



Report title: Economy & Place Directorate Plan 2024-25: Quarter 1

Performance Update

Report to: Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 30th July 2024

Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.

Report of: Director of Economy

Public or private: Public

Key Decision: Non-key

Published on the Forward Plan: Not applicable

1. Report summary

- 1.1 To report progress at the end of Quarter 1 (1st April – 30th June 2024) towards achievement of the targets contained in the Economy & Place Directorate Plan 2024-25.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to review the information contained within the report and the appendices.

3. Reason for recommendation

- 3.1 In accordance with the Council's performance management framework, progress toward targets contained within Directorate Plans are to be reported to relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committees at the end of each quarter.
- 3.2 The Quarter 1 progress reports for the Economy & Place Directorate are attached at Appendix 1 and 2 respectively. Actions within each appendix have been colour coded in accordance with the following criteria:
 - 3.3 **Red:** Action not fully completed or not on track to be completed by the target date
 - Amber:** Action not fully completed or not on track to be completed by the target date due to circumstances outside of the directorate's control
 - Green:** Action completed by the target date
 - Purple:** Action is not yet due for completion but is currently on track

The appendix includes a commentary against actions that are showing red, amber or purple.

4. Alternatives considered

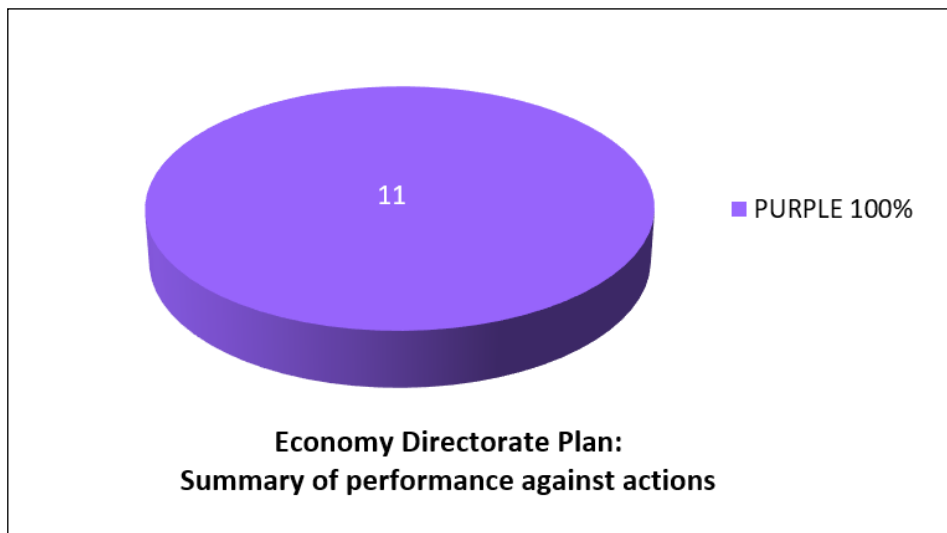
4.1 Not applicable

5. Key information

5.1 Economy & Place Directorate Plan 2024-25 Progress

Performance Overview

5.2 100% (11) actions are ongoing. The chart below shows the overall performance of the Directorate in meeting its plan targets at the end of Quarter 1.



Quarter 1 Summary

5.3 **EP2401 Consult, engage and involve all our communities to ensure their needs are addressed in our plans to make the Borough a great place to live, work and play**

The inclusive parks project is continuing to be delivered across the borough. Phase 1 for 2024/25 is Denehurst Park. A new café in the park, to open in August, includes a changing places disability access toilet with hoist for people with profound disabilities. Information largely gathered for external grant funding bid for additional inclusive play equipment due to be submitted by September 24. A minimum of 4,000 households now accessing free broadband as part of MESH programme.

5.4 EP2402 Deliver new economic investment, development and business growth

Call for sites consultation on Local Plan has commenced. Progress being made with GMCA to bring in additional resources for Atom Valley and to explore new governance and delivery options for Northern Gateway, including a Mayoral Development Corporation. Construction of new industrial units on Kingsway Plot J2 due to complete by end of 2024.

5.5 EP2403 Create high quality jobs and opportunities for all residents to access and maintain good employment

GMCA has funded a Director now in post to lead the CEAMS project and a series of launch events for businesses held. The Council Work and Skills Team have been working with Children's services to develop the first draft All Age Skills Strategy. Further work is now taking place to map next steps and agree participation to develop that plan.

5.6 EP2404 Create vibrant Town Centres

In Rochdale the next stage of technical design work on the new Station Square proposals have commenced with the intention to start on site in early 2025. At Town Hall square, the main public areas were handed over including the Great Lawns. In Heywood development of the former Marina Ropes site for 72 new affordable homes has commenced. A new Town Centre Manager for Middleton is now in post; she will be supporting the longer term development of the Town Centre and its offer. In Littleborough the Strategic Outline Business Case for Streets for All CRSTS funding has been approved

5.6 EP2405 Make the most of our natural and historic environment and cultural assets

Over 35,000 people have visited the town hall since it re-opened with visitor evaluations being overwhelmingly positive. Visitors are being attracted from across the world who are coming to visit the town hall for the first time. Work is continuing on the development of a cohesive business support package for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in the borough. Work with GMCA to prepare an Early Evening Economy Strategy is ongoing. Consultation with key stakeholders and partners is now complete. The final strategy is due to be completed by the end of July 24.

5.8 EP2406 Take positive action in response to the Housing Emergency

Positive action is continuing in response to the housing emergency. In the financial year 23/24, 686 new homes were constructed in the borough including completions at key brownfield sites such as Upper Banks Duo, Countryside at Royle Road in Castleton and Nixon Street in Heywood. Significant progress has been made at other sites including the former Akzo Noble industrial site (remediation complete and build under way), Mill Vale (former British Vita land), and Wildhouse Meadows (former Soccer Village complex).

5.9 **EP2407 Respond positively to the Climate Emergency**

Cabinet have now approved the EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy. Funding has been received from TfGM for the Council to have a dedicated Project Manager for 2 years to work on EV infrastructure. The Council has submitted a joint GM bid for funding for physical infrastructure.

5.10 **EP2408 Provide an efficient and effective portfolio of assets**

The review of the Council's property portfolio to improve condition and asset use is ongoing. Baseline data has been confirmed and is under review. Work has also commenced on reviewing the investment portfolio. All property data will be added to Tech Forge which will give a more realistic overview of asset performance / survey data and required spend captured in WLCC surveys. Refurbishment work to Castleton community centre has commenced.

5.11 **EP2409 Maximise income for the Council**

The delivery of the Town Hall business and marketing plan is progressing well. Quarter 1 figures have now been finalised with all main areas of the business showing positive growth, apart from the restaurant (due to open in September 2024). Since re-opening there has been over 35,000 visitors. Events and functions enquiries are continuing to come in with admin support recruited to try to manage the level of enquiries more effectively. Recruitment challenges have meant that some service areas are under-staffed, work is ongoing to recruit to key areas but is proving challenging (especially in specialist kitchen/chef roles and in the hospitality element of the business plan)

5.12 **EP2410 Capitalise on devolution and funding opportunities to support economic growth and place making**

Over 1,500 community responses received to the consultation on the Heywood Long Term Plan for Towns with work progressing well to submit our bid for funding on 1st August. Northern Gateway has secured £10m from the Investment Zone to improve the road network. Work is ongoing with GMCA and Bury to scope out how this will be delivered. Work is ongoing to explore how the rest of the investment zone allocations (linked to skills, innovation, business support etc.) can support the demand for and delivery of development at Northern Gateway.

5.13 **EP2411 Deliver high quality and effective services**

The roll out of new ICT software across the Economy & Place directorate to improve customer access is ongoing. Environmental Management are delivering ICT solutions to the frontline workforce as part of the transformation programme. A pilot for digital access to ITrent for operatives has concluded and an implementation plan is underway, expected to be in place by Q3.

6 **Finance**

There are no finance issues associated with this report

- 7 **Legal**
There are no legal issues associated with this report

- 8 **Human resource**
There are no human resource issues associated with this report

- 9 **Sustainability impact**
There are no sustainability impact issues associated with this report

- 10 **Other considerations (corporate priorities, risks)**
None

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Economy & Place Directorate Plan 2024-25 Q1

Appendix 2 - RDA Performance Report 2024-25 Q1

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