

# **BURNLEY – The Most Enterprising Place in Britain 2013**

[www.burnley.co.uk](http://www.burnley.co.uk)

You are closer to Burnley than you might think – we make:

- parts that power the world's largest aeroplanes and the world's fastest cars
- world renowned digital audio products for the global film and music industry
- world class fabrics and furnishings

We have

- Prime Grade A development land
- The largest waterside heritage led regeneration scheme in the country – 'On the Banks' providing unique waterside business, education and leisure space
- The country's first University College of Football Business and the North West's first University Technical College (which opens later this month)
- One of the country's largest private sector led Bondholder schemes (with over 150 paying members) – the Burnley Bondholder Scheme – strength in numbers to influence agendas, developing a united voice to promote the town across the UK and encourage investment

Burnley was identified last year as **ONE OF THE BEST TOWNS IN THE NORTH WEST FOR BUSINESS GROWTH.**

Research which was undertaken by data analysts Experian, identified Burnley as one of the best in the northwest for business growth potential, with over one quarter of companies in the town being identified as 'high growth' champions - many of whom are here with us tonight.

This research which was commissioned by the BBC places Burnley top in Lancashire and second place in the North West overall for the proportion of businesses with good growth prospects.

Government think tank Centre for Cities listed Burnley as number one in the country for the proportion of employment in skilled manufacturing and we were positioned in the top 10% for growth in patent applications which is a recognised indicator of innovation.

With huge infrastructure developments underway this area is one of the best places in the Northwest for businesses to relocate to, which is why aerospace giant KAMAN is locating here, and why those who are based here, like VEKA Plc, are investing and becoming amongst the best at what they do on the national and international stage. Other places cannot compete with our northern centrality; our road, rail and multiple airport connections; our quality of life and affordable housing offer; our emphasis on skills development; pioneering Burnley Bondholder network, and a can-do Council who is business-friendly and prioritise economic growth.

Burnley excels in making things and has double the regional average employed in manufacturing. We have an astonishingly good range of development opportunities: the 70 acre Burnley Bridge site, the 40 acre Aerospace Supply Village, the £100 million 'On The Banks' waterside mixed use scheme (the largest heritage led regenerations scheme in the country), and AMS Neave Technology Park. These are game-changers in this area and it why everyone is talking about Burnley being on the up.

A Strong Manufacturing base - we make parts that power the world's largest aeroplanes (SAFRAN [Aircelle](#)) and the world's fastest cars (TRW, BCW); we make world-class cask ales (Moorhouse's) and the world's best digital audio mixing desks (AMS Neve); Burnley business LITE lit the county's tallest building; British Velvets (one of the world's last remaining velvet manufacturers decorated Her Majesty the Queen's Royal Barge for the Queens Jubilee year last year) and Balmers look after the greens at The Open.

Burnley is not just open for business; it is excelling at business on the world stage.

In an age of austerity, when national forecasts for growth seem to be downgraded each quarter, it is a testament to local businesses and partnerships that this area has seen somewhat of an economic renaissance. The focus and determination of all who drive growth in this area is there – what we must now do is ensure those in our surrounding economies (Lancashire, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester) are aware of all this area has to offer.

Projects in isolation do not create a prosperous area: it is a commitment and subsequent delivery of a longer term strategy that creates prosperity. Here are just some of our major achievements: a direct rail link to Manchester which opens next year; the development of an Aerospace Supply park – the first of its kind in the region; Burnley Bridge development site, Lancashire's first University Technical College, major investment in the Weavers' Triangle; AMS Neve Technology Park; luxury Woodland Spa; new Moorhouse's Brewery; new housing, in place and selling fast.

Burnley will continue to refine its strategy, support existing investments, and to welcome new developments and continue to progress to ensure more of the right people are aware of our success.

## **Burnley means business**

Burnley's Bondholder Network – one of the country's leading public /private sectors partnerships - the key to the town's enterprising success and ambition. Enquiries have been made from across the northwest as towns seek to emulate Burnley's model for public and private sector partnership working.

A 'club' of over 150 local businesses, from small internet start-ups to large and long established engineering firms, from locally focussed service providers to global leaders in their field, the Bondholders have come together for one simple reason: to promote their borough as a great place to invest, relocate and expand.

Check out the Burnley Bondholder website: [www.burnley.co.uk](http://www.burnley.co.uk)

## **Investing in the future**

In the north of town, and in the centre, on the rural edge of the borough and on old industrial sites that are being refitted: the signs of investment and confidence in Burnley's future are everywhere.

Some examples:

- The new Manchester Road train station is now being built, to serve the direct train route to Manchester which will open next year
- This month, the University Technical College opens on Trafalgar Street – a landmark redevelopment of Burnley's industrial heritage as a long-disused weaving shed is brought back into use to train and skill up the young engineers and entrepreneurs of tomorrow
- Wider development On the Banks: the historic Weaver's Triangle brought back to life for employment, leisure and living – the largest heritage led regeneration scheme in the country
- The Burnley Aerospace Village will be developed as a hub for cutting edge manufacturing and suppliers, with the borough's largest private sector employer Aircelle at its heart
- A major new site for industrial and business development at Burnley Bridge, just off the M65, Junction 9
- The Knowledge Quarter, building on the major investment in education and skills development which Burnley has seen: the new University Centre (UCLAN) and Burnley College

## What else?

- State of the art secondary schools
- New housing developments in key inner urban areas and rural locations
- The Brun Valley Forest Park, linking Burnley's urban centre to the open Pennine countryside, through a series of greenways, footpaths and cycle paths
- The In Business Burnley magazine – a regular forum for news and information on Burnley's enterprising culture
- Award winning public art, including the iconic wind powered sound sculpture the Singing Ringing Tree, and the Rain Bow Gate

## Why Burnley's a winner ...

- The VEKA UK Group – a huge part of Burnley's manufacturing heritage for over 25 years, making Burnley home to the largest systems manufacturer in the UK – bringing 100 additional jobs to Burnley following the acquisition of the £58 million Bowater Building Projects last year. They now employ 450 employees in their 400,000 sq.ft. facility
- Aircelle – Burnley's largest private sector employer - Suppliers of nacelles and thrust reversers to jet engine providers and aeroplane manufacturers across the world, seen on a full range of aircraft applications ranging from some of the largest passenger aircraft in the world, to business and regional commuter jets.
- Oscar winning company AMS Neve: technology designed and built in Burnley powers the films that everyone watches – Avatar, the Bond Movie Skyfall, and Disney Pixar's Brave.
- Crow Wood Leisure Centre - Lancashire's premier day spa location
- University College of Football Business – this innovative and popular institution opened in Burnley – and then expanded to Wembley
- Velocity Composites – recently relocated to Burnley. They have a new purpose build headquarters in the AMS Technology Park – their composite kits have revolutionised the aerospace composite structure industry - They are really the only company doing what they do in the market, creating efficiencies in the supply chain with huge growth potential

- Thingimjigs – from the kitchen table to worldwide online sales. A multi-channel online retailer of children’s gifts and accessories, sending orders all over the world. The business was founded by Rachael White and her husband Colin White in 2004, they have grown from the kitchen table to their current 5,000 sq.ft. warehouse, trading up year on year. Built on solid foundations with growth financed by profits, they expand at as pace that is secure, expanding into overseas markets.
- Zayanah Mansor of Hycrome – Winner of the Burnley Business Awards Young Employee of the Year Award 2013. Zayanah started as an apprentice with local manufacturing firm Hycrome. As part of her apprenticeship assignment she development a new method of restoring high value gas turbine engine components rather than consigning them to the scrap bin. She developed a method which utilised laser powder fusion welding techniques to restore seal fins – which has generated £40,000 of sales for the company.
- Equestrian Surfaces – horses that win at Ascot train on the surfaces manufactured in Burnley
- LITE Limited – the Burnley company that built and installed an illuminated display that stood atop the 1,016ft Shard building, treating the capital to a laser and light show for the building’s grand opening.

### What they say ...

- **His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales:** “I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Burnley on being awarded “Most Enterprising Area in the U.K.” by The Enterprising Britain Awards committee. Each time I have visited Burnley – in 2005, 2008, 2010 and then in 2012 with The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh – I have been increasingly hopeful that the small contribution my Charities are making, in partnership with the borough council, key stakeholders in business and education and with local community entrepreneurs, will give Burnley the future it deserves”.
- **Councillor Julie Cooper, Leader of Burnley Council:** ‘Burnley can’t escape today’s economic challenges – but we are refusing to lie down. This is a town that punches above our weight and we have big ambitions. Burnley is well on its way to forging a strong international reputation as a centre of excellence for manufacturing, particularly in the aerospace industry. The Most Enterprising Area award is great news which reflects how innovation and economic development is already reshaping Burnley - but it’s nowhere near the end of the story’.

- **Gordon Birtwistle MP:** ‘This is great news. Over the last few years investment in the town has blossomed beyond all belief. Companies are expanding which are on the leading edge of aerospace and new technologies.’

“The Burnley Bondholder scheme have done a fantastic job in promoting the town and I know that the Business Secretary Vince Cable was very impressed by what he has seen and heard from them on numerous visits to the town.

“He came away convinced that Burnley was a place that would take great advantage of any investment.

“There has been a great deal of private investment too. You only have to look at some of the projects being worked on at the moment to see that the town has a bright future.

- **The Business Minister, the Rt. Hon. Dr. Vince Cable MP,**  
“Burnley in the north of Lancashire is currently now booming economically on the back of manufacturing and proximity to the aerospace industry; a few miles down the road, some of the other Pennine towns, are languishing.”
- **Alastair Campbell,** (former PR spokesman for Tony Blair and communications expert) said: ‘I think this is fantastic news. It is a shot in the arm for the local economy.

“I know that the UCFB College of Football Business has a great national profile, but many other businesses in the town are doing well.”

- **Stephane Cueille, Managing Director at Aircelle:** ‘I’m very impressed by the breadth of manufacturing here – a vibrant aerospace and automotive sector, which is supported by many service businesses, an excellent property market and a local Council which is very business friendly’
- **Steve Rumbelow, Chief Executive of Burnley Council, said :** ‘Burnley aims to be the a great location for economic growth, investing in huge strategic economic projects, and working side by side with the private sector to ensure more of the right people know that Burnley is investment ready and open for business’.