



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

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PORTFOLIO: **DEPUTY LEADER, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT**

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **COUNCILLOR JOHN HARBOUR**

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

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
PL2- We will improve the management of private rented accommodation.	<p>Selective Licensing</p> <p>The team continue to receive and process licence applications for Trinity, Queensgate and Gannow. Officers are out in these areas working with landlords, tenants and other agencies to tackle issues such as dirty back yards and anti-social behaviour as well as undertaking proactive property inspections to improve standards. The team are also preparing prosecutions for the small number of landlords who do not have a licence in place or adequate management arrangements.</p> <p>The team continue to secure applications for properties in the newly designated areas of Burnley Wood with Healey Wood, the Leyland Road area, and the Ingham and Lawrence area of Padiham. A total of 780 property applications have been received to date, which represents 72% of licensable properties in the new these areas. The target was to receive 70% by November 2017.</p> <p>All 780 applications have been processed and reminder letters for the remaining 302 outstanding applications will be sent out over the next few</p>

	<p>weeks.</p> <p>A training session for landlords and managing agents delivered by the Residential Landlords Association will be held on the 28th June 2017. The aim is to offer landlords and agents professional advice and training to improve their management practices and standards generally across the sector.</p> <p>Private Rented Disrepair Since the start of April 2017 the Council has received and dealt with 60 new disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants. The Enforcement Team have a current caseload of 160 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair cases, or proactive Selective Licensing cases. The majority of the cases have been dealt with informally and resolved promptly.</p>
<p>PL3- We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock.</p>	<p>Housing Grants The Disabled Facilities Grant Programme is progressing well with 30 adaptations completed and a further 60 in progress. A total of 6 emergency works grants have been approved to eliminate serious disrepair in property. The Heating Rebate and Affordable Warmth Schemes are available to eligible households and 23 grants have been awarded this year to install new, efficient central heating systems</p> <p>Empty Homes Programme We currently have three renovations underway and of those that are finished, sales are progressing well with three properties expected to complete by the end of June. Further Compulsory Purchase Orders are starting in June and July and a report is being prepared for August's Executive to bring more problem long term empty properties into the programme.</p> <p>Works have commenced on the Branch Road improvement scheme and work to the commercial blocks on Accrington Road is expected to start before the end of June.</p> <p>Housing sales Burnley has been declared as a property hotspot after a significant rise in sales, according to a new report from Lloyds Bank, using Land Registry figures. Burnley came joint seventh in England and</p>

	<p>Wales with a 10 per cent rise in sales. 82 per cent of towns included in the survey saw house sales fall between 2015 and 2016. This is really good news for our housing sector and this is reflected on the ground with significant new build activity.</p> <p>As part of this, the borough is currently seeing a wide range of quality housing schemes being built on our former brownfield sites.</p> <p>Gleeson homes are on with developing the former Blythe's Chemical Works in Hapton for 200 family houses.</p> <p>Calico Homes are preparing the former Perseverance Mill site in Padiham for development of a range of affordable homes. Calico, the Council and the Homes and Communities Agency have worked together closely to deliver this very challenging site and remove what was an eyesore for the local community. Calico are also making good progress with the housing support scheme at the former Mitre Pub site and have recently completed a high quality development of family homes on the adjacent land at Blannel and Pomfret Street.</p> <p>McDermott Homes are delighted with the interest they have seen in their development of Executive Homes on the former Waterside Mill site off Sycamore Avenue and just round the corner off Gannow Lane the former Peel Mill site is being transformed with a development of bungalows.</p> <p>All of the above demonstrates that our former brownfield land is now producing a whole range of housing options across the borough for current and future generations.</p>
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<p>PL4- We will implement our 2015-25 Green Space Strategy.</p>	<p>Barwise Play Area I had the pleasure recently of opening a new play area at Barwise picnic area in Towneley Park. The £21,000 scheme was funded entirely by the Friends of Towneley Park, which received a large bequest and also secured a grant from the Big Lottery Fund. On behalf of the Council I would like to thank the Friends of Towneley for their continuing hard work.</p> <p>Ightenhill Park Pavilion Officers are currently working with the Friends of Ightenhill Park on plans to develop a new pavilion in the Park which will provide a meeting room/café together with toilets and storage space for mowers and tools used by the Ightenhill Park Volunteers. A funding application to Gannow Big Local will be submitted in September.</p> <p>Events in Parks This year is one the busiest ever for events in parks, with more than 40 events taking place over the spring and summer months. These which include the popular brass band concerts, park fun days and Classic Car Show as well as new events such as Burnley Live! music event in Queens Park, the grand opening parade for the Memorial Park bandstand and the Brun Valley Forest Park's Funday Sunday. The most of these events are free and they help to create a great sense of community.</p> <p>Thompson Park Restoration The first schemes in the Thompson park restoration are underway with preparatory work taking place in the Rose garden and Italian Garden and the contract to create a new pay and display car park (within the park) starting on site very shortly.</p>
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