



Subject: Directorate Plans 2015-16: Quarter 3 Performance Update

Status: Publication

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

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Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Communities, Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment and Cabinet Member for Regeneration

Report of: Director of Neighbourhoods and Director of Economy

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1. Purpose of the report

To report progress at the end of Quarter 3 (1st October – 31st December 2015) towards achievement of the targets contained in the Neighbourhoods Directorate and the Economy Directorate Plans for 2015-16

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to consider and/or challenge the information contained within the report and the appendices.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 23rd July, the Committee approved the Directorate Plans for 2015-16 for the Economy and Environment Directorate and the Communities section of the Customer and Corporate Services Directorate. These have now been recast into plans for the new Neighbourhoods Directorate and the new Economy Directorate.
- 3.2 In accordance with the Council's performance management framework, progress towards the targets contained in Directorate Plans is to be reported to relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees at the end of each quarter.
- 3.3 The Quarter 3 progress reports for the Neighbourhoods and the Economy Directorate Plans are attached at **Appendices 1 and 2**. Actions within each appendix have been colour coded in accordance with the following criteria.

Purple: Actions not yet due for completion but are on track to achieve target by the due date

Green: Action completed

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

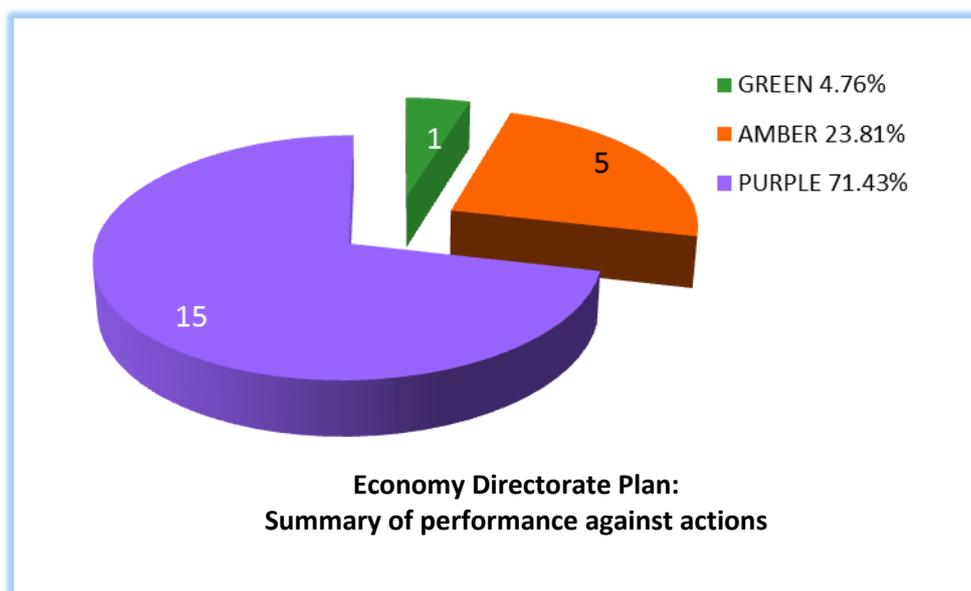
Red: Action not fully completed or not on track to be completed by the target date

The Appendices include a commentary against any actions that are purple, amber or red.

4. ECONOMY DIRECTORATE PLAN 2015-16 QUARTER 3 PROGRESS

4.1 Performance Overview

4.76% of the actions (1 action) included in the Directorate Plan 2015-16 is completed with a further 71.43% (15 actions) not yet due for completion but nevertheless on track to achieve target. 23.81% (5 actions) are off target due to circumstances outside the directorate's control.



4.2 Performance Highlights

- ❖ **Flooding response** - The Re-opening the Roch project is designed to reduce the impact and duration of flooding in the Town Centre by diverting flood water back into the river channel as soon as practicable. The recent floods were caused by exceptional levels of rainfall, falling on to already saturated moors and the amount of water that came down the Roch to the Town Centre was more than the entrance to the culvert at Liv Bridge could cope with. The river water flowed over the bridge, across the town centre towards the Butts and went back into the river channel. There is no doubt that without the re-opening the water would have spread further damaging the Town Hall and that the town centre would have been flooded for longer.

The Council and the Rochdale Development Agency (RDA) is working with other Greater Manchester authorities and the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to provide additional financial support to those that have been most severely affected by flooding. We have also been working with the Business Growth Hub to ensure we have sufficient business advisor support.

- ❖ In quarter 3, the RDA received 76 **new industrial and commercial property enquiries**, of which 39 were from businesses outside the borough, and 28 related to Kingsway Business Park. Fifty new jobs have been created by The Company Shops' investment at Stakehill. Employment Links, part of the Economic Affairs Team supported the recruitment process for these jobs. More than 200 new jobs will be created in the borough when Middleton's Warwick Mill is redeveloped into a Global Trade Hub with business space, cafes and restaurants. The Chinese investment of £50m has recently secured planning permission from the Council.
- ❖ The number of **planning applications** submitted to the Council remains consistently high, a sign of continued economic investment in the Borough.
- ❖ The **GM Spatial Framework** will be a new 20 year statutory development plan document for Greater Manchester which will set out the scale and broad distribution of development which will be needed to accommodate the economic growth ambitions for the conurbation as set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy. AGMA undertook an eight week consultation on a 'Growth Options' document and a 'call for development sites' which concluded on 11 January 2016. Officers will be working with AGMA to review responses including those submissions of sites within the Borough where additional development could be accommodated.
- ❖ **Building Control** - Income remains slightly above budgetary targets and our market share remains high. In response to the flooding the service has been heavily involved in a large dangerous building reported at Whitfield Brow, Littleborough, where a land slip affected the retaining wall to 9 properties and resulted in the houses being evacuated and alternative accommodation provided. Work is ongoing at the time of writing to manage this incident safely. The service continues working closely with colleagues across AGMA to explore options for joint working.
- ❖ The use of **external funding** has enabled the Economic Affairs team to target the borough's youth unemployment levels and those for whom spoken English skills have been a barrier to employment. Both these programmes have been so successful that the funders have offered funding from other areas of the country to continue the good work. Data recently released shows an increase in the average wage levels in the borough. Although this still is lower than the resident wage levels, it is an indication of better quality jobs and the reaction of employers to pay more to attract or retain key skills. A total of 3,650 interventions have taken place with 1,788 measurable outcomes delivered by over 150 volunteer trained Community Champions.
- ❖ **Rochdale Town Centre** - Progress has been made with the Town Hall Project – a Heritage Lottery Fund bid was submitted in December; The Market relocation – a report has been commissioned on the future of the market and its location; and the Town Centre East/Genr8 scheme – announcements of Marks and Spencer and Next made in November with more to come in the New Year, plus progress on the agreements to take forwards the planning application during 2016.
- ❖ **Middleton** - Grants totalling £290,000 were approved for the repair and restoration of Conservation Area properties in last quarter. At its next meeting on January 19th the Board will be requested to approve grants for private properties totalling more than £250,000.

4.3 Performance Exceptions

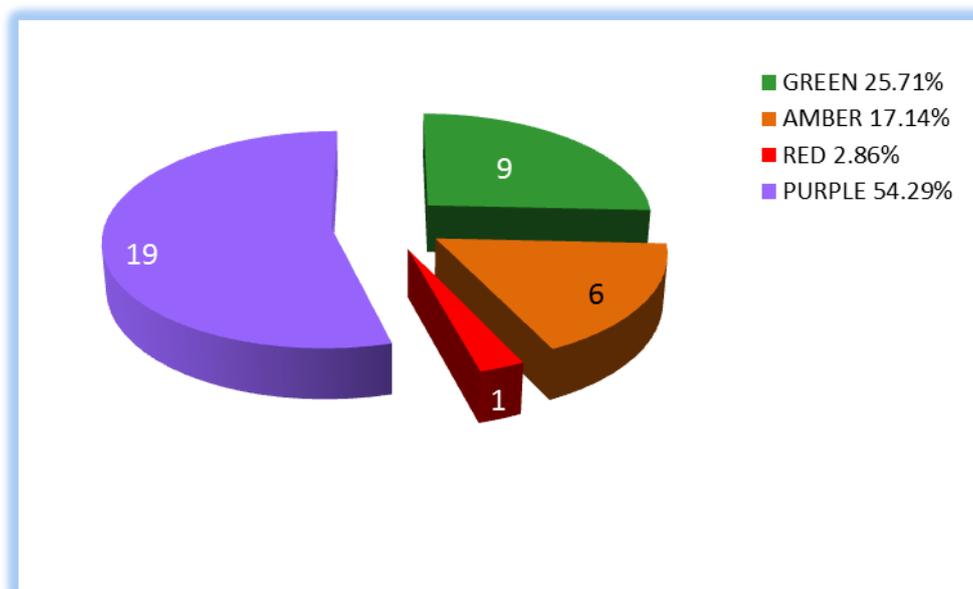
- ❖ **The Solar Farm at Chamber House Farm** cannot now be progressed due to government changes to the subsidy regime. The project may still be financially viable in the future if the cost of equipment continues to fall.

- ❖ The report from the Planning Inspector is still awaited on the **Core Strategy** submission. It is hoped the Inspector will clarify his position during January 2016.

5. NEIGHBOURHOODS DIRECTORATE PLAN 2015-16 QUARTER 3 PROGRESS

5.1 Performance Overview

25.71% of the actions (9 actions) included in the Directorate Plan 2015-16 are completed with a further 54.29% (19 actions) not yet due for completion but nevertheless on track to achieve target. 17.14% (6 actions) are off target due to circumstances outside of the Directorate's control and 2.86% (1 action) is red.



5.2 Performance Highlights

- ❖ **Highways Shared Service:** The Outline Business Case for the Co-located Highways Shared Service has been approved by CEO's of the participating authorities and now being shared with staff. The Full Business case is now being prepared scheduled for approval June 2016.
- ❖ **Junction 19 Link Road and Hareshill road Improvements:** Work is continuing on the highway alignment and full options appraisal is being completed leading to submission of an outline / final business in 2016/2017 with construction to follow in the next 2/3 years
- ❖ **Highways Maintenance Programme 2016-18:** We have agreed a £2.4m 2 year forward programme with members for highway maintenance.
- ❖ The Directorate played a key role in the Council's response to the **Boxing Day floods** with officers heavily involved in coordinating the recovery process.

This included dealing with emergency evacuations, alternative accommodation needs, providing rest centres for communities affected, checks on vulnerable people, clearance of waste, provision of skips, keeping residents informed of the support available, the provision of sandbags, co-ordination of community volunteers, visits to residential and business premises affected, financial support for residents and businesses affected, liaison with service providers affected by the flooding i.e. Electricity North West, United

Utilities, assessment of structure damage caused and repairs as appropriate, and reopening the Town Hall to provide a call in/crisis centre providing food and hot drinks to volunteers and members of the public and delivering food and supplies to those most affected by the floods.

In addition business continuity arrangements were required in light of the Council's main building Number One Riverside being affected by the floods. This included initial action to mitigate damage to the ground floor by removing soft furnishings, isolating crucial power sources to save IT equipment and plant and ensuring the cooling system to the ICT servers was operational throughout.

- ❖ **Town Hall Restructure:** the introduction of new structure within the Town Hall has already started to show early signs of improved service delivery with an expectation of achieving additional increases in commercial bookings for 2016
- ❖ **Schools:** The Facilities Management team is working very closely with the Holy Family RC & CE College in supporting the college to attain 100% recyclable status by providing special recycling bins for plastics, papers packaging and food waste, ensuring that material that is sent to landfill sites is an absolute minimum. It is hoped that if this project is successful it can be rolled out to all schools within the Borough
- ❖ **Waste collection Service:** Early analysis shows that the Boroughs new weekly food waste recycling service helped increase recycling rates in the borough to 49.6% during November an increase of 13.7% from the same time last year. With more than 6,000 new recycling bins delivered to households since September, recycling rates are predicted to continue to increase. The new service sees general waste and other recyclable materials collected on a three-weekly cycle and will help the council save at least £1million a year in waste disposal costs.
- ❖ **Engaging BME Communities in recycling campaign:** In addition to new waste collection calendars, an online collection calendar, marketing literature and social media releases, the Recycling Team has engaged and spoken directly with more than 33% of all households within the Borough face to face to promote the new recycling and weekly food waste collection service.

In addition to this and to focus on our harder to reach areas in terms of recycling, a food waste video has been developed to engage the BME community to recycle more of their food waste in the new kitchen and doorstep caddies. The video will link faith to recycling and be available in both Urdu and English. The video will focus on women preparing food, placing food in the caddy and presenting the brown bin/caddy for collection. This video will be available from early February and DVD's will be made available to community groups, individuals and of course on line via the council's website.

- ❖ **Christmas tree recycling:** To help us recycle even more, 25 recycling points for Christmas trees were made available to residents across the Borough. This wood will be shredded into mulch to improve the Borough's parks, woodland and countryside.
- ❖ **Increase in Bin demand:** The new waste service rollout has seen the Environmental Management Team deliver an additional 6,000+ recycling bins to residents across the Borough. Demand was so high following the new waste service roll-out that despite our pre-planning, our new bin suppliers struggled to keep pace with our residents requirements. I'm pleased to report that following this short delay from our supplier, new bin stock is now in place and teams from across the whole service committed themselves to getting bins out to residents in time for Christmas.

- ❖ **Continuing our Clean and Green success:** In October further funding was made available to keep in place the majority of our temporary Clean and Green teams who have been doing an excellent job of clearing grot spots in support of our front line streets teams for the past twelve months. This funding will ensure these individual township based teams are in place to continue clearing grot spots until the end of March 2016. These teams continue to receive compliments across the Borough for their work and the difference they are making whilst reacting to Elected Member reports for service. Of late, the teams have also been busy clearing leaf-fall from footpaths in high risk areas such as sheltered housing complexes.
- ❖ **Bloomin wonderful:** The amount of work which our friends and neighbourhood groups across the Borough including staff from our Environmental Management Service put into the 'Townships in Bloom' scheme this year was considerable. Many awards were received across the Borough and next year we hope to build upon this success. This year's success is a great example of how our limited front line resource and groups of dedicated volunteers can work together to improve the local environment and in effect produce a better outcome despite the current financial climate.

In addition to these achievements, we also welcomed the news that the hard work had paid off even further by securing retaining the coveted Green Flag status for our existing parks and cemeteries.

- ❖ **The new cemetery site** is up and running at Denehurst Park and work is continuing on bringing the rest of this open space and wider park area up to a better standard. In order to drive this development forward, a draft Masterplan has been finalised and will be presented to Township Members for consultation in February 2016. This plan makes provision for a new café site, play facilities and new footpaths amongst other development work that is hoped to bring the Park and Cemetery area to the coveted Green Flag standard in the coming years.

A new memorial granite table for receiving floral tributes into the woodland cremated remains garden at Heywood Cemetery has recently been completed and installed. The new facility is expected to help with meeting demand for floral tributes over the Christmas period and other peaks of demand.

- ❖ **Fleet Management:** The Service has recently taken receipt of three new 100% electric vehicles, the first ever in our council fleet. Not only will these vehicles be cleaner and greener with no emissions or fuel requirement, they will reduce service delivery costs in terms of fuel spend, tax and insurance costs, saving money whilst helping to save the environment.
- ❖ The **street lighting replacement programme** is now in its final year with Eon working to achieve the final milestone. To date 23,875 existing street lights and illuminated signs have been removed, and 23,936 new energy efficient street lights and illuminated signs have been installed and commissioned which represents approximately 96% of the replacement programme. As Eon are ahead of programme, it is anticipated that the replacement project will be completed early in the New Year and months before the programme completion date of 4th July 2016.

Street lighting faults are continuing to be repaired in an average time of 3 working days. This excludes faults associated with supply failures, which are referred to Electricity Board (Electricity North West) for repair.

- ❖ A very successful Beer festival took place in November - visitors came from around the country using the Metrolink, trains and bus services and the event was quoted by CAMRA

as being “one of the finest locations in the county to stage a beer festival with over 1,600 people attended coming from as far as Lincolnshire”.

The beer festival has re booked for next year. The event is staged for charity and it is expected that £5K will be raised for the Mayors Charity.

- ❖ **Housing on former Council owned sites:** Keepmoat Homes are continuing to make significant progress with the construction of new homes for sale on the Furrows Park/Martindale Crescent site in Middleton.

At the end of November 2015, 48 of the 108 properties to be developed had been completed, 31 properties were under construction and 47 properties had been sold

Keepmoat are also progressing well on the Dean Street site in Rochdale. At the end of November 2015 the company had completed 49 properties and a further 19 units were under construction. A total of 39 properties have been sold.

Countryside Properties are progressing with their 69 unit development on Nile Street in Rochdale. All the homes on the site will be for private rent. The first properties are due to be completed in June 2016 and the development is being promoted on the Lettings Agent site where people can express their interest.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 Monitoring shows that overall, good progress is being made in delivering against the targets in Directorate Plans for 2015-16. A further update showing progress at the end of the year will be brought to Committee in June 2016.

7. Alternatives considered

- 7.1 Not applicable

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 None – priorities in Directorate plans are delivered within approved budgets.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1 None

10. Personnel Implications

- 10.1 None

11. Corporate Priorities

- 11.1 All actions in Directorate Plans are linked to the Corporate Priority or Priorities to which they contribute.

12. Risk Assessment Implications

- 12.1 None

13. Equalities Impacts

13.1 Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment

There are no workforce equality issues arising from this report.

13.2 Equality/Community Impact Assessments

There are no equality/community issues arising from this report.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Economy Directorate Plan 2015-16 Neighbourhoods Directorate Plan 2015-16	Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU