

Summary Sheet
Council Report

Title:

Rotherham Economic Growth Plan Progress Update.

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No.

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report
Damien Wilson.

Report Author(s)

Tim O'Connell.

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-wide.

Executive Summary

This paper, and the attached appendix, provides an update of activity from the Rotherham Economic Growth Plan, from its first year of delivery.

Recommendations

- Members note the progress achieved towards delivery of The Rotherham Economic Growth Plan.

List of Appendices Included

Rotherham Economic Growth Plan 2015-2025 Monitoring - Collection 1 (November 2016).

Background Papers

Rotherham Economic Growth Plan 2015 – 2025.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Rotherham Together Partnership Business Growth Board.

Council Approval Required

No.

Exempt from the Press and Public

No.

Title (Main Report) - Rotherham Economic Growth Plan Progress Update

1. Recommendations

1.1 Members note the progress achieved towards delivery of The Rotherham Economic Growth Plan.

2. Background

2.1 The Rotherham Economic Growth Plan was officially approved and adopted by RMBC and the Local Strategic Partnership in November 2015.

2.2 The Plan is split into 7 themes, each of which has a number of targets and a delivery plan; setting out the priorities and activities for the first year of delivery.

2.3 With the plan having been “live” for 12 months, the Economic Development Team has led on an exercise to monitor the progress against the targets and work plan. The full monitoring return is attached to the paper as an appendix.

3. Key Issues

3.1 The key issues and achievements from each of the 7 themes are set out below:-

3.2 Theme 1 - Grow existing and develop new business

| Target | 2015 baseline | 2016 return | Change | Comments |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------|--|
| New starts p.a. | 975 | 985 | +10 | |
| 3 year survival rates | 55.5% | 60.0% | +4.5% | Volatile indicator: looking for a sustained upward direction of travel over number of years. |
| Number of Businesses | 6,390 | 6,810 | +420 | Large rise, likely linked to more people working on a contract or a self-employed basis. |
| Rotherham based jobs | 98,000 (2014) | 100,000 (2015) | +2,000 | Job numbers were last at this level in 2008 (pre-recession). |

3.3 Theme 1 work plan highlights:

- A European funded business support programme “Growth Hub Enhancement” has been agreed, with Rotherham Investment and Development Office (RiDO) assisting Rotherham based companies to access support and services. Target companies are being identified.
- 30+ local companies have been interviewed to identify their requirements for sustainable growth.
- A Sheffield City Region wide start-up programme “Launchpad” commenced in September 2016, with delivery by RiDO.
- RiDO has delivered two business accelerators during 2016/17.

3.4 Theme 2 - Skills for employment and progression

| Target | 2015 baseline | 2016 return | Change | Comments |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------|--|
| Employment rate | 67.4% | 70.7% | +3.3% | |
| % achieving 5+ GCSEs at A*-C | 67.1% | * | n/a | * This indicator is no longer collected. Alternative indicator required. |
| Residents qualified to NVQ level 4 | 23.1% | 26.3% | +3.2% | Expect this to rise further once the Higher Level Skills Centre opens |
| Apprenticeship starts | 1,889 | 2,500 | +611 | Time on lag on figures so baseline is 2013/14 |

3.5 Theme 2 work plan highlights:

- Successful Apprentice of the Year and Local Employment Advisory Forum (LEAF) events delivered.
- Colleges and providers are actively promoting apprenticeship vacancies.
- A Skills sub-group is developing a pilot project to better connect schools and business and provide real life business challenges.
- The Council is delivering “Ambition Rotherham” in partnership with The Source – 58 job starts to date.
- RNN Group has reported a 23% increase in enrolment for Higher Education courses.

3.6 Theme 3 - Inclusion, wellbeing & employment

| Target | 2015 baseline | 2016 return | Change | Comments |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|--|
| Unemployment rate | 9.7% | 6.4% | -3.3% | |
| % of working age population in 20% most deprived areas claiming benefits | 23.4% | * | n/a | This information is no longer available and a replacement target will need to be identified. |
| Residents qualified to NVQ Level 2 | 65.7% | 67.6% | +1.9% | |

3.7 Theme 3 work plan highlights:

- Work has commenced with the Department for Work and Pension (DWP) and Sheffield City Region (SCR) partners on a series of “work & health” projects.
- Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) is a partner in the Building Better opportunities (BBO) programme with specific input through the provider route for volunteering.

3.8 Theme 4 - Employment land and business premises

| Target | 2015 baseline | 2016 return | Change | Comments |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|---|
| M2 of industrial/commercial floorspace | 3.03m | 3.07 m | 40,000 | Major employment sites are expected to come on line following adoption of Local Plan. |

3.9 Theme 4 work plan highlights:

- Work is underway to develop a Property Fund, with a £5million allocation from the Capital Programme.
- Work is progressing on developing the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District (AMID) concept. McLaren Automotive has recently announced a £50 million investment in a factory to produce carbon fibre body tubs on the Advanced Manufacturing Park (AMP).
- Roll out of Superfast South Yorkshire, with 3,500 properties in Rotherham now with access to fibre broadband.

3.10 Theme 5 – Housing

| Target | 2015 baseline | 2016 return | Change | Comments |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------|--|
| No. of residential properties | 114,791 | Not available yet | n/a | Still falling short of the annual target of 900 new dwellings p.a. |
| No. of affordable homes | 25,875 | Not available yet | n/a | Challenging environment to provide affordable new homes. |

3.11 Theme 5 work plan highlights:

- Rotherham has been included in the Starter Homes Programme recently announced by the Government. The Council's bid relates to 12 town centre sites totalling 8.73Ha which will deliver 1014 homes of which 454 would be Starter Homes. The Council is seeking a total of £31.6m investment from the government in addition to practical support, advice and expertise. Sites include Sheffield Road, Millfold House and the former Henley's Garage on Wellgate.
- Development at Waverley is delivering around 150 units per annum.
- Consultants have been appointed to produce a Masterplan for Bassingthorpe Farm.

3.12 Theme 6 - Town Centre

| Target | 2015 baseline | 2016 return | Change | Comments |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------|--|
| Residential units | 250 | 0 | n/a | 100+ potential units in Howard Building. Starter Homes sites identified and approved. Westgate Chambers has been sold for residential development. |
| Residents | 500 | - | n/a | Updated figures not available yet. |
| Vacancy rate | 13.7% | 15.5% <i>(equates</i> | -1.8% | Challenging trading conditions. Masterplan interventions required |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | | <i>to 23 units)</i> | | to deliver improvement. |
|--|--|---------------------|--|-------------------------|

3.13 Theme 6 work plan highlights:

- White Young Green has been appointed to deliver a town centre Masterplan, which will be available in April/May.
- Completion of the purchase of Forge Island is expected in February 2017, with money secured from SCR.
- Discussion with developers and operators has shown an appetite for a major leisure development, including cinema and hotel(s).
- SCR Funding secured for a Higher Level Skills Centre.

3.14 Theme 7 - Transport

| Target | 2015 baseline | 2016 return | Change | Comments |
|--|---------------|-------------|--------|---|
| Increase modal share of active travel | - | | | Data still to be collected, Anecdotally the position is improving with Rotherham outperforming other areas. |
| Increase % of journeys made by public transport (bus) | - | | | Awaiting 2016 figures from South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTTE). |
| Increase % of journeys made by public transport (tram/train) | - | | | Tram figures affected by delay of tram-train to 2018. |

3.15 Theme 7 work plan highlights

- The Tram-Train pilot is progressing, but is unlikely to commence before mid-2018.
- Feasibility money has been secured to carry out a major study into connectivity around the AMP and the wider AMID area.
- Consultants have been appointed to prepare a major scheme business case for widening of the Parkway.

- Funding has been secured from SCR for works to the A618, improving access and connectivity to Gullivers, Rother Valley Country Park and Vector 31 Business Park.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

4.1 This is a report for scrutiny of progress towards delivery of the Rotherham Economic Growth Plan. The report highlights overall progress towards achievement of outcomes. Members are asked to note the progress achieved. Members may wish to consider whether there are themes or areas within the plan that they wish to scrutinise in further detail and request further reports.

5. Consultation

5.1 The Rotherham Economic Growth Plan Monitoring report was presented to the Rotherham Together Partnership's Business Growth Board in January 2017.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

6.1 Management of the Rotherham Economic Growth Plan is ongoing. The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment has overall responsibility for the plan.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1 This report reviews progress to date in delivering the Economic Growth Plan. A number of projects referred to in the report are within the Council's approved Capital Strategy, progress on which is reported through the Financial Monitoring report to the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting. This report does not contain any direct financial and procurement implications.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 This report reviews progress to date in delivering the Economic Growth Plan. It does not contain any direct legal implications.

9. Human Resources Implications

9.1 This report reviews progress to date in delivering the Economic Growth Plan. It does not contain any direct human resources implications.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 Successful delivery of the Rotherham Economic Growth Plan is essential in creating opportunities for children and young people and vulnerable adults. The Children and Young People's Services and Adult Care and Housing Directorates are key partners in delivering skills, employment and inclusion outcomes under Themes 2 and 3 of the Growth Plan. This report should assist in informing priorities and actions within both directorates.

11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 This report reviews progress to date in delivering the Economic Growth Plan. It does not contain any direct equalities and human rights implications.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 Successful delivery of the Rotherham Economic Growth Plan requires action across partners and other directorates. Partners' Corporate Plans and all council Directorate Plans and Service Plans should include statements and actions identifying how partners, directorates and services will contribute towards economic growth in Rotherham.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 This report is a review of progress to date in delivering the Rotherham Economic Growth Plan. There are no specific risks arising as a result of this report.

13.2 Economic growth is dependent on a wide range of international, national and local factors. The Rotherham Economic Growth Plan maps out a programme of investment in economic growth and infrastructure over the short, medium and long term aimed at maximising Rotherham's growth potential.

13.3 Delivering the Plan requires sustained long term action across a range of partners. The plan has a 10 year lifetime and is a partnership between the public, voluntary and private sectors. To ensure appropriate partners are engaged and have ownership of the plan, progress and issues are reported to the Rotherham Business Growth Board. Sub groups, chaired by Board members, and involving appropriate stakeholders are responsible for producing and overseeing the delivery of action plans.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

14.1 Tim O'Connell, Manager, Rotherham Investment and Development Office, tim.o'connell@rido.org.uk Tel. 01709 254444

14.2 Simeon Leach, Economic Development Manager, Simeon.leach@rotherham.gov.uk 01709 823882

Approvals Obtained from:-

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services:- Jon Baggaley, Finance Manager, Regeneration & Environment and Capital

Director of Legal Services:- Ian Gledhill, Principal Officer, Legal and Democratic Services,

Head of Procurement (if appropriate):- Not applicable

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