



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO: LEISURE & CULTURE

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COUNCILLOR CHARLES BULLAS

DATE OF REPORT: 3RD SEPTEMBER 2008

1. Progress on Strategic Objectives

L4 Improved services to the homeless and other vulnerable groups in the community	
Action	Progress
L4e: Establish Children & Young Person Partnership & develop District Children & Young People Plan	A task and finish team were commissioned by the new Children's Trust Partnership to identify the needs and priorities of young people. This work has commenced and an update report went to the Trust meeting on 21 August 2008 for consideration. This work is essential to informing the development of a local action plan.
L5 Increased participation in cultural activities	
Action	Progress
L5a: Develop a rich programme of creative and cultural activity across the Borough	The broadcast date for the Big Art Project has been put back to March 2009, due to none of the other projects from other towns being delivered on time. A relaunch of the 'Invisible Art' will be carried out inconjunction with the Christmas Light switch on.

L5b: Refurbish Padiham Leisure Centre	The tender documents have been sent out for the refurbishment of Padiham Leisure Centre. The results of the tender exercise will be reported to the Executive on 23 September 2008. Work on the refurbishment is still planned to commence towards the end of October, subject to final approvals. Plans are in place to accommodate activities, which will be displaced during the refurbishment.
L5c: Implement Football Development Plan which will increase participation & improve facilities	The Football Development Group have now finalised the Football Development Plan and this has been sent off to the Football Association for approval.
L5d: Tackle antisocial behaviour through partnership working using sport and creative opportunities	The Summer 'Scream and Shout' Programme has been a major success. Activities from Sport to Arts have been provided at a number of key venues throughout the borough. An evaluation of the scheme will be carried out and the findings incorporated into the next programme.
PL2 Higher Quality housing and neighbourhoods	
Action	Progress
PL2d: Implement the Borough's Green Spaces Strategy	Good progress is being made implementing the Green Spaces Strategy: Towneley Park has been awarded a Green Flag Award for the first time bringing to 5 the number of awards held by Burnley's parks. The award recognises good standards of management, high levels of community involvement and I would like to record the Council's thanks to the park friends groups, which do so much to improve the borough's parks. Ightenhill Park is the only main park without a green flag and it will be entered for the award in 2009.

<p>PL2e: Progress restoration of Memorial Park, Padiham & development of Padiham Linear Park</p>	<p>Plans for the restoration of Memorial Park will be ready for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund at the end of September subject to approval by the Executive. There is strong local support for the scheme in Padiham and the recent friends group meeting was very positive and approved the proposals. However there will be very strong competition from eight other authorities in the North West for this final round of grant funding. There has been close liaison with Lancashire County Council to ensure that the project compliments the Linear Park. The contract for development of the Linear Park has been awarded, track and vegetation clearance has taken place and the main contract is due to commence in October for a period of 6 months.</p>
<p>PL2f: Implement the Play Strategy, including improvement and closure of children's playgrounds</p>	<p>Implementation of the 5-year play area improvement programme approved by the Executive last year is progressing. A local contractor has commenced construction of the new play area at Briercliffe Recreation Ground. Once this scheme is complete, (hopefully by mid - September) the contractor will build the new play area at Rakehead followed by Whitegate play area in Padiham. The value of these 3 new play areas is approximately £180,000. Officers have also begun consultation on 4 play area schemes in this years' capital programme, which are; Disraeli Street, Brent Street, Rosehill and Calder Park and have submitted a bid to Lancashire County Council's Play Builder Programme for an extra £50,000 to provide a new play area in South West Burnley.</p>
<p>E4 Burnley is known as an alternative destination for living, working & leisure...</p>	
<p>Action</p>	<p>Progress</p>
<p>E4e: Establish a varied, exciting & sustainable festive programme that celebrates & promotes Burnley</p>	<p>The Community Festival will take place on Sunday 31st August 2008 and this year's festival will emphasise the more family friendly nature of the event. The Heritage and Woodland Festival is also planned to take place on 14 September 2008 in Towneley Park</p>

Executive Member - Additional Commentary	
SP/Leisure & Culture: Additional Commentary	The Executive have approved the introduction of free swimming for residents who are 60 and over from 1 April 2009. Subject to receiving the appropriate level of funding from the Government, it is hoped that this will also be extended to young people who are aged 16 or under.