



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

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11th April 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>Aspiration Strategy</p> <p>Delivery of the Council's Aspiration Strategy continues. The strategy is overseen by the <i>Making it in Burnley</i> partnership group, which includes local education leaders and Mark Crabtree OBE. Recent actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 13 primary schools have registered with the Children's University in year 1 and are benefiting from a range of extra-curricular activities both in and out of schools. The most recent activity was a star gazing event at Towneley Hall.• Intervention in the early years is an important strand of the Aspiration Strategy. An early years transition pilot project is being developed with Burnley FC in the Community and Lancashire Adult Learning. The aim is to support parents in preparing their children to be ready for school when entering reception class, so that school teachers can focus on the curriculum, rather than the most basic social skills.• Learning outside of school and encouraging parents to read to their children makes a huge difference to how well children do in school. The Council therefore supports initiatives such as World Book Day. While many of the events that had been planned for World Book Day in March were postponed due to snow, Burnley Council employees have donated books for distribution to community venues in the town centre. The Mayor of Burnley donated a book shelf and books to the contact centre. <p>Health update</p> <p>The recent announcement of a £15.6 million investment in Burnley General Hospital, coupled with UCLAN's increasing presence in the town which will see more health and social care professionals being trained in Burnley, is very welcome news. This should help ensure that the borough is able to attract and retain more talent in support the area's health needs.</p>

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.</p>	<p>I have written to the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, expressing my concern regarding the planning inspector's proposed modifications to reduce the borough's employment land requirements set out in the new local plan from 90 to 66 hectares, as I believe this will have serious implications for the borough's future economic growth.</p> <p>I have also responded to Transport for the North's Strategic Transport Plan consultation, calling for improved road and rail links to the east into Yorkshire and at least 2 trains per hour to Manchester.</p> <p>Discussions are continuing to take place with other Lancashire council leaders about the formation of a Lancashire Combined Authority. They are on the whole positive and I am cautiously optimistic.</p>
<p>PF1- We will embed the partnership with Liberata within the Council's budget, strategic vision and commercial strategy.</p>	<p>The latest available performance report is from Q3. I am pleased to report that out of 13 key performance indicators for Liberata, 12 were on target. The off target indicator is the council tax collection rate which, similar to other areas, in Lancashire, was slightly below projection at the end of Q3.</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>February 2018 saw Full Council approve the revenue and capital budgets for 2018/19, alongside the Treasury Management Strategy and the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>The reports set out how the Council will set a balanced budget for the financial year 2018/19 but also set out a multi-year approach to creating a sustainable future. The intention is to develop a long-term financially balanced framework for the Council.</p> <p>Although the challenge of setting a balanced budget for 2018/19 has been undertaken, the challenge of austerity continues. In particular, the funding gap for this authority stands at £3.2m between the years of 2019 and 2022.</p> <p>Significant change in the mechanism of central government funding is also expected during this period, and in particular with the move to 100% business rates retention, this represents a shift in how Councils will be funded.</p> <p>Implications for this authority won't be known for some time. However, we are actively involved in the government's 'Fair Funding' consultations and are influencing this directly and through our membership of the District Councils' Network.</p> <p>Work is continuing on financial transformation project work. We are investing in systems to deliver long term efficiency gains in accountancy support and to increase the Council's financial management capabilities.</p> <p>The authority will be preparing the financial statement of accounts covering the financial year 2017/8 before the statutory deadline of the end of May, after which our external auditors, Grant Thornton PLC, will audit the accounts. They will then be presented to the relevant committee in July 2018.</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 planned corporate training calendar for 2017/18 is now successfully complete although the talent management programme and associated projects will extend into the autumn.</p> <p>Performance Development Reviews will take place over the next two months and a new training needs analysis undertaken. A new ILM (Institute of Leadership and Management) course will be delivered from April to continue to grow leadership capacity in the workforce, and preparations are underway for our apprentice recruitment.</p> <p>Finally, I wish to congratulate two Streetscene colleagues who represented the Council at the Young Local Authority of the Year event in February.</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> We continue to focus on those properties which have not been licensed, to ensure that no private landlord evades licensing legislation before the designations come to an end in 2019. This involves the continued monitoring of house sales and vacant properties coming back into use. We will continue to use Civil Penalty Notices and prosecutions where appropriate. Officers are also present in the community undertaking back yard checks and meeting with residents, landlords and agents to resolve issues relating to the private rented sector.</p> <p><i>Burnley Wood with Healey Wood, Leyland Road area and Ingham and Lawrence Street area</i> Applications have now been received for 92% of licensable properties in these areas. The team continue to work with landlords and agents to ensure all applications are complete in order for licences to be granted. The team have also begun work on refusing the small number of cases where management arrangements are not up to our required standard. We will work to ensure sufficient management procedures are put in place at those properties.</p> <p>Officers across all six areas continue to reinforce the importance of tenant referencing for prospective tenants, and guide landlords and agents in this process. Our officers continue to work closely with the Anti-Social Behaviour team, local police, landlords and tenants to resolve instances of persistent anti-social behaviour across the licensing areas.</p> <p>Private Rented Disrepair Since the start of April 2017, the Council has received and dealt with 229 new disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants, and carried out 318 proactive inspections relating to Selective Licensing areas, the Daneshouse ward area, and Victoria Apartments in Padiham.</p> <p>The Enforcement Team has a current caseload of 275 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>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PL3- We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock.</p>	<p>Grants The Council is assisting vulnerable, elderly and disabled residents through its grants programme. Disabled Facilities Grants have been awarded to 160 residents. Vulnerable residents are also assisted through the Council's emergency works grant and 18 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.</p> <p>Empty Homes Programme So far this year we have purchased and renovated 9 properties. Schedules have been prepared for a further three properties and these will be tendered in April. Further Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) are being prepared to start in April and May, and there will be a further Executive report early next financial year outlining more CPOs. Sales have gone well and we have disposed of 12 properties since April 2017. We currently have 11 empty home loans underway to assist private landlords to return their properties back into use.</p> <p>At the February 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. Interviews for this will be held early April with the new officer starting in May.</p> <p>The property improvement scheme on Ingham and Lawrence Street Selective Licensing Area will start in April/May. All owners have been contacted asking for their permission and we are waiting for the majority of the replies. The scheme will see the fronts of properties painted and improved to support wider neighbourhood regeneration.</p> <p>Housing Development Calico/Ringstones continue to make excellent progress with their development programme that will see new facilities for homeless households as well as much need family housing for affordable rent. 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 a range of homes on brownfield land improving our housing offer.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PL4- We will implement our 2015-25 Green Space Strategy.</p>	<p>Play Strategy I am pleased to report that the Friends of Calder Park have secured funding to develop a pump track at Calder Park, similar to the successful track in Memorial Park, Padiham. It is hoped work will be underway by early summer.</p> <p>Work on the refurbishment of RACA Park play area, funded by a Cliviger wind farm grant, is due to start shortly.</p> <p>Whittlefield Recreation Ground I'm pleased to report that the Council has secured a grant of £40,500 which will contribute towards a £60,000 scheme to refurbish Whittlefield Play Area. We will undertake improvements to paths, drainage and woodland areas.</p> <p>Restoration of Thompson Park Work on the restoration of Thompson Park is progressing well. Restoration of the Italian Garden and Rose Garden are nearing completion, as is work on the bridges. The play area will re-open shortly, once resurfacing work is complete. A new Community Engagement Ranger, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is now in post and she will be working on activities and events that encourage residents from across the Borough to enjoy the heritage of Thompson Park.</p> <p>Worsthorne Recreation Ground Improvements Consultation with local residents has taken place and a planning application will shortly be submitted, subject to the terms of a new lease on the site being agreed with the Worsthorne Estate, which owns the site.</p>

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</p> <p>The Business Support Team is currently working with 54 companies looking to relocate to the area or expand within. Of the 55, 22 are inward investment enquiries with the remainder being from existing Burnley companies.</p> <p>Financial Accountants K&M Accountants have successfully relocated into modern offices within the Weavers' Triangle. This relocation has seen over 30 jobs retained in the Town Centre.</p> <p>VEKA has recently unveiled plans to invest around £5m in its Burnley plant this year, boosting its production and finishing capacity based on Farrington Road. The company is one of the town's largest employers and recently won "Employer of the Year" at the prestigious Red Rose Awards.</p> <p>The new building will enable growth of the company's specialist lamination department.</p> <p>The final phase of development at Innovation Drive is underway. BCW Engineering has commissioned a third new build on the site creating an additional 80,000 sq. ft of manufacturing space. This will be a dedicated state-of-the art automotive machining facility and additional warehouse space, which will accommodate their continued growth.</p> <p>Vision Park</p> <p>The Council took ownership of Phase 1 of the Burnley Vision Park development in January this year. The official opening was held on 31st January.</p> <p>To date 4 Leases have been agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bates Box Power Ltd – manufacturers of portable power supply units for the media sector • Production Print Ltd – a provider of commercial printing equipment to the commercial B2B sector • FloControl Ltd – a provider of large scale water control systems to the construction industry • Good Food to Go – a food manufacturer specialising in gluten free foods. <p>And 2 sales have been agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ProTool Precision Engineering – a supplier to the aerospace sector • Blackburn Distributions Ltd – a manufacturer and distributor of health food supplements.

Strategic commitment	Progress update
	<p>Statistics Updates</p> <p>The number of employees in Burnley has grown once again to a total of 38,500 full time workers. The borough has seen an 18.5% growth in jobs over the 7 years for which data is available. This is far better than the regional and national average and is made up almost entirely of private sector growth.</p> <p>The number of businesses has also grown to a total of 2,800. With a fourth year of consecutive growth, or 13% over a four year period. Correspondingly there was a 4.6% increase in the number of new business start-ups in the most recent 12 month period.</p> <p>As defined by the number of economically active people of working age, employment is at its highest level on record at 80.6%. Which is higher than the North West (72.3%) or Great Britain (74.3%).</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>Support for town centre businesses – Burnley & Padiham</p> <p>Five businesses have received financial support which resulted in 4 empty shop premises being brought back into use and 1 shop front being improved. As a result of our support, the businesses have invested over £713,000 and will be creating 26.5 new jobs.</p> <p>New businesses to open in the last 12 months have included a coffee shop, a vegan & vegetarian café, a crafts café, an arts and crafts shop, hair salons including one for African Caribbean hair, and a makeup bar.</p> <p>Enforcement action has been taken against an eyesore property on Parker Lane which was detrimentally affecting the surrounding businesses. Following the owner’s failure to carry out improvement works, the property has now been fitted with painted boarding to improve its appearance and the owner is being prosecuted for not complying with enforcement action.</p>
<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 in its latter stages. Consultation on the Inspector's proposed main modifications to the Plan to ensure soundness and/or legal compliance started on 9th March and will end on 27th April 2018 at midnight. The relevant comments received will then be forwarded to the Inspector for his consideration, with a view to him issuing his final report.</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>Waste Collection Rounds: During February and March there were periods of severe weather. Working with our strategic partner Urbaser, the Council prioritised and maintained refuse and clinical waste collections and minimised disruption wherever possible. As soon as the Council were able to do so, normal service resumed. Residents have praised the Council for its dissemination of up to date information on collections over the period.</p> <p>Garden Waste: Year 2 of the chargeable service was launched at the beginning of March. In 3 weeks over 4,000 residents have subscribed to the service.</p> <p>Town Centre Cleansing / Chewing Gum Removal Kit: The new Chewing gum removal equipment has been delivered. It will be operational in April. There will be a publicity campaign planned to tackle chewing gum litter during the spring and summer months.</p> <p>Community Safety: The Council and key partners continue to respond pro-actively to reported crime and anti-social behaviour. A key development of the partnership approach in Burnley has been the implementation of a Youth Panel. This involves a number of partners that can offer support, diversionary activity and, where needed, enforcement action. The Youth Panel provides targeted activity to areas where there are high reports of youth related anti-social behaviour. This approach has been in operation for 6 months and has led to a recorded reduction of anti-social behaviour of 5.8% in Burnley when compared to 2016/17. Burnley is also showing a positive trend in tackling anti-social behaviour in comparison to recorded performance across the Lancashire footprint.</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>The Environmental Health and Licensing Team is currently developing its service so that licence applications will be available online. Liberata are investing in mobile working solutions for revenues and benefits staff which means, in future, officers carrying out property inspections will have access to real time information and will be able to update records on the move, including uploading photographs and inspection notes for colleagues back in the office to view immediately. To encourage more residents to sign up for paperless council tax billing, Liberata are offering one resident the chance to win a reduction of £500 off their bill if they sign up before 30th April.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PE2- We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer of Burnley in partnership with Burnley Leisure.</p>	<p>Prairie Sports Village A recent meeting of the Executive approved the development of a second artificial grass football pitch at the Prairie. A planning application is currently being prepared for submission.</p> <p>Padiham Leisure Centre The recently refurbished gym at Padiham Leisure Centre is continuing to attract new members and Burnley Leisure's total gym membership now exceeds the membership prior to the opening of the numerous budget gyms in Burnley, indicating that Burley Leisure has a high quality and value for money offer.</p> <p>Burnley Mechanics: "MI Space" The application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the refurbishment of the Mechanics is currently being revised and will be re-submitted in June.</p> <p>Afternoon Tea at Towneley The first Tea and Towneley, which was held on Mothering Sunday was a success, with 75 customers enjoying high tea in Towneley's wonderful regency rooms. This is now a regular event and will normally be on the second Sunday of each month.</p> <p>Towneley Golf Courses Burnley Leisure will be taking over the lease of the golf club house from Towneley Golf Club, allowing the club to concentrate on running competitions, etc.</p> <p>The Council is very grateful to Towneley Golf Club which developed the existing club house from a derelict barn in the mid1980s.</p>