



Date of Meeting	6th July 2021
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Quality of Place, Cabinet Member for A Thriving Economy, Cabinet Member for A Safer and Inclusive Community
Report Author	Ben Jorgensen
Public/Private Document	Public

## Economy Directorate Plans 2020-21: 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 2021) 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 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 Please can it be noted to the committee that some directorate plan actions have been delayed, with some work being paused, due to the unforeseen impact of the Covid-19 pandemic over the past 12 months. Some actions may be carried over into the directorate plans for next year where they will be continued to be monitored until completion.

### Key Points for Consideration

#### 4. Economy Directorate Plan 2020-21 Progress

##### Performance Overview

- 4.1 64% (7) of the actions included in the Directorate Plan 2020-21 are now complete. 36% (4) actions are not 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 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
- Maximise income for the Council

## Quarter 4 Summary

- 4.3 The action to increase local employment is ongoing. In Q4, 1614 borough residents have had support from the Council's Employment Links team, 313 have secured new jobs and 297 have completed courses in sectors currently in demand. The GMCA-commissioned Work and Health Programme has provided support to 118 residents with 29 securing new jobs in Q4. During 20/21 a total of 6,025 residents had received support and 867 residents had secured new jobs. By the end of Q4 there were 7,700 members of the Get Rochdale Working Facebook page, which promotes jobs, training and volunteering opportunities in a very accessible way for job seekers. We have continued to have a number of positive job outcomes through the website and we have referred people onto a variety of training programmes and employment support provision. We have also had a number of businesses use the page to promote vacancies and find out more about the support available to them, especially SME's and people that are Self Employed.
- 4.4 The Talk English Programme assessed and engaged 32 new learners this quarter, and continued to employ nine local tutors that started as volunteers to deliver 13 classes. All classes delivered during the Q4 period were delivered online using the new Talk English App that has proved to be far more successful than anticipated making learning accessible for people with limited digital skills using things like games, videos and voice recognition and enables learners to be more interactive than just using zoom or other video platforms. We were also able to loan tablets to ten learners. Rochdale despite the additional challenges of being in lockdown have exceeded the MHCLG's expectations, who fund the courses and have performed better than other areas in receipt of this funding. Rochdale is seen as an exemplar of good practice by MHCLG. Classes are used to reinforce covid-safe/vaccine key messages. The annual target for learners has not been met because of Covid19 and the move to digital learning but the target for tutors and funding for 20/21 has been met.
- 4.5 The action to attract new businesses by commencing the development of new industrial units at Kingsway Business Park and Bradfearns (Oldham Road) is ongoing. Plans for the Bradfearns development has been put on hold. Following the success of Logic @ Kingsway, which is fully let, discussions around the development of Logic 2 on Kingsway continue with Wilson Bowden to agree a deal after Plot G was stopped because of Private Sector interest.
- 4.6 Consultation on a Draft Rochdale Station Gateway Masterplan involving Township, residents and business took place during Q4. A final version will be brought before Members for adoption in Summer 21. A Draft Castleton SPD has been completed with the GM Stations Alliance. Consultation is planned for June 21.
- 4.7 The adoption of a new enforcement plan is an ongoing piece of work part of the action to promote and say yes to good development. Unfortunately work

on the enforcement plan has been suspended to allow the team to focus on a surge in enforcement cases which has continued during lockdown.

- 4.8 During Q4, Heywood Township approved the Masterplan for Heywood Town Centre and a funding strategy is being developed with TfGM and the GMCA to support its delivery. A briefing has taken place with Middleton Township to progress work on a new Masterplan and Vision for Middleton Town Centre. Working with the GM Stations Alliance, a Draft Littleborough Town Centre Masterplan has been developed and will be presented to Township for Members consideration during Q1 21/22.
- 4.9 As part of the action to maximise Council income; the estates team completed 34 disposals in 2020/21 generating capital receipts of £536,833. It also received a further 22 overage payments amounting to a further £185,193 giving a total capital receipt of £722,026.35. N1R letting remains in progress and terms are agreed. Accommodation and adaptation works currently being carried out. No purchases were completed on 2020/21 due to a lack of suitable investment opportunities.

#### **Alternatives Considered**

- 4.10 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 2020-21 Q4<br><br>Appendix 2 - RDA Performance Report Q4 | Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale OL16 1XU |
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**For Further Information Contact:**

Ben Jorgensen, ,  
ben.jorgensen@rochdale.gov.uk