



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

April 20<sup>th</sup> 2023

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COUNCILLOR AFRASIAB ANWAR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.....	2
COUNCILLOR SUE GRAHAM, DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE .....	5
COUNCILLOR MARGARET LISHMAN, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING .....	9
COUNCILLOR JOHN HARBOUR, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING .....	13
COUNCILLOR SHAH HUSSAIN, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES .....	17
COUNCILLOR MARK TOWNSEND, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND GROWTH .....	20

## 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>Work has commenced on developing the priority actions for the different themes within Lancashire 2050. Technical Officer groups are now being established for each of the themes. I will continue to update members on progress in the coming months.</p> <p>As we come to the end of this municipal year, I would like to thank all Members and Officers for their work throughout this year in providing great services to our residents and in bringing forward major development schemes such as Pioneer Place and Newtown Mill. Further details of progress on these schemes are covered in my Executive Member's reports and they continue to see Burnley developing as a major force within Lancashire.</p> <p>Following the appointment of Lukman Patel as our new Chief Executive, there is a need to backfill his previous post and recruitment will now commence for the post of Chief Operating Officer.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PE1-</b> We will continue work with partners to make the borough a place of aspiration and pride. Including supporting efforts to increase education</p>	<p><b>Above and Beyond Awards</b></p> <p>I was delighted to be part of the Above and Beyond Awards ceremony last month.</p> <p>Developed in partnership between Burnley Council, Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) and the Burnley Express, the awards celebrated the unsung</p>

attainment and skills development

heroes in our borough who go 'above and beyond' day in, day out to help others around them.

I would like to thank the lead sponsor of the event, Urbaser, and the host, the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), and congratulations once again to all the winners and nominees. Here is the list of the winners and those highly commended:

- **Young Volunteer:** Winner – Jolie Forrest; highly commended Scarlett Lees and Grace Bradshaw
- **Green Energy:** Winner – Trees for Burnley; highly commended Pennine Lancashire Community Farm and Sustainability Innovators
- **Food champion:** Winner – Burnley Community Grocer; highly commended Ghausia Mosque/West End Community Centre and Janis Chisnell
- **Small community group:** Winner – BWA Advice Centre; highly commended Park Run and Padiham on Parade
- **Ambassador:** Winner – Dave Fishwick; highly commended Jordan North and the Bishop of Burnley, the Right Reverend Philip North
- **Health champion:** Winner – Tracey Smith; highly commended Mark Smedley and Sam Wright (The Period Coach)
- **Volunteer of the year:** Winner – Susan Conroy; highly commended Val Murgatroyd, Vivien Storey, Amanda Graham and Barry Beaumont
- **Medium/large community group:** Winner – Building Bridges for Burnley; highly commended HAPPA (Horses and Ponies Protection Association) and Burnley Youth Theatre

- **Fundraiser:** Winner Foysol Uddin; highly commended Ivor Emo, Claudia Laird and Burnley Pendleside Rotary Club
- **Lifetime achievement:** Winner – Howard and Nancy Mitchell; highly commended June Evans and Chris Keene

### **Burnley Football Club**

I am sure all members would like to congratulate Burnley Football Club in gaining promotion back to the Premiership at the first time of asking. This is an amazing achievement and an inspiration to everyone in the Borough.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Club for hosting the first Community Iftar (fast-breaking meal in Ramadan) at Turf Moor on 4 April 2023. It was a great event and the club have committed to future events.

Finally, as the exam season approaches, I would like to offer my best wishes for all our Burnley pupils and students who will be sitting their A Level, GCSE and other qualifications this year.

## 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 implement our Climate Change Strategy.</p>	<p>Progress updates for the Climate Change Action Plan have been collated to quantify work carried out over the last 12 months.</p> <p>The climate change officer has met with internal colleagues, as well as external partners at Calico and East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, to gather updates and identify areas of collaboration for climate change initiatives. Areas identified include working together to facilitate and promote the move to carbon ready and carbon zero homes on new affordable housing developments, supporting businesses with the move to net zero, and working towards the shared goal of a net zero Burnley by 2050, or earlier where possible, in line with UK climate policy.</p> <p>In order to keep the plan relevant, an updated Climate Change Action Plan will be completed by the end of June, including any ongoing and new actions, with completed actions removed. Due to the fast pace of climate change actions, annual updates will be provided going forward, to prevent the Climate Change Action Plan becoming outdated and to report clearly on our progress.</p> <p>Work is currently being undertaken to complete the Council's carbon footprint and plot our trajectory to reach the Council's net zero target of 2030.</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>As it enters its seventh year, the contract includes provision for a review of Liberata performance against the requirements of the agreement. Officers are therefore looking at past performance data, the contract's value for money, and the impact of service new ways of working that the contract has introduced. A report will be prepared for member's consideration.</p> <p>I am pleased to report that there has been strong improvement in average speed to answer in the contact</p>

centre. The target of 80% of calls being answered within time was achieved in Q4.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<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 2022/23</b> The Council has reported a net underspend of £9k at the end of quarter 3 for the 2022/23 financial year. This has reduced from a net overspend of £89k reported at the end of quarter 2.</p> <p><b>Revenue Budget 2023/24</b> The Council's 2023/24 revenue budget was approved at Full Council in February 2023. The budget includes ten growth items totalling £379k of which £349k are ongoing and are based on identified service needs. Savings of £363k have also been identified and built into the 2023/24 budget.</p> <p>The Medium-Term Financial strategy for the period 2024-2028 was also approved at Full Council in February 2023. A potential budget gap of £2.1m has been identified for the four-year period 2024-28 which is 14% of the 2022/23 net budget of £15.322m. As in previous years officers and members will work to identify future savings to bridge this gap.</p> <p><b>Statement of Accounts</b> Grant Thornton are continuing their annual Value for Money review of the Council in relation to the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts which will be reported to Audit and Standards Committee in due course.</p> <p>The publication date for the 2022/23 draft Statement of Accounts is 31 May 2023. Grant Thornton have provisionally confirmed that the audit of these accounts will run from July 2023 – September 2023. The deadline for approval of the audited 2022/23 Statement of Accounts is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.</p> <p><b>Council Tax Support and Universal Credit</b> The number of claimants in receipt of council tax support has decreased by 2.09% over the 12-month period. The number of claimants in receipt of council tax support at January 2022 was 9,942 compared to 9,738 as at January 2023.</p> <p>The number of claimants in receipt of UC has increased over the 12 month period by 3.37% with 4,537 claimant at January 2022 and 4,695 at January 2023.</p> <p><b>Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Rates</b> Council Tax collection rates at 31<sup>st</sup> March were 93.23% which is slightly down on the target of 94.50%, but an increase on the collection rates at the same period in 2022 when they were 92.79%.</p>

	Business Rates Collection Rates at 31st March 96.13% against a target of 97.50%. Collection rates at the same point in time in 2022 were 96.48%.

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<b>PF3-</b> We will develop our digital strategy, so that more residents transact with us online and we will continue to deliver services more efficiently.	Officers have reviewed the performance of burnley.gov.uk, a year on from its redesign. The site is delivering a significantly improved experience for residents across a range of metrics including site speed, accessibility, dead links and excessive scrolling. The site is under continuous management to ensure further improvements can be identified.
<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<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.	<p>The Talent Management programme is continuing and the participants have started work on projects around Climate Change and developing a network of Keep Burnley Tidy volunteers with the support of senior managers. We are continuing progress towards the Silver Award for Carbon Literacy and expect to be able to make the application in the summer.</p> <p>The Council has been recognised as a Youth Friendly Employer by Youth Employment UK and an action plan is being developed to ensure that we continue to support and encourage young people to pursue a career in local government.</p>
<b>PL6-</b> We will invest in our heritage assets for the benefit of this, and future, generations.	<p><b>Towneley Hall</b></p> <p>The main contract for the refurbishment of the Hall has been tendered and work is scheduled to start early in the 2023/24 financial year.</p> <p><b>Town Hall</b></p> <p>The main refurbishment works to the Town Hall are complete with the exceptions of minor snagging and the separate works to the inner lightwell and toilets which are in the process of being retendered.</p> <p><b>Council Chamber</b></p> <p>The structural issues have been addressed and the damp ingress resolved. The treatment of dry rot has been</p>

	completed and reinstatement work options are in the process of being costed.
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# COUNCILLOR MARGARET LISHMAN, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PE4-</b> We will continue to work on the wider determinants of poor health. This will include reducing food insecurity and responding to the cost of living crisis with practical support. We will work closely with the Integrated Care Board and ensure that the Borough Council plays an active role on the proposed placed based partnerships.</p>	<p><b>Burnley Together and Cost of Living</b></p> <p>Under the Burnley Together umbrella; Burnley Council, Calico, Burnley Leisure, BFCitC and the Message Trust (Community Grocery) are working in partnership to re-develop the existing Burnley FC Foodbank and open a multi-faceted support centre. The service will be called Down Town and it is located in Charter Walk. It is expected to open in May. A £5 membership allows members to get multiple £4 shops a week, each consisting of 12 products across shelf items, fridge and freezer section, fruit and veg, and the bakery. The centre will also offer low cost meals and food nutrition workshops at the community kitchen and a comfortable space for our communities where they can be given a hand up, access support services, and development programmes to build confidence and purpose. As part of the re-development there will also be a shop; Re-love the preloved, a facility where individuals in need can get free school uniforms, sports-kit with access to support, advice and guidance.</p> <p>The shop is the starting point, an open door and a friendly welcome which gives the opportunity for our communities to enter a space where they can be given a hand up, access support services, and development programmes to build confidence and purpose.</p> <p>The shop will open in May and support services will be developed overtime in response to local resident need.</p> <p><b>Health structures</b></p> <p>The Executive has met with Louise Taylor, the Director of Health and Care Integration from the Integrated Care Board, to discuss its emerging priorities and how the council fits into its plans. The Executive is making the case for Burnley to ensure that health and care, and early help services, are meeting the needs of our residents. The Executive would like see more decisions being taken at a district level about the wider determinants of poor health.</p>

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

### **Towneley Hall**

The repair contract is progressing well with scaffolding covering the great hall roof enabling stonework repairs to be undertaken and roofs of the hall and adjoining towers to be stripped of slates and lead. There has been a 3-week delay in the supply of the new roofing slates from the quarry in Cumbria, but this is not expected to impact on completion of the current phase as the contractor has been able to progress the stone repairs.

Within the Hall there has been considerable work to decant art works to secure storage, both on and off-site, so that the internal repairs in the Great Hall and south wing can progress.

Scaffold tours are being arranged for 26<sup>th</sup> April and members will receive invitations by email.

Following the retirement of Ken Darwen, I'm pleased to report that Sally Smith has taken up the post of Towneley Hall manager. The Expression of Interest that was submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund was not successful, but following discussions with senior NLHF staff, an amended proposal will be developed and submitted.

### **Stables Cafe**

The council has completed the external repairs and re-roofing of the Stables café and is waiting for the tenant to commence the internal refurbishment. The costs of this work have increased significantly since the café was tendered, due to the extent of internal refurbishment being much greater than anticipated and because costs of materials and labour have increased so significantly.

The operator is currently 'value engineering' the scheme to reduce costs and is working to secure finance. The aim is to be open by the summer holidays. Meanwhile the external catering offer continues to be provided.

### **Towneley Park Masterplan**

The Council is currently commissioning the preparation of a long-term vision for Towneley Park which will consider how the heritage, ecological, recreational and economic value of the park can be developed in the coming years.

There will be extensive consultation with stakeholders and the public during the summer months and the masterplan is intended to be a forward-looking document that complements the existing [Towneley Park Management Plan 2019 – 2024](#) which will be updated in autumn 2023 as part of the Green Flag Award process.

### **Play Strategy**

I am pleased to report that refurbishment work has been completed at Tay St, Lockyer Avenue, Malvern Avenue and Vanguard play areas and a new 6m space net has been installed at Hargher Clough Play Area.

The schemes at Memorial Park, Healywood, Queens Park and Clifton St have been designed by external landscape architect and go out to tender on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Consultation on the play area schemes in the current year's programme: at Barden Lane/Disraeli St, Picadilly Gdns/Baker St and Underley St will take place during the school summer holidays.

The Contract for construction of the Memorial Park Wheeled Sports Area is currently on site and is due to complete in mid-May.

#### **LTA tennis Court Improvements**

The resurfacing of Scott Park tennis courts is complete and gate access controls have been installed. At the end of April contractors will paint the courts at Memorial and Scott Parks. The official launch of the tennis coaching programme and court booking system is scheduled to take place 13<sup>th</sup> May at Scott Park

#### **Allotment Review**

The extra revenue funding of £15K that was allocated in 2022/23 has enabled neglected allotment plots to be cleared and split into smaller plots and 42 additional plots will be available for rent, bringing the total number of plots up to 431.

Consultation will take place with allotment tenants and societies on the draft Allotment Review before it is taken to Scrutiny Committee and the executive in the June cycle.

#### **Playing Pitch Strategy**

The draft strategy has been completed and is awaiting sign off by Sport England, before it is reported to Scrutiny Committee and Executive.

#### **Padiham Greenway**

The Coal Authority will be undertaking site investigations in May/June (river levels permitting) which will enable them to determine whether the subsidence, that is affecting the greenway bridge, is due to the former coal workings.

	In the meantime, both the greenway bridge and the adjoining pedestrian bridge, which carries the public right of way, will remain closed with diversions in place.
	<p><b>The Coronation</b></p> <p>Grants totalling £2500 has been paid to community and neighbourhood groups to help them celebrate the Coronation. More information on this grant scheme is available on the council's website. The King wants to promote volunteering through the Coronation celebrations. We will use our communication channels to tell residents about volunteering options within the groups that apply to us for a Coronation grant. Burnley BID will be putting on an event in the town centre on the Saturday of the Coronation weekend. 1,000 cream teas will be served and there will be live entertainment.</p>

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PE2-</b> We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer in partnership with Burnley Leisure.</p>	<p><b>Cultural Strategy</b></p> <p>The Culture Burnley Steering Group has been formed and is meeting monthly, with representatives of ten cultural organisations in Burnley, including the Council and BLC. The steering group has been reviewing the draft cultural strategy and the Cultural Strategy Manager has condensed it into a more succinct document: <i>Our Town, Our Culture: A Cultural Reimagining of Burnley</i> which will cover a ten-year period but with a more focused action plan for the next 4 years ending in 2027.</p> <p><b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b></p> <p>I am pleased to report that the second edition of <a href="#">Beat the Street Burnley</a> will launch on 10<sup>th</sup> May and this programme which aims to increase physical activity through the exciting interactive street game aims to build on the achievements of the first game in 2021 which attracted more than 10,000 participants who covered over 80,000 miles by foot or cycle.</p> <p><b>Towneley Rotunda Kiosk</b></p> <p>Following an open market tender, BLC has taken over operation of the Towneley rotunda kiosk.</p>

## **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 in the private and social sectors and enforce standards in a robust way.</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 2530 across all four areas. We have received over 2,700 applications since the start of these designations. 88% of these properties are currently licensed, a further 191 applications are being processed by the licensing team.</p> <p>Further reminders were sent to those landlords who are non-compliant in mid-January. So far civil penalties have been served in relation to eleven non-compliant properties in these areas.</p> <p>In February the team undertook the latest area audits, focusing on Cog Lane in Trinity and an area of Daneshouse covering parts of Whalley Street, Abel Street Ardwick Street and Colville Street up to Colne Road. Full reports of these audits will be published at the end of April.</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 areas came into force on 21st July 2022. Since this date we have received 660 applications (75% of licensable properties). 36% of those properties that require a license have been licensed, with the licensing team processing a further 266 applications. The team will also be pursuing those landlords who have not yet submitted any application.</p> <p>The team also worked closely with partner agencies to obtain a Anti-Social Behaviour Closure Order for Pine Street as part of a crackdown on anti-social behaviour in the area.</p> <p><b>Private Rented Disrepair</b></p> <p>Since the start of April 2022, the Council has received and dealt with 370 new disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants. The Enforcement Team has a current caseload of 240 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair/proactive inspection cases. Since December 2022, the enforcement team have served 11 formal improvement notices requiring owners to complete specified repairs within a given timescale, as well as 3 emergency remedial action notices, and 2 emergency prohibition orders.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<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>Empty Homes Programme</b></p> <p>This year, we have had 17 enquiries regarding loans. Information regarding the loans and the new maximum of £25k went out in the Selective Licensing newsletter to landlords. Improvements to the requirements for the loans continue to be made, and we now require all properties to achieve an EPC rating of at least a C. All Council led renovations are aiming to achieve a B rating as we now take extra measures regarding the energy efficiency of our properties.</p> <p>The compulsory purchase programme is progressing with a further report at the April Executive. Three properties vest to the Council in May and renovations are planned for these. The six renovations for the Governments Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme are complete and have been handed to the team to tenant them.</p> <p>The facelifting schemes have completed on site at Wytham and Albion Street and the renovations for the rears of Windsor and Ivory Streets have been tendered and will start in April/early May.</p> <p>Overall, the programme has slightly overspent this year's £1.3m budget.</p> <p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>New properties continue to come to the market across the borough offering residents a broad choice of homes and locations. All our sites at Kiddrow Lane, Manchester Road Hapton, Red Lees Road, Cliviger and Brownside Road, Worsthorne are progressing well. .</p> <p>McDermott Homes are now underway with their development at Harrogate Crescent 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 2022 to develop 87 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes.</p> <p>Calico continue to press ahead with their development programme offering a range of affordable homes for Burnley's residents, with their current focus on the development of 93 extra care apartments at Burnley General Hospital, which are expected to be ready for occupation late summer 2024. This scheme will see a clear link between Burnley's housing and healthy living offer to create safe and sustainable homes for older residents.</p> <p><b>Home Improvement Agency</b></p>

The Home Improvement Agency (HIA) continues to work in partnership with health colleagues on a range of different grants that improves the resident's quality of life.

The HIA have completed 200 Disability Facilities Grant adaptations.

31 Emergency Works Grant where the property was deemed a Category 1 hazard or a high category 2.

52 Safe and Secure Grants

102 Dementia Grants

7 Declutter and Clean Grants

158 Handyman jobs completed.

1 Relocation Grant

263 residents have been supported through the Affordable Warmth Fund with energy efficiency measures. This includes putting low energy LED lightbulbs in properties which is especially important to residents with the current cost of living.

90 Energy Efficiency Grants which include 10 first time central heating and 80 boiler replacements.

### **CHiL**

During the CHiL partnership substantial funding for energy improvement measures and retrofits has been awarded through a bidding process from Government. £2.85m for a Lancashire LAD1b scheme. A further £11.4m was allocated for a LAD2 scheme which was delivered ahead of time and a further £13m was allocated from underspend in other Regions. Burnley was one of the authorities that received the highest number of installation measures in Lancashire for the LAD1 and 2 schemes.

CHiL has now secured a further £41m funding pot to help residents make their homes more energy efficient.

The two-year scheme, entitled Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (HUG2), commences 1st April 2023 and is for low-income properties without gas central heating with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D to G. This equates to around 150 properties in Burnley.

### **MJ Local Government Achievement Awards**

The Awards have been held every year since 2004 to celebrate the successes of local government. The Private Sector Housing Team have been announced as one of eight finalists for the "Best Council Team Award". The Team have been asked to present their entry in Manchester at the end of April then the winner will be announced in London in June 23.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PE3-</b> We will continue to work with partners to provide necessary support systems to reduce homelessness and to end rough sleeping in the borough.</p>	<p>We continue to accommodate rough sleepers and homeless households who have a connection to the borough. We have 16 ABEN (A bed every night) accommodation spaces in the Borough providing accommodation and support for people sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough. Over the last month we have increased the properties we manage for temporary accommodation from 13 to 15 making of 31 housing units within Burnley with the flexibility to accommodate both families and single people. We also have access to a small B&amp;B in Burnley if all our accommodation is full. In addition to the 31 units, we now have two of the RSAP (Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme). properties in use with the remaining 4 expected to be occupied by the end of April 2023. Between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023, we received 2040 enquiries around homelessness, and successfully prevented or relieved 381 households' homelessness. We provided temporary accommodation for 175 households.</p>



# 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>National Waste Strategy</b>            There have been further delays on the publication of the Government's 'National Strategy' and we await the outcome of its publication, which is now imminent. The waste and cleansing Procurement process will be commencing shortly, as the current Contract is due to expire in 2025 and preparatory work is already being undertaken by Officers, with support from WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme – DEFRA affiliated national group).</p> <p><b>Waste Collections</b>            Garden waste collections for 2022/23 resumed from 13<sup>th</sup> March, following the short winter break.            Garden Waste subscriptions are now live for the year 2023/24 (commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> May). 75.9% of subscribers have paid online.</p> <p><b>Green Waste Facility</b>            Burnley Council continues its commitment in working towards achieving Net Zero carbon emissions. From 1<sup>st</sup> May Green waste will be taken to the new 'In vessel Composting' (IVC) Facility at Todmorden in West Yorkshire. Green waste is currently processed at the Pendle Waste Transfer Station near Colne. Using the new facility will lead to cost savings across the County.            IVC is a process involving the use of naturally occurring aerobic processes, which break down organic matter to produce an organic material suitable for use as a soil conditioner and a source of nutrients in agriculture and horticulture and is therefore more environmentally friendly.</p> <p><b>Environmental Enforcement</b>            A funding application has been submitted for consideration by the Keep Britain Tidy organisation. 'Chewing Gum Task Force Grants' of up to £25,000 can be used to fund street cleansing and/or the purchase of cleansing equipment. This initiative is supplemented by fully funded 'gum litter prevention packages' for each Council, including signage for targeted behaviour change and general advice. The outcome of bids will be announced in May 2023. If successful, Burnley Council will use the Task Force Grant across our town centres.            Streetscene have now resumed their partnership with Community Payback after a lengthy lay off period due to Covid restrictions. Under the guidance of the Streetscene Enforcement Team, participants will cut back vegetation on untidy land and cleanse targeted areas throughout the</p>

Borough. These areas are usually parcels of land affecting the amenity of the surrounding area. Where officers are unable to trace the landowner, the Community Payback group will be tasked with removing litter and waste which will improve the outlook of the area for its residents.

Council officers, along with the Police, successfully carried out the first Stop and Search event of Vehicles to identify those operators across Burnley & Padiham that may not have the correct or documentation in place, in accordance with existing regulations. This took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> February. Checks were made to see if the vehicles had a waste carriers' licence and all the correct documents in place. I am pleased to say that of the 6 vehicles checked, all but one was in possession of the correct documentation. A fixed penalty was issued for 'Failure to provide the correct commercial waste documentation'. More action days are scheduled throughout the year.

The Environmental Team within Streetscene that focus on enforcement and awareness raising, are progressing reported incidents. During the last 3 months the following are some of the actions undertaken by the Team across the borough;

**519** Warning letters sent out for incorrect waste presentation and other waste related issues.

**16** Community protection warning letters for repeatedly presenting side waste.

**17** Fixed penalty notices for fly tipping.

**2** Fixed penalty notices for failing to provide trade waste documents.

**140** Fixed penalty notices for littering.

**19** Fixed penalty notices for dog foul/dog exclusion.

**13** Suspected fly tippers interviewed under caution.

**5** Fly tipping case files submitted to the Magistrates Court for prosecution.

#### **Community Safety update:**

All Crime in Burnley showed a decrease from January to February 2023 of 9.9%. This was the biggest percentage decrease in Lancashire. Comparing February of this year to 2022 there has been a 15% reduction, driven by significant reductions in violent and sexual offences.

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour:**

The picture with regards to anti-social behaviour performance remains positive as well, with February's recorded incident level 7.4% less than that of 2022.

On 26<sup>th</sup> March the Government announced a new Action Plan to tackle anti-social behaviour with a range of measures aimed at reduction and enforcement.

Under the Plan, 16 areas in England and Wales will be funded to support either new 'hotspot' Police enforcement patrols or to trial a new 'immediate justice' scheme. Lancashire has been chosen as a 'Hotspot Trailblazer' pilot area.

The Plan aims to build on existing work and support and bolster powers for local authorities, the Police and other partners to support communities and to identify hotspot areas. The Home Office have also launched an open consultation to encourage local views to be shared on anti-social behaviour approaches. Officers will take part in the consultation process relating to the Action Plan, having already taken part in interviews with the Downing Street, No.10 Delivery Unit to inform government policy on the realities of tackling anti-social behaviour. The Government Consultation is open until 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 and encourages the public, as well as those who work in community safety, to respond. The consultation can be found at; [Consultation document \(accessible\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/anti-social-behaviour-consultation)

# COUNCILLOR MARK TOWNSEND, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND GROWTH

## Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PR2-</b> We will proactively support the borough’s businesses to innovate and expand, and make the borough a natural choice for business relocation.</p>	<p><b>Business Support</b></p> <p>The Business Support Team are currently working with 45 businesses looking to relocate into the Borough or expand within it. Advance Point; the new Barnfield development on Rossendale Rd has recently gained planning permission and this will bring much needed additional stock to the local property market.</p> <p>The Business Team have been running a series of workshops aimed at new-start and young businesses. The latest round of Go For It workshops were held across January and February with 49 businesses attending over the three workshops which were focused on Marketing, Finance and Business Planning. Future sessions are already arranged based on the success of these.</p> <p>Working in partnership with UCLan and +24Marketing, the Business Team held the second Burnley Cyber &amp; Digital event with a guest speaker from Serium and talks from UCLan and Burnley College on support to businesses and courses available to upskill their workforce. The event was attended by 33 businesses.</p> <p><b>Vision Park</b></p> <p>Vision Park remains at 100% occupancy. One tenancy recently ended and the unit was re-let the same day to a new-start company, reflecting the high level of demand and lack of stock.</p> <p><b>Padiham Town Hall Business Hub</b></p> <p>The fixed offices remain at 100% occupancy with a waiting list should any become vacant. The Co-working hub now has 15 members signed up increasing from 6 at the last reporting period. Feedback has been extremely positive from the new co-working tenants.</p> <p><b>Burnley Brand and Burnley Bondholders</b></p>

On 21st February, Burnley Bondholders were hosted at Crow Wood for an exclusive reveal of the new expansion plans for the spa. Andrew Brown shared the CGIs and his vision for the site.

11 new bondholders have joined so far in 2023.

In March, Goal Centred Development were appointed as the preferred supplier of the Future Leaders programme. This 12-month programme is in partnership with UCLan and Burnley Bondholders for people under the age of 30 who work at a bondholder. They will undergo personal and professional development, all paid for by the bondholders. We believe this to be the first of its kind and will support our goal to retain young talent in the borough and provide them with the tools to be Burnley ambassadors.

Since last full council there have been 22 pieces of positive news on Burnley.co.uk. Burnley has featured in 680 pieces of online, print and broadcast news with a combined AVE of £461,000 and reach of 180 million.

Three film crews have been visited Burnley looking at filming locations responding a new service launched in summer 2022.

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 Town 2 Turf</b> Main construction works commenced on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan and LCC continue with excavation &amp; repaving works and installation of new lighting columns at the Turf Moor section of the scheme. A ‘ground-breaking ceremony’ and press release were issued on the 20<sup>th</sup> February to include borough councillors, the MP and the football club. Work has commenced on the first two phases on Harry Potts Way. The new kerb alignment and paving of the south footway is 80% complete and the streetlight base columns have been installed. The new lanterns, brackets and illuminated banner arms are due to be fitted late April. Preparatory works for the traffic signal upgrade at the west end of Harry Potts Way have also commenced.</p> <p><b>Pioneer Place</b> Work on the project is nearing completion. The cinema unit is fully constructed, and internal works are well advanced. Work on the units 2-6 progressing to schedule with the shop fronts now fitted and the buildings watertight. External areas are</p>

being surfaced and areas being made ready for landscaping works.

Progress with signing up tenants is very advanced with Nando's and Café Fortunes Ltd (T.A Starbucks) have already exchanged contracts. The Council has appointed Munroe K to operate the development alongside Charter Walk.

### **Charter Walk**

The quarter to end March 23 has seen a decline in footfall, down 4.4% compared to the same period last year. This reflects some extreme weather that in an Open Centre has a significant impact on footfall. However, despite a reduction in footfall during February, traders reported positive sales figures having met sales targets despite poor weather and the wider impacts of the Cost of Living Crisis.

The Management team at Charter Walk continue to implement a range of marketing activities and events in partnership with Burnley BID. This included a Robot nation event during the February half term attracting hundreds of children.

As part of an on-going programme of work and activities to make Charter Walk an Autism friendly place a new Sensory Walk Way opened on the week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> March to mark National Autism Awareness week. The Sensory Walk Way project has created an inclusive, accessible and immersive environment for all shoppers and visitors at Charter Walk. Somewhere for people to take a quiet break. The Project has already won an International CSR award.

The Council's asset and property managers continue to make good progress on lease renewals and very high levels of rent and service charge collection.

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

Renovation works to 160 including reinstatement of a traditional shop front and bay windows, repair of architectural features and some internal conversion works are almost complete.

Works to 156 Lower St James Street are underway including the reinstatement of a traditional shop front, bay windows and rainwater goods and stonework repairs. This property is due for completion in May 23.

Works to 139/141 St James Street have been tendered.

A further 5 privately owned properties are at design, planning and grant application stages.

The Council has purchased 123-125 St James Street as part of the HAZ Exemplar Project. The property will be renovated and converted into a "Creative Hub" - a unique destination supporting local artists and makers with shared workspace, collaboration and exhibition space in a highly visible high street location. The implementation of the Creative Hub is seen as a key action in Burnley's emerging Cultural Strategy. The proposed works will take approximately 6 months to complete.

Footfall for Y3 Q4 is up 1.88% compared to the Y3 Q3.

### **Burnley Market**

Burnley market continues to offer a trading place for traders with incentivised rents for new products and is currently home to 38 businesses.

Footfall has remained steady this quarter (Jan – Mar) however is 10% down on the same quarter last year, reflecting footfall in the town centre. Occupancy levels have dropped to 52%.

The market continues to run a range of specialist markets including a bi-monthly Record Fair which proves popular with customers and generates additional footfall

### **Padiham Town Centre**

#### **Padiham Town Centre Management**

Town centre businesses continue to be supported with promotion of their services/products through the Padiham Town Centre social media pages and website alongside receiving guidance on Business Support Grants available. The town centre officer is working alongside Padiham Town Council, business owners and community groups to plan a calendar of events this year that will increase footfall and attract new businesses into the area.

Since the previous Rawes Gazing have expanded creating a Café/Bistro alongside the shop and 1 new business has established in the town centre.

Business and Networking Group, Padiham BANG will host their first meeting for business based in the Padiham area this month and fortnightly thereafter.

### **Townscape Heritage scheme**

The Exemplar project (33-35 Burnley Rd) has been completed. The councils housing department will manage the two new apartments and Liberata the retail units, which are currently being advertised to let.

A grant application has been approved for Nos. 25 & 27 Burnley Rd to undertake general external repair and restoration works including renewal of rainwater goods, reinstatement of sash windows and repair and redecoration of the original shop fronts. A suitable contractor has been appointed and are expected to commence on site towards end of April.

As part of the TH community engagement programme, a steering group made of local business and community representatives has established to deliver a gable art project representing the heritage and culture of the town. The first mural to the gable of 17 Church Street has been completed with overwhelmingly positive feedback from the community. Work on the second mural, on the gable of 30 Burnley Road/2 Station Road commenced 3<sup>rd</sup> April and will be completed by the end April.

### **Padiham Flood Risk Alleviation Scheme**

	Works to the flood wall to the rear of Padiham Town Hall are nearing completion. Ahead of the next phase, the Environment Agency has been engaging with residents on Benwood close and at Waterside Mews.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PR4-</b> We will implement the Local Plan, delivering new housing, employment sites, and infrastructure.</p>	<p><b>Allocated Housing Sites:</b></p> <p><i>Sites Under Construction:</i></p> <p>Build-out continues at site HS1/1 Former Hambledon School site (Valour Park, McDermott Homes - over 90% reserved or sold), site HS1/3 Former Blythe’s Site (Canal Walk, Gleeson - c 84% reserved or sold), site HS1/8 Red Lees Road (The Calders, Miller Homes - over 54% reserved or sold) and site HS1/26 Land adj 250 Brownside Road, Worsthorne (Millers Green, Boyes Homes - 5 properties sold).</p> <p>Construction is also now underway on part of site HS1/4 Land at Rossendale Road for 87 homes (Barratt Homes - Brun Lea Heights). Full marketing began in March with the first property now reserved/sold.</p> <p><i>Applications and Approvals:</i></p> <p>A series of condition discharge applications have been received/approved for site HS1/30 Land West of Smithyfield Avenue, Brownside for 38 age-restricted specialist bungalows (FUL/2021/0274) (Applethwaite Homes). Early marketing has begun with a full launch expected in Summer 2023 (‘Ribblesdale’).</p> <p>An application for 36 age-restricted build-to-rent bungalows for site HS1/22 Former Dexter Paints, Gannow Lane (FUL/2022/0136) was ‘approved’ subject to the signing of a Section 106 agreement at Development Control Committee on 8 Feb 2023.</p> <p>The application for site HS1/2 Hollins Cross Farm for the erection of 200 dwellings is to be considered at a Full Council meeting (following its consideration at Development Control Committee on 9 March 2023 (FUL/2022/0149)).</p> <p><b>Allocated Employment Sites:</b></p> <p>An application for a battery storage facility at site EMP1/6 Balderstone Lane was ‘approved’, subject to the signing of a Section 106 agreement at Development Control Committee on 23 Feb 2023 (FUL/2021/0375).</p>



	<p>An application for an Aldi supermarket has been received for site EMP1/7 Westgate (FUL/2023/0080) following the withdraw of an earlier scheme (FUL/2022/0221).</p> <p>Following the outline approval in September 2022 at site EMP1/5 Land South of Network 65 ('Burnley Bridge South') (OUT/2020/0366), a reserved matters application has now been approved for Phase 1 of the site (REM/2022/0568) and a number of applications for discharge of conditions have been received /approved.</p> <p>Following the approval of a hybrid application in Nov 2022 for the expansion of Burnley College on part of site EMP1/3 Vision Park (FUL/2021/0270), a number of applications for discharge of conditions have been received /approved.</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>  Work on Newtown Mill continues. Demolition works have been completed and work has commenced constructing a new steel frame structure inside the existing building façade. Scheme is due for completion in June 24.  UCLAN and Burnley Council's business support team are delivering a Business Engagement Plan to raise awareness of the opportunities for business support, knowledge exchange and innovation projects with the University. A degree apprentice show case was held in February.</p>
<p><b>PR6-</b> We will work with partners to ensure that residents are able and ready to participate in the workforce.</p>	<p><b>Employment &amp; Skills Partnership (including Thrive Youth Hub)</b>  Thrive has a caseload of 240, There has been an increase in support/referrals for individuals who are homeless – it is particularly hard supporting someone into work/education without a home, it is also hard to find someone a home where there are additional complex barriers.  The closure of Charter Walk Job Centre has increased referrals being sent to Thrive. As European funded projects start to come to a close the team at Thrive are starting to see an impact of where they can refer people to - some of these referrals will be taken up via UKSPF projects.  BFC in Community has launched a new programme called HATCH in conjunction with the KFC in Burnley providing work experience opportunities with employability support and guaranteed interviews at the end.  Unemployment rates in Burnley at Sept 2023 are 5.1% compared to a static Lancashire rate of 4.1%. The rate has remained around the same since March 2022. The Sept 23 there was a spike in the number of Economically Inactive classed as long term sick, however this data should be treated with caution due to sampling errors and we will continue to monitor trends over the longer term.</p> <p><b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund</b></p>

Year 1 to 31 March 23 is now complete and full spend has almost been achieved. Given the delayed start this is excellent progress and has meant that just one project has had to be deferred to start in year 2, this is the business innovation project with the University. 3 community grants have been awarded supporting projects at Padiham Sports Club, the Empire Theatre and Creative Spaces. The Youth zone feasibility study funded by UKSPF is now complete to RIBA Stage 2.

Funding given to Greenspaces means that the works to refurbish 3 play areas is underway.

Employment & skills support for the economically inactive has now commenced; some outputs for year 1 will be carried forward into year 2, as a result of the delayed start.