

Report to Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny
Committee



Date of Meeting	26 th November 2020
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business, Skills & Employment
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Public/Private Document	Public

Economy Directorate Plans 2020-21: Quarter 2 Performance Update

Executive Summary

1. To report progress at the end of Quarter 2 (1st July - 30th September 2020) towards achievement of the targets contained in the Economy Directorate Plan 2020-21.

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 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
 - 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
 - 3.3 The appendix includes a commentary against actions that are showing red, amber or purple.
 - 3.4 Appendix 2 provides information on the Q2 performance of Rochdale

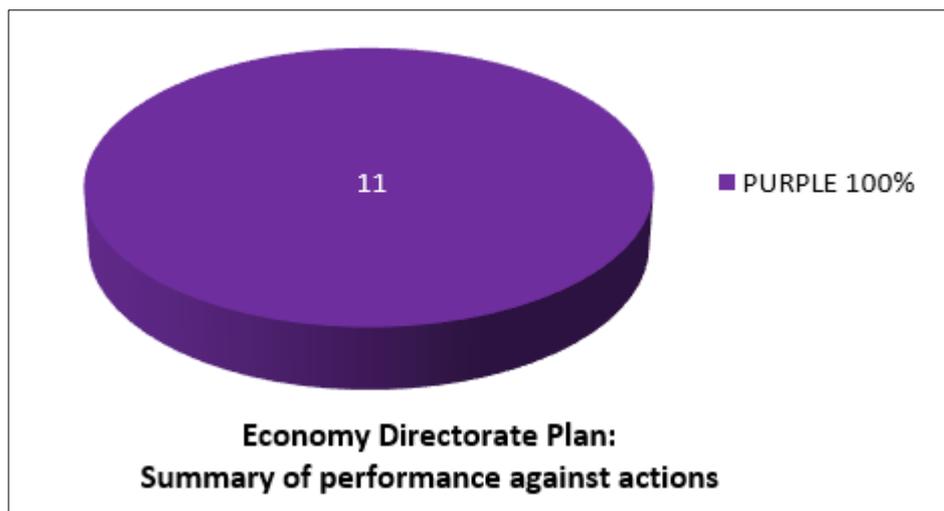
Development Agency.

Key Points for Consideration

4. Economy Directorate Plan 2020-21 Progress

Performance Overview

- 4.1 100% (11) of the actions included in the Directorate Plan 2020-21 are currently ongoing. The chart below shows the overall performance of the Directorate in meeting its plan targets at the end of Quarter2.



Quarter 2 Summary

- 4.2 During Q1/Q2 2628 residents received employability support from the Council's Employment Links Service and 281 secured new jobs. A total of 282 new jobs were created by RDA assisted companies or projects and 149 jobs safeguarded. However, the full impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on the Borough's employment rate figure has yet to be felt. A new Skills, Work and Health Plan was agreed by Cabinet.
- 4.3 10 of the Council's 11 new build industrial units scheme on Kingsway, Logic were let. Works to build units on the former Bradfern site, Oldham Road were delayed but will now start in October 2020.
- 4.4 The Rochdale Riverside scheme opened in April 2020 with further lettings announced. Funding was secured from the GMCA Brownfield Land for remediation of the Phase 2 site. Works to commence in Q3. A Future High Streets Fund Bid was submitted for Rochdale Town Centre in July. The Stage 2 lottery bid for Rochdale Town Hall was lodged in May with a decision due in October 2020.
- 4.5 The Borough's 10 year Growth Plan and Rail Corridor Strategy were

successfully launched. These have since formed the basis for several external funding bids.

- 4.6 A total of £31,386,000 of devolved GM funding was secured in Q1 and Q2. These included £10.5m of Mayor's Cycle Challenge Fund for the Rochdale - Castleton link, £10.3m for Junction 19 link road, £4m from Brownfield Land fund for Riverside Phase 2 and Royle Road, Castleton, £2m for Chamber House Solar Farm, £700,000 for fire station offices, £200,000 skills funding, £260,000 GM Stations Alliance and £50,000 for the Heywood tram - train pathfinder. A further £13.5m was secured from the Get Britain Building Fund for South Heywood link road and Kingsway loop road schemes. A further £1m of Towns Fund was secured for the Fire station offices.
- 4.7 To date over £800,000 secured from grants and donations to the East Lancashire Railway's survival fund, including £280,000 of lottery heritage funding secured with Council support.
- 4.8 A Development Agreement was signed with Russell Homes in July 2020 for the delivery of the M62 Junction 19 link road . The main contractor, Robert Sisk & Sons has been appointed. Preliminary work will commence in Autumn 2020.
- 4.9 Masterplans for the regeneration of land around Rochdale, Castleton and Littleborough stations and Heywood Town Centre have been completed.
- 4.10 The Council/RDA secured a developer partner to bring forward a residential development on the Central Retail Park site.
- 4.11 Agreed rent increases for the Council managed industrial assets were put on hold due to COVID 19. The priority has been to support tenants during this time, including rent deferrals to preserve income. Extensive support is being provided to tenants including rent deferrals where appropriate. Despite this, rents for the first quarter has now been fully recovered and over 90% recovered at end of Q2. The Council's managed workspaces were closed to all but key working organisations from 25 March to 30 June. One tenant vacated as a result of Covid restrictions. Over 90% occupancy sustained but income levels were affected in the short term by rent reductions provided to tenants.
- 4.12 As a result of the current pandemic, the Council has been unable to secure third party lettings of Number One Riverside. So far, no suitable commercial investment opportunities have been identified

Alternatives Considered

- 4.13 Not applicable

Costs and Budget Summary

5. None

Risk and Policy Implications

6. None

Consultation

7. Not applicable

Background Papers	Place of Inspection
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8. Appendix 1 - Economy Directorate Plan 2020/21 Q2 Appendix 2 - RDA Performance Report Q2	Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale OL16 1XU
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