



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO: **DEPUTY LEADER - REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **COUNCILLOR MARTIN SMITH**

DATE OF REPORT: **16th DECEMBER 2010**

1. Progress on Strategic Objectives

PE4 Improved services to vulnerable groups in the community	
Action	Progress
PE4a: Proactively work with residents vulnerable to losing their home through preventative strategies	The Council have once again hit their target on temporary accommodation and is expected to continue to do so. We are continuing to make effective use of our schemes to prevent homelessness, such as the bond scheme to help households secure property in the private rented sector and the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. The Council in partnership with Calico have now joined the Pennine Lancashire Choice based letting scheme "b-with-us" and the first properties will be advertised on 9 th December 2010. Also in partnership with Calico & the Elizabeth Street Project we are now able to provide 4 additional supported units in Burnley for vulnerable single homeless people. This pilot scheme will "go live" on 1 st December 2010.
PE4b: Ensure quality housing services are available to vulnerable, elderly and disabled residents	A total of 120 Disabled Facilities Grants have been completed so far this year providing adaptation to homes that allow people with a disability to remain living independently. The total includes 12 non-urgent referrals and the waiting time for non-urgent referrals has reduced from 12 months at the beginning of the year to 3 months

	<p>currently.</p> <p>The Home Repair Assistance grant programme has provided 40 completed grants providing essential repairs including the removal of category 1 hazards enabling vulnerable elderly residents to remain in their own home. In addition to the repairs provided for by Home Repair Assistance the Handyperson scheme has also provided for 246 small items of repair and maintenance.</p>
PL1 Revitalised communities and balance housing markets	
Action	Progress
PL1a: Restructure the housing market and address inappropriate supply	The revised clearance budget for 2010/11 has resulted in a reduced number of outputs on the acquisitions programme but we have been able to increase the number of demolitions that are planned this financial year. We have now started on site with the demolition contract for 53 properties in Burnley Wood and will be starting on site at Austin and Duckett Street in South West Burnley on Monday 29 th November.
PL1c: Maximise and make best use of funding for housing and sustainable community initiatives	The Homes and Communities Agency have now confirmed funding from the National Affordable Housing Programme for developments in Burnley Wood and Daneshouse. We are now able to progress the development of 23 affordable rented properties in Daneshouse containing 3, 4 and 5 bedroom properties. Keepmoat's first phase development of 53 homes is now on site in Burnley Wood. Part of this development will include 15 affordable rented properties.
PL1d: Develop effective partnerships which can deliver new developments in the housing intervention areas in the current economic climate.	The Council are continuing to make progress in bringing forward housing development across the borough and the site at Cog Lane in South West Burnley is progressing well. As previously reported the Council working together with both our private and public sector partners have been successful in secure further funding to ensure that our programme of redevelopment continues across our priority neighbourhoods
PL2 Higher quality housing	
Action	Progress
PL2a: Improve housing conditions and the local environment	To date the Facelifting project has treated 132 properties against a full year target agreed with Regenerate of 229. Another site is due to be completed in November and we have started work on a two further sites. In total these will

	<p>deliver another 33 outputs. The remaining 64 facelifts will be completed by the end of March 2011</p> <p>The Vacant Property Initiative has acquired 5 properties to date and is in negotiations to purchase a further 2 properties by the end of March 2011. Work is currently taking place to refurbish 3 properties with 4 refurbishments already completed. Once these are complete no further refurbishments will be started this year. We now have 10 refurbished properties available for sales and have already sold 4 properties this year.</p>
<p>PL2b: Improve standards on the private rented sector</p>	<p>The Council has now granted 310 Licences to landlords in the Licensing area. We have successfully prosecuted 3 Landlords and the maximum fine imposed to date is £2000 plus costs for failing to apply for a Licence. Further cases are being prepared and the next cases will be at Court on the 2nd December. The surgery at Tay Street continues to be well attended. The Howard Street Surgery has been less successful and we have changed the day and time to attract more customers. The surgeries represent an important strand of the licensing designation by presenting a good opportunity for residents and landlords to raise any issues and report anti-social behaviour. Work continues on finalising Management Orders with a report to go to the Executive in January 2011. We have a landlord evening planned for the 25th January 2011 and we are currently planning the next round of Landlord Development Days for January /February 2011.</p>
<p>PR1 To develop a diverse business base with an entrepreneurial culture and a reputation as a place to do business</p>	
<p>Action</p>	<p>Progress</p>
<p>PR1a: Ensure that businesses received the relevant support and actively promote the new NWDA business start up and growth programmes</p>	<p>During the first six months of the financial year the business support team have supported/assisted 150 companies. The Consortium of Enterprise Agencies are currently planning for a Be-connected event which is to be held in February next year. Officers are currently working with those businesses that have been supported through the No Limits Finance for Growth Programme to ensure that their projects</p>

	are completed by the end of December in order for them to receive their grant payments.
PR1b: Through the Borough's Business Support Network, ensure an effective, co-ordinated response to business support	There business support sector is undergoing a massive change. Business Link is reducing to meet a £52m budget reduction and alongside the RDA will be wound up by March 2012 and replaced by an on-line service and national call centre. The next meeting is scheduled for 19th January 2011 and at this meeting there will be an overview of the current support available from Business Link and how we support businesses in light of the changes announced in the Government's White Paper on Growth.
PR1c: Work with NWDA and UCLAN to develop the Education and Enterprise project at Princess Way	Progress is continuing across a range of workstream areas. A commercial market study has been completed with DTZ. Advice on the preferred developer procurement route has been received from property consultants GVA Grimley and solicitors Cobbetts. A report will be taken to the Executive in January seeking approval to market the site. Work is ongoing on the preparation of a developers' site information pack, a design guide, marketing and promotional material and the submission of an outline planning application. Site visits have been held with a number of commercial property agents and developers. LCC's waste transfer station relocation to Heasandford is progressing ahead of schedule and should occur by June 2011. UCLAN decided not to submit an ERDF bid for an Enterprise Centre due to difficulty in securing matched funding. Alternative options are being considered
PR1d: Develop and maximise the impact of UCLAN's Media Access Bureau across the Borough	BBC have continued to work with UCLAN's Business Liaison Officer to establish networking events and to submit an Expression of Interest for ERDF funding to support a range of knowledge transfer activities as well as the MAB.
PR2 Firmly establish Burnley as a key retail and service centre in Pennine Lancashire	
Action	Progress
PR2a: Ensure that the Curzon Street development commences work on site	As per last report.

PR2b: Adopt a Public Realm Strategy and secure funding for a programme of highways and public realm works in the town centre	Engineering works contracts are currently being prepared with a view to appointing a contractor to start on site by the end of January 2011. The project was successfully launched in the press on 26th November.
PR3 The Borough is known as an alternative destination for living, working and leisure, based on affordable, high quality housing and workspace with a wide leisure and cultural offer	
Action	Progress
PR3a: Secure development partners for the Weavers Triangle following the launch of Prospectus	First formal dialogue meetings held with potential developer partners; initial proposals due to be submitted before Christmas. Final phase of repair/stabilisation works to Council-owned buildings due to start on site December. Temporary landscaping of Sandygate Square and Clocktower Mill sites almost complete
PR3b: Support and develop the Borough's Brand Strategy and Bondholder Programme	A tender has been advertised to engage a PR consultant to deliver an external PR strategy paid for from Bondholder Income. The 4th Bondholder event on the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review was held at the City Learning Centre. The Website is being re-developed and a recruitment pack designed for launch in December. Bondholders continue to receive a monthly Email newsletter (November)
PR3c: Complete business case and secure programme entry for the Todmorden Curve project	Network Rail are progressing GRIP stage 3 and have carried out site investigations and intrusive surveys to test ground conditions and embankment stability. A draft report will be ready in early January. Northern Rail have assessed the time table and developed detailed operating costs for the scheme. MVA consultants have set up a model for calculating revenue and carried out passenger surveys of current rail and bus use on the corridor.
PR4 The Borough has a reputation as a regionally significant centre for advanced manufacturing	
Action	Progress
PR4a: Secure developers for Michelin Site	DTZ have been appointed to carry out a market demand study and examine options for future development. The NWDA are currently unable to progress any work on the site and the asset will transfer back to DCLG who have appointed Homes and Communities Agency to work with local partners to dispose of any land assets.

PR5 To establish the Borough as a centre of education excellence with highly skilled & qualified workforce that meets the demands of the knowledge economy and advanced manufacturing sector	
Action	Progress
PR5a: Implement Future Jobs Fund Opportunities across the Council	Of the total 37 jobs to be filled, we are on target up to end of November and have filled 22 jobs as planned. A further 15 will be filled in January.
PR6 Burnley is a place where everyone is able to benefit from new employment opportunities & has access to a range of support and training	
Action	Progress
PR6a: Review & Implement the Borough's Strategy for Employment promoting opportunities for employment through its mainstream activities	<p>The Government's skills Strategy "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" has been published. Together with the Welfare Reform white paper new strategy will be reviewed by ERBS to assess the impact and opportunities that they bring locally. The Borough's strategy will be brought up to date.</p> <p>Since last quarter, we have attended seminars about the new Work Programme, and met with the potential prime contractors to discuss worklessness issues in Burnley. Further information is still being gathered to assess potential gaps in provision and identify areas of activity which the council needs to develop.</p>
PR6b: Work pro-actively with Job Centre Plus and other partners to respond to redundancies and the increase in unemployment as a result of the economic downturn	Major redundancies are underway within Burnley Borough Council and our colleagues in People & Development have been working closely with CXL, the Jobcentre and other agencies to co-ordinate a package of support for those being made redundant.