



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO: REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COUNCILLOR ROGER FROST

DATE OF REPORT: 1st SEPTEMBER 2011

1. Progress on Strategic Objectives

PE3 Ensuring services to vulnerable groups are protected wherever possible	
Action	Progress
<p>PE3a: Proactively work with residents vulnerable to losing their home through preventative strategies</p>	<p>There were a total of 83 homeless applications during the first Quarter of 2011/12, double the figure for the same Quarter for last year. The total number of applications for the whole of 2010/11 was 221, which of itself was an increase of 30% over the total for 2009/10. There is clearly an upward trend in the figures and the number of applications and underlying causes will be monitored closely in the months ahead.</p> <p>The Council has been awarded an increased level of Preventing Homelessness Grant for the four years starting with this year, enabling us to continue resourcing preventative initiatives, such as the Bond Scheme.</p> <p>I am also pleased to confirm the recent launch of the Lancashire Youth Homelessness Strategy which will strengthen joint working between Housing and Social Services across the County in</p>

	working with homeless 16 and 17 year olds.
PE3b: Ensure quality housing services are available to vulnerable, elderly and disabled residents	<p>St Vincent's home care and repair now operate in Burnley and offer assistance to elderly and disabled residents who require help with undertaking repairs and improvements to their home. The Handyperson service offers help with small jobs of up 2 hours duration and for larger jobs they will arrange for a contractor to provide a quote, or they will manage the project for a fee. So far this year St Vincent's have completed 59 jobs under the Handyperson scheme and 321 minor adaptations on behalf of Social Services.</p> <p>Disabled Facilities Grant that assist people to adapt their home and enabling them to remain living independently is spending well. The budget is 47% committed so far this year with a total of 81 Disabled Facilities Grants approved and 44 completed.</p>
PL1 Making the Borough Cleaner	
Action	Progress
PL1a: Complete the delivery of committed Housing Market Renewal work for which funding is available	<p>A report will go to the Executive in late Autumn to consider the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the completion of the acquisition and clearance programme in South West Burnley to enable the land to be redeveloped for new housing in the Accrington Road area.</p> <p>The demolitions in advance of CPO are progressing well with 84 properties already having been demolished this financial year. Contractors are on site demolishing a further 60 properties and contracts have been let for another 39 properties after that. In all this will total 183 demolitions which will comfortably exceed the target of 117 for this year. Officers will also look to let more demolition contracts later on in the year should this become possible.</p> <p>The Council has submitted a bid for HMR Transition Funding to the Department of Communities and Local Government to help</p>

	<p>to fund the completion of our current acquisition and clearance programme. This bid has been made in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Pendle Councils, and we hope to have a decision on the bid in the autumn.</p> <p>The current Facelifting programme is progressing well with schemes at Colne Rd, Piccadilly, Barden Lane, and Accrington Rd complete. A further block in South West Burnley will start on site this month and we anticipate this year's programme to be complete by November.</p> <p>The Council are helping to fund a community project on Reed Street which is currently on-going. The project is a community partnership with Accent Regeneration who are working with local trainees to paint the terrace and use decorative boards to cover steel shutters and broken windows. This project is improving the look of the terrace for the residents' and offering a great opportunity for the young trainees to gain some valuable experiencing working on regeneration project in the community. The work will be finished by the end of August.</p>
<p>PL1d: Implement Princess Way Public Realm scheme</p>	<p>The new block paving and new lighting columns have been installed along Princess Way, Active Way and Railway Street. The Rail Bridge over Canning Street has also been renovated. Work has commenced on the public space opposite the college and the art work – the Rain Bow Gate – is ready for installation early next month.</p>
<p>PL2 Making the Borough Safer</p>	
<p>Action</p>	<p>Progress</p>
<p>PL2e: Deliver the Selective Licensing pilot in Trinity</p>	<p>The Council have to date carried out 12 successful prosecutions for landlords failing to apply for a licence all of which have resulted in a criminal conviction and Court fines and on the 27th June this year the first Interim Management Order (IMO) was made as part of the drive to improve management standards across the area.</p>

<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</p>	<p>Three sales have been completed for properties under the Council's vacant property initiative at Red Lees Rd, Pheasantford St, and Healey Wood Rd, generating a capital receipt of £213,000. A further two sales are currently underway, which when finalised will allow more resources to be targeted at future properties in the programme</p> <p>We currently have 238 open private sector enforcement cases where we are actively pursuing the landlords to complete improvement work at their property. To date 21 Improvement notices have been served and we are currently preparing a prosecution case for a landlord that has failed to comply with an Improvement notice.</p> <p>Landlords and agents continue to apply for the Good Landlord and Agent Scheme (GLAS). There are currently 137 accredited landlords and 4 accredited managing agents. We held a further landlord open evening on the 27th July; 33 landlords attended and the main topic discussed on the day were the changes to Housing Benefit Legislation. Feedback from the landlords about the event was positive.</p>
<p>PR1 Developing a diverse business base with an entrepreneurial culture</p>	
<p>Action</p>	<p>Progress</p>
<p>PR1a: Support the development of the Burnley Bridge Business Park</p>	<p>The Council continues to support Eshton Development in examining ways to bring this scheme forward.</p>
<p>PR1b: Continue to lead and develop the Borough's Business Support Network</p>	<p>The business support network, supported by BBC has recently completed a biennial survey of businesses in Burnley. The results will be used by ourselves and partner agencies to inform activities and focus support. The survey has found that an increased proportion of businesses have seen their levels of profitability and sales grow since 2009, Improved performance over the last 12 months appears to have bred confidence for the next 12 months. Almost 50.0% of businesses expect profitability and turnover to increase in the coming year. The cost of energy and raw materials are seen to be the main factors</p>

	having a negative effect on growth. 30.0% planning to increase staff levels in the coming year.
PR1c: Proactively support the Borough's key growth businesses and potential inward investors	<p>The Business Support team are actively working with 19 companies who are looking to locate to Burnley or who are already based here and looking to expand.</p> <p>April to June saw 1 local company expand and two new businesses invest from outside the area. This represents investment of £850,000 creating 25 new jobs and safeguarding 17 existing jobs.</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 remain on going with Henry Boot
PR2b: Deliver a quality Town Centre Management service	<p>Town Centre Footfall has remained fairly constant throughout the year but overall still remains 5% below last year's comparative figures. In Charter Walk one vacant unit is currently under offer. Given both the national retailing climate and the increase in offer locally in Blackburn, Burney continues to stand up well as an overall offer.</p> <p>Whilst the Market Hall has recently seen two new Tenants set up business, trading conditions remain extremely difficult as the market strives to compete with strong low value sector presence.</p>
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	<p>Barnfield Investment Properties are finalising their scheme proposals; and a Regional Growth Fund bid has been submitted. Proposed structure of joint venture delivery vehicle has been agreed in principle, and final versions of the defining legal documents are being prepared.</p>
PR3b: Preparatory work successfully completed on the Todmorden Curve Project	<p>Network Rail has commenced work on GRIP 4 which will lead to detailed design. Work is on-going on the business case. A bid was submitted to the Regional Growth Fund in June for £8.5m for the Todmorden Curve and the Weavers Triangle. A decision is expected in the autumn.</p>
PR3c: The Borough's Branding	Held a successful event in Manchester in

Strategy is implemented	partnership with Place North West to promote Burnley and Advanced Manufacturing in the North West. The event was attended by manufacturing and property experts from across the region. Continued to secure positive media coverage about Burnley.
PR4 To enhance Burnley's reputation as a regional advanced manufacturing centre	
Action	Progress
PR4a: Complete the procurement of a developer for the Princess Way Knowledge Park	<p>Site assembly has now been completed, and the houses on Holme Road have been cleared.</p> <p>The OJEU "Negotiated Procedure" is being followed to select a development partner.</p> <p>The Burnley knowledge Park Design Guide, which will form part of the developer's pack of information, was published on 4th July. The marketing and distribution of the Guide has already started with recent press releases.</p> <p>The outline Planning application for the Knowledge Park was submitted on 6th July 2011, and is due to be determined at the September (23rd) Planning Committee.</p>
PR5 To improve skills, qualifications and employability of the Borough's workforce	
Action	Progress
PR5a: Promote the take up of apprenticeships across the Borough	<p>A project is being developed jointly between BBC, Burnley College, Aircelle to run a campaign targeting potential apprentices and businesses to coincide with National Apprenticeship week in October running through to recruitment early in the new year. The project will specifically target technology and engineering apprentices. If it is successful we will look to roll the approach out to other sectors.</p>
PR5b: Support DWP, the Borough's third sector and Prime Contractors in the implementation of the new Work Programme in the Borough	<p>The Work Programme has now commenced and aims to support the unemployed back into work. Regular meetings with local contractors are being set up to monitor progress and support the programme.</p>