



## BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

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**PORTFOLIO:** **DEPUTY LEADER  
REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** **COUNCILLOR ANDY TATCHELL**

**DATE OF REPORT:** **20/12/2012**

### Progress on Strategic Objectives

PL3 Making the Borough Greener	
Action	Progress
<b>PL3a:</b> Respond to the emerging Local Planning System	<p>Good progress is being made on developing Burnley's next Local Plan.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure Study element will be completed this month. Initial findings from this work were presented to an All Members briefing on 21 November.</p> <p>A Retail, Office and Leisure Assessment of Centres in the borough is being undertaken by Nathaniel Lichfield Partners and this should be completed in January 2013. This will provide the evidence for the Local Plan's policy and site-based approach to Burnley and Padiham town centres and to smaller district and local centres, such as Accrington Road and Pike Hill.</p> <p>An invitation to tender for economic and housing forecasting work has been advertised and it is anticipated that consultants will be appointed this month.</p> <p>Detailed site viability work has been carried out in-house and is now completed. This will provide the justification for the Local Plan's approach to the release of land for housing</p>

	<p>and employment use. A Conservation Area Appraisal for the Canalside area, which includes the Weavers' Triangle, has been prepared for public consultation early next year.</p> <p>Work has also started on an Infrastructure Plan which will be developed in parallel to the Local Plan. This will ensure that the infrastructure needs of new development have been taken into account in preparing the Plan.</p>
<b>PR1 Developing a diverse business base with an entrepreneurial culture</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<p><b>PR1a:</b> Support the development of the Burnley Bridge Business Park</p>	<p>Discussions are on-going with the site's developer and other partners that will enable contract works to commence in the New Year.</p> <p>Phase 1 of the scheme will bring forward bridgeworks, access to the site, services and the creation of plateaus/building plots. In addition two speculative commercial units totalling 29,000 sq. ft. will be constructed.</p>
<p><b>PR1b:</b> Continue to lead and develop the Borough's Business Support Network</p>	<p>The Network is due to meet quarterly throughout 2013. The group will be focussing on the new funding initiatives recently launched locally including the Accelerating Business Growth programme. This scheme is available throughout Pennine Lancashire and the Group's focus will be to make sure the strong take up from Burnley companies (currently 4 Burnley businesses have successfully applied to the scheme resulting in £254,000 of financial assistance) continues into 2013. In addition the group will be looking at the National Apprenticeship Scheme and how Burnley businesses can become more involved.</p>
<p><b>PR1c:</b> Proactively support the Borough's key growth businesses and potential inward investors</p>	<p>The Business Support team are working with 22 new, SME (small and medium sized firms) enquiries who are considering Burnley for expansion of an existing operation or for relocation into the Borough. From these 22 companies, 5 are from outside of the</p>

	<p>Borough with two of them being for significant amounts of commercial space. The decision process for companies considering relocation from outside the borough is always complex, but from feedback I'm confident that Burnley is increasingly seen as a good place to do business and is proactive in its support to business.</p> <p>A high profile expansion within the borough is on target. Sweet Dreams Ltd who acquired the former Build Centre on Colne Road are currently well underway with developing their new premises. The Council have been working with the company for a number of years and this £3m redevelopment of the Primrose Mill site will secure jobs for the future whilst allowing the company to consolidate to a single site operation.</p>
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**PR3 Establish Burnley as an attractive, alternative place to live, work, and play**

Action	Progress
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<p><b>PR2b-</b> Deliver a quality Town Centre Management service</p>	<p>The Christmas lights switch on event proved to be another successful day with good crowd numbers being seen and footfall into the town centre almost double from the previous Sunday, and up 5% from last year's comparative Sunday.</p> <p>A recent audit of town centre shop vacancies showed a slight improvement from that carried out 6 months ago and this includes managed vacancies of Charter Walk.</p> <p>Next has recently opened their new store providing a welcome boost to that area of the town, and signalling real confidence in Burnley Town Centre's future.</p> <p>Charter Walk has successfully completed the necessary negotiations for the east side of Market Square so that they can commence their new redevelopment, with building works anticipated to start in the spring.</p> <p>The Market has recently attracted four new tenants trading in new products to the market, which whilst short term lets</p>
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	nevertheless add to the vibrancy and vitality of the current offer.
<b>PR3a:</b> The Weavers Triangle Phase 1 regeneration programme underway in partnership with Barnfield Investment Properties	The work to redevelop Victoria Mill (for the opening next September of the new University Technical College) is well under way and on budget. Barnfield Investment Properties are preparing a planning application, for submission in early December, for the next phase, comprising the redevelopment of Slater Terrace, Sandygate Mill, Sandygate Weaving Shed, and the former Waterloo pub.
<b>PR3b:</b> All preparatory work successfully completed on the Todmorden Curve Project	Detailed design work, and preliminary site preparation, is under way. Site possession is booked for the construction phase for Summer/Autumn 2013, and Network Rail remain confident that the first public services will operate from May 2014.
<b>PR3c:</b> The Borough's Branding Strategy is implemented	Three years since inception, the Burnley Bondholder scheme welcomed its 100th new organisation at the Bondholder Network event on November 16th at Burnley College. Alastair Campbell joined 100+ senior business figures to make it the biggest event to date. Flex Media, the PR agency recruited and paid for by Burnley Bondholders, achieved two positive regional television pieces in their first month promoting Burnley as a place to live, work and visit.
<b>PR4 To enhance Burnley's reputation as a regional advanced manufacturing centre</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>PR4a:</b> Complete the procurement of a developer for the Knowledge Park at Princess Way	Four developers have been shortlisted to progress to the final stages of the developer selection which is likely to be completed in April/May 2013
<b>PR4b-</b> Work with the Homes and Communities Agency to progress the redevelopment of the Michelin Site	The Homes and Communities Agency are now marketing the site and we continue to work closely with them to secure a developer for the site. In partnership with Aircelle the Council has secured a c £1.4m grant from the Regional Growth Fund to create an Aerospace Supplier Village. The funding will be available for firms in the aerospace supply chain to re-locate to the site.

PR5 To improve skills, qualifications and employability of the Borough's workforce

Action	Progress
<b>PR5a:</b> Promote the take up of apprenticeships across the Borough	The Business Support Group is looking at ways of better promoting the opportunities of apprenticeships among Burnley businesses. Planning has also started on next years Work Inspiration Day, which this year was successful in showing to many young Burnley people the different ways of getting into work and training.