



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO: PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COUNCILLOR ROGER FROST

DATE OF REPORT: 9th JULY 2008

1. Progress on Strategic Objectives

PL2 Higher Quality housing conditions and the local environment	
Action	Progress
PL2a: Improve housing conditions and the local environment	We have achieved more outputs than anticipated in 07/08 and we still continue to work in partnership to increase the number of vacant properties bought back into use. This includes working with one of our lead RSLs in developing a Management Framework to tackle vacant homes, which is in its early stages.
PL2g: In Partnership, Facilitate Retail Commercial & Industrial developments on Council owned land	Discussions are underway with Partner to develop key sites. A detailed update will be provided to the Executive in the Autumn.

PL3 A more sustainable environment	
Action	Progress
PL3a: Achieve high energy efficiency ratings for all new homes and buildings	<p>Building Regulations were amended in April 2006 and have been modified since by regulations to promote energy certificates in all buildings. The new Building Regulations extended the scope and application of the Building Regulations, increasing insulation standards and introducing the concept of consequential improvements to existing buildings. The new standards have been publicised via L.A.B.C. the Department for Communities and Local Government and by local meetings with Architects, Designers and Developers. Enforcement is carried out via the building control process as defined below: (1) 1 Plans, details and calculations are submitted and approved before construction works commences. (2) All buildings are inspected during construction, where insulation and methods of construction are checked. (3) All new dwellings and large buildings over 1000m square require an energy performance rating; air leakage certificates, test certificates and energy performance certificate are submitted to Building Control before the issue of a completion certificate. (4) Commissioning certificates are required at completion to demonstrate the energy efficiency of installed plant and services. (5) Smaller extensions and alterations rely on the interim inspection carried out during construction.</p>
L6 Improved Health standards and performance against floor targets	
Action	Progress
L6c: Contribute to improved diet within the community(promote Council's Catering for Health' Award)>	<p>A massive effort has been made to revise our data systems in time for the government's new inspection programme launched this month. This is now complete and a programme is in place to comply with statutory targets. The new Recipe for Health scheme has been launched in partnership with LCC. Assessments have been done and the first awards to premises meeting hygiene, nutrition & labelling standards, will be issued shortly. In July we will be running a "Safer food, better business" course for Asian heritage food businesses. The course will advise on legal requirements & provide follow-up coaching sessions. Food Safety Week (9th June) led to 150 requests for free fridge/freezer thermometers, which are hopefully all now in place helping to keep food safe across the Borough.</p>

Town Centre Management	
Action	Progress
CH/TC: Town Centre Management Update	Town Centre Management function up and running. Benchmarking work to be carried out with Town Centre businesses in order to evaluate progress on an annual basis. Audit of signage being undertaken to inform future need. Comparison of other Town Centre street pitch letting policies under way. LCC discussions opened re effectiveness of Car Park signs/general messaging displays and appearance of pavement area in St James's Street and Parker Lane regarding re-surfacing stretch of Parker Lane and using slabs to repair St James's Street area. Car Parking usage and analysis started to better inform pricing and usage policies. Town Centre Partnership to be re-established.