



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

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PORTFOLIO: **LEADER**

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **COUNCILLOR MARK TOWNSEND**

DATE OF REPORT: **12/07/2017**

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
PE1- We will work with partners to make the borough a place of aspiration, including supporting efforts to increase education attainment and skills development, and improve residents' health.	<p>Researchers from the University of Winchester have reported on the programmes run by the Burnley-based Primary Engineer and found that “playful experimentation and engagement with professional engineers helps to raise students’ achievement across the whole curriculum”.</p> <p>Schools that adapted their teaching to encourage students to develop ‘engineering habits of mind’ reaped the benefits not just in science and maths but in pupils’ communication skills, artistic ability, problem-solving, visualising and confidence to engage in class discussions, the research found.</p> <p>Dr Susan Scurlock, Primary Engineer’s Chief Executive was delighted by the findings. “This underlines our recognition of how developing engineering skills in pupils and embedding links to industry improves attainment and aspirations for all involved.</p> <p>I have asked the Chief Executive to prepare a Council strategy that brings together our existing work and new proposals that support our young people to reach their full potential. Whilst this Council does not have statutory responsibility for education or for helping young people into work, I</p>

	believe that raising aspiration is something that all Members of this Council can support.
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>We continue to support the work streams of the Combined Authority and are actively involved in the development of the LEP's new Strategic Economic Plan.</p> <p>Lancashire Leaders have met for the first time since the appointment of new Leaders at LCC and Ribble Valley. The new Leaders supported the view that continuing to work together was in the best interests of Lancashire and that work should continue on a Lancashire Plan. Leaders agreed to meet with Ministers in the coming weeks to understand the Governments view on regional devolution and Combined Authorities post the general election.</p> <p>In March we held a Housing Developers Event in partnership with Marketing Lancashire and neighbouring authorities which has been followed with enquiries from a number of housebuilders who have not previously been active in the district.</p> <p>I have been re-appointed as Chair of the Lancashire District Leaders for 2017/18. The appointment means that I continue to be a member of the LEP Board.</p>
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
An advertisement has been placed for the appointment of a new Head of Paid Service, with a closing date for applications of 4 th July 2017. The interview and assessment process will take place during July and August and the Appointments Panel should be in a position to make a recommendation to the next Full Council.	