



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO: REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COUNCILLOR ROGER FROST

DATE OF REPORT: 9th FEBRUARY 2012

1. Progress on Strategic Objectives

PE3 Ensuring services to vulnerable groups are protected wherever possible	
Action	Progress
PE3a: Proactively work with residents vulnerable to losing their home through preventative strategies	<p>The Council is continuing to focus its efforts on preventative measures to tackle homelessness and minimise the use of temporary accommodation. We continue to achieve our target for this area of work and will seek to improve performance by working with our partners on new and improved measures and methods of working.</p> <p>A number of tenants have now moved in to some of the new affordable homes that are been developed by Great Places and Accent in Daneshouse and Burnley Wood and we are working closely with our Registered Provider partners to maximise the provision of high quality, affordable accommodation for rent across the borough.</p>
PE3b: Ensure quality housing services are available to vulnerable, elderly and disabled residents	<p>The Disabled Facilities Grant budget is now fully committed and 113 adaptations have been completed. There are a further 42 grants approved on site, which will result in around 150 adaptations being completed this financial year. We have recently been</p>

	<p>awarded an additional £52k from the Government to add to our DFG allocation. We are confident this money will be committed this year.</p> <p>The Emergency Work Grant has allowed the Council to assist 11 people with the removal of hazards from their properties. The budget is 88% committed and should result in approximately 15 to 18 grants being awarded by the end of the financial year.</p>
PL1 Making the Borough Cleaner	
Action	Progress
PL1a: Complete the delivery of committed Housing Market Renewal work for which funding is available	<p>The Vacant Property Initiative has been working with a number of Registered Providers to co-ordinate a bid to the Government's Empty Homes programme, a £100m national initiative to bring properties back into use. If successful, this will provide a significant boost to the work taking place in Burnley to deal with problem vacant properties and will provide more housing at affordable rents.</p> <p>The Acquisitions and Clearance programme has spent £1,161,400 so far this year. 13 properties have been acquired with terms agreed on a further 5 properties. Demolitions have significantly exceeded the annual target with 181 properties having been demolished against the target of 117.</p>
PL1d: Implement Princess Way Public Realm scheme	The public realm scheme is now completed, with the Rainbow Gate art work opened to the public shortly before the Christmas break. An end of project evaluation is now underway.
PL2 Making the Borough Safer	
Action	Progress
PL2e: Deliver the Selective Licensing pilot in Trinity	<p>The Council has now granted 471 Licences to landlords for properties in the Licensing Area. We have successfully prosecuted 14 Landlords and the maximum fine imposed to date is £2832 plus costs for failing to apply for a licence.</p> <p>The Council is currently preparing the next property to be subject to an Interim Management Order. This is where the Council take over the management of the property, and Calico as the appointed</p>

	<p>provider carry out the day to day management of the tenancy.</p> <p>Between October 2010 and October 2011 the licensing team met with 20 landlords to assist in tackling anti-social behaviour involving their tenants. The police received 453 reports of anti-social behaviour between November 2010 and October 2011 and this represents a reduction of 58.6% from the previous year.</p> <p>The selective licensing annual report for year 3 is in the final stages of preparation and will be available in February 2012. Later this year we will be carrying out an interim evaluation of the initiative.</p>
PL2f: Assist members of the community to live independently in a home of their choice through adapting properties and ensuring a decent standard of housing across all sectors	Since April 2011 we have received 196 new disrepair cases. We are actively working with these landlords and agents to complete necessary repair work.
PR1 Developing a diverse business base with an entrepreneurial culture	
Action	Progress
PR1a: Support the development of the Burnley Bridge Business Park	The Council's Business Support Team continues to work with Eshton to promote the site to potential end users. The site has been identified by the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership as a key priority.
PR1b: Continue to lead and develop the Borough's Business Support Network	The Council's Economic Development Team is planning a 'Business Week' in April 2012 supported by the Business Network. The Business Week will provide businesses with a unique opportunity to benefit from a number of events including, start-up support, seminars, financial and HR advice sessions and training opportunities all targeted at helping them grow their businesses.
PR1c: Proactively support the Borough's key growth businesses and potential inward investors	<p>The team are actively working with 27 companies who are looking to locate to Burnley or who are already based here and looking to expand.</p> <p>5 companies have relocated/expanded since the last report. 3 were existing Burnley businesses, 1 was new to the Borough and 1 was a new start business.</p>

PR2 Establish Burnley as a key retail and service centre in Pennine Lancashire	
Action	Progress
PR2a: Ensure the Curzon St Shopping Centre is developed	Discussions continue with Henry Boot Ltd over the Curzon St scheme. Members were updated by the Chief Executive on the latest position at an all member regeneration briefing on January 16 th .
PR2b: Deliver a quality Town Centre Management service	December 2011 saw a 4% increase in town centre footfall. The Retailing environment continues to be very challenging. Even after the closure of HMV though vacancy rates within the town centre still remain below the North West average. The position does however remain susceptible to National chain failures. We are still seeing movement in the independent sector as some close and others open/relocate. TJ Hughes still remains in the hands of administrators. The current planning application by Charter Walk to redevelop part of their scheme is a welcome sign of their confidence in the town.
PR3 Establish Burnley as an attractive, alternative place to live, work, and play	
Action	Progress
PR3a: Weavers Triangle regeneration programme agreed with newly procured development partner	The Council has confirmed to Barnfield Investment Properties that their tender for development is acceptable and they are now formally the Council's development partner in the Weavers Triangle. An outline timetable for development of the University Technical College in Victoria Mill has been agreed (subject to negotiation and to Council approval), and funding negotiations with DfE are well in hand.
PR3b: Preparatory work successfully completed on the Todmorden Curve Project	Network Rail is progressing GRIP stage 4 Final Design Selection which will be completed by June 2014. A successful meeting has been held with DfT to discuss the scheme business case, rolling stock availability and franchising of the service. Detailed designs for the new station have been completed and a planning application has been submitted. £100,000 has been secured from Network Rail and approx., £1m from the European Interreg programme. The new station should be completed by Spring 2013.

<p>PR3c: The Borough's Branding Strategy is implemented</p>	<p>Burnley Bondholder Scheme: The most-attended Burnley Bondholder network event of the year took place at AMS Neve with 52 senior-level attendees from many of the borough's largest employees. Burnley Bondholders also committed their individual support for the Work Inspiration event. A Bondholder 'Annual Review' has been produced for 2011.</p> <p>Marketing and Communications: Almost 20 articles and blogs have been posted on www.burnley.co.uk with Bondholder-retained agency BrandSpankin' producing editorial for in-house Member of Parliament magazine 'House'. A five page article entitled "Burnley is thinking Big" featuring five Bondholders was published in Lancashire Life magazine.</p>
<p>PR4 To enhance Burnley's reputation as a regional advanced manufacturing centre</p>	
<p>Action</p>	<p>Progress</p>
<p>PR4a: Complete the procurement of a developer for the Knowledge Park at Princess Way</p>	<p>The developer competition will begin in late January or early February with a short list of developers identified in April/May. The preferred development partner will be known by September 2012 with a legal development contract targeted for January 2013. This timetable follows the EU procurement regulations.</p>
<p>PR5 To improve skills, qualifications and employability of the Borough's workforce</p>	
<p>Action</p>	<p>Progress</p>
<p>PR5a: Promote the take up of apprenticeships across the Borough</p>	<p>Staff are working with local businesses to deliver a major event, branded 'Work Inspiration 2012' to school children. The goal is to raise aspirations and awareness of career opportunities (including apprenticeships) in Burnley. A further specific event around apprenticeships is being planned for Business Week.</p>
<p>PR5b: Support DWP, the Borough's third sector and Prime Contractors in the implementation of the new Work Programme in the Borough</p>	<p>Staff are holding regular support meetings with local Work Programme delivery agents Bootstrap and Vedas.</p>