



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO: **REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **COUNCILLOR MARTIN SMITH**

DATE OF REPORT: **22ND OCTOBER 2008**

1. Progress on Strategic Objectives

E1 A diverse business base with an entrepreneurial culture and a reputation as a place to do business

Action	Progress
E1a: Support successful delivery of 3 projects through the No Limits (LEGI) Programme in the Borough	<p>A) Finance for Growth. The scheme is progressing well and the Council have received applications in amounting to £206,717 of grant. Officers are continuing to work with businesses and advising them on projects which may be assisted next financial year. In addition we are referring them to other Business Support Agencies who may be able to offer then other support.</p> <p>B) Enterprise Haven - Since the last report occupancy at the Haven has increased to 82%. The Haven was the venue for the No Limits Project 'Enterprise Island' and the facility is being used by a number of different organisations.</p> <p>C) Helping Hands - The Enterprise Board is currently concentrating on strengthening the Board itself to better represent the communities of Burnley before recruiting its Enterprise Facilitator. It is anticipated now that this post should be filled before the end of the year.</p>

E1c: Develop cultural & creative industries sector capitalising on development of Media City.	Initial discussions are shortly to take place with the North West Development Agency on scoping how Burnley can be linked into the emerging infrastructure of the Media City Project in Salford.
E2 Firmly establish Burnley as a key retail and service centre in Pennine Lancashire	
Action	Progress
E2a: Deliver key projects identified from both the Town Centre Master Plan & Public Realm Strategy	An Expression of Interest for £15m of investment has been submitted to PLLACE and the NWDA for public realm, highway and access improvements linking key development sites in the Town Centre.
E2b: Develop a programme of highways & access improvements to support delivery of Town Centre Master	Work is progressing well with the County Council on taking forward a review of Highway's Policy within the town centre.
E2c: Secure delivery partners for the Westgate and Thompson Centre/Saunder Bank sites	Development Briefs and Supplementary documents are being finalised for both the Thompson Centre and Saunder Bank sites in the town centre. It is envisaged these will be completed later this year. These sites will be marketed for development in the new year, subject to the monitoring of the current economic climate.
E3 To establish Burnley as a centre of education excellence with highly skilled & qualified workforce	
Action	Progress
E3a: Ensure that the Pennine Lancashire Skills Strategy is effectively delivered in Burnley	The Employment Development Team are actively involved in the Pennine Lancashire Skills Strategy Group.
E4 Burnley is known as an alternative destination for living, workforce & leisure based on....	
Action	Progress
E4a: Deliver the strategic projects identified in the Weavers' Triangle Townscape Heritage Initiative	Market conditions continue to cause problems for developers, though British Waterways have confirmed their continuing interest in bringing forward proposals for the development of Finsley Wharf. Partial demolition of two buildings that have become dangerous is under way in one case, imminent in the other. In both cases, agreement has been reached with the owners for the retention of those parts of the structure which contribute both to the area's historic character and appearance. In addition we are proceeding with work to protect a number of buildings at risk within the Weavers' Triangle and are working closely on this with English Heritage.

E4b: Promote Burnley as a visitor destination under the Pennine Lancashire Brand	Burnley took part in the Pennine Lancashire Food Festival between 18th August and 9th September and has organised a successful campaign for Burnley and Pendle Heritage Open Days.
E4c: Complete feasibility & business case work to progress reduction in journey to & from Manchester	We continue to make strong progress in advocating the case for the Todmorden Curve. We have recently held further discussions with both Network Rail, The Northern Way Programme and Calderdale Council to further promote the case. We have also given evidence to the 4NW (the old Regional Assembly) Special Scrutiny Hearing on Connectivity.
E4d: Develop a new marketing campaign for the Borough	Burnley Vision Board considered the development of the campaign at its last meeting and will be returning to it at its next one. There is a wide acceptance of the need for a new campaign, the key discussion to be resolved relates to the timing of the campaign.
E5 Burnley has a reputation as a regionally significant centre for advanced manufacturing	
Action	Progress
E5a: Re-develop the former Michelin site as an Advanced manufacturing Park in partnership with NWDA	The Council and NWDA have jointly completed a feasibility study for the site. The NWDA have invested a considerable sum of money in refurbishing the former tyre warehouse which is being let to Aircelle. As a result, the company have been able to expand and take on an additional 150 employees. The agency are also in negotiations with BCW regarding land adjacent to Bancroft Road where they are planning to build a bespoke 20,000 sq ft unit enabling the growing company to consolidate their operations at the Michelin site. These two development provide the Michelin site with two anchor tenants in the advanced manufacturing sector. We are now looking in detail at procurement options to bring the site to market and to ensure it provides a considerable advanced manufacturing opportunity for Burnley. The question of timing given the current economic conditions is however the key question to be resolved.
E5b: In partnership with UCLAN establish an Institute of Advanced Manufacturing presence in Burnley	Nothing further to add from the last report

E6 Burnley is a place where everyone is able to benefit from new employment opportunities	
Action	Progress
E6a: The Council pro-actively implements the Borough's Strategy for Employment through its activity	<p>The Employment Development Team continues to lead on implementing the Borough's Employment Strategy:- Working with local partners to raise awareness of Evolve, organise joint-working, attract external funding and identify gaps in provision of support for workless people, with particular focus on WNF areas- Developing partnership work with local employers through local providers and the Evolve Network to reduce worklessness- Organising and attending events, drop-in sessions, leaflet distributions, etc in target areas and with target groups, in partnership with local organisations such as JCP, Council and VEDAS- Working with local partners and initiatives, such as Constructing the Future, to identify ways of linking workless people to new employment opportunities and economic development projects- In terms of skills and workforce development, we have also contributed to the development of the Action Plan for Skills and Economic Inclusion (Pennine Lancashire Integrated Economic Strategy).- Continued to support the Vedas Licence to Skill project which has placed 100 people into jobs since April 08.</p>
E6b: Ensure major new developments provide employment opportunities for workless residents	<p>Staff within the Council's Economic Development Unit will continue and increase their liaison with Job Centre Plus and VEDAS to make them aware of new employers moving into the area. This enables Job Centre Plus, VEDAS and other agencies to identify potential employment opportunities and undertake proactive training and job preparation for workless people so they can become job ready for the new opportunities. The Evolve Partners are actively working with the new Homebase on recruitment.</p>

L4 Improved Services to the homeless and other vulnerable groups in the community	
Action	Progress
L4a: Proactively work with residents vulnerable to losing their home through preventative strategies	We are now progressing the implementation of the council's Homelessness Strategy. Progress is being made with other local authorities across Pennine Lancashire to work together in achieving key strategy aims across the sector. One example of this is the Health and Homes project that is looking at how health needs such as mental health issues or substance dependency impact upon homelessness and how organisations can work better together to improve the effectiveness of service delivery.
L4b: Ensure quality housing services are available to vulnerable, elderly and disabled residents	The Government has allocated Burnley £75,000 additional Specified Capital Grant to support our Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) spending. It will be really useful to us in tackling the demand for DFGs and helping more disabled people to live independently in Burnley. It will be paid to us on the 15th October 2008. In comparison to other Pennine Lancashire authorities, Rossendale received £60,000 and Ribble Valley £15,000. The top amount awarded was Salford and Carlisle with £100,000 to both.
L4c: Provide multi agency support through the Family Intervention Project to help vulnerable families	Burnley's multi-agency bid for Intensive Intervention funding was not successful. The FIP / Parenting Steering Group will continue to identify opportunities for future funding and development of services. 29 families are receiving support and 9 new referrals were received in Sept 08 from a number of agencies. The project is working well with other agencies and the seconded Family Support Worker from Children's Social Care provides 'quick' referrals for families who are identified as having needs and displaying ASB. BBC's Parenting Project has recently secured funding to provide new Incredible Years Baby course in partnership with psychology service and children's centres. This project will target young mums in providing the right start for their parenting skills and bonding / attachment with their babies that is often missing. 15 families that have been identified as having extensive needs and displaying significant ASB are working with Burnley's Families Intervention Project. Four families are already showing significant improvements. Recent evaluation has shown positive outcomes including;

	reductions in ASB, stabilising families within communities, improving school attendance and attainment and reductions in mental health issues.
PL1 Revitalised communities and balance housing markets	
Action	Progress
PL1a: Restructure the housing market and address inappropriate supply	The Council is working with its lead developer partner Keepmoat, and a new Housing Association to progress the development of the Cog Lane site. This follows the decision of Calico not to proceed with their involvement. The Council is doing everything it can within the current extremely difficult market to progress this site.
PL1b: Engage residents in the redevelopment of their neighbourhoods	Nothing further to add from the last report
PL1c: Maximise and make best use of funding for housing and sustainable community initiatives	We are still awaiting confirmation through the Regional Housing Group on additional monies that are anticipated for the borough as part of the Housing Capital Programme. We also continue to work with our housing association partners to work up development schemes that will attract inward investment from the National Affordable Housing Programme. Accent Housing are currently preparing a bid to the Housing Corporation to seek funding to deliver 8 family homes for rent at Sussex Street in Burnley Wood. We are also working in partnership with other Local Authorities to develop the Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy. This document will set out the key funding priorities for the region and will support future funding applications to the Government and other associated bodies.
PL1d: Develop and deliver an effective partnership with lead developers in the HMR Pathfinder Areas	Regular development meetings are underway for each of these neighbourhoods with the lead developers and other partners. Progress is being made on the developments within the initial phases. Great Places are currently on site with 18 new homes on Hurtle Street in Daneshouse. The Strategic Review Meetings for SW Burnley and Burnley Wood have commenced with Keepmoat and the second meeting was held on the 9th October. In relation to Daneshouse, Stoneyholme and Duke Bar, Gleeson have decided not to proceed with a Development Agreement with the Council. Discussions are underway with other partners to facilitate development on key sites in this neighbourhood. The current market conditions

	are impacting on progress in terms of housing market intervention but developments are proceeding.
PL2 Higher quality housing and neighbourhoods	
Action	Progress
PL2b: Improve standards on the private rented sector	We are continuing to make good progress with the preparation for implementing the Trinity Selective Licensing Scheme. We have recently advertised and recruited to the key posts within the Housing Unit who will administer the scheme. We continue to widely publicise the scheme details in accordance with the regulations and have recently held a successfully Landlords Forum to ensure effective partnership working on both licensing and other policy areas impacting on the private rented sector.
PL3 A more sustainable environment	
Action	Progress
PL3b: Improve energy efficiency, reduce fuel poverty and help tackle climate change	The draft Burnley and Pendle Home Energy Strategy (2008-11) is currently being consulted upon and will go to the Council's Executive for approval in November. Since the Prime Minister's announcement about extra funding for energy efficiency measures, in September, there has been a substantial increase in the number of residents calling the council for assistance. The recent amendments to the Councils Switch onto Savings scheme has enabled the majority of residents that have made an enquiry to benefit from a range of insulation and heating improvements. This scheme continues to increase in popularity and the council are making efforts to maximise the use of external funding.