



Report title: Neighbourhoods Directorate Plan 2023-24: Quarter 1

Performance Update

Report to: Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 2nd August 2023

Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment, Cabinet Member for Equalities, Safety and Reform, Cabinet Member for Communities and Co-operation, Cabinet Member for Highways and Facilities

Report of: Director of Neighbourhoods

Public or private: Public

Key Decision: Non-key

Published on the Forward Plan: Not applicable

1. Report summary

1.1 To report progress at the end of Quarter 1 (1st April – 30th June 2023) towards achievement of the targets contained in the Neighbourhoods Directorate Plan 2023-24.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to review the information contained within the report and the appendices.

3. Reason for recommendation

3.1 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.

3.2 The Quarter 1 progress reports for the Neighbourhoods Directorate are attached at Appendix 1. Actions within each appendix have been colour coded in accordance with the following criteria:

3.3 **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.

4. Alternatives considered

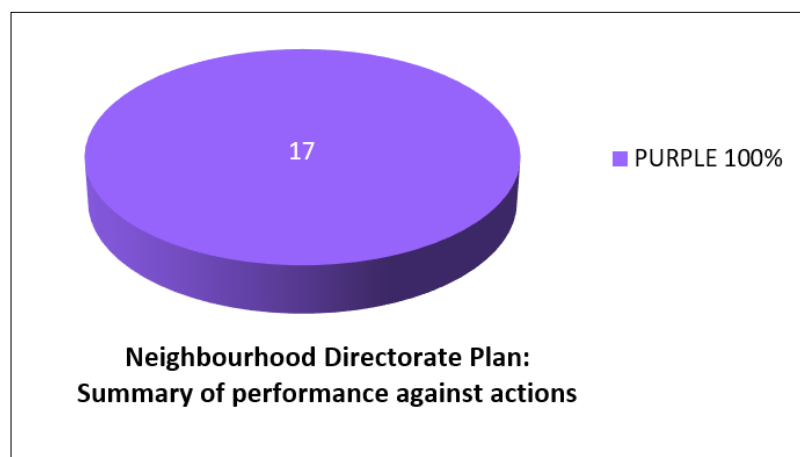
4.1 Not applicable

5. Key information

5.1 Neighbourhoods Directorate Plan 2023-24 Progress

Performance Overview

5.2 100% (17) actions are ongoing and due to be completed by the target dates. The chart below shows the overall performance of the Directorate in meeting its plan targets at the end of Quarter 1.



Quarter 1 Summary

5.3 The action to deliver improved and innovative service delivery across Council through roll out of Office 365 is 53% complete. The implementation of the Microsoft infrastructure has been completed and deployed with the delivery partner. Three of the nine identified projects within the Office 365 programme of work have been completed. Work is currently being undertaken on the migration of exchange mailboxes to the cloud. The service are continuing in regards to reviewing the impact and further opportunities for use of artificial intelligence to support the completion of this action.

5.4 The facilitation of the refresh of the Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership Community Safety Plan is continuing. The service are looking to obtain adequate statistical data from statutory partners to undertake a statutory Strategic Needs Assessment. GMP have provided some statistical data but more is required to get a better understanding of wider crime issues and

demand on system. Public Health are also supporting the RSCP with the undertaking of a strategic needs assessment for serious violence. Data and analysis from this work is to be fed into this strategic needs assessment. A draft Community Safety Plan is being produced with relevant priorities developed by the understanding and sharing of data from partner agencies.

- 5.5 The action to expand and embed additional services available for residents via “Our Rochdale” is ongoing. Engagement has begun with Adult Social Care to scope collaborative service delivery on tasks that fall within ‘Our Rochdale’. A workshop has taken place in June to scope out opportunities; in attendance were colleagues from Adult Social Care and the Contact Centre. Next steps are to focus engagement with Children’s Service and then in future with charities, voluntary and community services in order to strengthen the offer and understand and improve collaborative service delivery.
- 5.6 The directorate continues to focus on contributions to tackling climate change. 1,762 trees have been planted so far this year as part of formal tree planting schemes across the borough. A bid for 500 street and park trees has been submitted in June 2023. There are other projects also in development. Additionally a list of sites have been identified as areas of greenspaces where there are opportunities to alter current site maintenance.
- 5.7 A review of the Council’s bereavement services is ongoing. There has been identified need for burial provision over the next 8 years for Middleton and Denehurst. All other cemeteries have at least 15 years. Will need to possibly employ consultant / project manager to source further land for Muslim burials - Middleton already has land identified for cemetery extension. Basic outline of proposal to deliver business case following review of current crematoria provision has been completed. New cremators with full NOx abatement being installed for reliability and compliance with emissions; completion due spring 2024. Report will be made to committee in autumn around potential redevelopment of Middleton Chapel/Crematorium and memorial offer.
- 5.8 Strategic Housing continues to be beset by the failing housing market as mortgage rates and private sector rents continue to rise, directly affecting the affordability of housing, resulting in increasing numbers joining the housing register seeking social rented accommodation as the most affordable source of housing. The affordability issue is coupled with supply problems brought about by the lack of mobility in the social-housing market reducing the supply of social-rented accommodation and difficulties in sourcing properties in the private rented sector due to the number of properties being taken-up by Serco for use as asylum accommodation. The service continues to implement prevention strategies, with limited success rates as we have the highest ever number of families and singles in temporary accommodation and bed and breakfast due to the lack of move on accommodation. Several work streams are in progress to address the housing supply issues and, in addition, members have indicated that they wish to explore the future provision of affordable housing.

6. Finance

6.1 There are no finance issues associated with this report

7. Legal

7.1 There are no legal issues associated with this report

8. Human resource

8.1 There are no human resource issues associated with this report

9. Sustainability impact

9.1 There are no sustainability impact issues associated with this report

10. Other considerations (corporate priorities, risks)

10.1 None

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 - Neighbourhoods Directorate Plan 2023-24 Q1

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