



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

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PORTFOLIO: DEPUTY LEADER, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COUNCILLOR JOHN HARBOUR

DATE OF REPORT: 22/11/2017

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PL2- We will improve the management of private rented accommodation.</p>	<p>Selective Licensing <i>Trinity, Queensgate and Gannow:-</i> Officers continue to monitor these areas closely to ensure all licensable properties have either been licensed, or landlords are engaging in the application process, those that have not been licensed are now a very small minority of the all licensable properties within the neighbourhood. Officers are also working closely with their colleagues in Streetscene to help identify and tackle dirty back yards and anti-social behaviour to the benefit of local residents.</p> <p>Since new powers were introduced in April of this year, the team is preparing the first Civil Penalty Notice to be served on a landlord for failing to licence a property.</p> <p><i>Burnley Wood with Healey Wood, Leyland Road area and Ingham and Lawrence Street area</i> Applications have been received for 84% of licensable properties in the new areas, and the team continue to secure applications from the remaining 16%. The team have licensed 84% of the complete applications which have been submitted, and are in</p>

	<p>the process of making decisions on the remaining applications. We are also working closely with landlords and agents to ensure incomplete applications are made complete to allow us to issue or decline the licence as appropriate.</p> <p>Our focus for the newer areas continues to be ensuring that landlords are supplying the correct documentation and information, which is allowing us to build up a significant amount of knowledge on property condition in these areas.</p> <p><i>Training and Development</i></p> <p>We held the first Anti-social behaviour training session on the 19th September 2017. It was very well attended and feedback from attendees was very positive. We look forward to hosting another similar session in early 2018.</p> <p>Private Rented Disrepair</p> <p>Since the start of April 2017 the Council has received and dealt with 203 new disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants. The Enforcement Team have a current caseload of 236 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair cases, or proactive Selective Licensing cases. The majority of the cases have been dealt with informally and resolved promptly</p>
<p>PL3- We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock.</p>	<p>Empty Homes Programme</p> <p>Works are progressing in bringing forward the next round of CPOs. Interest in finished properties is still strong.</p> <p>The improvement scheme on Heap St has been completed.</p> <p>Grants</p> <p>The Council is assisting vulnerable, elderly and disabled residents through its grants programme. Disabled Facilities Grants have been awarded to 106 residents and the grants team are currently working towards approving a further 25 grants. Vulnerable residents are also assisted through the Council's emergency works grant and 11 residents have received assistance through this project.</p> <p>The Council continues to work closely with other Lancashire authorities through the Lancashire Home Energy Officers Group. This group is tasked with obtaining funding for energy efficiency schemes</p>

	<p>across Lancashire. The Council also receives affordable warmth funding from Lancashire County Council and so far this funding has assisted 14 residents with heating related issues. The Burnley Heating Rebate scheme is available for residents who upgrade their boiler to an “A” rated boiler and so far this year 62 rebates have been granted.</p> <p>Housing Development Ringstones have undertaken significant groundworks on the Perseverance Mill site in Padiham to prepare the way for the development of 56 new homes. Ringstones are also making good progress with their gateway housing scheme on the site of the former Mitre Pub which when in use will assist formerly homeless people through support and training to access sustainable housing, education and employment.</p> <p>Keepmoat are transforming both Burnley Wood and the Accrington Road with new housing development and Gleeson continue to make progress in Daneshouse, Stoneyholme and on their new site at the former chemical works in Hapton.</p> <p>We are also seeing housing developments at Sycamore Road and Gannow Lane transforming former brownfield sites with new homes that will offer real choice to our residents.</p>
<p>PL4- We will implement our 2015-25 Green Space Strategy.</p>	<p>Play Strategy I’m pleased to report that the extension of Calder Park Play area is in progress. Provision of additional play equipment has been funded by a Big Lottery Grant and Ward Opportunities Fund. The scheme also includes providing new goal posts and synthetic grass goal mouths. The Friends of Calder Park are now working on a funding application to build a pump track.</p> <p>Restoration of Thompson Park The contract for restoration of the buildings in Thompson Park is being awarded to a local building contractor which specialises in historic building restoration.</p> <p>The £370,000 contract includes restoring the pavilion as a visitor centre and ranger base and the Boat House will be converted into a café with</p>

additional funding being provided by the Council to improve facilities for people with dementia, including a new toilet in the boat house.

The building contract will start in December and be complete by May.

Work on restoration of the Italian Garden has also commenced and local volunteer is currently restoring all 70 of the traditional benches in Thompson Park, which are being fitted with arm rests to assist older visitors.

Events in Parks

The annual Bonfire and Fireworks display at Towneley was a success attracting 5,000 visitors and providing a safe and enjoyable family event. The Council is very grateful for the sponsorship provided by Urbaser and Burnley Leisure

Rethinking Parks

The Council's 'Rethinking Parks' programme has received recognition from DEFRA in the 'Bee's Needs Champions Awards 2017' for the contribution that wildflower meadows in Burnley's parks are making to the protection of bees and other pollinators.

As well as saving money and reducing CO2 emissions, managing grassland in parks as wildflower meadows has huge benefits for wildlife, in particular bees and other pollinating insects which are in decline due to overuse of pesticides and changes in agricultural practices.

The Council is working with park friend's groups to secure further funding for wildflower schemes from the Kew Garden's 'Grow Wild' project.