



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO: REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COUNCILLOR MARTIN SMITH

DATE OF REPORT: 3RD SEPTEMBER 2008

1. Progress on Strategic Objectives

E1 A diverse business base with an entrepreneurial culture and a reputation as a place to do business	
Action	Progress
E1a: Support successful delivery of 3 projects through the No Limits (LEGI) Programme in the Borough	The current position is as follows: a) Finance for Growth: We have committed our initial allocation and are now accessing additional resources from the main programme allocation. We continue to receive enquiries for the fund and have undertaken a number of site visits. Overall the project is doing well and we are pleased with the range of applications we are getting in. b) Enterprise Haven: The Haven was officially launched in early July and to date it has achieved a 75% occupancy rate for the units. In addition, both the conference and education suites are now being utilised by both the public and private sectors. The take up of units is very positive and has aided in the project being on target. c) Helping Hands: Nothing further to add from the last report.
E1c: Develop cultural & creative industries sector capitalising on development of Media City.	Nothing further to add from the last report.

E2 Firmly establish Burnley as a key retail and service centre in Pennine Lancashire	
Action	Progress
E2a: Deliver key projects identified from both the Town Centre Master Plan & Public Realm Strategy	We are currently preparing a comprehensive funding bid to the North West Development Agency to take forward the implementation of schemes in the strategy.
E2b: Develop a programme of highways & access improvements to support delivery of Town Centre Master	The first Locality Planning meeting with County Council has now taken place. That meeting committed to further detailed discussions on reviewing highways policy within Burnley's town centre.
E2c: Secure delivery partners for the Westgate and Thompson Centre/Saunder Bank sites	Development Briefs and Supplementary documents are being finalised for both the Thompson Centre and Saunder Bank sites in the town centre. It is envisaged these will be completed later this year.
E3 To establish Burnley as a centre of education excellence with highly skilled & qualified workforce	
Action	Progress
E3a: Ensure that the Pennine Lancashire Skills Strategy is effectively delivered in Burnley	This will be delivered as part of the Pennine Lancashire Integrated Economic Strategy.
E4 Burnley is known as an alternative destination for living, workforce & leisure based on....	
Action	Progress
E4a: Deliver the strategic projects identified in the Weavers' Triangle Townscape Heritage Initiative	Current market conditions look set to delay progress. All developers are currently re-appraising projects. We are meeting with the British Waterways Trust to consider a project with them promoting visitor usage, volunteering, environmental improvements, access/signage/interpretation through canal corridor. We are also in the middle of a consultancy commission aimed at bringing forward urgently a programme of temporary security works to key buildings to prevent further structural deterioration.

E4b: Promote Burnley as a visitor destination under the Pennine Lancashire Brand	10 Events are taking place in Burnley as part of the Pennine Lancashire Food Festival between 18th August and 9th September 2008.
E4c: Complete feasibility & business case work to progress reduction in journey to & from Manchester	Considerable progress has been made in evidencing and promoting the Todmorden Curve Project within Network Rail's Business Plan for Lancashire and Cumbria, and the Steering Group comprising the County Council, Network Rail, NWDA and Northern Rail has been established to progress the scheme.
E4d: Develop a new marketing campaign for the Borough	A Stakeholder workshop was held in July 08 to identify key messages for Burnley that will inform the development of a campaign. This is work in progress and will be reported into the Council in due course.
E5 Burnley has a reputation as a regionally significant centre for advanced manufacturing	
Action	Progress
E5a: Re-develop the former Michelin site as an Advanced manufacturing Park in partnership with NWDA	The Council with NWDA has been working on a series of feasibility commissions aimed at bringing the Michelin site to market, as a key advanced manufacturing resource for the Borough. The Council will be heartened to hear that work is nearing completion and we will shortly be considering procurement options.
E5b: In partnership with UCLAN establish an Institute of Advanced Manufacturing presence in Burnley	Nothing further to add from the last report.
E6 Burnley is a place where everyone is able to benefit from new employment opportunities	
Action	Progress
E6a: The Council pro-actively implements the Borough's Strategy for Employment through its activity	The Council is leading work to co-ordinate the Borough's approach to addressing worklessness. The key aspect of this is the Evolve Project which effectively tracks the progress residents make in training and work placements. We are currently working with Job Centre Plus and other partners on a pilot targeting the Trinity area and to date through this have engaged 74 local people, 19 of whom have progressed into employment.

E6b: Ensure major new developments provide employment opportunities for workless residents	The Council will appreciate that in the current economic climate, and particularly with the slow down in the development sector, opportunities are likely to be restricted for the foreseeable future.
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L4 Improved Services to the homeless and other vulnerable groups in the community

Action	Progress
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L4a: Proactively work with residents vulnerable to losing their home through preventative strategies	The prevention of homelessness strategy was approved by the Executive on 19th August. The accompanying Action Plan details how together with our partners we intend to prevent and tackle homelessness, and sets targets and milestones. A Temporary Accommodation (TA) Reduction Plan will be developed by June 2009, in order to meet our TA reduction target by March 2010.
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L4b: Ensure quality housing services are available to vulnerable, elderly and disabled residents	A bid for additional money to increase the Disabled Facilities Grant budget has just been submitted. We should hear in September whether the bid has been successful.
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L4c: Provide multi agency support through the Family Intervention Project to help vulnerable families	Burnley has been selected as one of a number of areas by DCSF to bid for further funding to extend Family Intervention Project to work with young people who are potentially at risk of being or becoming homeless.
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PL1 Revitalised communities and balance housing markets

Action	Progress
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PL1a: Restructure the housing market and address inappropriate supply	Phase 1 in South West Burnley is on site. Discussions are ongoing with the Housing Corporation to maximise funding for affordable housing on site. The council and our partners are proposing 18 affordable housing units to complement the development.
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PL1b: Engage residents in the redevelopment of their neighbourhoods	Nothing to add to previous report.
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<p>PL1c: Maximise and make best use of funding for housing and sustainable community initiatives</p>	<p>Through our work with the regional housing group we are anticipating a modest increase in the funding available through the housing capital grant programme and we will confirm this when the detail is known.</p>
<p>PL1d: Develop and deliver an effective partnership with lead developers in the HMR Pathfinder Areas</p>	<p>The Strategic Review Meetings for SW Burnley & Burnley Wood have commenced following the signing of the Development Agreements with Keepmoat. Regular Development Meetings are held to facilitate the initial phases of residential development in these neighbourhoods. Negotiations are still ongoing with Gleesons in relation to Development in Daneshouse, Stoneholme and Duke Bar and a report will be going to Executive in the next few months to update them on the position. Current market conditions are impacting on progress in terms of housing market interventions.</p>
<p>PL2 Higher quality housing and neighbourhoods</p>	
<p>Action</p>	<p>Progress</p>
<p>PL2b: Improve standards on the private rented sector</p>	<p>The Council's application for selective licensing was approved on the 23rd July 2008 by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The designation will come into force on the 22nd October 2008. We are now working hard to ensure that the scheme is effectively implemented, and we make best use of the powers available to us to improve standards across the private rented sector. We also continue to promote the Accreditation Scheme and work with the Good Tenant Scheme to offer a range of service to both landlords and residents across the borough.</p>

PL3 A more sustainable environment	
Action	Progress
PL3b: Improve energy efficiency, reduce fuel poverty and help tackle climate change	<p>Development of a cross authority Burnley and Pendle Home Energy Strategy (2008-11) is progressing and a consultation draft will shortly be sent out to our partners. The strategy will go to the Council's Executive for approval in September. The Council's CRISP insulation scheme has improved 120 properties to date in the current financial year. An energy efficiency publicity and promotions plan is currently being put together which will facilitate a sustained awareness campaign over the next year. The August Executive approved a number of amendments to the Switch onto Savings scheme to include; expanding the CRISP eligibility criteria to include any family with children under 5 living in a small home boroughwide, a scheme offering part subsidised cavity wall and loft insulation for all Burnley residents regardless of income or age. The aim is to encourage a greater number of residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.</p>