

Report to Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee



Date of Meeting	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business, Skills & Employment
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Public/Private Document	

## Economy Directorate Plans 2019-20: Quarter 3 Performance Update

### Executive Summary

1. To report progress at the end of Quarter 3 (1<sup>st</sup> October – 31<sup>st</sup> December 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 3 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 Q3 performance of Rochdale Development Agency.

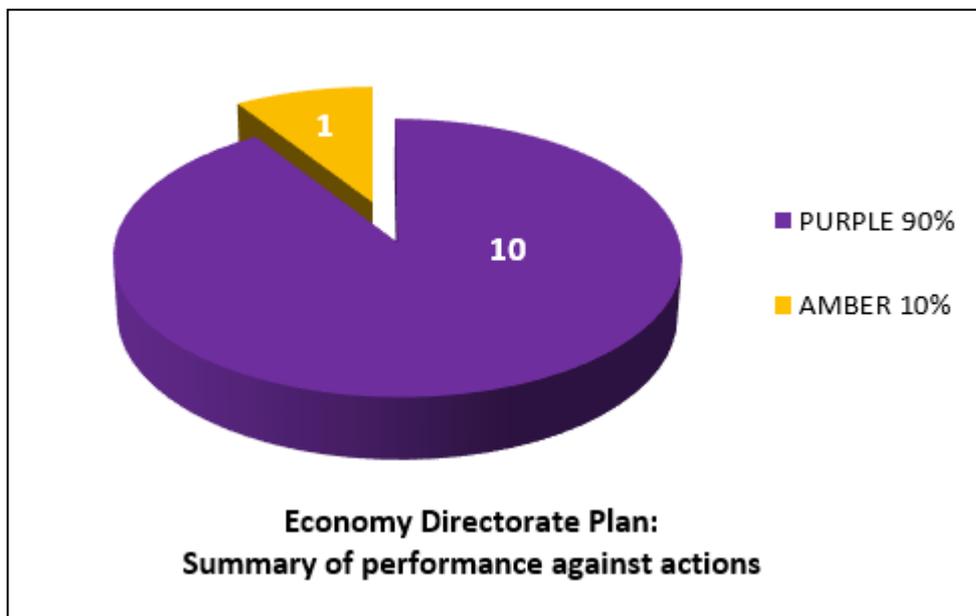
This year the directorate plans are formatted differently to include milestones for each directorate action. This enables the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to monitor the work that must be completed, to support achievement of the action.

## Key Points for Consideration

### 4. Economy Directorate Plan 2019-20 Progress

#### Performance Overview

- 4.1 90% (10) of the actions included in the Directorate Plan 2019-20 are ongoing and due to be complete by action due date. One further action isn't fully complete and the action due date has now passed. The chart below shows the overall performance of the Directorate in meeting its plan targets at the end of Quarter 3.



- 4.2 The action that isn't fully complete and the due date has passed (Amber) relates to:

- Provide an effective and efficient portfolio of Council assets

#### Quarter 3 Summary

- 4.3 The borough's employment rate remains at 69% which is the 3rd lowest in Greater Manchester. The 'out of work benefit claimant count' saw a slight improvement in Q3 but is still the 3rd highest in Greater Manchester. Rochdale Riverside recruitment information sessions attracted nearly 300 residents and support has been provided to NEXT Retail Limited and Reel Cinemas.

- 4.4 Recruitment support was also provided to The Trade Centre UK which created over 100 new jobs and opened on Sandbrook Park. The total number of jobs created in Q3 with Council/RDA support stands at 309.
- 4.5 The planning permission for the Junction 19 link road was not issued and is now hoped to be issued in early 2020. The Council resolved to grant planning permission for new housing on the former Dunlop Mills site, Royle Road site.
- 4.6 Good progress continues to be made on the Rochdale Riverside scheme. Marks & Spencer commenced fit out of their unit in November and the scheme is on target to open in April 2020. Discussions are ongoing with potential funders to review delivery options for the Riverside Phase 2 scheme. £4m of grant funding was secured from GMCA Housing Fund towards the Phase 2 scheme with a planning application for remediation works on this site submitted. £250,000 of GMCA funding also secured to undertake an infrastructure study to advance the Northern Gateway employment site proposals.
- 4.7 The Casey Group were appointed to undertake refurbishment works to relocate the Fire Service Museum into the Maclure Road fire station. Opening of the new museum is scheduled before end of 2020. The Rochdale outdoor market has been handed over to, and is being operated by, one of the existing traders and committee. The Smith Street paving scheme is on site and scheduled to complete before February 2020.
- 4.8 A partnership funding agreement was signed with the Greater Manchester Stations Alliance – the first in Greater Manchester – and residential led masterplans are being prepared for land around several railway stations. The Alliance is also funding a housing capacity study along the Calder Valley rail line. Draft Heywood and Middleton Town Centre Masterplans will be presented to Members during Q4.
- 4.9 The Greater Manchester Skills and Employment new priorities are being shaped around the requirements of the Local Industrial Strategy. In Q3 Rochdale Council contributed to the 'Inclusive Growth in GM 2020 and beyond' report, and will be meeting with the GMCA in January 2020 to seek a commitment to the report's recommendations being implemented and included in the Skills and Employment new priorities.

#### Performance Issues

- 4.10 None

#### Alternatives Considered

- 4.11 Not applicable

<b>Costs and Budget Summary</b>
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5. None

<b>Risk and Policy Implications</b>
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6. None

<b>Consultation</b>
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7. Not required

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
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8. Appendix 1 – Economy Directorate Plan 2019/20	Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale OL16 1XU
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Appendix 2 – RDA Performance Report	
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