



# BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS

## REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

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26<sup>th</sup> September 2018

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## COUNCILLOR MARK TOWNSEND, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PE1-</b> 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>Initial indications following exam results day last month, is that the overall level of GCSE attainment this year has not built on the progress seen in recent years. However, congratulations go to Unity College which achieved its best-ever results building on from their successful Ofsted report in January 2018, when it was again judged to be a good school. I am keen to bring key partners together to identify how we can drive up attainment rates in the future.</p> <p>Congratulations also to A-level students at Thomas Whitham Sixth Form. The centre gained an overall improvement in the pass rate and the number of high-grade passes. Burnley College achieved its best-ever results. The college has seen an overall A Level pass rate of an outstanding 99.5% with 64% of students earning at least one A* to B top grade and 91% earning at least one high A* to C grade.</p> <p>The Government's Careers Strategy included a commitment to establish 20 Career Hubs nationally. A Careers Hub is a group of secondary schools and colleges, working with universities, other education and training providers, employers, and career guidance professionals to ensure that best practice is followed in schools. The Lancashire LEP submitted a bid for a hub covering Burnley, Pendle and Blackpool. I am pleased to say that, following support provided by this council, the bid was successful. The Hub will have access to support and funding to help them meet the 'gold standard' of careers education.</p> <p>We are subsidising the Children's University for a second year. There are currently 2,446 learners across 13 primary and 1 high school. There are 70 'learning destinations' in Burnley (and surrounding areas) and an event is planned for October 2018: The Science of Superheroes. Graduations took place at Burnley Mechanics on 29th June with 285 students attending.</p> <p>We also have 2 new schools signed up for this academic year with follow up contact being made to all non-Children's University schools in the area.</p>

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PR1-</b> 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>Work to establish a combined authority for Lancashire is continuing, with a real will from respective local authorities across Lancashire to work together to address economic growth, skills and housing agenda. The Council leader, chief executive and other officers are contributing to the CA work streams to position the borough for economic investment. I sit on the Lancashire Leaders Core Group who will be all meeting Jake Berry MP in November to discuss and agree the next steps in establishing the Lancashire Combined Authority.</p>

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

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PL2-</b> We will improve the management of private rented accommodation.</p>	<p><b>Selective Licensing: Trinity, Queensgate &amp; Gannow</b></p> <p>The Selective Licensing Team has processed 2145 applications to date, for properties in these three areas that require a licence. Of those completed applications received, 93% are now licenced.</p> <p>Officers will also be attending a trial at Burnley Magistrates court in relation to a case where a landlord has failed to licence four properties.</p> <p><b>Selective Licensing: Burnley Wood with Healey Wood, Leyland Road area and Ingham &amp; Lawrence Street area</b></p> <p>The Selective Licensing Team has processed 1,150 applications to date for properties in these three areas that require a licence. Of those completed applications received, 91% are now licensed. The Team continues to work towards securing applications for the remaining properties that are not licenced and is working on the preparation of Civil Penalty Notices for non-compliance.</p> <p><b>Public Consultation</b></p> <p>The current Trinity, Queensgate and Gannow selective licensing areas are coming to an end in 2019. On 3<sup>rd</sup> September, the Council launched a public consultation on designating new schemes in these areas. The consultation will also consider the introduction of selective licensing in Daneshouse and Stoneyholme. Questionnaires have been hand delivered to all residents in the proposed areas and letters sent to all known landlords operating in the areas. Drop-in sessions have been arranged throughout September and October for residents and landlords; these have been publicised in the relevant areas and will allow stakeholders to meet with Council staff to discuss the proposals. The consultation will run until 26<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p><b>Private Rented Disrepair</b></p> <p>Since the start of April 2018, the Council has received and dealt with 60 new disrepair complaints from private rented sector tenants. The Housing Standards Team has also carried out 125 pro-active property inspections within the selective licensing areas, the Daneshouse Ward area and through the Landlord Accreditation Scheme.</p>

	<p>The Housing Standards Team has a current caseload of 282 open/ongoing private rented sector disrepair cases. Many of these 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>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PL3-</b> We will work with partners to improve quality and choice in the borough's housing stock.</p>	<p>The Borough continues to see further residential development and interest in housing land from developers. Calico and their development company Ringstones have submitted a planning application recently to continue the development of the Station Road Site in Padiham that will see housing for sale with a range of options to promote affordable home ownership.</p> <p>McDermott Homes have recently secured planning permission for 250 houses on the former school site at Kiddrow Lane that will improve the housing offer across the borough with a quality product for existing residents and those households wishing to locate to Burnley.</p> <p><b>Empty Homes Programme</b></p> <p>Work on the programme is progressing well. So far this year we have acquired 5 properties by CPO with 2 others underway. We have acquired 1 by agreement with an offer accepted on another property. Negotiations are underway with 2 further owners to acquire their interests.</p> <p>Interest in the Empty Homes Loan was strong during the first quarter of 2018/19 with 18 being received but this has slowed down in the second quarter with seven new enquiries currently being processed.</p> <p>The recent addition of new Empty Homes Assistant has meant that we are currently contacting over 70 owners regarding their empty properties and we will be taking a report to November Executive for approval to carry out more Compulsory Purchase Orders.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PL4-</b> We will implement our 2015-25 Green Space Strategy.</p>	<p><b>Restoration of Thompson Park</b>  I'm pleased to report that the official re-opening of Thompson Park took place on 19<sup>th</sup> August. Both the boathouse cafe and the pavilion will be managed by Burnley Leisure, with the pavilion offering an attractive venue for weddings, celebrations and corporate events.</p> <p>The water supply to the paddling pool was finally connected at the end of August and the pool was refilled, but repainting of the pool will not take place until spring to allow time for the pool surface to weather.</p> <p>Despite facilities not being fully complete, visitor numbers in Thompson Park increased to 89,000 in the period June to September compared with 77,000 in the same period last year.</p> <p><b>Play Area Improvement Programme</b>  The application to the Lancashire Environment Fund for the Towneley Riverside Inclusive Play Area has been submitted with a decision expected in October.</p> <p>Detailed designs for the improvement of Faraday Street play area are being prepared.</p> <p><b>Worsthorne Recreation Ground</b>  The planning application has been submitted and a further consultation meeting has been held with Worsthorne residents regarding the scheme.</p> <p><b>Calder Park Pump Track</b>  This project is now substantially complete and local children and parents were able to enjoy riding the new track during the summer holidays. The Council is very grateful to the Friends of Calder Park whose hard work is helping to transform the park for the benefit of local residents.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PE2-</b> We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer of Burnley in partnership with Burnley Leisure.</p>	<p><b>Prairie Artificial Turf Pitch</b>  The planning application for development of a second artificial turf pitch at Prairie Sports Village, together with additional parking has been submitted. Burnley Leisure has held further consultation meetings with local residents to keep them informed of the proposals.</p> <p><b>Towneley Golf Course</b>  Burnley Leisure has now taken over the management of the Towneley golf club house from Towneley Golf Club by agreement.</p> <p>I would like to express the Council's gratitude to Towneley Golf Club which, in the 1980s, took over what was derelict barn and developed it into the thriving club house it is now. Burnley Leisure will continue to work closely with the club and the Council to develop the clubhouse facilities with the aim of improving access to disabled users and providing better facilities for female golfers.</p> <p><b>Gym Membership</b>  Membership at St Peters and Padiham Leisure centre continues to grow and currently stands at over 3,300 across the two sites.</p>

## COUNCILLOR SUE GRAHAM, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PF1-</b> We will embed the partnership with Liberata within the Council's budget, strategic vision and commercial strategy.</p>	<p>The latest available contract performance data is from Q1. Contract performance is generally good. Though telephone responsiveness in the contact centre was just off target, targets for benefit processing, revenue collection, IT performance, environmental health service delivery, facilities management and payroll processing, were all achieved.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PF2-</b> 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>The second quarter of this financial year saw the completion and audit of the Statement of Accounts for 2017/18.</p> <p>This is an important opportunity to work with our external auditors, Grant Thornton, to test that the Council has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31st March 2018. An all-Member briefing occurred on the 16th of July 2018 to explain the accounts and their purpose.</p> <p>Grant Thornton, as part of their audit findings, commented on the quality and timeliness of financial information and concluded in one of their findings that the Council had “effective arrangements in place for sustainable resource deployment”.</p> <p>This represented another successful audit and delivered an unqualified audit opinion on our accounts. I would like to thank Finance staff and all those colleagues who contributed to make this happen in such a timely and planned manner.</p> <p>Work to update the Medium-Term Financial Strategy is ongoing. This will tackle the challenging savings target faced by the Council, currently £3.2m for 2019-2022. A major element of tackling this is presented elsewhere on this agenda, in the form of savings proposals for 2019/20 and beyond.</p> <p>These proposals, if approved, would leave a budget gap for 2019/20 of £127k. It is expected that further proposals will be brought to Full Council in February 2019 to close this remaining gap.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PF4-</b> 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>Work has been ongoing to prepare documentary evidence and arrangements for our Investors in People (IIP) Assessment, commencing 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018, when 34 employees and two volunteers will be interviewed by the Assessor or the Council's Internal Review Team. The Assessor, Joanne Hamilton, interviewed the Management Team together in July.</p> <p>The 2018 Learning and Development Calendar has now been published and is available on the Council's intranet with some printed copies also available, developed from training needs identified from Performance &amp; Development Reviews (PDRs) and discussions with Heads of Service.</p> <p>In principle proposals and budget impact for migration of employees to the revised 2019 NJC pay spine have been outlined to the trade unions. Firm proposals discussed in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Colleague Conferences were held at the beginning of June outlining the Council's achievements and future goals and priorities. Further celebration of individuals and team achievements took place at the Council's TEAM award event which was held at the new UCLAN campus at Victoria Mill on 7<sup>th</sup> September.</p>

## COUNCILLOR LIAN PATE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND LEISURE SERVICES

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PL1-</b> We will implement a range of initiatives to maintain a clean, safe borough.</p>	<p>The Council continues to receive positive feedback on the quality and cleanliness of the Town Centre public realm. The new machine which tackles chewing gum and ensures the footpaths remain clean by using a scrubbing attachment is in full operation effectively. This is in addition to the Kingdom enforcement work, to help ensure the town centre looks great.</p> <p>The second year of the chargeable garden waste service is going smoothly. The customer numbers slightly exceed year 1 with approximately 9,500 subscriptions for 2018.</p> <p>The Council has recently commenced its commercial waste collection service. The service in partnership with Urbaser has attracted over 130 commercial waste customers across the borough and interest from local businesses that are looking to review their collection arrangements remains steady.</p> <p>In partnership with other agencies the Council continues to deliver a range of initiatives and project work to tackle ASB and crime in the Borough focusing resources on themes and issues identified by the partnership analyst. A current example is the work with key partners to reduce the sale and distribution of illicit alcohol and tobacco in the borough.</p> <p>The Council continues to take a proactive approach to tackling quality of life issues across the borough. To date during 2018, over 70 Community Protection Warnings and a further 10 Community Protection Notices have been issued by the Council to address anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>During August the Council in partnership with The Dogs Trust delivered a health check / microchipping event in the Thursby Gardens area of the town. The event was well attended with over 30 dogs and owners receiving expert advice and interventions including; health checks, microchipping, advice and assistance with training and vaccinations. The event was very popular and the Council will continue to support the work of the Dog's Trust to maintain the delivery of similar events across Burnley in the future.</p>

<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<b>PF3-</b> We will develop our digital strategy, so that more residents transact with us online and we are able to deliver services more efficiently	Liberata is making it easier for residents to sign up for paperless billing, through a “one click to sign up” email campaign which is targeted at bill payers who are most likely to want to switch to paperless.

**Additional information:**

As Armed Forces Champion I am pleased to announce a programme of activity in the lead up to the 100 year commemoration of the end of the Great War. Details will be published in the next few weeks.

# COUNCILLOR ASIF RAJA, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND GROWTH

## Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PR2-</b> We will proactively support the borough's businesses to innovate and expand, and make the borough a natural choice for business relocation.</p>	<p><b>Business Support</b></p> <p>The business team is currently working with 53 companies looking to relocate or expand. Of the 53, 19 are inward investment enquiries, with the remainder being existing Burnley-based businesses.</p> <p>Automotive &amp; Aerospace company BCW Group continue to expand from their Innovation Drive head-quarters, this will see the completion and final phase of 86,000 sq. ft. of advanced manufacturing accommodation to facilitate their growth in the automotive sector. This growth will lead to the creation an additional 50 new jobs over the next 2 to 3 years for the company.</p> <p>The former Burnley Grammar school building, on the gateway to the town centre is to be converted to provide Burnley's first co-working space this Grade II listed building which will be known as Landmark is designed to appeal to digital based businesses with first phase completed in the coming weeks.</p> <p><b>Business Growth Programme</b></p> <p>The number of new jobs created since January this year by companies supported by the Business Growth Programme is 39. Two companies have received financial support which will lead to a further 55 jobs being created over the next 2 years.</p>

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PR3-</b> We will make the borough attractive to retail and leisure developers, and will identify a sustainable future for the Burnley Market.</p>	<p>The town centre continues to thrive with footfall up over the summer months. I would specifically like to congratulate the team at Marks and Spencer for winning Store of the Month in July following both an increase in footfall and basket spend.</p> <p>The Executive will be looking to approve the Draft Town Centre and Canalside Masterplan on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018. This sets out an ambitious long-term plan for the Town Centre making best use of the council's assets. Members of the public and other interested parties have until 19<sup>th</sup> October to</p>

	<p>submit their views.</p> <p>The council has attended a major exhibition of retailers held in Manchester in September where we were able to meet with major retail and restaurant chains.</p> <p>The town centre partnership continues to support a range of events in the town centre. The first ever Burnley's Summer Garden Party event took place on 13th &amp; 14th July with Street Food &amp; Drink, outdoor games, gardening workshops, fairground rides, a Street Market, Thai Chi demonstrations, music stage and roaming performers. Organised by the Town Centre Manager, Burnley Markets and Charter Walk Shopping Centre Management, the event saw an extra 3,500 visitors come to the town centre and feedback included 'I've never seen the town looking so busy' and 'It was fantastic'.</p> <p>In Padiham the Council is actively encouraging investment supported through the Townscape Heritage Initiative. Physical works are supported through a range of events most notably the third Padiham on Parade 1940's event took place on 30 June &amp; 1 July and attracted in excess of 15,000 visitors. This year the successful event included attractions at Gawthorpe Hall and a free vintage bus took visitors between the town centre and the Hall grounds</p> <p>Improvement works are underway at the market with the creation of a new food court area to provide an improved eating area and to install extraction in some of the units to address issues raised by customers and tenants.</p>
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<b>Strategic commitment</b>	<b>Progress update</b>
<p><b>PR4-</b> 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>Burnley's Local Plan was adopted by Full Council on 26<sup>th</sup> July. This is a significant step forward encouraging further investment in both housing and employment land.</p> <p>The planning policy team has reported that 335 net additional dwellings were completed in 2017/18. This is a significant achievement and an indication of the confidence in the housing market.</p>