



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

06 December 2023

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COUNCILLOR AFRASIAB ANWAR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PR1- We will contribute to the strategic direction of local, sub-regional and regional partnerships, and will position the borough for economic development investment and skills.</p>	<p>County Combined Authority</p> <p>Members will have received the announcement that the Government has supported the application (in principle) from the three upper-tier authorities in Lancashire to form a non-Mayoral Combined Authority for Lancashire. This was signed off by the Minister on 26th November 2023 along with the Leaders of the Upper Tier Local Authorities.</p> <p>My initial view remains that whilst devolution for Lancashire is welcomed, the proposed terms are underwhelming. The secrecy by which it has been developed has been disappointing. The proposal simply does not represent Burnley's ambitions or consider Burnley's challenges, a view shared by some fellow Burnley Council Group Leaders and other District Leaders across Lancashire. A group of us collectively wrote to Jacob Young MP on 24th November 2023 with our concerns. In particular, the prospect of losing local control over the distribution of the UKSPF to the proposed CCA is unwelcome and disappointing as well as not providing the Districts with a meaningful voice or vote.</p> <p>Members will be aware that this Council's position has supported exploring a Mayoral Combined Authority. The Government has also made it clear that a Mayoral Combined Authority secures the largest devolution. This Council also did not support local government re-organisation as a precursor to the establishment of a Combined Authority.</p> <p>Members will have noted that there is a formal statutory consultation taking place for 8 weeks commencing on 1st December 2023. It is important that this Council puts forward its representations to the Consultation which shall be considered at the council's meeting on the 6th December 2023.</p> <p>Government's levelling up agenda</p> <p><i>Long-Term Plan for Towns</i></p>

I was pleased that Burnley was selected for the allocation of the £20 million endowment announced as part of this initiative for 55 Towns across the Borough. Whilst further guidance is awaited, correspondence has been sent to DHLUC/BEIS requesting clarification on the extent of the boundary that will benefit from this initiative. Eligibility appears to exclude Padiham, Cliviger and Worsthorne for which clarification has been sought.

There is also a requirement for a Towns Board to be set up by April 2024 and for a Plan to be submitted to Government by Summer 2024. Further guidance from Government will be issued before we can progress these schemes of work.

Levelling up 3

Like many of you, I was disappointed with the announcement of this allocation. Pre-allocated schemes for specified places for this funding that we (and many other authorities across the Country) were unable to apply for was an incredulous decision. I have contacted the Minister and the MP to express my disappointment and welcomed a discussion on whether they would be amenable to consider Burnley for further funding.

PR5- We will support UCLan's expansion, transforming Burnley into a University Town

UCLAN Update

Following extensive market research UCLan will focus its Burnley Campus on Health and Social Care, linked to the NHS workforce plan as well as digital. It was great to hear that UCLan now has permission for extra domiciled medical students. In response to local demand the campus will continue to offer courses aimed at businesses and addressing workforce needs across the digital sector and opportunities arising from the development of the National Cyber Force centre at Salmesbury. UCLan is planning a programme of events and activities aimed at engaging the local community with the campus. UCLan are also delivering a range of programs to support business growth and innovation.

Newtown Mill

Building works continue onsite and are making good progress against the current programme. Roof works, repairs/cleaning of stonework to the north mill are complete. The internal partitions continue to progress to the upper ground floor level within the south mill. Work in connection with services and mechanical and electrical works is progressing. The aluminium glazed windows have been installed to the upper ground floor area with structural openings underway to the

	<p>ground floor along the Queens Lancashire Way elevation. Completion of the building works and external areas is expected by June 2024.</p> <p>Improvements to the canal towpath are now complete - resurfacing works have been undertaken between bridge 129b and aqueduct 32 along with improvements to access points at Westgate and Manchester Rd.</p>
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Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PE1- We will continue to work with partners to make the borough a place of aspiration and pride. This will include supporting efforts to increase education attainment and skills development.</p>	<p>I was delighted to learn about Burnley College’s £1.6 million investment in its state-of-the-art Department of Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing. The college is now part of the new Lancashire and Cumbria Institute of Technology, which will equip people learners with future-facing, technical-based training, working with employers to address skills gaps.</p> <p>Further details on how the council is raising aspiration and instilling pride of place will be reported by the Executive Member for Sustainable Development and Growth and the Executive member for Community and Environmental Services.</p>

COUNCILLOR MAGGIE LISHMAN, DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PF1- We will manage our contract with Liberata robustly, so it delivers value for money and good services.</p>	<p>Liberata have achieved their key targets in the benefits service. Against a target of 9 days, the Q2 result for the average number of days to process benefits new claims and change of circumstances was 2 days, which is lower than the same period last year. The latest available data for comparison with other areas is from Q4 22/23 (this measures housing benefit processing only) and shows that Burnley's housing benefit processing time overall was 2 days. The district average in the Northwest is 3 days.</p> <p>In the contact centre, 87% of calls were answered within time, exceeding the target of 80%.</p> <p>KPIs for IT, revenues and HR were also achieved.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PF2- We will adopt a Medium Term Financial Strategy that will put the Council on a sustainable financial footing. This strategy will set the framework for preparing annual budgets, ensuring the annual budget strategy is set within the context of the longer-term outlook.</p>	<p>Revenue Budget</p> <p>The Council reported a projected net overspend of £243k at the end of quarter 1 for the 2023/24 financial year. This is in line with the position in previous financial years. The quarter 2 report has been delayed until the January 2024 cycle of committee meetings but is expected to report an improved position. We expect to balance the books by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>The Medium-Term Financial Strategy for the period 2024/27 was updated and approved at the September 2023 Full Council meeting. The updated MTFS has identified a potential budget gap of up to £1m over the 3-year period. Savings proposals were approved at that meeting with a budget gap of £118k remaining for 2024/25. Savings proposals to bridge the remaining gap will be recommended for approval in February 2024, once the outcome of the provisional budget settlement is announced in December 2023.</p> <p>Statement of Accounts</p> <p>The Council published its draft Statement of Accounts by the extended deadline of 31st May 2023. Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditor, finished the main element of their audit and presented their audit findings to the September</p>

2023 meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee for approval. Quality assurance work is in the final stages and formal sign off of the accounts is expected to be ratified at the December 2023 meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee. Grant Thornton is continuing their annual Value for Money review of the Council which will also be reported to the meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee in December 2023.

Council Tax and Business Rate Collection Rates

It is estimated that business rates collection rates for 2023/24, up to the 31st October, are on target to achieve 97.5% for the year. Council tax collection rates are 1.2% below the target of 94.5% for the year. As at the 31st October, collection rates for council tax and business rates were 60.36% and 65.35% against targets of 61.58% and 63.57% respectively.

Strategic commitment	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>In Q2, 67% of "report it" and "request it" actions were made online. This figure excludes revenues and benefits transactions, where digital take up is closer to 25%. Officers are reviewing processes to make it easier for those that can, to transact online.</p> <p>A review is also underway to improve the experience of making online payments. This work is being undertaken in partnership with other councils and an implementation plan will be brought forward in the New Year.</p>
PF4- We will deliver our Organisational Development strategy, ensuring we plan for the structures and capabilities that the organisation needs, and empowering our workforce to deliver the objectives of the Strategic Plan.	<p>The current Talent Management programme is due to complete with presentations on the outcome of the projects taking place in December. The two projects have been on Volunteering and Climate Change.</p> <p>Work is ongoing on the roll out of the Carbon Literacy training to start in the new year. The Learning Programme for 2023/24 has been finalised with a focus on Leadership & Management and Neurodiversity awareness.</p>
PL6- We will invest in our heritage assets for the benefit of this, and future, generations.	<p>Council Chamber Works The restoration works in the Council Chamber, due to extensive issues of dry rot, are due to be completed during December 2023. Progress is being made on accessibility and audio-visual equipment upgrades that will commence once the restoration works have been completed. The tender process has commenced and survey work to inform the bids will be undertaken once scaffolding has been removed.</p>

COUNCILLOR HOWARD BAKER, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Progress against our strategic commitments

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

Waste & Cleansing Update

Simpler Recycling

The Government has announced its long-awaited proposals on standardising recycling services in England and Wales. The proposals called "Simpler Recycling" impose a statutory duty on councils across the country to provide a kerbside collection to all households of a standardised list of dry recycling materials (Paper, Card, Glass Cans and Plastics) by April 2026. The Government is allowing flexibility to councils on how to deliver this service: councils will be allowed to collect all dry recycling fully co-mingled. The arrangement for Lancashire will be clarified in the coming months in conjunction with Lancashire County Council as the statutory waste disposal authority.

The majority of councils including Burnley will also be required to rollout a new weekly food waste collection service by April 2026 to all households. Despite earlier statements that Councils would not be allowed to charge for garden waste collections the Government has decided to allow Councils to continue to charge for collections but has placed a statutory duty on them to provide the service to any household requesting the service.

In addition to requirements for households "Simpler Recycling" also mandates that all business with the exception of Micro Firms must introduce both a dry recycling and food waste collection by April 2025. The Government is due to provide details over the next few months of the New Burdens funding that will be available to facilitate the introduction and operation of the new services.

Garden Waste

Once again Burnley Council will be issuing its collection calendars to residents during December. Again, we will be offering a real Christmas tree collection and composting service to residents after the festive period. To book a collection residents need to go online to www.burnley.gov.uk/christmastrees

Streetscene Environmental Enforcement

Following the recent Government announcement that XL Bully type dogs will be added to the breed types banned in the UK by 31st December 2023. The Council website has now been updated to include guidance for owners, links to free muzzle

training supplied by The Dogs Trust and other useful information.

Residents affected by the announcement should be signposted to the following link:

<https://burnley.gov.uk/environmental-problems/dogs/dangerous-dogs/american-xl-bullies/>

Enforcement Action Figures. July – Oct 2023

The council's education and enforcement officers continue to proactively work within the Borough, reacting to fly-tipping intelligence reports and liaising with the council's waste and cleansing contractor. As a result of this work, over this period (1st July – 31st Oct) the council has successfully prosecuted 12 individuals for fly tipping and other waste offences. The 12 individuals were given the opportunity to attend a formal interview but failed to attend, resulting in all the cases being taken to the Magistrates court.

Alongside this and over the same period, council officers have also issued the following:

- 196 Warning letters sent out for incorrect waste presentation and other waste related issues.
- 28 Community protection warning letters for repeatedly presenting side waste.
- 76 Fixed penalty notices for flytipping and incorrect waste presentation offences.
- 371 Fixed penalty notices for littering.
- 9 Fixed penalty notices for dog foul/dog exclusion.
- 37 suspected flytippers invited for police and criminal evidence interviews.

Community Safety & ASB

Queensgate Multi-Agency Activity

The Council and Police, working with other partners, have delivered a programme of activities in the Queensgate area during October and November. Officers have been out in the ward on joint operations looking at ASB and environmental issues, addressing issues raised by residents. The work of Streetscene and Housing colleagues has been well received by residents and further events covering the borough are to be planned and delivered over 2024.

In October there was a reduction in all reported ASB of 21%, compared to September. Youth ASB fell by 42% in the same period and in October accounted for just 19% of all ASB. The Burnley average is currently 27%.

Safer Streets

The Pennine Lancashire CSP has successfully bid for £400k as part of the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund. The money

will provide upgrades to town centre CCTV in busy nighttime economy areas.

White Ribbon Day and the 16 Days of Action

The 25th November marked International White Ribbon Day and the start of the 16 Days of Action. The Council again will be linking with local partners, including Burnley Football Club, to promote the campaign and raise awareness of Domestic Abuse and gender violence.

Joint work within Community Safety Partnership

The ASB team has made a successful application, supported by the Police, to close a property identified as being used for the sale and consumption of drugs. This is the 5th Closure Order obtained this year. They are also progressing with further applications relating to both residential and commercial properties that have been identified as attracting ASB.

Ongoing work includes an increasing number of reports concerning dog behaviour and nuisance, together with more cooperative work with Calico and the Neighbourhood Police Teams.

Rowley Lake

Repair works are due to be undertaken to the dam structure and a flood modelling study is also to be carried out, arising from recommendations in the most recent inspection report and in order to comply with Environment Agency regulations and recent statutory changes regarding reservoir management.

COUNCILLOR LUBNA KHAN, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PL2- 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>Selective Licensing</p> <p>Selective Licensing: Trinity, Queensgate with Duke Bar, Gannow and Daneshouse & Stoneyholme areas 2019-2024</p> <p>The total number of properties that are required to be licensed is 2649 across all four areas. We have received 2845 applications since the start of these designations. 89% of licensable properties are currently licensed; a further 109 applications are being processed by the licensing team.</p> <p>The final report has been published on the selective licensing area of our website for the completed audit in parts of Trinity which took place from Aug to Oct 2023. Audits were also undertaken in August in parts of Stoneyholme identifying external disrepair, dirty back yards and ensuring all properties have valid documentation in place. A final report is available on our website.</p> <p>Selective Licensing: Burnley Wood with Healey Wood and the Leyland Road area 2022-2027</p> <p>The designations for the above areas came into force on 21st July 2022. Since this date we have received 782 applications. 71 % of those properties that require a licence have been licensed, with the team currently progressing a further 118 applications.</p> <p>The first area audit took place in August in part of the Leyland Road area. A full report of the outcomes of this audit will be published in November. In addition, following monitoring by one of our officers, a mini audit of Pine Street in the Burnley Wood area has been audited; this area is not due to be audited until November, however we have concerns about the condition of some of the properties, so we are prioritising this street ahead of schedule. The report is available on our website.</p> <p>Civil Penalties/Prosecutions</p> <p>The priority for all six licensing areas is securing applications for all properties that are required to be licensed and enforcing the conditions of the licence. During the current designations we have prosecuted landlords in respect of four properties and issued twelve civil penalties where landlords were operating without a licence. We continue to review the outcome of the area audits to prioritise further cases for legal action, focusing on properties which have been unlicensed for long periods, or where we have concerns about the condition of the properties.</p>

	<p>Landlord and Agent Training Days We held a Landlord Development Day in person event at the Town Hall on the 20th October 2023 and an online damp and mould half day course on the 17th November 2023.</p> <p>Private Rented Disrepair Since the start of April 2023, the council has received and dealt with 240 new disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants. The Housing Standards Team has a current caseload of 170 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair/proactive inspection cases. Since April 2023, the Housing Standards Team have served 21 formal improvement notices requiring owners to complete specified repairs within a given timescale, as well as 3 emergency remedial action notices, and 6 prohibition orders.</p>
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Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PL3- We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock, and reduce the blight of empty properties</p>	<p>Empty Homes Program</p> <p>Several more compulsory purchases will be started before the end of the calendar year. Several acquisitions by agreement are also progressing slowly.</p> <p>Renovations are underway at five properties with tenders out or recently completed for another four properties. Two of these properties are nearing completion and will be on the market soon. Four of the properties being renovated (or will be renovated) will then be passed to our Housing Needs team and will be used for temporary accommodation and for our refugee program. Sales are progressing on three properties, and three others have gone on the market.</p> <p>The facelifting scheme is nearing completion at the rears of Windsor and Ivory Streets, unfortunately the completion has been delayed by the weather. The Piccadilly Road scheme has started but is being delayed due to the amount of rain we have had.</p> <p>Enquiries for the loans scheme are still slow at the moment.</p>

PE3- We will continue to work with partners to provide necessary support systems to reduce homelessness and to end rough sleeping in the borough.

Burnley Council continue to support and accommodate rough sleepers and homeless households who have a connection to the borough. Since the last update, we now have six RSAP (Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme) properties and they are currently fully occupied, with the clients being supported by the RSAP Officer.

We have 16 ABEN (A Bed Every Night) properties managed by Stepping Stones, and 15 properties that are Council managed and all these properties are also fully occupied. From the 1st April 2024 to 31st October 2023, we received 1410 enquiries around homelessness, which 370 were opened as cases. We have successfully prevented or relieved 194 household's homelessness or threat of homelessness so far this financial year, and have accommodated 158 households in temporary accommodation.

We have successfully bid for the Local Authority funding round 2, to enable us to acquire 6 properties to use for temporary accommodation, three of these will be used to support Afghan families moving from the hotels. Two of the 15 Council managed properties have now passed to the Councils ownership following the funding being awarded, and we continue to work to secure another 4 properties. We continue to work in partnership with agencies to increase the positive outcomes and prevent and relieve homelessness households or those at threat of homelessness throughout the borough.

COUNCILLOR SCOTT CUNLIFFE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 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>Business Support</p> <p>The Business Support team are currently working with 30 companies following an inward investment or expansion enquiry. The range of premises required is across the office and industrial sectors with the latter showing strong continual demand against a backdrop of limited supply. Recent relocations include an engineering company who have taken an additional 13,000 Sq Ft on top of their existing 7,000 Sq Ft as part of their growth plans; and a business in the personal services sector who have fully renovated a gateway building that was derelict. Both were assisted with the Business Growth Programme to aide their expansion with the investment figures for both companies exceeding £500,000 and creating 10 new jobs and safeguarding 10 jobs.</p> <p>On the 27th November the Executive Member for Sustainable Development and Growth visited Process Instruments to present and award for 20 years of outstanding achievements in international trade and innovation. Process Instruments design, develop and deliver innovative water analysing technologies and invest significantly in new product development.</p> <p>Vision Park</p> <p>As part of our ongoing wrap around support to Vision Park tenants, businesses are being offered a programme of support on marketing strategies including two workshops, tailored individual support for three months. Six businesses (9 tenants) have signed up to receive the support.</p> <p>Vision Park remains at full occupancy with a waiting list for available units with 4 occupiers currently renewing their existing tenancies.</p> <p>Padiham Town Hall</p> <p>Another company has joined the co-working space in Room and Power. The company which provides AV, IT and Software support has bases in Blackburn and Manchester and has now decided to create a base in the borough following an initial trial period.</p> <p>This now takes the co-working space up to 13 businesses working out of the co-working space. The fixed office space remains at full capacity with a waiting list operating.</p>

UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Supporting Local Business Theme

All business support projects are now live, with the last 3 going live on 1st October 2023 (Innovation, Manufacturing & Boost). To date 37 Burnley businesses have been engaged with under the International Trade project delivered by East Lancashire Chamber and 67 Burnley businesses have been engaged with under the Net Zero/Decarbonisation project also delivered by the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce. Six Burnley businesses have been identified as high growth (20% year on year growth) to receive specialist support through the Scale to Thrive programme delivered by the Growth Company.

Burnley Brand and Burnley Bondholders

Since last full council there have been 20 pieces of positive news on Burnley.co.uk. Burnley has featured in 905 pieces of online, print and broadcast news with a combined AVE of £909,000 and reach of 365 million.

The Burnley sector video series launched Wednesday 1st Nov, showcasing professional services. This has been followed by charity/not-for-profit and design and textiles. The #madeitinburnley video series launched alongside, showcasing some of our best talent in Burnley.

There have been 5 bondholder events since the last full council.

InBusiness Burnley was published 27th November and distributed to businesses across East Lancashire.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
PR3- We will deliver the Town Centre and Canalside Masterplan, and strategic projects in Padiham Town Centre.	Burnley Town Centre Pioneer Place Heavenly Deserts opened in early October. The restaurant outlets report to be trading well. There have been some issues with the operation of the REEL parking concessions, but these have now been resolved. Work commenced on the former cinema site at Manchester Road site on the 6 th November with an expected completion date of March 25.

Charter Walk

Footfall, year to date, to end of October was 1.7% down compared to the same period last year. Tenants report positive trading, despite the cost of living crisis. 6 tenants have invested in re-fits in the last 3 months which is a sign of confidence in the location. The Asset Management Company have successfully re-negotiated leases with two existing tenants expanding into bigger units and works are underway to facilitate this.

Working in partnership with Table Tennis England, Charter Walk hosts a Ping Pong Parlour offering free table tennis. The Parlour brings additional activities into the Town Centre as well as encouraging people to remain active and healthy.

The center won a Britain in Bloom Gold Award in the large retail category and was also best in the Northwest. The sensory garden, that opened earlier this year, has recently won an International Green Apple Award for Innovation. Footfall on Howe Walk has increased by 62% since the garden opened.

Town 2 Turf

Pavement widening and resurfacing works to the Harry Potts Way section of the scheme are complete. Resurfacing works are now focused on the Yorkshire St section. Repairs, cleaning and redecoration of the aqueduct have been completed. The Yorkshire Street roundabout has been removed and replaced with a temporary roundabout whilst works continue at this junction.

The current program sees Sept 2024 completion.

Lower St James Street Heritage Action Zone

Restoration work to 158 Lower St James Street is underway including the reinstatement of a traditional shop front, bay windows, rainwater goods, Doff cleaning and architectural repairs. This is due to be completed at the end of December. The Property owner is investing internally with a change of use from taxi office to retail unit and two apartments to the upper floors.

Work continues to 123-125 St James Street, the HSHAZ Exemplar building, with completion due. Footfall figures continue to increase in the HSHAZ area. In Q2 July-Sept 23 compared to July – Sept 2022 the street so an additional 60,000 visitors.

The Regional Director of Historic England visited Burnley in October and was delighted with the progress that has been made in the High Street Heritage Action Zone and the

Conservation Areas. The council was commended and its contractors on the quality of the work in the area.

The HSHAZ Social media pages continue to see a significant 40% increase in new followers and interactions with 11.5K reach within the last 90 days.

Burnley Market

We continue to offer a place for people to start their businesses with a low-cost start up incentive scheme.

Rupi's Kitchen selling Bengali cuisine and a barber shop has recently opened. The tailor is expanding his business and taking an extra unit.

10 leases have been renewed in the last 3 months. Occupancy is up 60% compared to the same time last year.

The market hall and its tenants are pro-actively promoted on social media channels. A program of events is being delivered to bring new customers to the market including a successful bi-monthly Record Fair.

The market hosted Re-Fashion Week – a collaboration with British Textile Biennial, UCLAN and Gawthorp Textiles Collection to educate young people in how to recycle and upcycle fashion items. The market hosted workshops and a fashion shoot.

A Christmas program of events is in place for December 2023.

The markets manager continues to work with the BID, Charter Walk and the police to address ASB and additional security has been employed to address ASB issues ensuring that the market hall is a pleasant environment for shoppers.

A Christmas program of events is now in place for December 2023.

Business Improvement District

The BID is now in its third year of operation. The BID manager and chair have been engaging with the Police and Crime Commissioner to try to secure additional resources to address ASB in the Town Centre.

The BID continues to deliver a program of town centre events aimed at attracting families to the town centre, the latest being the Christmas Light Parade and Light Switch on held on 18th November.

The BID has agreed funding for a wayfinding and signage strategy, as recommended in the Town Centre Masterplan. The council is leading this work.

Padiham Town Centre

Recent community engagement events include the High Street Heritage Trail that took place for a week in September, as part of Heritage Open Days, supported by Padiham Library and Gawthorpe Hall. Designed to attract new visitors into the town and highlight Padiham's unique historical features.

The Padiham Halloween Trail took place during the October half term school holidays and was supported by the Padiham Town Centre Officer. The trail brought children and families into the town to visit local shops, with a total of 27 businesses involved and received positive feedback from participants.

The Christmas Light Switch On Event, took place on Saturday 25th November. Promotional videos for the event are being created and will feature 6 new Padiham businesses.

The Padiham Town Centre social media platforms have reached over 22.5k in the last 28 days and continue to share positive news about events and businesses.

Padiham Townscape Heritage Initiative

Works have completed at Nos. 25 & 27 Burnley Rd (Woof & Tumble and Party Glitz). There is one final building project on site 12-14 Burnley Rd (vacant, formerly Timeless). Grant has been awarded for a package of external repair and restoration works, due to complete by March 2024.

Leases have been agreed for the retail units at No. 33-35 Burnley Rd (Exemplar project). 'The Hub' has opened at No. 35 and Millie & Rubys' Doggy Bakery is due to open within No. 33 at the beginning of December.

A project evaluation is being undertaken by the TH Officer with input from consultant, Creative Talent Management, whom have been appointed to collect independent feedback about the scheme which will feed into the evaluation report. The overall TH programme is due to complete by June 2024.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
PR4- We will implement the Local Plan, delivering new housing, employment sites, and infrastructure.	Housing Land Supply Assessment: The required annual update of the 5-year housing land supply assessment was completed in October 2023. This assessment demonstrates a supply of deliverable housing sites equivalent to 11.2 years and includes information on the progress of all allocated sites and all windfall sites with planning permission that are not yet completed. (5-Year Housing Land Supply Assessment) Maintaining a 5-year supply of land for housing is important to avoid the 'tilted balance' of the National Planning Policy Framework whereby the 'need' for housing can override local policy requirements and can for example allow poorer quality developments and development on greenfield sites outside of development boundaries.

Allocated Housing Sites:

Sites Under Construction:

Site HS1/1 Former Hambleton School site (Valour Park, McDermott Homes and Site HS1/3 Former Blythe's Site (Canal Walk, Gleeson) are both nearing completion with all remaining plots released and only 5 remaining on each site for sale (including the Showhomes). Site HS1/8 Red Lees Road (The Calders, Miller Homes) has over 66% reserved or sold and the on-site affordable housing (discounted sales) is now being marketed with three of the five reserved. Site HS1/4 Rossendale Road (Barratt Homes - Brun Lea Heights) is well under construction with 11 properties sold – all of the detached homes offered for sale have been sold.

Construction is now underway at site HS1/30 Land West of Smithyfield Avenue, Brownside for 38 age-restricted specialist bungalows (FUL/2021/0274) (Applethwaite Homes).

Applications and Approvals:

Reserved matters approval for 73 affordable homes on site HS1/29 Lodge Mill was granted at Development Control Committee on 17 October 2023 (REM/2023/0169). Outline planning application for up to 40 dwellings on the northern (upper) part of Site HS1/5 (Former Baxi Site) was approved at Development Control Committee on 9 November, subject first to the signing of a Section 106 Agreement (OUT/2023/0294). A previous similar outline permission had lapsed. Amended plans have been received for 36 dwellings at Site HS1/12 Former Heckenhurst Reservoir (Applethwaite homes) (FUL/2022/0629). Applications to discharge and vary conditions have been received at Site HS1/32 Butcher Farm, Worsthorne (CND/2023/0644 and VAR/2023/0602).

Allocated Employment Sites:

An application for discharge of conditions has been received at Site EMP1/1 Rossendale Road (North) (CND/2023/0590) in relation to full planning permission 2022/02598 which is for part of the allocated site.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
PR6- We will work with partners to ensure that residents are able and ready to participate in the workforce.	Burnley Employment & Skills Group (BSEG) Working with the county council the group is currently focussing work on a cohort of young people aged 16-24 Not in Employment Education or Training (NEETS) further discussions will take place on how we can support this group. The L.C.C. team have directly contacted the individuals on

their NEET caseload and invited them to meet at the Thrive hub for support.

Thrive Youth Hub
 Current caseload of Thrive is 178. It is worth noting that over 40% of the participants on the UKSPF (people & skills) programme are young people under 25. The HATCH programme delivered by BFC in the Community, has seen 7 people successfully complete the 4 weeks paid work experience and then moved into employment. 7 additional volunteer placements have also taken place. The Princes Trust programme - “Get into Health & Social Care with East Lancs Hospital Trust has seen 9 people being employed and a further 6 signed up to start the next cohort. A new group now regularly using the Thrive hub is Positive Action in the Community (P.A.C) who support homelessness in your people – they are working very closely with the team from Child Action North West who support substance misuse in young people – so this is a great show of partnership working.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund – People & Skills Theme
 In the first 6 months of year 2, (April - Sept 23, a total of 81 individuals have been engaged with on this project. Whilst the majority of these are still actively accessing support, to date 7 have moved into employment, 7 have engaged with mainstream healthcare services and a further 5 have received benefits following support. We expect most outputs/outcomes to come in Year 3 given the nature of the complex individuals on programme with a range of barriers & additional needs to gaining employment. A key focus of this project is working in the community and outreach work is taking place in venues such as Padiham Town Hall, Down Town, Valley St and Stonyholme Primary School.

Universal Credit Claimant Changes
 Unemployment Data reported in the last report was to July 23. There is no further data available after this point in time at the moment. An update will be provided in the next report.

PL5- We will implement our Climate Change Strategy

The first draft of the ‘Road Map to Net Zero’ report has been completed. This document will outline potential costs and timeframes for each main area of climate action, between now and 2050. The document will be monitored and updated as needed and will also help to identify if an earlier net zero target can be achieved for the Council, or if 2050 remains the most feasible target.

A staff commuting survey has been completed across the Council and Burnley Leisure and this data will be incorporated into the Council’s 2022/23 carbon budget. This information will inform the Council’s future carbon budget analysis.

The Council are in the process of completing a train the trainer exercise for Carbon Literacy Training. This will allow a quicker and more cost-efficient roll out of the training.

The Climate Change Scrutiny Review Group met again in November where members of the group have continued to review the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

The project to provide electric vehicle charging facilities has now been completed by the Council's Streetscene department and once a utility connection has been carried out at Riley Street Car Park, all chargers will be live and available for public use across the borough. During the programme additional works were also undertaken to improve accessibility for those using the chargers.

COUNCILLOR JACK LAUNER, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH, CULTURE & WELLBEING

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
PL4- We will implement our 2015-25 Green Space Strategy.	<p>Play Strategy The refurbishment of Queens Park play area starts on site shortly and will be complete by the new year. Consultation on designs for the relocation of Barden Lane play area to Disraeli St. Recreation have taken place and a planning application is being submitted. Designs for Picadilly Gardens and Underly Street play areas are complete and ready for consultation and the scheme to refurbish Underley street has been boosted by a section 106 planning contribution from a nearby housing development, which will enable other improvements to the recreation ground to be undertaken.</p> <p>Refurbishment of the youth shelter at Park Road Padiham has been completed by a local contractor and I am grateful to Padiham Town Council for their very generous financial support. A survey of Burnley's 22 multi use games areas (MUGAs) is currently being undertaken and an improvement plan will be developed to ensure that these popular and well used facilities are maintained in good condition.</p> <p>Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy A scheme to improve pitches at Lockyer Avenue playing fields is being designed and tendered ready for implementation in spring 2024. Designs for the improvements to Queens Park football pitches are being progressed with a view to implementation in 2025.</p> <p>Worsthorne Recreation Ground A contract to construct the access road and install electricity and sewerage connections is currently on site which will enable Fulfilled Colts to progress work on the facilities.</p> <p>Stables Cafe I am pleased to report that the stables café has now re-opened with its new operator Park Life. It has been a long journey to get to this point and I acknowledge the commitment of previous administrations to ensuring that this outcome has been achieved.</p> <p>Towneley Hall The first phase of work to re-roof the west wing of the hall including major stonework and window repairs is complete and contractors programme is now focussed on repairs to the south wing (containing the regency rooms) and the restoration of the ornate plaster ceiling in the great hall. The contract is currently on schedule to complete at the end of 2024.</p>

Towneley Park Masterplan

Consultation is complete with user groups and the public, with nearly 1,100 people completing an online and paper survey to express their views on how the park should be improved and developed in the coming years. The master planning consultants are now using the data to inform the development of the masterplan which aims to ensure that the heritage, ecology, recreational and economic potential of the park is developed over the next 10 years.

Off-road Motorcycle Nuisance

The council is working with the Police, Calico and the Community Safety team to on a programme to address problems of off-road bikes across the borough. The project is linked to the Police's Operation Centurion and the Designing Out Crime Officers are providing site specific advice for several problem areas. An initial report will be taken to Scrutiny Committee in the new year.

Climate Action Fund – Outdoor Town

I am pleased to report that this 4-year project is now underway with the recruitment of a Green Activities Coordinator who will organise green volunteering activities and support residents, park friends and other voluntary groups to plant new woodlands, wildflower meadows, improve open spaces and restore neglected sites.

The project links to Beat the Street and over this winter the project will plant small woodlands in each of the Borough's 15 wards, supported by grants from the Trees for Cities charity. Details of BtS planting locations can be found by following this [link](#).

Urban Tree Challenge Fund

The Council has also been awarded funding from the Forestry Commission's Urban Tree Challenge fund to plant 100 large specimen trees on ten open spaces across the borough, all in areas of the town that will benefit. Details of planting locations can be found by visiting the [Plant a Tree!](#) Page of the Council's website.

Towneley Bonfire

I'm pleased to report that this year's event was a success with a sell-out audience of 6,000 and despite heavy rain showers, the Mayor lit the bonfire in record time. Planning for next year's event will aim to increase the diversity of the food offer.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PE2- We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer in partnership with Burnley Leisure.</p>	<p>HAF Programme</p> <p>Our Burnley Holiday Activities with Food programme (HAF) saw a total of 1889 children and young people enjoyed our holiday activities over the Summer 2023 holidays, taking part in 12,294 sessions. 88% of children were on free school meals. Participants were equally split across age ranges and gender suggesting that our programme offered something for all.</p> <p>Cultural Framework</p> <p>The cultural framework 'Our People, Our Culture - A Cultural Reimagining of Burnley 2023-2027' has recently been considered at Scrutiny Committee and will be taken to the Executive for endorsement in the new year.</p> <p>The framework been developed through a partnership of cultural organisations in Burnley and reflects the voices and perspectives of a broad range of local and regional stakeholders and the general public. It promotes a shared vision for culture as a catalyst for social and economic development.</p> <p>The document provides a framework for delivering high quality cultural activity, removing barriers and tackling fundamental challenges at their root, it will create opportunities for learning and enjoyment, supporting employment, generating local pride and enhancing residents' daily lives.</p> <p>The framework identifies that, to create a sustainable infrastructure for cultural development, the foundation blocks needed to achieve success are cultural leadership, cross sector collaboration, funding and resources and community engagement.</p> <p>The 2023 – 2026 development phase will culminate in a largescale festival programme in 2027 which will showcase Burnley and its cultural offer, bringing sectors, organisations and communities together, building from our past, to create exciting new futures.</p> <p>St Peter's Centre</p> <p>I'm pleased to report that a significant programme of work is in progress at St Peter's Centre over the coming months to improve customer experience, including refurbishment of the reception area, changing rooms, sports hall and expansion of the fitness area and replacement of gym equipment.</p> <p>Padiham Leisure Centre</p> <p>Work to provide a new changing places toilet is in progress and the replacement of gym equipment is currently being tendered and expected to be installed by Easter.</p>

	<p>Mechanics</p> <p>Santa’s Christmas Grotto, which is being run in partnership with Charter Walk shopping centre, opened on 19th November is proving very popular and whole day (9th December) has been set aside for a fully inclusive SEND (Special Educational Needs) day and special education needs events have sold out. Other Christmas shows have sold out and the festive period makes an important contribution to BLC finances.</p>
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Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PE4- 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>The end of September saw the 10,000th person to be offered support by Burnley Together since its inception in March 2020.</p> <p>Positively, there is a downward trend in the number of emergency food parcels being issued. In Q4 22/23, 1,456 were provided. In Q2 of this year, the figure was 1,135. Conversely, the Community Grocery is seeing an increase in members and shops. In Q2, 8,000 shops took place in the borough’s Community Groceries and nearly 600 new members joined. This suggests that the council’s partnership work in Burnley Together is successfully reducing dependency on emergency food with fewer residents needing multiple parcels.</p> <p>In addition, there were 800 shops in the pre-loved school uniform shop over the summer. This sustainable approach is good both for household budgets and the environment.</p>