



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

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21st February 2018

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COUNCILLOR MARK TOWNSEND, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PE1- We will work with partners to make the borough a place of aspiration, including supporting efforts to increase education attainment and skills development, and improve residents' health.</p>	<p>Head teachers and GPs in Burnley have agreed that tackling poor mental health is a key challenge if we are to improve the life chances of our young people later in life. Though this is an issue right across the country, I welcome the effort locally to try and improve access to services that could help improve emotional resilience. Officers from the council and Burnley Leisure, such as the Active Streets team, will support this agenda through the recently established Burnley Health and Wellbeing Partnership.</p> <p>The Children's University has been taken up by 14 Burnley schools and increasing numbers of local learning destinations, such as Towneley Hall and Burnley Leisure facilities, are being signed up to encourage children from the age of 5 to try new learning experiences in and outside of school; at after school clubs, at home, in the local library, museum or further afield. I look forward to the graduation ceremony in the Summer term, to celebrate, with our partners at UCLan and Burnley FC in the Community, this proven approach to extra curricula learning. The Making it in Burnley group continues to strengthen relationships between schools and business and our colleagues in the careers and enterprise network offer support to Burnley high schools to engage with businesses. I look forward to the developments which will be implemented as a result of the government's recent careers strategy.</p>
<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.</p>	<p>I am pleased to report UCLan's recent announcement of their plans to increase their student numbers from 400 to 4000 by 2025. This number of students will lead to a more vibrant town centre and deliver many wider economic benefits to the Borough as well as helping to raise aspirations for our young people. The securing of Victoria Mill (former UTC building) by UCLan will help to revitalise the Weavers Triangle. Officers have monthly meetings with UCLan to help them deliver their plans and we need to ensure that there is the right accommodation and student experience in the town to attract national and international students to Burnley.</p>

<p>PF1- We will embed the partnership with Liberata within the Council's budget, strategic vision and commercial strategy.</p>	<p>The Council has just started its third year of partnership with Liberata. I am pleased to report that Liberata is on schedule in locating new jobs in the borough</p> <p>At the end of the second year of the contract, 44 new skilled jobs had been created, ahead of the target of 40.</p> <p>Of those new employees, over 37 are working to deliver services to other local authorities across the country, including the London boroughs of Bromley and Hillingdon, with 8 more in training.</p> <p>The Council was delighted to handover the refurbished Padiham Town Hall to the Town Council following the horrific boxing day floods in 2015. Council officers worked closely with Liberata and the Town Council to deliver the reinstatement of this historic building to demonstrate its support and commitment to Padiham. Effective measures have been put in place to mitigate against the risk of future flooding.</p>
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<p>PF2- We will adopt 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>Quarter 3 saw the final round of in-year budget monitoring reports for the 2017/18 financial year that are reported through to Full Council. This marked the conclusion of the first year for the new self-service budget monitoring initiative. This project allowed budget holders to have greater input and control managing and reporting against their budgets and is linked to greater empowerment for budget holders and greater use of financial systems.</p> <p>A review of this project will be undertaken over the spring with the expectation of shaping the continuation of this program.</p> <p>Work is continuing on financial transformation project work; using greater exploitation of financial systems to improve efficiency and drive performance. Further automation of the payments system will allow for additional efficiencies to be achieved.</p> <p>To ensure that our employees have the necessary skills to continue to develop and work in new or different ways there is a comprehensive learning and development calendar in place for employees at all levels including leadership development, talent management and changes in technology.</p> <p>Work continues in dealing with the challenging environment the Council is in, with regards to reduced government funding and economic pressures. Proposals to balance the budget for 2018/19 and an assessment of the medium term are included elsewhere in this agenda. Building on savings approved in 2016 and 2017 for future years, this multi-year approach shows the Council's commitment to creating a sustainable future and is intended to develop a long-term financially balanced framework for the Council.</p>
<p>PF4- We will deliver our Organisational Development strategy, ensuring we plan for the structures and capabilities the organisation needs, and empowering our workforce to deliver the objectives of the Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>The Council is committed to organisational development and development programmes for both senior and middle managers are ongoing. A talent management programme for managers is in progress.</p> <p>The Council is aware of its obligations under the new General Data Protection Regulations and a robust training programme has been put in place for all officers that is due to be completed before the legislation is effective in May 2018.</p>

**COUNCILLOR JOHN HARBOUR, DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER
FOR HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT**

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 rented properties within the neighbourhoods. As well as ensuring that landlords are managing their properties well officers continue to work to improve the neighbourhoods and are engaging closely with Streetscene officers to identify and tackle dirty back yards and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Since new powers were introduced in April last year, the housing team have served three Civil Penalty Notices to landlords for failing to licence their properties. The Civil Penalties incurred were £12,500 for one landlord, and two penalties of £7,500 for another landlord.</p> <p><i>Burnley Wood with Healey Wood, Leyland Road area and Ingham and Lawrence Street area</i> I am pleased to report that we have received licensing applications for 90% of privately rented properties across these neighbourhoods. Officers are currently working on securing applications from the remaining owners to ensure that all landlords across these areas are fit to manage their tenancies. Officers are out regularly in these areas performing property checks to drive up property standards.</p> <p>Private Rented Disrepair Since the start of April 2017 the Council has received and dealt with 266 new disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants. The Enforcement Team have a current caseload of 375 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair cases. The majority of the cases are dealt with informally and resolved promptly. In cases of serious non-compliance formal enforcement action will be taken to ensure that tenants in the borough live in decent homes free from disrepair.</p>

PL3- We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock.

Grants

The Council is assisting vulnerable, elderly and disabled residents through its grants programme. Disabled Facilities Grants have been awarded to 147 residents and the grants team are currently working towards approving a further 23 grants. Vulnerable residents are also assisted through the Council's emergency works grant and 16 residents have received assistance through this project. The Council also receives "affordable warmth" funding from Lancashire County Council and so far this year the funding has assisted 27 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 91 rebates have been granted.

Empty Homes Programme

So far this year we have purchased and renovated 9 properties. The Secretary of State has confirmed the Cardinal Street Compulsory Purchase Order following a Public Inquiry and we have a further two compulsory purchase orders waiting to complete. Sales have gone well and we have disposed of 10 properties since April 2017. We currently have 10 empty homes loans underway to assist private landlords to return their properties back into use.

At the last Executive Committee approval was given to appoint an additional officer to work on our empty homes programme. This will give us capacity to engage with a greater number of owners of empty homes and through the promotion of incentives and enforcement action we aim to double the number of homes brought back into use each year.

The property improvement schemes at Branch Rd. and Heap St. are now complete and works are underway to prepare the next scheme on Ingham and Lawrence St., which will start in the new financial year. The schemes have seen the fronts and backs of properties painted and improved to support wider neighbourhood regeneration.

Housing Development

Calico/Ringstones have made excellent progress at the former Perseverance Mill site in Padiham that will see a very complex, brownfield site provide 56 affordable homes. The first 8 of these homes are due for completion by the end of March this year with the completion of the entire site scheduled for February 2019.

Calico's housing scheme on the site of the former Mitre Pub on Westgate has also transformed this important gateway into our town and is due for completion in June 2018. When open it will provide vital housing and support services for homeless people assisting them to find settled, sustainable homes.

Calico are also making good progress with their scheme of 2 and 3 bed houses at Melrose Avenue, which includes a 3 bed adapted bungalow and will see 31 new homes developed.

The former Blythe site at Hapton, Waterside Mill site at Sycamore Avenue and Peel Mill site off junction 10 of the M65 are all well underway delivering

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

Play Strategy

I am pleased to report that the extension of the play area in Calder Park is complete and extend the thanks of the Council for the hard work by the Friends of Calder Park who raised money for this scheme. The enthusiastic group is now working with Council officers to develop a pump track at Calder Park, similar to the successful track in memorial Park, Padiham. Green Spaces staff are also currently working with Cliviger Parish Council to refurbish RACA Park in Cliviger as part of this year's programme of play area improvements.

Restoration of Thompson Park

Work on the restoration of Thompson Park is progressing at a pace. I recently visited the park to inspect work in progress and I was impressed by the pride that everyone working on the project has and this includes the numerous local contractors employed on the project together with Green Spaces staff and volunteers.

The project is currently recruiting a Community Engagement Ranger, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, who will work on activities and event that encourage residents from across the Borough to enjoy the heritage of Thompson Park.

Worsthorne Recreation Ground Improvements

Officers are currently working on a scheme to improve Worsthorne Recreation Ground that will be funded largely by external grants and provide new facilities including junior football pitches, changing rooms, a multi-use games area, outdoor gym equipment and new footpaths. Consultation with local residents will be taking place in mid-February.

COUNCILLOR SUE GRAHAM, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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 The Business Support Team is currently working with 56 companies looking to relocate into the Borough or expand within it. Out of the 56 companies, 27 are for companies outside of the Borough with the remainder being companies already located in the town.</p> <p>Boohoo's newly refurbished buildings comprising of the 156,000 distribution facility was recently opened. At peak periods their total operation will have 2,500 employees on site.</p> <p>Burnley based Batch Brew Gin have been named 'Britain's Favourite Gin'. The accolade, which has received national newspaper coverage, follows a 300% increase in turnover for the Burnley distillery.</p> <p>Automotive company Futaba Manufacturing UK has recently received a prestigious Jaguar Land Rover Quality award from Jaguar Land Rover. The award recognises the businesses excellent quality and safety practices and puts them in a strong position to win further work from Jaguar Land Rover securing new jobs in the business.</p> <p>Vision Park The development has now been handed over to the Council with the official launch held on the 31st January.</p> <p>Data Updates New figures released by the Office for National Statistics in December show that the number of new business starts (births) in Burnley in 2016 has grown by 4.6% on the previous year to 340. Over the same period the number of active enterprises (business stock) in the town grew by 3.5% to 2,800. This is similar to the national and regional trend.</p> <p>Other recently released statistics show that the number of employees in Burnley between 2015 and 2016 increased by 2.7%, almost all within the private sector, bringing the total to 38,000.</p> <p>The number of jobs in 'Knowledge Intensive Business Services' increased by 17.6%, putting Burnley 23rd out of 380 local authorities nationwide for growth in these sectors.</p>

<p>PR3- We will make the borough attractive to retail and leisure developers, and will identify a sustainable future for the Burnley Market.</p>	<p>Burnley Town Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 2 day Christmas Lights Festival was held on 18/19 November 2017 including an Ice Sculpture Trail, Light Parade, and festive switch on show. Over the weekend nearly 55,000 people visited Burnley town centre and Saturday's footfall was up 7% on last year. • 6 new businesses opened in Burnley town centre in the last quarter. 5 were in previously empty properties and 2 received financial support. <p>Padiham Town Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 new businesses opened in Padiham town centre in previously empty properties.
<p>PR4- We will develop and deliver the Local Plan. This will act as the key supporting framework for encouraging future employment and investment in a range of housing stock.</p>	<p>The Examination of the Local Plan is reaching its latter stages. Examination Hearings Sessions were held in November and December 2017 and consultation on the Inspector's proposed main modifications to the Plan to ensure soundness and/or legal compliance is expected to commence within the next few weeks. The Executive adopted a revised Local Development Scheme at its meeting on 17 January 2018 committing to producing a separate Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document to address pitch provision in the light of the Inspector's indication that he considers the submitted allocation unsound.</p>

COUNCILLOR LIAN PATE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND LEISURE SERVICES

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PL1- We will implement a range of initiatives to maintain a clean, safe borough.</p>	<p>Garden Waste Year Below is an overview of the key dates for residents subscribing to the green waste collection service in 2018: <u>26th Feb / 5th March</u> – Year 1 collection scheme restarts following the winter break <u>1st March</u> – Marketing campaign starts including online promotions, social media and targeted email promotions to promote Year 2 'sign ups' <u>w/c 5th March</u> – Leaflets will be delivered to all HH with gardens advertising the scheme <u>13th April</u> – cut off point for residents to sign up for Year 2 – to ensure an uninterrupted collection service <u>1st May</u> – Year 1 ends and Year 2 collections start Additional staff will be brought in the Contact centre to handle the additional calls.</p> <p>Safe Padiham I am pleased to report that overall crime was down 15% in the Gawthorpe ward (April–December 2017) compared to the same period the preceding year. Anti-social behaviour fell by 9.1% in the same period and vehicle crime in the ward showed significant reductions in October/November 2017 compared to the same period in 2016.</p>
<p>PF3- We will develop our digital strategy, so that more residents transact with us online and we are able to deliver services more efficiently</p>	<p>Burnley Leisure and the Council have made a joint investment to upgrade to IT systems which, in the coming months, will improve membership management and bookings in the borough's leisure facilities. Liberata have recently invested in mobile working technology for Environmental Health staff, which should help reduce manual processing in the team.</p>

PE2- We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer of Burnley in partnership with Burnley Leisure.

Padiham Leisure Centre Refurbishment

I am pleased to report that the £180,000 refit of Padiham Leisure Centre's Gym was completed on time before Christmas and provides a first class gym and spinning studio for the residents of Padiham. Response from gym users has been really positive and is attracting new gym members.

Burnley Mechanics: "MI Space"

Members will be aware of the unsuccessful Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the refurbishment of the Mechanics. Officers have met with the HLF and will be submitting a revised bid later this year.

Prairie Sports Village

Burnley Leisure is working with the Council and other partners to bring forward a scheme to develop a second artificial grass pitch at Prairie Playing Fields. The scheme is identified as a priority in the Council's Playing Pitch strategy and will help to meet the strong demand that exists among local clubs and teams for an additional facility.

Afternoon Tea at Towneley

The Council is working closely with Burnley Leisure to introduce Afternoon Tea at Towneley Hall. It will begin on Mothers Day this year and will be a monthly event at this historic venue. This is both to promote the venue and increase visitors to the borough.