



**BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL**

[Internal link to previous report](#)

PORTFOLIO: HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT CONTROL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COUNCILLOR HOWARD BAKER

DATE OF REPORT: 04/04/2013

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>A review is underway for the production of a new five year Prevention of Homelessness Strategy, covering 2013/2018.</p> <p>We continue to maximise our capacity to tackle homelessness and ensure that we provide effective advice, and sustainable housing solutions. We are continuing to meet with both statutory and voluntary agencies in the borough to promote/continue joint working.</p> <p>During January and February we completed 30 homeless assessments. We also provided housing advice to 213 households, all of which contributes to reducing instances of homelessness and minimising spend on temporary accommodation.</p>
PE3b: Ensure quality housing services are available to vulnerable, elderly and disabled residents	<p>In this financial year the Council have dealt with 215 new disrepair complaints from private rented tenants. We have resolved and closed 274 disrepair cases since the start of April 2012.</p> <p>The Council approved 166 Disabled Facilities grants in the 2012/13 financial year</p>

and 22 Emergency Work grants.

PL1 Making the Borough Cleaner

Action	Progress
<p>PL1a: Complete the delivery of committed Housing Market Renewal work for which funding is available</p>	<p>Two Vacant Property Initiative properties are in the process of being renovated and should be completed by year end when they will be put on the market for sale to owner occupiers.</p> <p>The “Linked-Up” empty homes programme (targeted at providing affordable housing) is underway and we have completed the CPO of one property which will be sold to Calico so they can return it to use for affordable rent. Other properties in the Borough are in the process of being inspected prior to being approved for the scheme.</p> <p>The Clusters empty homes programme is progressing well in all 3 target areas with six properties purchased by agreement with one more agreed. Six Compulsory Purchase Orders have been started and more properties are being considered by the Executive in the current cycle. Renovations on the properties we have purchased are underway</p> <p>Lastly interest in the take up of loans from landlords is reassuringly healthy.</p>

PL2 Making the Borough Safer

Action	Progress
<p>PL2b - Work with our trade partners on improvements to the taxi service.</p>	<p>Over the course of the last month the Taxi Task Group has now reached agreement in three areas: Terms of Reference, where each political party is now represented; a joint Taxi Licensing Charter; and revisions to the number of vehicle testing stations. The latter two will be presented to Licensing Committee on March 26th.</p> <p>A timetable has been agreed for the tasks to be completed as part of the Taxi Licensing Strategic Review, and the first element of that will be discussed in some detail at the next Task Group meeting in April. A review of the Convictions policy should also be completed in time for June’s Licensing Committee.</p>

<p>PL2c – Deliver the Selective Licensing pilot in Trinity</p>	<p>The Council has issued 519 licences to 305 landlords for properties in the Trinity selective licensing area. The pilot now has broad landlord support and the Council and our partners continue to work closely together to maximise the benefits of the programme.</p> <p>The annual report is being produced for year 4, and the draft report has recently been presented to the Borough's private rented sector forum.</p>
<p>PL3 Making the Borough Greener</p>	
<p>Action</p>	<p>Progress</p>
<p>PL3b - Improve energy efficiency, reduce fuel poverty and help tackle climate change</p>	<p>The Council approved 216 Heating Rebate grants in the 2012/13 financial year and continued its work with the Lancashire Energy Officers group providing loft and cavity wall insulation.</p>