentice that is dedicated to maintaining greens and a separate budget to cover materials such as fertilisers, lawn sand and seed.

Towneley Hall

I'm pleased to report that the Council's application to the Arts Council's MEND fund for a grant to help with the costs of repairs to Towneley Hall was successful. The Council has been

	<p>awarded £890,000, which was the fourth highest grant in the country.</p> <p>Procurement of a contractor to undertake repairs to the Hall is progressing. 5 firms have been invited to submit tenders, with the contract expected to start on site in July</p> <p>Stables Café The lease has been finalised and work to refurbish the interior of the stables café and install new kitchens, toilets, etc. is expected to start imminently with the aim of opening re-opening the café in early May.</p>
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Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PE2- We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer in partnership with Burnley Leisure & Culture.</p> <p>Borough, which give us a framework for the next 10-years. We will also work on the climate change agenda and look to support the Council in managing the utilities budgets as external budget pressures intensify. Thompson Park boating lake and café will open early April and fingers crossed for a ‘proper summer’ to make the most of these wonderful facilities.</p>	<p>COVID19 Recovery</p> <p>Burnley Leisure & Culture is continuing to see growth in all areas as it closes the accounts for 2021/22. Although this is great news and we find ourselves in a better position than it ever thought possible, BL&C has planned the budget for 2022/23 with caution but with the aim of exceeding pre-covid levels of usage and income.</p> <p>Gym membership is at an all-time high of 4,240 members, the Golf Club now has more than 400 members and there have been queues at weekends for casual swimming.</p> <p>Some areas in which the recovery was lagging behind have also shown very strong growth, particularly hospitality, and bookings for the Mechanics theatre.</p> <p>Thompson Park boating lake and café will open early April and fingers crossed for a ‘proper summer’ to make the most of these wonderful facilities.</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>A report on the appointment of Council Trustees to the BLC board has been considered by the Member Structures Working Group.</p> <p>Cultural Strategy</p> <p>BL&C are leading work on a new Cultural Strategy for Burnley which will help to coordinate and develop Burnley’s cultural</p>

offer over the coming years and provide a platform for securing additional external funding for activities and programmes.

PASTA – Play and Skills at Teatime Activities in Burnley

Managed by Burnley Leisure, The PASTA programme is a collaborative approach with several partners contributing their skills and expertise, including Action for Children, BFC in the Community, and Children and Family Wellbeing Service. Each session incorporates games and activities for the children whilst the adult cooking skills and food education section involves the parents cooking a hot and healthy meal for their children each week, with recipes and resources to take home. Donations from DEPPER, via Burnley Together, has allowed us to provide slow cookers and supermarket vouchers for each of the families on completion of the 6-week course.

The pilot programme took place at St Augustine’s primary school and the families were identified by the school Family Support team, with priority places given to those on free school meals.

The pilot was a success engaging 7 families and 15 children during the 6 weeks. Programmes in Stoneyholme Primary, Barden Primary and Cherry Fold Primary are all booked in for the upcoming Summer terms. In addition to the School Family Support teams, we are working closely with the School Nursing Service who are targeting the same schools to help identify families that will benefit, in addition to the social prescribing teams

Climate and Biodiversity Action

I’m pleased to report that Burnley Leisure has committed to gaining Climate Literacy accreditation and BL staff are taking part in CL training that has been organised by the Council.

BL&C are also supporting the Council in managing the utilities budgets for gas and electricity as external budget pressures intensify

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 Selective Licensing: Trinity, Queensgate with Duke Bar, Gannow and Daneshouse & Stoneyholme areas 2019-2024</p> <p>The total number of properties that are required to be licensed is 2519 across all four designation areas. Of these, 78% have been licensed with work ongoing to ensure the remaining properties that require a licence are identified and processed.</p> <p>Action is being taken for those licensable properties where we have not received and application. A landlord was found guilty on the 17th February 2022 for the failure to apply for a licence for four properties. Officers are now considering making a Banning Order as these were Banning Order offences.</p> <p>Work continues to ensure those properties without satisfactory management arrangements are supported and encouraged to improve. If this is not achieved refusals will be issued. 6 licenses have currently been refused.</p> <p>Selective Licensing: Burnley Wood with Healey Wood and the Leyland Road area</p> <p>Following approval by the Council’s Executive on 19th January 2021, an application was submitted on the 1st February 2022 to the Secretary of State to approve these two areas as new selective licensing designations. Updates on the application will be provided in the coming months.</p> <p>Private Rented Disrepair</p> <p>Since the start of April 2021, the Council has received and dealt with 241 new disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants. The Enforcement Team has a current caseload of approximately 252 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. During 2021/22 we have issued, 4 Formal Improvement Notices, 2 Civil Penalties with fines totalling £20,000, 3 Emergency Remedial Notices and 2 Prohibition Notices.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PL3- We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock, and reduce the blight of empty properties</p>	<p>New Homes</p> <p>We are seeing a strong interest in housing development across the borough for both commercial housing and social housing and the planning team are engaging with developers to review plans and ensure that we achieve good quality developments that meet the housing need of our residents.</p> <p>New properties continue to come 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 over 70% of the homes due for development on the site now sold or reserved. Gleeson Homes are in a very similar position at their site off Manchester Road in Hapton and Miller Homes are progressing well with their current development at Red Lees Road with 38% of their planned homes sold or reserved.</p> <p>The land at Brownside Road Worsthorne is now well underway with the first phase of properties released for sale. This development will see 18, 3- and 4-bedroom family homes offering buyers a rare opportunity to acquire a new build property in this popular aspirational location.</p> <p>McDermott Homes have recent been granted permission on land at Harrogate Crescent, the former Isaac Centre site, that will see a disused building demolished to make way for 44 family homes.</p> <p>Calico's affordable housing programme has had a very successful year with 42 affordable homes at Tay Street now complete. Calico's latest development at the land off Sycamore Avenue is progressing well 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.</p> <p>Empty Homes Programme</p> <p>The Empty Homes Programme has acquired 13 properties over the last 12 months either by agreement or Compulsory Purchase. This figure is lower than we would normally expect</p>

	<p>and has been the result of two main developments, a backlog in the court system that has generally slowed down the acquisitions process and an uplift in the housing market that has seen more property owners returning empty homes back in to use, reducing the need for compulsory purchase. The programme has issued 9 loans to assist owners to bring properties back into use. These figures are slightly down on what we would expect to see and a review has been carried out on the policy and the Executive have approved some changes to the qualification criteria to increase the maximum loan available in selective licensing areas to £25K and extend the loans borough wide.</p> <p>So far this year, 12 properties have been sold and offers accepted on a further 2. The figure for the total number of properties brought back into use will be calculated during April and reported in the next update.</p>
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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 rough sleepers who have a connection to the borough. Through funding from protect and vaccine we have increased the ABEN accommodation from 10 spaces to 16. The housing needs team manage 13 temporary accommodation units. This gives a total of 29 temporary units within Burnley with the flexibility to accommodate both families and single people. We also have access to a small B&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. 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 1st January 22 we have placed 49 people into temporary accommodation, giving a total of 165 accommodated since 1st April 21. We currently have 340 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.</p>

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>Garden Waste Service</p> <p>The Garden Waste collections have resumed again after the winter break (resumed 14th March). The subscription process re-opened from the start of February. All customers who have previously subscribed to the service received a SMS Text / Email during February advising that they are now able to subscribe to the service again. In addition to the Texts and Emails, there was an advertisement in the Council Tax leaflet promoting the service to anybody who has not previously used the service but may be interested. By the end of March over 6,000 customers had subscribed to the service. This number is in line with previous year to date subscriptions.</p> <p>Cleaning Services & Enforcement</p> <p>February's Full Council meeting approved the recommendation to increase / bolster our cleansing, communications and enforcement resources, for 2022 / 23. The extra one-year funding will help tackle some of the challenging areas, where since lockdown where we have seen unacceptable levels of fly-tipping. This recommendation will support existing Urbaser resources and will include an additional post to work alongside existing Officers and Ward Members in tackling fly-tipping in challenging areas.</p> <p>This work will build upon the recent successful trial whereby during October to December 2021 there were over 160 fines, working in partnership with LA Support were issued to offenders who fly tipped / dumped black bags illegally.</p> <p>During March the Council has been recognised nationally as being the 3rd best performing Council in tackling dog fouling. This recognition reflects the strong proactive approach the Council has adopted in responding to dog fouling that remains a priority concern for our residents.</p> <p>The Council in partnership with our residents, LA Support and The Dogs Trust ensures a targeted approach to enforcement and events and initiatives to help promote responsible dog ownership continue across the borough. Ongoing social media campaigns for fly tipping & dog foul intelligence have led</p>

to successful enforcement action throughout the Borough. We continue to promote the **WhoDunit** campaign (<https://www.burnley.gov.uk/whodunit/>) to encourage residents to report incidents and offenders of dog fouling into the Council.

Officers will shortly be submitting a bid to the Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods fund that was launched in March by Lancashire's Office of the Police Crime Commissioner. The funding available from the proceeds of crime is open to Community Safety Partnerships and local authorities. Following previous discussions on rural crime, I am pleased to update that we will be submitting a bid to assist us in dealing with this issue.

Waste, Recycling & Cleansing

The contract with Urbaser for Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing has been extended for an additional 2 years. The contract was an 8-year contract with the option to extend for an additional 2 years. The contract will now expire in May 2025.

There have been some extremely difficult operational challenges over the last 2 years with the global pandemic, driver shortages and issues locally with vehicles due to the tough operating environment. However, service delivery has continued, and no services have been suspended. This is a remarkable achievement and shows the strength of the partnership between Urbaser and the Council. As we emerge from the Covid pandemic, the teams will continue to work hard to tackle ongoing operational challenges to ensure high quality services are delivered.

Community Safety

The Council and key partners continue to work together to identify priorities and responses to address community safety. This month the following Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC) priorities have been identified as;

- Partnership approach to reducing youth related issues in Burnley town centre
- Partnership approach to reducing youth related issues in Padiham town centre

Addressing anti-social behaviour (ASB) remains a priority. Whilst Year to Date (Feb 2022) there has been an overall reduction of 27.9% across the town of recorded incidents of ASB, partners and I, as the Chair of MATAC recognise that we

have pockets of areas where incidents require multi-agency interventions. During February and March 2022, I am pleased to report the following services have been delivered by a wide range of statutory and voluntary partners across the town to address the issues;

- Premier League Kicks sessions started in Daneshouse at the Abel Street MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)
- The Youth Bus continues to be deployed three evenings a week, including the town centre. The service provides outreach work for young with specialised youth workers.
- Burnley has strong links with LCC's youth services and outreach work is provided in areas identified by MATAC.
- Local agencies also deliver Stay Safe operations targeting areas identified through MATAC, or data tracking seasonal peaks, to prevent risk to young people.
- Establish an ASB multi-agency Group

This positive work will continue and the Council will continue to support such partners and activities.

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

The town centre PSPO expires in October 2022 and the process to renew the order will commence shortly. A working group of community safety and licensing partners, including town centre stakeholders, will undertake a review of the existing prohibitions with a view to making sure that the order that is in place is appropriate and addresses any problems that the town centre faces. This will cover both the day and night-time economies. This will be undertaken during March - June.

Once this work has been completed the Council will, in line with the legislation, conduct a consultation on the new order during July - September ensuring any new PSPO will be ready for approval and in place for the expiry of the existing order.

The prohibitions under the current PSPO relate to:

- Town Centre begging
- Unsolicited charity collection and face to face sales
- Misuse of bicycles and skateboards
- Urinating and defecating in a public space
- Unaccompanied under 16's in the town centre after 11pm

Progress updates and engagement of Ward members and key stakeholders will follow.

Electric Vehicle Strategy

Following the discussion by Members at the last Full Council meeting in February 2022, Officers prepared a clarification note to assist Members in terms of the Council's current position regarding its plans to expand the charging opportunities across the Borough.

I am pleased to update that further to the recent Executive approval, the Council are working with Government approved partners and bodies to submit a bid to the On Street Residential Charging (ORCS) Scheme, to rollout out further charge points across the Borough. As part of the bid submission, Officers are currently selecting the optimum sites that meet the criteria of the scheme. Subject to a successful submission, the Scheme aims to be complete by the end of March 2023 and will support residents in making the change to electric vehicles.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Councillors will recall that the council put aside £10,000 to help our district celebrate this historic occasion. 72 community organisations and resident groups from all across the borough have been awarded a share of the funding to help them put on a street party or celebration event.

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 in the urban and rural areas to innovate and expand, and make the borough a natural choice for business relocation.</p>	<p><u>Business Support</u></p> <p>Inward Investment</p> <p>The Business Team are working with 24 businesses looking to relocate into the Borough or expand within in. These come from a range of key sectors including Advanced Manufacturing, Food & Drink, Creative & Digital and Financial. Current enquiries include a mixture of requirements including one of up to 5,000 Sq Ft of office and enquiry for up to 200,000 Sq Ft of Industrial space. There have been high levels of interest in the new sites proposed at Burnley Bridge South and the future Advance Point development on Rossendale Rd.</p> <p>The Business team have been working closely with US headquartered SS&C Inc following a search for sites & suitable office accommodation last year; following the initial sift, and a two-day visit by SS&C in November last year, the company have taken the decision and chosen Burnley for their office relocation. The company specialise in providing back-office Services & Support to a number of high street banks here in the UK, SS&C have recently engaged in a recruitment event held at Burnley College, ahead of their relocation into the Borough. The company are looking to initially create 50+ full time jobs in the financial sector with potential further growth & expansion planned within the borough.</p> <p>Business Start ups</p> <p>The Business Support Team has delivered its business start-up support initiative called ‘Go for It’ Business Essentials during January, February and March. All three sessions were held at Padiham Town Hall and were well attended with thirty people taking advantage of the free support available. Due to the success and the demand, the business team are looking to programme more workshops in the spring/summer.</p> <p>Community Renewal Fund</p>

Fifteen applications from Burnley businesses have been approved totalling £295,000 of grant, leading to the creation of 71 new jobs and safeguarding 34. The projects by the businesses will lever in a total of £660,218 of private sector investment.

Digital Connectivity Study

With support from the LGA, a detailed study on Digital Connectivity has been completed with a five point action plan on improving physical connectivity, digital skills and digital adaptation in businesses. This was a key action in the Burnley Recovery and Growth Strategy.

Burnley Brand and Burnley Bondholders

Burnley Business Awards

Work has commenced on plans for the Burnley Business Awards on 30th June. ASP Events management have been procured to manage the event.

Business sponsors have been secured and nominations for the awards are now open and close on 8 April.

Press (TV and film)

The Brand team have been working closely with Filming In England to promote Burnley as a location for film and TV productions.

The team has work alongside Netflix to secure filming locations for Bank of Dave film and with Comic Relief on the filming of Jordan North's London to Burnley Rowing challenge.

On the day of the charity row (4 March), Burnley.co.uk and burnley.social published 10 unique videos and posts, with a combined reach on Facebook of 140,907 people.

Press (written)

Since 26 Jan, there have been 37 pieces of positive content on Burnley.co.uk and 9 pieces of positive content on burnley.social.

Press (combined)

	<p>Since Jan 26, Burnley has featured in 1,531 pieces of print and broadcast news with a combined AVE of £1.35m and reach of 506m.</p> <p>The Lancashire Telegraph print edition was the largest outlet in terms of volume (181 articles).</p> <p>Brand engagement</p> <p>Since 26 Jan (the last report), Burnley.co.uk has seen a 51.3% increase in Facebook engagements, 14.1% increase in Instagram engagements and a 47.1% increase in LinkedIn engagements.</p> <p>Since 26 Jan (the last report), Burnley.Social has seen a 68.2% increase in Facebook engagements and 314.2% increase in Instagram engagements.</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><u>Business Improvement District</u></p> <p>High Street Recovery</p> <p>The BID and the Council’s business support team have been delivering a range of activity funded by The Welcome Back fund, to support high street recovery.</p> <p>Recent projects have included: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting events in Burnley Town Centre, the Market and Padiham Town Centre using the large LED screen at Burnley Football Club • Provision of consultancy support for town centre businesses on how to deal with difficult customers • Provision of marketing material to encourage people to shop local <p><u>Burnley Markets</u></p> <p>Business Support</p> <p>One of the benefits of the market is that traders receive a package of business support. xx traders attended a level 2 food hygiene course. xx traders are receiving business advice through various online zoom sessions and face to face appointments. These include Merchandising, Customer Service, Bookkeeping, Competition & Brand Building</p> <p>Artisan Market</p>

The Artisan Market commenced again on the 5th February and will take place on the first Saturday of the month for the remainder of the year.

Burnley Town Centre Development Projects

Pioneer Place

Partners and stakeholders attended a ground breaking ceremony on the 24th January. Work is continuing on site as planned.

Good progress is being made, securing tenants for the Council's five units.

Lower St James Street Heritage Action Zone

HAZ grants have been awarded to owners to carry out renovation works to properties; this includes the Empire Theatre, where asbestos has been removed, a ceiling net has been installed and plaster moulds have been created which will protect the theatre's precious decorative plaster work. This important safety work will allow members of the public to tour the building in small groups in the near future. Shops are reaping the benefits of the HAZ grant, with works almost completed at 2 properties and a further 11 in the design and planning stages of the process, with delivery planned to take place in the next 12-18 months subject to owner sign off. Schemes include shop front replacements, repointing and stone repairs, essential roofing and structural works as well as removing any alterations that are not deemed sympathetic to the heritage of the buildings. The works to retail premises on St James's St will complement the recent public realm improvements.

The Executive has considered and approved a report for the Council to acquire and renovate properties on Lower St James Street to develop a create hub consisting of a gallery and shared workspace/studios for artists and creative industries. The project will have a significant impact on the street scene and attract new uses and footfall. A tender exercise has been completed to appoint an operator.

Several heritage workshops and training events have taken place along with a series of social media videos to engage and educate the local community. A pop-up shop with the Cultural Consortium was launched and an evening drop-in session was arranged for the local community to attend.

Levelling Up – Town 2 Turf Public Realm Enhancements

Development of the detailed design continues in partnership with LCC. Demolition of the former gent's toilet block has completed, and traffic modelling is ongoing/under review.

Levelling Up – Manchester Rd Rail Station Improvements

Design and delivery arrangements are being agreed between BBC and LCC. An initial funding agreement is being finalised to enable Network Rail to undertake surveying and develop a detailed scheme of works.

Padiham Town Centre Management

Shop Local, Shop Padiham campaign continues in Padiham Town Centre, through advertising, marketing literature, reusable shopping bags and free photography for Mother's Day.

Lidl Store opened on the 17th February creating 40 jobs for the town. Since the store opened footfall figures have risen by approx. 10000 visitors, compared to the previous month.

Padiham Town Hall

The offices are all currently let or under offer following the recent refurbishment with the final two tenants expected to move in during the Easter period. The Co-working space, located in a refurbished former committee rooms, will launch in April for 25 users.

Padiham Townscape Heritage Initiative

The former National School building has been completely renovated and final works including stone repair and cleaning of the front elevation are being completed. At the Council owned properties, 33-35 Burnley Rd, internal fitting out works to the upper floor apartments is nearing completion and the new shop fronts have been installed.

Officers are working with the owners 12-14 Burnley Rd to bring forward a scheme. The TH Officer is liaising with other property owners within the TH project boundary to potentially bring forward final schemes to utilise remaining funds.

Occupancy rates have significantly improved in the TH area.

Public Realm

	<p>Lancashire CC have reported further delays for the installation of street furniture and works within the northern node area due to issues in supply chain and supplier difficulties in sourcing materials. The supplier has indicated shipment of the street furniture week commencing 28th March, but LCC are unable to confirm timescales for installation at this stage.</p> <p>Padiham Flood Defence Scheme</p> <p>Further ground investigation works have been undertaken and enabling works under permitted development rights including tree works and vegetation clearance. Planning pre-application has been submitted. Detailed designs for the works to the wall at the rear of the Town Hall have been completed and circulated in a newsletter.</p>
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Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PR4- We will implement the Local Plan, delivering new housing, employment sites, and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Planning Policy Team</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Documents:</p> <p>The 7-week consultation on the Local List SPD and Houses in Multiple Occupation and Small Flats SPD ended on 2nd February 2022. Revised versions (taking into account the comments received) will be presented to Executive for adoption in April 2022.</p> <p>Work is continuing on the Planning for Health SPD and a draft for public consultation is planned to be presented to Executive in June 2022.</p> <p>Housing and Employment Sites:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Housing:</p> <p>Amended plans have been submitted for part of site HS1/4 Land at Rossendale - Barratt Homes (FUL/2021/0273). The amendments include reducing the proposed number of units from 101 to 87 units. The application for the remainder of site HS1/4 from Seddon Homes is pending (FUL/ 2021/0691).</p>

	<p>The first phase of properties has now been released for sale at site HS1/26: Land adj 250 Brownside Road, Worsthorne (Millers Green, Boyes Homes). Build-out continues at sites HS1/1 Former Hambledon School site (Valour Park, McDermott Homes) and HS1/3 Former Blythes Site (Canal Walk, Gleeson) (over 70% of homes on these sites are now reserved or sold), and HS1/8 Red Lees Road (The Calders, Miller Homes 38% reserved or sold). Calico's development at site HS1/13: Tay Street is nearing completion and work is now underway at Calico's site HS1/19 Land NE of Sycamore Avenue.</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>Campus Development The acquisition of former Newtown Mill has formally completed. Day Architects continue to progress the detailed design in consultation with Burnley BC and UCLan to inform the planning application, due to be submitted in April. A package of enabling works including stripping-out and asbestos removal is being progressed</p>
<p>PR6- We will delivery our COVID-19 economic recovery plan.</p>	<p>Recovery Plan and Recovery Board We continue to work with partners to deliver the Burnley Economic Recovery and Growth Plan. There is a wide range of on-going activities to support businesses, people and our places to recover and grow. There is a strong commitment from partners and a number of collaborations are being delivered.</p> <p>The board recently received an economy monitoring report and key highlights include, a significant reduction in unemployment from the peak of the pandemic, the youth unemployment rate has recovered much more quickly than expected. The impact has had a small impact on the number of jobs in the borough during 2021 with the worse affected sectors being arts, culture and leisure, although manufacturing saw an increase in job numbers. There has been very minimal impact on the number of businesses in the borough. There are currently a high level of vacancies and businesses of all types are facing difficulties in recruiting. In terms of the Town Centre both footfall and spend have remained buoyant in comparison to other towns across the country, although spend did reduce in the first quarter of 2022.</p> <p>Omicron Financial Support & Additional ARG Funding</p>

The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant and the Omicron Additional Restrictions grants have now closed. Businesses were actively encouraged to take up the support provided by the government aimed at supporting those businesses that had been affected by the Omicron variant.

A total of 196 businesses received grants between £2,667 and £6,000. The total amount of grant paid out to eligible business totalled £629,377

The Council's Omicron Additional Restrictions grant provided grants between £750 and £3,000 to those businesses not eligible under the Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grant but were in sectors that support these businesses. 98 businesses received support totalling £125,816

Support was also provided to businesses using the Council's remaining Additional Restriction Grant from previous tranches provided by the government: -

A total of 30 businesses received support from the Council's Covid Outbreak Closure Grant which supported small businesses that had to close due to Covid 19. The grant totalled £27,928.

Five businesses received support towards new shop front improvements totalling £45,292.

Two business received £140,000 of grant support from the Council's Additional Restrictions Hardship fund towards supporting them with their business recovery and growth plans. Together these businesses will be creating 36 new jobs.

The council's remaining grant allocation has now closed with all the allocation having been awarded to businesses.

Thrive – Youth Employment & Skills Hub

The Thrive hub is now open for “drop-ins” – this is a real step forward as things have started to open back up and means the hub is accessible to all at a time that suits them.

Burnley College is the latest partner to commit weekly time to working from the Thrive hub and their team will be based there every Wednesday. 8 Partners are now based in Thrive on a weekly basis.

A total of 400 Kickstart placements were delivered in Burnley
The number of unemployed 18 – 24-year-olds, actively seeking work in Burnley, at the end of January 2022 is 620.
In Jan 2020 this figure was 550.

A strong partnership has been developed with Lancashire County Council and we are providing a joined-up referral system to Thrive for those who are classed as NEET, at risk

	of becoming NEET, Care Leavers and those in the youth justice system.
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