



Date of Meeting	MeetingDateLegal
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business, Skills & Employment
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Public/Private Document	

Economy Directorate Plans 2019-20: Quarter 2 Performance Update

Executive Summary

1. To report progress at the end of Quarter 2 (1st July – 30th November 2019) towards achievement of the targets contained in the Economy Directorate Plan 2019-20

Recommendation

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

Reason for Recommendation

3. 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.

The Quarter 2 progress report for the Economy Directorate is attached at Appendix 1. Actions within each appendix have been colour coded in accordance with the following criteria

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.

Appendix 2 provides information on the Q2 performance of Rochdale Development Agency.

Key Points for Consideration

4. Economy Directorate Plan 2019-20 Progress

4.1 Performance Overview

100% (11) of the actions included in the Directorate Plan 2019-20 are ongoing and due to be complete by the action due date. The chart below shows the overall performance of the Directorate in meeting its plan targets at the end of Quarter 2.



4.2 Quarter 2 Summary

The Borough employment rate increased from 70.4% to 71.1% at end of Q1 but fell back 1.2% in Q2. Rochdale has the 3rd lowest employment rate in Greater Manchester.

Employment Links started delivering new support contracts from April and performance is meeting targets. The Directorate is working with a new inward investor creating 100 jobs at Sandbrook Park Good progress continues to be made on the Rochdale Riverside scheme with occupier handover planned for Q3. Working with Genr8, we are supporting occupiers to jobs at Rochdale Riverside. The Talk English programme, delivered by the Council, provided 24 courses for 428 residents using 15 community venues across the borough. 12 new courses are due to start in October.

The Council's industrial units programme continued with the completion of the Logic scheme on Kingsway which is over 50% let by floorspace. Other sites are being progressed at Oldham Road, Rochdale and Mossfield, Heywood. 4

new business commenced trading at Kingsway Business Park comprise 235 jobs, of which 85 are new to the Borough. The Dachser logistics facility became operational in mid-September in a 75,000 sq. ft. warehouse whilst Trade Mouldings have now completed their fit out and have relocated here, also in a 75,000 sq ft unit. Two new businesses (Commercial Blinds & Glazing and KP Industries) have taken space in the new Logic (small units) development.

In 2018/19 a total of 936 new homes were completed across the Borough. Of these, 861 (92%) were completed on brownfield sites. The Council supported the GM Housing Joint Venture, Hive Homes, to submit its first planning application for Stainton Drive site, Langley. A high value housing strategy was commissioned to identify Council and privately owned sites across the Borough.

The Rochdale Uprising Mural Festival took place over the August bank holiday weekend, inspired by Rochdale's co-operative heritage. It saw 12 large scale murals painted across the town centre. The event attracted widespread positive media and social coverage and continues to bring new people in to the town. The indoor market closed as it was not financially viable and the Council considering alternative uses for the building. RDA has since handed over responsibility for the outdoor market to a private operator.

A planning application for the enabling works for Phase 2 of the Riverside development was submitted. Further feasibility and funding discussions are taking place with Homes England and the GMCA to bring the Phase 2 and Central Retail Park sites forward. Work is progressing to bring forward Residential led Masterplans within Heywood and Middleton town centres and around Rochdale and Castleton stations. Land was acquired at Smithy Bridge for additional car parking.

The Heritage Action Zone historic building repair grant scheme commenced and two properties secured grants on Drake Street, and South Parade. A contractor was appointed to carry out grant funded repairs to Hopwood Hall. A bid was submitted for funding to convert the upper floor of the former Fire Station on Maclure Road to office space.

The disposal of assets yielded receipts of £151,950. The Council completed the acquisition of David Lloyd Leisure at Bowlee providing an annual income of £388,187 at a yield expected to exceed 9%. Planning fee income is currently on target and Building Control taking external advice to review further income growth opportunities.

Working with GMCA and others, the Directorate secured around £4.25m of devolved or grant funding for Borough regeneration projects. The GM Local Industrial Strategy was published and includes a 'new specialised Advanced Materials City' located within the Northern Gateway employment area. Funding has been secured to work with Bury to develop this proposition further. Alongside this, work on a 10 year Growth Plan is under development. However, delays to the GM Spatial Framework mean the next version of the Plan will now not be published for consultation until Summer 2020. This has

implications for progressing our Site Allocations Plan.

Performance for planning decisions remains on target albeit there remain issues within the service on recruitment and retention. A service redesign project within Planning is underway to look at opportunities for increased efficiency and income growth.

4.3 Performance Issues

None

4.4 Alternatives Considered

Not applicable

Costs and Budget Summary

5. None

Risk and Policy Implications

6. None

Consultation

7. Not required

Background Papers	Place of Inspection
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8. Appendix 1 – Economy Directorate Plan Actions Q2 2019/20 Appendix 2 – RDA Delivery Plan Q2	
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