



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

SEPTEMBER 28 2022

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## 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>A workshop for all Lancashire leaders is due to take place on 26 September to assist in the development of the Lancashire 2050 Vision and Strategic Framework Plan .</p> <p>All Group Leaders were sent a update presentation on Lancashire 2050 last month and I will arrange for the vision and plan to come to a Scrutiny Committee at the appropriate time later this municipal year.</p> <p>As previously reported, the final Lancashire 2050 Vision will inform any major asks within any devolution deal.</p> <p>I am pleased to report that in my work as Leader, I am increasingly approached by other Council Leaders and politicians who are impressed by the way we are taking the town forward and the exciting developments we have underway such as Pioneer Place and Uclan’s expansion at Newtown Mill. Burnley continues to face challenges but we should not underestimate the great work we are doing as a Council and with our partners. Many other examples are included in my Executive Member colleagues’ reports.</p> <p>One of the major challenges we are now facing is the Cost of Living crisis.</p> <p><b>Cost of living</b></p> <p>We are working with partners on giving as much practical support as possible to residents- this is a priority for the Executive. Members will find details in Councillor Lishman’s update.</p> <p>The Chief Executive is now chairing a new group of Cost of Living lead officers across Lancashire to share best practice and ensure a co-ordinated response.</p>

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<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>School's results</b></p> <p>I was pleased to see Burnley College's recent record breaking results: 85% of A Level students achieve at least one high A*-C grade, 60% of A Level students achieve at least one top A*-B grade and 30% of A Level students achieve at least one exceptional A* or A grade.</p> <p>It was also great to attend Burnley College's Award for Excellence evening to hear more about and recognise our student's achievements.</p> <p>I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our high performing GCSE pupils, who performed well despite impact of the pandemic on their education. As soon as they are available, I will give an update on the official results at a future meeting.</p> <p>I also had the pleasure of attending one of Uclan's Graduation Ceremonies in Preston, which included many students who had studied in Burnley.</p> <p><b>Holiday Activities and Food Programme</b></p> <p>The Summer programme has ended with an amazing 4 weeks of activities on offer to children on free school meals spanning across the 6 week holiday period Over 25 different providers delivered sessions. A full summary report is being compiled and will be available in late October.</p>

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

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PL5-</b> We will prepare and deliver a new Climate Emergency Strategy.</p>	<p>The Officer Sustainability Working Group has been working across the Council, Liberata and Burnley Leisure to maintain progress on key climate emergency initiatives in line with the Council's Climate Emergency Strategy. This includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Carbon Literacy Training for employees;</li> <li>ii. developing the Council's Carbon Monitoring Tool that shall consider scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions;</li> <li>iii. rolling out the EV charging strategy and securing the necessary funding; and</li> <li>iv. compiling a review of Council owned buildings to look at solar and voltage optimisation.</li> </ol> <p>The climate change officer post job specification has been reviewed and shall be out for advert shortly.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PF1-</b> We will manage our contract with Liberata robustly, so it delivers value for money and good services.</p>	<p>By the end of Q1 , Liberata achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 58% of calls answered within time. The target is 80%. In Q4 the result was 78%. However the average wait time for all calls in the quarter was under 2 minutes. In addition, the caller abandonment rate remains on target at only 3%.</li> <li>• The main explanation for the increase in wait times is that calls have become more complex as people look for support to deal with the negative effects of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis, e.g. loss of employment, falling behind with payments, looking for support on where to obtain assistance, ad hoc payment applications such as the £150 rebate scheme. While more customers are contacting us online the increase in call durations means that there has been a significant increase in the total call handling time compared to pre-pandemic levels. Liberata's contract director provided a presentation to Scrutiny Committee in September.</li> <li>• Other targets have been met successfully; the average number of days to process benefits new claims and change of circumstances has a target of 9 days. The Q1</li> </ul>

	<p>result was 2.2 days. The latest available data for comparison with other areas is from Q3 21/22 (this measures housing benefit processing only) and shows that Burnley’s housing benefit processing time overall was 4 days. This was the fastest in the North West, where the average time taken was 7 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targets for IT and HR services were also achieved.</li> </ul>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PF2-</b> We will adopt a Medium Term Financial Strategy that will put the Council on a sustainable financial footing. This strategy will set the framework for preparing annual budgets, ensuring the annual budget strategy is set within the context of the longer-term outlook.</p>	<p><b>Revenue Budget</b></p> <p>The Council has reported a projected net overspend of £149k at the end of quarter 1 for the 2022/23 financial year. This is in line with the financial position in previous years’ and we expect to balance the books by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>The Medium-Term Financial Strategy for the period 2023/26 is elsewhere on this agenda and has been updated to reflect the inflationary and cost of living pressures. The updated MTFS has identified a potential budget gap of £2.3m over the 3-year period. Savings proposals have been identified, a number of which are included within the Revenue Budgets 2023/2026 elsewhere on this agenda with the remainder to be recommended for approval in February 2023 once the outcome of the provisional budget settlement is announced in December 2022.</p> <p><b>Statement of Accounts</b></p> <p>The Council published its draft Statement of Accounts by the extended deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Grant Thornton, the Council’s external auditor, have commenced their audit and are proposing to present their audit findings to a November 2022 meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee, in advance of the deadline.</p> <p><b>Council Tax Support and Universal Credit</b></p> <p>The number of new claims submitted in the twelve months has increased by around 20%. However, the number of claimants in receipt of council tax support has reduced by 5.8% over that period. As at the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022, the</p>

number of claimants in receipt of council tax support was 9,871, compared to 10,476 at the same date last year.

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

It is estimated that business rates collection rates for 2022/23, up to the 31<sup>st</sup> August, are on target to achieve 97.5% for the year. Council tax collection rates are 1.0% below the target of 94.5% for the year. As at the 31<sup>st</sup> August, collection rates for council tax and business rates were 42.84% and 47.16% against targets of 43.84% and 47.23% respectively.

### **Energy Procurement**

The Council procures its main gas and electricity supply for its estate through a Crown Commercial Services Framework Agreement with suppliers EDF Energy and Total Energies. These contracts expire in Autumn 2022.

Ahead of this, Officers are working with partners from Liberata to review Council requirements and best value/sustainable purchase options prior to then.

The energy marketplace remains under severe pressure. Continuity of supply to the UK overall and energy prices are volatile and the market outlook is that less challenging conditions are not likely to return any time soon.

Based upon present market conditions, we should expect significantly higher prices when our energy contract(s) are re-let. Further updates will be provided as this work continues.

Whilst the increase is unknown, Members will note that we have estimated an increase in our 2022/23 budget, budget projection for future years and set up a small volatility reserve to support in-year pressures.

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	Progress update
PF3- We will develop our digital strategy, so that more residents transact with us online and we will continue to deliver services more efficiently.	<p>A new telephone system has been installed for back office council staff. As requested at last full council, a directory of services will be shared with members.</p> <p>We are on target to launch the Love Clean Streets app in October. This will be the quickest, easiest and more efficient way for members and residents to report streetscene, highways and parks jobs.</p>

	<p>The target to achieve 30,000 website users over the quarter was achieved: 37,000 residents used the site during Q1.</p>
<p><b>Strategic commitment</b></p> <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><b>Progress update</b></p> <p>The Council's Organisational Development Strategy is currently under review and a draft shall be presented to the Executive later this year.</p> <p>A focus for this year is Leadership and Management training and we will be running a series of events for new managers. We are also starting a new 12-month programme for Talent Management to develop future leaders – this training enables those nominated to contribute to a corporate project whilst demonstrating our TEAM values.</p> <p>We are progressing our Carbon Literacy training across the Council with the identified Champions being trained in September. Elected Member training is also starting in October. Following the completion of this training it will be rolled out across the Council to all employees and Members.</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 issues with the keystone above the front entrance has now been resolved with a permanent fix put in place, at a cost far below that initially expected following the advice of the structural engineer. This has enabled the remaining stone works to recommence with work due to be completed in November 2022. The final costs of this scheme are on track to remain within the approved budget.</p> <p><b>Council Chamber</b></p> <p>An outbreak of dry rot was identified in the Council Chamber earlier in the year. A specialist was appointed to undertake an assessment and cost of the works required to rectify the issue. During the inspection works some structural issues were identified in the roof space and we are awaiting a final report from the structural engineer to advise on the extent of works required. An update will be provided on cost and timelines once all reports have been received.</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 keep residents informed about changes to health services and how to access them.</p>	<p><b>Cost of Living</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are using Household Support Funding to ensure that the BFitC foodbank is stocked this winter so that no one need go hungry.</li> <li>• The Community Grocer in Southwest Burnley has been a complete success, reducing foodbank reliance generally, but specifically in those neighbouring communities. We are discussing with The Message and Calico the possibility of opening a second store.</li> <li>• Since July we have provided over 4000 older residents on low incomes with a £90 voucher for food or fuel, again using Household Support Funding. We will continue to target this funding at the most vulnerable this winter.</li> <li>• We are applying to the County Council for Affordable Warmth funding, again to support vulnerable residents to keep warm through fuel vouchers, water bottles/electric blankets and/or energy efficiency measures.</li> <li>• We plan to set up a network of communal warm spaces- “Warm Heart Warm Spaces”- where people can come together to enjoy activities, a hot drink and keep warm with dignity. Our partners have been invited to register to become part of this network and register their facilities with us.</li> </ul> <p><b>Burnley Together</b></p> <p>Each month, there are 200 new families accessing the foodbank for the first time although we anticipate demand will fall in the wake of the Community Grocer. The Community Grocer has seen explosive growth since it opened in August 2022. Currently there are 1,405 members from across Burnley</p> <p><b>Relove the Preloved school uniform shop</b></p>



The shop was a huge success helping 710 children get items of school uniform for free. We are now looking at ways to make the shop available all year round but in the short term it will be located at The Switch in the town centre and open on Wednesdays. I would like to thank all the volunteers, including members of the Council, who supported the shop.

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

**Towneley Hall**

Following an open competitive tender for the contract to undertake repairs to Towneley Hall, the Council has appointed Historic Property Restoration Ltd as the main contractor for the project. This firm has extensive experience of work on similar historic houses for the National Trust and other clients.

The work includes re-roofing, replacement and repair of 130+ windows, external stonework, repairs to the Great Hall ceiling, structural work to support the ceilings of the regency rooms and timber treatments.

The first phase of work to carry out re-roofing of the Great Hall, rebuilding of high-level external walls will commence in October 2022 and complete May 2023, whilst internally the repairs to the ornate plaster ceiling of the great hall will complete May 2024.

The second phase of work to re-roof the South wing (overlooking the flower garden) runs from June 2023 and to January 2024 and the final phase to the North Wing, which includes the art galleries, commences January 2024 with work schedule to complete by December 2024.

There will be a significant impact on the appearance of the Hall, as each wing will, in turn, be entirely clad with scaffolding and a temporary roof and the quadrangle of the Hall will be used as the operation compound throughout the contract.

The Council will endeavour to keep as much of the Hall open to the public as possible, determined by the contractor's programme will to keep the public engaged and updated on the progress of this important project.

**Stables Café**

The contract for re-roofing the Stables café is currently underway, having been delayed due to the long lead in time for supply of roofing slates. The contract is expected to be complete in mid-October and the café operator will follow on with the

refurbishment of the café with the aim of re-opening in the new year.

### **Play Strategy**

The refurbishment of Lane Bottom playground is complete and the play area has been re-opened.

Consultation with ward councillors and local communities is underway for refurbishment of play areas at Healywood, Memorial Park, Clifton Street and Memorial Park, that are included in this year's programme.

### **Burnley' Playing Pitch Strategy**

The Council is currently working with external consultants to develop a new Playing Pitch Strategy for the Borough, which covers all organised outdoor sports. There has been extensive consultation with local sports clubs and the national sports governing bodies and the draft strategy will be taken to scrutiny and executive early next year.

### **Worsthorne Recreation Ground**

Fulledge Colts have obtained prices from contractors for the internal fit out of the modular building, provision of external access ramps and are aiming to commence work on the building shortly.

Green Spaces staff will complete external work including the installation of access barriers and re-surfacing of the access road and car park in the autumn.

### **Climate and Biodiversity Action**

The biodiversity survey of urban meadows has been completed and the survey results are being used to identify areas of grassland that will be overseeded with native wildflower seed in the Autumn, with the aim of increasing the biodiversity of Burnley's parks and greenspaces.

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<b>PE2-</b> We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer in partnership with Burnley Leisure.	<b>Facilities update</b> <b>Cultural Strategy</b> Burnley Leisure has made an appointment to the new post of Cultural Strategy Manager (CSM), who will be starting in November. The CSM will be establishing a shadow Cultural Partnership Board and completing work on the draft Cultural Strategy and Action Plan ready for a launch in late spring 2023.

The CSM will also be working on funding applications to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts council for essential repairs and improvements at the Mechanics.

### **Health & Wellbeing**

LCC has confirmed funding to extend the successful PASTA programme through 23/24. The programme of after school cooking and play activities will be delivered at schools in will focus on the same areas as the first phase, which are: Rosegrove with Lowerhouse, Daneshouse & Stoneyholme and Hapton.

Burnley Leisure has also developed a new 'Fun with Food' activity programme which used its new catering van and staff from its restaurants to deliver a rainbow soup making workshop to all 25 Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) projects with more than 900 children taking part. Burnley Leisure has since received enquiries from schools for paid workshops and there are opportunities to deliver the cooking workshops to other client groups such as Calico's Gateway clients.

Through the quarterly 'Waste not Want Not' events that will be held at the Prairie, Mechanics and Towneley Golf restaurants, BLC will be offering a menu that uses food ingredients that would otherwise be waste and cooked by staff who will volunteer their time, with the aim that each event pays for 400 family food shops at the Community Grocery

### **Beat the Street**

Burnley Leisure is currently developing plans for Beat the Street 2 which will be held in 2023 and building on the success of the first event held in autumn 2021, which attracted over 10,500 participants.

### **Climate action**

BL staff are taking part in the Climate Champions training.

## 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: Trinity, Queensgate with Duke Bar, Gannow and Daneshouse &amp; Stoneyholme areas 2019-2024</b></p> <p>The total number of properties that are required to be licensed is 2480 across all four designation areas. Of these, 2080 (84%) are currently 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 an application. A total of nine civil penalties have been served for the failure to apply for a licence.</p> <p>There is one interim management order in operation in the Trinity area. This was made as there was no prospect of the property becoming licensed. The Council is managing the tenancy and dealing with all tenancy related matters. 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. Eight licenses have so far been refused.</p> <p><b>Selective Licensing: Burnley Wood with Healey Wood and the Leyland Road area 2022-2027</b></p> <p>The designations for the above area came into force on 21st July 2022. Since this date we have received 165 applications (19% of licensable properties). The licensing team continue to work on processing incoming applications and supporting landlords. Landlords and agents have been asked to apply no later than 21st October; the team anticipates a significant number of applications will be submitted by this date.</p> <p>The Council also successfully prosecuted a landlord for a breach of licensing conditions for failing to obtain gas safety certificates at four properties under the previous Burnley Wood with Healey Wood designation. The landlord was fined over £2500 and has been required to appoint an accredited managing agent under the new designation.</p> <p><b>Private Rented Disrepair</b></p>

	<p>Since the start of April 2022, the Council has received and dealt with 140 new disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants. The Enforcement Team has a current caseload of 220 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair/proactive inspection cases, which includes planned housing inspections.</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>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 as are Gleeson Homes at their site off Manchester Road in Hapton and Miller Homes at Red Lees Road. New properties are popular and selling well.</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 recently 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 and Barretts Homes secured planning permission for their site off Rossendale Road in June this year to develop 87 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes, 31% of which will be detached dwellings.</p> <p>Calico's latest development at the land off Sycamore Avenue is progressing well and due to complete later this year offering 22 family homes and 12 apartments for affordable rent. As expected, demand has been very high for this popular location.</p> <p>Calico continues to press ahead with their development programme and at July's Planning Committee secured permission for 61 new homes for affordable rent at Kinross Street, that will provide 58 2 and 3 bedroom family homes and 3 bungalows.</p> <p><b>Empty Homes Programme</b></p> <p>So far this year, we have had 11 enquiries regarding loans. Information regarding the loans and the new maximum of</p>

£25k went out in the Selective Licensing newsletter to landlords.

The compulsory purchase programme is progressing with a number of files being prepared for submission to the Secretary of State, along with a new report for the October Executive for approval of further CPOs on problem properties. A number of CPOs have just completed, six of the properties we currently have will be used through the Governments Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme to provide 6 units of supported move on accommodation for homeless people who have a history of rough sleeping.

These properties are now having schedules prepared and will be going out to tender soon (one is currently being renovated). We currently have 4 properties under renovation with 2 more out to tender.

Schedules were prepared for the facelifting works to the rears of Windsor and Ivory (off Padiham Rd) and the fronts of Wytham and Albion St in Padiham. We have decided to delay the works to the rears of Windsor and Ivory as there was a lot of painting involved and the weather would have proved to be a problem and could have affected the works. Wytham and Albion is planned for the end of September and should go ahead as there is much less painting involved.

Sales are still buoyant and we have accepted offers on 2 properties (50 Hillside and 21 Norman St).

### **Improvements in the Energy Efficiency of Homes**

We continue to work with the Lancashire consortium of local authorities known as Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL). The Local Authority Delivery Funding round 2 is due to complete at the end of September 22. Over the last 12 months Burnley have received 501 installation measures in 322 properties, one of the highest number of installs across Lancashire. The installations take a fabric first approach including internal wall, roof and floor insulation as well as the replacement of windows and doors. Renewable energies such as solar panels are also included in the scheme. We have been successful in securing HUG funding which also provides energy efficiency installation measures. This scheme must be delivered by the end of March 2023. We will be sending out further information to residents about how to apply for this scheme in the coming months.

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<b>PE3-</b> We will continue to work with partners to	We continue to accommodate rough sleepers and homeless households who have a connection to the borough. We now

provide necessary support systems to reduce homelessness and to end rough sleeping in the borough.

have 16 ABEN accommodation spaces in the Borough providing accommodation and support for people sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough. The housing needs team manage an additional 13 temporary accommodation units making a total of 29 housing units within Burnley with the flexibility to accommodate both families and single people. We also have access to a small B&B in Burnley if all our accommodation is full. We keep the demand and supply of temporary accommodation under review and have recently been successfully awarded just under £275,000 through the Governments Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme to provide 6 units of supported move on accommodation for homeless people who have a history of rough sleeping. This will further strengthen the support we have available and help with our aim of assisting households to find stable secure accommodation that meets their needs.

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 22 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 22 we have placed 64 households into temporary accommodation. We currently have 294 active cases for either homelessness prevention or homelessness relief. We continue to refer into the changing futures programme to assist people with multiple and complex need and the navigators and housing needs teamwork with the service users to support and help them secure stable and sustainable accommodation.

# COUNCILLOR SHAH HUSSAIN, 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 community engagement and cleansing in 'hotspot' areas</p>	<p><b>Waste &amp; Recycling Services</b></p> <p>Due to the sad passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II and the state funeral on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, the garden waste collection service that would have ordinarily taken place on this date was re-scheduled and will take place on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> September. All other collections and services remained as normal. We thank our residents and crews for their understanding in relation to this change.</p> <p><b>Environmental Enforcement</b></p> <p>Streetscene continue to target those offenders who commit environmental offences. During the last 3 months the following Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for litter, dog &amp; flytipping offences;</p> <p>June, July &amp; Aug 2021 – 81          June, July &amp; Aug 2022 – 452</p> <p>The comparison to last year (2021) shows an increase that factors in we were still in the Covid recovery period but shows the good work of residents reporting dog fouling hotspots for patrol. Residents tell us that dog fouling, littering and flytipping remain key areas of concern and in response the Council undertakes a robust approach of enforcement and education. The 2022 figures are much higher than the previous year and Streetscene enforcement will continue to target offenders.</p> <p>In addition to litter and dog foul enforcement, LA Support officers continue to enforce and carry out doorstep interviews in relation to black bags on backstreets. This is a priority issue in some problematic areas. This has been well received by residents in the worst affected areas.</p> <p>The "WHO DUNNIT" dog foul campaign &amp; hotline is ongoing and has produced lots of intelligence that is used for hotspot deployments of Officers for their weekly patrols. Follow up conversations with complainants have been positive and resulted in Fixed Penalty Notices being issued to those who allow their dogs to foul.</p> <p>e "Operation Night Owl" campaign, targeting rural crime &amp; fly tipping is ongoing and deployments will continue to be made in key hotspot areas. We will be launching a targeted publicity campaign to support this activity shortly. .</p> <p>Tackling fly tipping remains a top priority for Streetscene.</p> <p><b>Education &amp; Enforcement Officer</b></p> <p>Streetscene have successfully recruited to this post and targeted ward work has started. I am pleased to report that we are already receiving positive feedback from residents and our</p>



waste and cleansing contractor about the positive changes that this targeted approach has achieved.

### **Electric Vehicle Charge Points**

I am pleased to report that the Council has been successful in its bid to the On-Street Residential ChargePoint (ORC) scheme from the Department of Transport's OZEV Team. The Council have secured over £139,000 of funding and with match funding from the Council and EB Charging, as its procured private sector provider we will be working closely to install a further 21 charge points across Burnley and Padiham. The charge funding criteria focused on ChargePoint's for residents and OZEV have approved the locations that encourages the use of council owned car parks with residential proximity. This project requires significant work but we are anticipating installations will be made by early 2023.

### **Pavement Licences**

Recent legislation extending the pavement licensing provisions within the Business and Planning Act for another 12 months has allowed the Council to continue administering pavement licences beyond the end of September 2022, the date on which all previously issued licences are due to expire. Existing licence holders have received a reminder about the expiry, and those wishing to continue their highway occupations have been encouraged to make early application for a new licence. It is anticipated that there will be applications from between 10 and 15 businesses. Licences can only be issued for situations where pedestrians can continue to be safely accommodated on the footway. Where new licences are granted, particular attention is being drawn to the requirement for compliant barriers and confinement of occupations to the area licenced. It is anticipated that new legislation will be enacted in the coming year to make permanent pavement licensing at a district council level, and extend the associated enforcement powers.

### **Engineering**

Engineers continue to have input into a variety of major Council projects, most notably the Town 2 Turf scheme, and provide technical assistance to Greenspaces on asset management and maintenance.

The outcome of the recent joint district council procurement for parking enforcement and cash collection is that Marstons retain the enforcement element and a new contractor, APCOA, will take on cash collection.

### **Community Safety & Domestic Abuse**

Domestic Abuse training has been rolled out across the Council. Using specialist, drama based training company Aftathought, an awareness raising session has been developed that provides with scenario based learning for officers. Four sessions have been delivered to staff so far with future dates to be provided for remaining staff and members.

Burnley Council will lead a partnership plan for this year's 16 Days of Action based around the White Ribbon. Burnley Council is an accredited White Ribbon organisation and will look to support as many partners as possible to apply for their own accreditation. Local partners will also be supporting a county wide campaign of awareness raising through communications support and activity.

Consultation of the Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order has been completed and a report will be going to the Council's September's Executive Meeting recommending that approval is given to implement a new 3-year Order. If this is approved, the Order will be it's third iteration and additional prohibitions have been recommended, following the consultation with key stakeholders.

The additional prohibitions are designed to support officers tackling ASB in the night time economy. The Council will be working with the Police and local partners to ensure the smooth integration of these powers that tackle alcohol and substance misuse in the town centre.

Following concerns raised regarding anti-social behaviour, it is now good news that levels have reduced again and are more in line with those experienced prior to the Pandemic. The Partnership's multi-agency tasking and co-ordination group (MATAC) continues to prioritise incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and will compliment other thematic groups that focus on domestic abuse, town centre offending, and youth service provision.

Partners have also begun planning on the annual Operation BrightSparx to address crime and disorder issues around Bonfire Night. Lancashire Fire and Rescue will take the lead on the project supported by the Council and Police, with a bonfire registration scheme being supported by environmental audits to minimise risk.

The Council is going through the selection process for the 2022/23 allocation of alleygating. There have been 90

	<p>applications this year and the capital funding available will provide approximately 5 new schemes.</p>
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# COUNCILLOR MARK TOWNSEND, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND GROWTH

## Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PR2- We will proactively support the borough's businesses to innovate and expand and make the borough a natural choice for business relocation.</p>	<p><b>Business Support</b></p> <p>The Business Support Team are currently working with 41 live property enquiries where businesses are looking to relocate into the Borough or expand within. The enquiries are covering a wide range of sectors and property types.</p> <p>Two businesses have received grant support through the Business Growth Programme supporting 8 new jobs and bringing a prominent town centre building back into use.</p> <p>The Business Support Team worked with the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce to host a "Destination Net Zero" event on the 31st August at The Landmark. There were 25 delegates and the aim of the session was to show businesses the breadth of support available to help them reduce carbon emissions within their business.</p> <p><b>Burnley Business Week</b></p> <p>Burnley Business Week is taking place this week, with a packed programme of workshops, seminars and drop in sessions with business experts on a range of topics including digital manufacturing, low carbon, marketing, e-commerce, cyber security, mental health awareness, business resilience, starting a business, international trade and staff health checks. The programme is possible thanks to headline sponsors UCLAN and in-kind support from +24, Advance, ARMC North West, CUBE HR, Simply Corporate, Burnley College, Bellyflop, Burnley Leisure, Forbes Solicitors, DOOR 4, East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, PM&amp;M, Holker IT, JSA Psychotherapy, Six Connections and Profit Optimiser.</p> <p><b>Burnley Brand and Burnley Bondholders</b></p> <p>17,000 copies of Burnley Lifestyle Magazine have distributed to businesses, tourist attractions, leisure, tourism and hospitality facilities, airports, service stations and train stations across the country and in local outlets. This publication is popular and promotes Burnley as a desirable place to live and visit through a mix of interesting mix of features including Art</p>

and Culture, fashion, heritage, community activities, where to eat and drink and outdoor activities.

On 31<sup>st</sup> August, we launched a Future Leaders Network aimed at under 30s to engage a younger business audience with the bondholder network and develop the borough’s future business leaders and brand ambassadors.

On 7<sup>th</sup> September 120 Burnley Bondholders attended a bondholder event at The Landmark, where they learnt about why a place brand was established 15 years ago and why the Burnley Bondholder is an important scheme. John Till, Founder and CEO of place brand consultancy “Thinking Place” commended the work of the Bondholders and the support of Burnley Council in delivering one of the most successful place brand and ambassador networks in the country. The Bondholder network currently has over 200 members who make a financial contribution towards promoting Burnley as a place to live, study, visit and invest.

Working with government agency “Filming in England”, we have produced a new Film in Burnley proposition aimed at bringing more production companies to film in the borough.

Since last full council there have been 15 pieces of positive news on Burnley.co.uk and 3 on burnley.social. Burnley has featured in 370 pieces of online, print and broadcast news with a combined AVE of £455,000 and reach of 187 million. Burnley.co.uk’s social media posts have had 116.2% more impressions (this is the number of times our content is seen in their social media feed – 2 million.) Social media followers increased by 1% to 9,233 followers over the period, with LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram at a combined 20,191. For burnley.social, social media followers increased by 0.6% over the period, with Twitter, Facebook and Instagram at a combined 5,308.

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>Burnley Town Centre</b></p> <p><b>Pioneer Place</b></p> <p>Work on site has progressed to programme. The steel works are now substantially completed, work has commenced on cladding the cinema unit and casting floor slabs. Agreements</p>

for lease on all five units are at an advanced stage with solicitors and tenants' specifications have been agreed.

### **Town 2 Turf Public Realm Enhancements**

The Council is working with LCC to design and deliver significant public realm/highway improvements to the Yorkshire St area linking the town centre to Turf Moor football ground to improve pedestrian access and enhance public amenity. Designs have been developed and costed and LCC are undertaking compliance checks to the preferred design option. Stakeholders have been consulted on the plans and a public consultation is being planned for end of September/early October. The main construction works are expected to commence in Jan 2023 and some earlier packages of works including tree removal and installation of anti-terrorism measures around the football ground are being planned for October/November 2022.

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

The scheme is funded by Historic England and aims to restore and bring back into use buildings along Lower St James's Street, alongside a program of cultural projects and community engagement activity.

Renovation works to 143 Lower St James's Street are almost complete. Planning permission has been approved for numbers 139/141 and 160 with works due to commence over the coming months. A further 6 properties are at design and planning stages.

### **Burnley Business Improvement District**

The Burnley Business Improvement District has continued to deliver a programme of events over the summer, with a children's dinosaur trail. The launch event on 23rd July saw the 2nd highest footfall count since the BID began monitoring in April with crowds gathering in market square to watch the show.

Burnley Vintage Car Show due to be held on Saturday 10th September was postponed due to the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Details of a new date will be announced in due course.

The BID has also provided a number of training and support events to support the town centre businesses and their employees. In total 8 courses have been provided with 34 employees benefitting from the support. The courses

included Social media training, Emergency First Aid, Conflict Management Training, Fire Marshal Training, Window Dressing and Mental Health First Aid

### **Burnley Market**

Three new traders have started trading with us in Burnley Market. Pieaze, selling home-made pies and Yorkshire Pudding Wraps and is doing extremely well.

Cafeaze is a new coffee shop who has only opened in the last couple of weeks, selling speciality coffees

Mr Falafel is a new trader selling Lebanese and Turkish food. Although early days seems to be doing well.

### **Padiham Town Centre**

Four new businesses have set up in Padiham Town Centre, the Economy and Growth team has supported 2 new businesses with business support grants for improved shop fronts and signage.

Padiham has seen a variety of successful events throughout August and September that have boosted footfall and attracted more visitors to the town centre. These include the Padiham Summer Fair that brought approx. 4,013 visitors over the course of one day on 6<sup>th</sup> August. Party In The Park took place in Memorial Park and brought approx. 2,198 people on 4<sup>th</sup> September. Additional events include the Flower Show and Padiham Beer Festival on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Sep.

The Padiham Town Centre Facebook Page has continued to promote Padiham events and businesses through attractive content, reaching approx. 20,334 people since 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022. The Padiham.org.uk website is currently being updated and has reached 3,717 page visits in the past 30 days.

### **Padiham Public Realm Works**

There are some works outstanding within the northern node public art area to install benches and an information stand about the artwork, and planting in the low-level bed is expected to be incorporated in November. There have been issues with the soil/mix used within the main town centre planters which has been detrimental to the trees and shrubs. The Councils greenspaces team are working with LCC to rectify the issue and replant where appropriate, timescales are to be confirmed.

### **Padiham Flood Resilience Works**

After a month's delay to accommodate various events in Padiham Town Centre over the summer, work has commenced on the first phase to the rear of the Padiham Town Hall, this will be followed by works to the rear of Bendwood Estate, ahead of planning approval for the main works. Residents are being kept informed with a regular newsletter.

### **Padiham Townscape Heritage Initiative**

The Padiham Townscape Heritage Initiative has brought £1.4m investment from the Heritage Lottery regenerating what was a rundown part of the town centre. An extension to the programme has been requested to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The overall programme has experienced delays, largely as a result of covid and lockdowns/restrictions, which subsequently delayed the delivery of building schemes and wider activities by approx. 9 months. Longer lead-in times/supply chain issues have also impacted our delivery timescales. Despite these challenges, 12 grant applications have been approved with 9 building projects complete and 3 progressing on site.

81% of TH costs have been utilised and 12-month extension to the programme will enable the Council to expend remaining funds to: complete physical works that are still onsite; deliver 2 additional building projects (which are currently under development); and deliver further community engagement activities & heritage skills training workshops. The extension will also enable more time to undertake a detailed full project evaluation and to deal with snagging/defect periods in relation to building and public realm works.

Following acquisition of numbers 33-35 Burnley Rd the council has been undertaking a major renovation scheme funded by the THI. The upper floor apartments are now complete. The ground floor retail units are completed except for the final installation of shopfront. Works to the former National School Building are nearing completion with the shopfront under manufacture/being built up on site and repair/redecoration of windows outstanding. The project has experienced delays due to specialist advice needed on how to deal with painted/treated stonework to the front elevation.

A steering group of local businesses and the town council has been working with Mid Pennine Arts to commission artists to



	design artwork representing local heritage and culture. Designs are under second draft development.
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PR4-</b> We will implement the Local Plan, delivering new housing, employment sites, and infrastructure.</p>	<p><b>Supplementary Planning Documents:</b></p> <p>Formal public consultation on the draft Planning for Health and Residential Extensions SPDs closed on 10 August 2022. Revised drafts, taking into account the comments received, are proposed to be presented to Executive for adoption in October 2022.</p> <p><b>Housing and Employment Sites:</b></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><i>Housing Sites:</i></p> <p>Build-out continues at HS1/1 Former Hambledon School site (Valour Park, McDermott Homes), site HS1/3 Former Blythe's Site (Canal Walk, Gleeson) (over 80% of homes on these sites are now reserved or sold), site HS1/8 Red Lees Road (The Calders, Miller Homes over 45% reserved or sold) and site HS1/26 Land adj 250 Brownside Road, Worsthorne (Millers Green, Boyes Homes) 4 properties reserved or sold. Calico's development at site HS1/19 Land NE of Sycamore Avenue is due to complete later this year. Further applications to discharge conditions have been received for Calico's site for 93 Extra Care flats at HS1/10 Land at Burnley General Hospital (CND/2022/0418 and 427). An application for some amended details has been received for site HS1/9 Land at Higher Saxifield (NMA/2022/0496) and an application for 36 age-restricted build-to-rent bungalows has been received for site HS1/22 Former Dexter Paints, Gannow Lane (FUL/2022/0136). Construction had previously started on this site for a scheme for 27 bungalows.</p> <p><b>Employment Sites:</b></p>

	<p>A full planning application for part of site EMP1/1 Rossendale Road (North) has been received (FUL/2022/0259). The site boundary differs from the outline consent granted under OUT/2019/0625. An application for a foodstore at site EMP1/7 Westgate, has been withdrawn (FUL/2022/0221).</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><b>Newtown Mill</b></p> <p>Planning permission for the redevelopment of the former mill has been granted. Enabling works including asbestos removal, stripping-out have been completed. The area to the side and rear of the building has been excavated in preparation for new supporting walls and scaffolding has been erected.</p>
<p><b>PR6-</b> We will delivery our COVID-19 economic recovery plan.</p>	<p><b>Youth Employment and Skills Hub (Thrive)</b></p> <p>The number of unemployed 18 – 24 year olds who are actively seeking work in Burnley has remained static at between 540 and 550 for the last 3 months.</p> <p>Referrals to Thrive from the DWP have dropped off with more referrals going to other programmes such as Re-Start and The Work and Health programme.</p> <p>The Prince’s Trust have reported significant success in working from the Thrive hub with increased engagement on a face-to-face basis. Many of the young people they work with have gone on to gain employment with the NHS via their “Get Into” programmes.</p> <p>The Social Prescribing teams in Burnley are now integrated within the partnership and referrals have increased.</p> <p>Thrive has a current case load of 160 young people.</p>

The day to day running of Thrive has now been handed over to Calico as the lead organisation of Burnley's Employment & Skills group.

The Burnley Employment & Skills Group has recently secured £125,000 of funding from the Youth Futures Foundation – being one of only eight areas nationally selected for pilot funding under the connected community's initiative. The delivery partners are Calico Enterprise, UCLan and Participation Works. The funding is to review and develop the youth employability eco-system over an 18-month period. In addition to the funding, practical research & development support will also be provided.

### **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)**

Burnley's Investment Plan was submitted on 29th July 2022 – this detailed how Burnley Council intends to spend its allocation of £3,488.102 over the next 3 years to March 2025.

The Investment Plan was agreed and signed off by the Executive and the Growth and Prosperity Board on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Officers have been working with partners to scope out the specifics of project delivery and partners have been asked to complete and submit a business case to “apply” for funding to deliver their project.

Partners include: - Universities (including UCLan Burnley) East Lancs Chamber of Commerce, BOOST, CVS, and organisations from Burnley's Employment & Skills Group such as Burnley College, New Era Enterprises, Princes Trust and BFC in Community.

Sign off, of the Investment Plan by government is due October 2022.