



Date of Meeting	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2020
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business, Skills & and Urban Living Cabinet Member for Planning, Development and Housing
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Public/Private Document	

## Economy Directorate Plans 2019-20: Quarter 4 Performance Update

### Executive Summary

1. To report progress at the end of Quarter 4 (1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020) 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.
  - 3.1 The Quarter 4 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
  - 3.2 **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.

3.3

Appendix 2 provides information on the Q4 performance of Rochdale Development Agency.

3.4

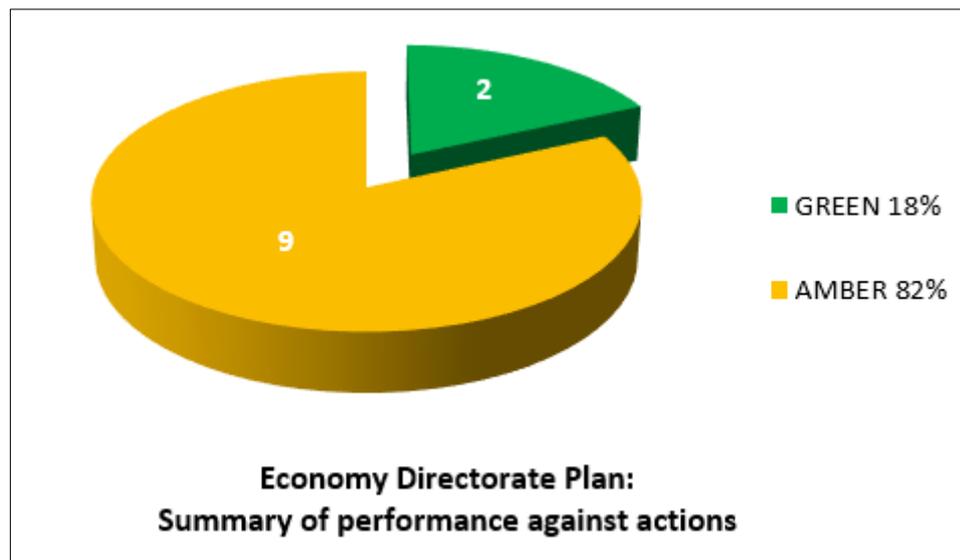
This year the directorate plans are formatted differently to include milestones for each directorate action. This enables O&S to monitor the work that must be completed, to support achievement of the action.

## Key Points for Consideration

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

#### Performance Overview

- 4.1 82% (9) of the actions included in the Directorate Plan 2019-20 aren't fully complete and the action due date has now passed. Two further actions have now been completed. The chart below shows the overall performance of the Directorate in meeting its plan targets at the end of Quarter 4.



- 4.2 The actions that aren't fully complete and the due dates have passed (Amber) relate to:

- Increase local employment
- Promote and say yes to good development
- Create vibrant Town Centres
- Make the most of our built, natural and historic environment.
- Provide an effective and efficient portfolio of Council assets
- Maximise income for the Council
- Capitalise on our investment in regional growth
- Deliver high quality and effective services

- Deliver more high value and aspirational housing

#### Quarter 4 Summary

- 4.3 During the year, the Borough employment rate fell from 70.4% of the working age adult population to 69.3%. This remains below the NW and UK average and is the 3rd lowest within Greater Manchester.
- 4.4 However, there have been notable successes. Of the 384 new jobs created, support was provided to Trade Centre UK to locally recruit more than 100 jobs at Sandbrook Park and Employment Links supported more than 50 clients secure job offers with occupiers of Rochdale Riverside, which have subsequently been put on hold.
- 4.5 The Council's industrial units programme continued with completion of the Logic scheme on Kingsway Business Park. Four of the units are let, including the largest unit. However, agreements for a further 5 lettings stalled, either as a consequence of Brexit uncertainty, or more recently the COVID 19 pandemic. Planning permission is in place for a further scheme on Oldham Road, Rochdale. Construction will commence once safe to do so.
- 4.6 Elsewhere on Kingsway, two business commenced operations - Dachser opened a logistics facility and Trade Mouldings took a 75,000 sq. ft. unit.
- 4.7 Good progress was made on Rochdale Riverside with the scheme on target to open April 2020. Work on a Rochdale Town Centre Residential Strategy was not completed pending results from a new Town Centre traffic model, taking account the traffic impacts of the Rochdale Riverside development. £4m of GMCA funding was secured to support remediation work on Rochdale Riverside Phase 2. Planning permission was granted for this work which is due to commence later in 2020. Cabinet resolved to progress with Phase 2 detailed design work to establish the preferred uses for the site and their viability. Progress has been made to redevelop the Central Retail Park site for new housing with a potential developer partner expected to submit a planning application later in 2020.
- 4.8 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 coverage and continues to bring new people in to the town. The indoor market closed as it was not financially viable. Responsibility for the outdoor market was handed over to a private operator. The Heritage Action Zone historic building repair grant scheme commenced with grants awarded. A local contractor was appointed to refurbish the Maclure Road fire station. The opening of the new museum is scheduled for late 2020.
- 4.9 Planning permission was granted for the Junction 19 link road in March. Delays in bringing forward the GM Spatial Framework for consultation meant we were unable to progress our Local Plan during 2019/20

- 4.10 Masterplans for Heywood and Middleton Town Centres will shortly be presented to Members. The Council signed a partnership agreement with GMCA and Network Rail, known as the GM Stations Alliance – the first in GM. This will promote regeneration of brownfield land, primarily for housing, around rail stations. Masterplans for Rochdale and Castleton stations have been completed and will be adopted for local planning purposes. A Masterplan for Littleborough will be prepared during 2020 funded through the Alliance. Land was acquired at Smithy Bridge for development.
- 4.11 The published GM Local Industrial Strategy includes a ‘new specialised Advanced Materials City’ within the Northern Gateway employment area. Grant funding was secured from GMCA to work with Bury to develop this proposition further. To co-ordinate our various local economic strategies, a 2020 - 2030 Growth Plan was endorsed by Cabinet.
- 4.12 The target for £1m new business rates growth was not achieved. This had assumed in-year completion of the Rochdale Riverside scheme which completed post year-end in April 2020.
- 4.13 Overall, income from Estates, Planning and Building Control activities in 2019/20 was £6,318,640. A further £9,273,021 secured from devolved funds for Rochdale related projects. A further £10.5m of GM funding for the Castleton - Rochdale town centre cycle corridor scheme was to have been awarded by GMCA at its postponed meeting of March 2020. Overall, total of external funding secured for 2019/20 was £16.9m.
- 4.14 The disposal of assets yielded receipts of £1,267,007.23 and overall income from rents was £2,545,614. 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%. No further suitable properties were identified for acquisition using the Property Growth Fund in 2019/20. Whilst it remains a key objective to achieve the savings targets this must be balanced by prudence in the selection of appropriate investments in order to manage the exposure to financial risk.

#### Alternatives Considered

- 4.15 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 the matters detailed in this report are provided for information.

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

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
8. Appendix 1 - Economy Directorate Plan 2019-20 Q4  Appendix 2 - RDA Performance Report Q4  Appendix 3 – Infographics	Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale OL16 1XU

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