



Date of Meeting	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Economy and Communications
Report Author	Ben Jorgensen
Public/Private Document	Public

## Economy Directorate Plans 2021-22: Quarter 1 Performance Update

### Executive Summary

1. To report progress at the end of Quarter 1 (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021) towards achievement of the targets contained in the Economy Directorate Plan 2021-22.

### 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 1 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.

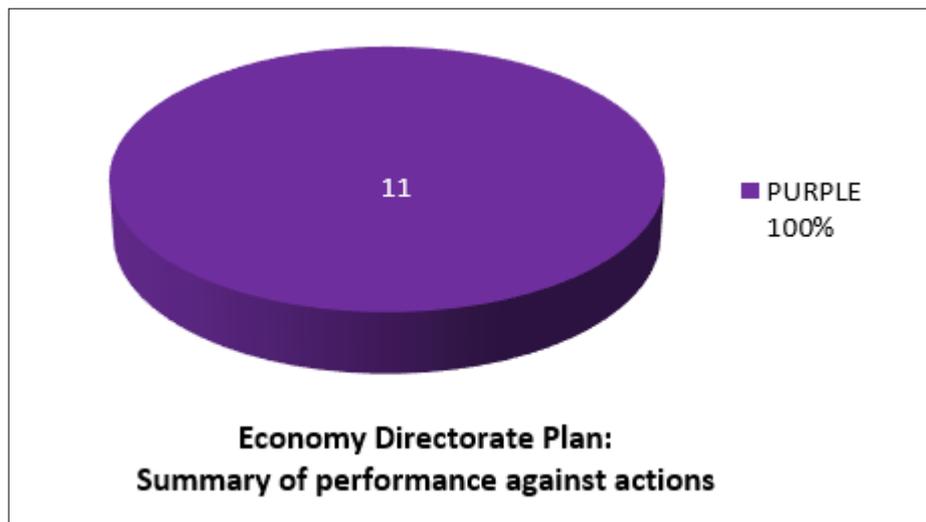
- 3.3 Appendix 2 provides information on the Q1 performance of Rochdale Development Agency.

### Key Points for Consideration

#### 4. Economy Directorate Plan 2021-22 Progress

##### Performance Overview

- 4.1 100% (11) of the actions included in the Directorate Plan 2021-22 are ongoing. The chart below shows the overall performance of the Directorate in meeting its plan targets at the end of Quarter 1.



##### Quarter 1 Summary

- 4.2 The Borough employment rate fell slightly since the end of 2020/21 which was expected with the tapered changes to the furlough scheme. The employment rate gap is narrowing with the rest of GM at 2.3%. However, the full impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on the Borough's employment rate figure is unlikely to be seen as the furlough end on 30<sup>th</sup> September. A total of 66 new jobs were created and 135 safeguarded. 9 companies were assisted with investment projects in Q1. A total of 352 residents received employability and training support with 34 securing new roles.
- 4.3 The Council's new build employment units scheme continued with planning applications submitted for Kingsway Plots G & I and Mossfield, Heywood. Rental income from the Council's industrial portfolio was sustained at over 90%. Works to fit out the Fire Station museum as workspace continued with opening scheduled for later in 2021. Work on Junction 19 link road is progressing well.

- 4.4 Over £40m of external funding was secured during Q1 for Borough regeneration projects. These included Future High Streets Fund (Upperbanks), Strength in Places (AMPI) as well as various GMCA funds for skills, digital and transport infrastructure. A total of £1.4m of GMCA funding was secured to support feasibility work on Northern Gateway, AMPI and Rail Corridor projects.
- 4.5 Consultation took place on a draft Rochdale Station Gateway Supplementary Planning Document. The Places for Everyone Plan was also signed off for further consultation.
- 4.6 The Town Hall restoration project is continuing well and over 1,000 people, including schools attended The Big Dig – an archaeological event in the grounds of the Hall.
- 4.7 Around £175,000 income was secured from the disposal of Council assets during Q1. Agilysis leased space within Number One Riverside but occupancy of the Council’s managed workspaces fell slightly to 86%. There were no suitable commercial investment opportunities identified in Q1. Planning and Building Control fee income is up with a strong pipeline of major projects. The number of planning application submitted has been consistently above average throughout 2021 reflecting a national trend as homeowners choose to extend and improve their properties. Planning applications were submitted for a number of brownfield sites and permission granted for 223 homes on Royle Road, Castleton with a successful bid for £1.65m from GM Brownfield Land Fund.

**Alternatives Considered**

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 2021-22 Q1  Appendix 2 - RDA Performance Report Q1	Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale OL16 1XU
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