



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

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PORTFOLIO: REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COUNCILLOR SUE GRAHAM

DATE OF REPORT: 21/12/2016

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PR2- Proactively support the borough's businesses to innovate and expand, and make the borough a natural choice for business relocation.</p>	<p>The Business Team has supported four business relocations creating 7 new jobs and safeguarding 40 existing jobs during the last quarter.</p> <p>Business Loans The Executive on 1st November approved the use of funding within the Business Growth Programme to include business loans as part of the package of support available from the Council.</p> <p>Employee Numbers Recent figures from the Office of National Statistics show that the number of jobs in Burnley increased by 4.2% in the last twelve months. This is twice the growth rate seen in Lancashire, Greater Manchester, the North West and Great Britain.</p> <p>As well as an increase in the number of jobs, the ONS Annual Business Survey shows that the average weekly earnings of people employed in Burnley businesses increased by £29.60 compared with the previous year.</p> <p>I am also pleased to announce that contracts have been signed and work will commence on Burnley Vision Park in the next month. The first phase, funded by the Council, will provide much needed advanced workspace for new and</p>

	<p>growing businesses.</p> <p>The Council’s work on promoting growth has been recognised nationally with a shortlisting for the LGC’s award for growth.</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>I am delighted to announce that Primark is establishing a new store in Burnley town centre. The new Primark store will be on Curzon Street, next door to Next, in the space currently occupied by Wilko. Wilko is fully committed to staying in Burnley and has taken out a ten-year lease, which will see the business relocate to the former Woolworths Store. This is a massive investment and will secure Burnley’s position as a prime retail centre in East Lancashire. The new store will be open by December 2017.</p> <p>The very first Burnley Literary Festival was held during the October half-term. 48 literary themed events took place at venues across the town centre and were well attended.</p> <p>A two-day Christmas Festival took place in the town centre on 19th and 20th November to mark the start of Christmas shopping and the Christmas lights switch on. The Festival was family focused with events across the town centre, including an ice sculpture trail; Burnley Markets held a special Christmas Market on Curzon Street and live stage performances were provided by local children’s party business “It’s My Party”.</p> <p>Both events have resulted in an increased footfall in the town centre and positive feedback has been received from both visitors and town centre businesses. In particular the footfall for the Christmas Festival was up by over 4,400 compared to last year.</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>Work, including on a whole plan viability study and a transport impact assessment, is nearing completion and a draft Proposed Submission version of the Local Plan is being finalised for presentation to Full Council in January 2017. Subject to Council approval, this ‘Proposed Submission Document’ will be published for 6 weeks statutory consultation in late January 2017.</p>