

Key:



On target



Within tolerance



Off target

<b>Theme summary – Economic Regeneration and Transport</b>	
<i>Under this theme the following indicators are included in the corporate basket:</i>	<b>Target</b>
The percentage of void business units in Stockton town centre	
Job Seekers Allowance Claimant Count - % points gap between Stockton and Tees Valley	
Young Person (18-24 years of age) Jobseekers Allowance Claimant Count - % points gap between Stockton and Tees Valley average	
The number of businesses supported with more intensive interventions that help businesses to start, survive or grow	
The proportion of colleges, secondary and primary schools who run and support enterprise opportunities, challenges and activities for young people	<b>N/A</b>
Unemployed people trained to assist them to access employment opportunities	
Congestion - average journey time per mile during the morning peak	
Local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority area (millions)	Reporting at Q3

## OVERALL PROGRESS

At quarter two 2012/13, we are able to report progress against the annual target for six out of the eight indicators shown above. For three of these indicators we are predicting to achieve the annual target.

At quarter two 2012/13, we are able to report progress against the annual target for six out of the eight key Economic Regeneration and Transport indicators. For three of these indicators we are predicting that the annual target will be achieved.

Positive outcomes have been seen in relation to several Regional Growth Fund applications, with the Tees Valley benefitting from over £10m of additional funding. In addition, £6.1m of additional Highways Agency funding has been secured through the Pinch Point Programme, which will relieve congestion at the key A19/A689 Wolviston Interchange.

Around 25 more businesses including shops, wine bars, pubs and cafes have recently settled in Stockton including the award-winning web development company Visualsoft which moved from Portrack Lane with their 100 staff to Gloucester House on Church Road in August.

The Corporate Travel Plan is a policy and action plan for managing transport effectively. It is a package of practical measures with the aim of improving access by all modes of travel and improving choices for everyone. Its aim is to give up to date information about travel and access with clear objectives and outcomes. Updates to the plan are currently out for consultation, with key items including:

- A suggested target to continue to reduce the proportion of single occupancy car journeys to work made by staff from 72% in 2011 to 63% by the end of 2015/16.
- As a result of successful electric vehicle trials, these vehicles should be adopted for pool vehicle purposes across the Authority where practicable.
- Revised targets for the management of business mileage.

## PERFORMANCE

### What has been achieved?

- **Job Seekers Allowance Claimant Count** – the number of claimants resident in Stockton as a percentage of the population aged 16-64 resident in the area was 5.8% at the end of September 2012. This compares with Tees Valley at 6.7%, North East 5.5% and Great Britain 3.8%. The gap of minus 0.9% point between Stockton and the Tees Valley is better than the target of minus 0.8% points.
- **The proportion of colleges, secondary and primary schools who run and support enterprise opportunities, challenges and activities for young people** - Since August 2011 the proportion of colleges, secondary and primary schools who run and support enterprise opportunities is **22.7%** (17/75). Primary Schools - 2 out of 59; Secondary Schools - 14 out of 14; and, Colleges - 1 out of 2. Engagement in Primary Schools commenced May 2012 and will increase during Q3 as much activity is planned for Enterprise Week.
- **Unemployed people trained to assist them to access employment opportunities** – **433** unemployed Stockton residents were engaged in training between 1 August 2011 and 31 July 2012 exceeding the 2011/12 academic target of 270. This figure increases to 793 when non-Stockton residents are included. Referrals were initially only received from JobCentrePlus, however to increase the number of unemployed people trained, referrals have been extended to include work programme providers. **259** unemployed Stockton residents were engaged in training between 1 August 2012 and 30 September 2012. This represents 74% of the 2012/13 academic target of 350.
- **Planning applications determined** – all categories of planning applications achieved their individual targets, with 81.25% of major applications (75% target), 88% of minor applications (80% target) and 95.42% of other applications (88% target) determined within timescale.
- **Regeneration and Environment Development Plan Document Preferred Options** – eight week consultation concluded successfully 24 September 2012. The Publication Consultation is likely to slip by two months from January 2013; however we are still on track to Adopt the document by January 2014.
- **Community Infrastructure Levy** – work commenced to prepare charging schedule. Although there may be some slippage against individual deadlines, we are still on track to achieve the final deadline to adopt the Charging Schedule February 2014. Work progressing on setting new individual interim deadlines.
- **Deliver a vibrant Stockton-on-Tees Town Centre and support the development of Billingham Town Centre** - Work underway on both Stockton High Street and Billingham Town Centre redevelopment and public realm schemes. Economic Development schemes continue broadly on target.
- **Develop a strategy for the borough that delivers economic growth through environmentally sustainable opportunities** - Outline brief developed that will enable strategic links with and strengthening of key environmental plans and policies. Green Vision - Officer to be recruited; budget in place for temporary contract.
- **Embed a culture of Enterprise and assist new and existing businesses to settle and grow in the borough** - We are continuing to engage with local businesses with more than 100 businesses being visited. Officers have also networked and engaged with businesses through attendance at 6 business networking events and workshops. Recent investment

announcements by businesses include Air Products, Hewitts Solicitors, Storytellers Pub, Eden Mobility, Greenergy, Aker Solutions and Country Valley Foods. 10 new businesses moved in to Stockton Business Centre.

- **Improve levels of employability and skills** - Delivery of the new 'Pace and Purpose' programme for unemployed new claimants started at the end of August 2012. Delivery is taking place in Stockton, Darlington, Middlesbrough and Redcar. Early feedback from Jobcentre has been positive and the programme is likely to continue to March 2013. Additional funds have been requested from the Skills Funding Agency to meet this expected demand.
- **Support the work of the Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership** - We are continuing to support with work on the Enterprise Zones, Regional Growth Fund bids, Tees Valley wide Housing Strategy, Employment Initiatives and through the Task & Finish Groups of Place and Employment.
- **Minimise the effects of the economic downturn through pro-active interventions and partnership working to support economic recovery and growth** - Work still on going. Direct Line has announced the closure of its centre in Stockton and Firstsource have announced redundancies at its centre in Stockton and Middlesbrough. Task Force has been established to assist those that have been affected. Air Products have launched the energy from waste plant.
- **Congestion - average journey time per mile during the morning peak** – Provisional figure at May 2012 - 2:26 against a target of <02:40.

#### What has not been achieved?

- **The percentage of void business units vacant in Stockton Town Centre – 20.21% vacant primary and secondary units** as at 1 October 2012. The continued economic downturn has seen a slight decline in the number of occupied units in Stockton Town Centre and businesses on the whole continue to suffer within this climate. The coupled continued works at St Johns Crossing and Maxwell's Corner have not eased this issue and start of phase 1 of the regeneration of the High Street will undoubtedly add pressure to footfall and sales within the area. Although the longer term outlook for traders in the Town is more buoyant, measures have been put in place via increased marketing and promotional activities plus more active business engagement to alleviate this. Further initiatives to support new, existing and expanding businesses based in the Town Centre are currently being developed for 2013.
- **Young Person (18-24 years of age) Jobseekers Allowance Claimant Count - % points gap between Stockton and Tees Valley** - the number of claimants resident in Stockton as a percentage of the population aged 18-24 resident in the area was 12.9% at the end of September 2012. This compares with Tees Valley at 13.8%, North East 10.8% and Great Britain 7.4%. The gap of 0.9% between Stockton and the Tees Valley is worse than the target of maintaining the gap of minus 1.3% points.
- **The number of businesses supported with more intensive interventions that help businesses to start, survive or grow** - Officers have worked intensively with a total of 50 local businesses to support their survival or growth against year-end target of 160. Whilst this is below the profile for Q2, Officers have engaged with in excess of 100 businesses and support is continuing to be provided to a number of these.

#### ACTIONS TAKEN

As detailed above .

#### CUSTOMER PERCEPTION / SATISFACTION

There are no specific Economic Regeneration and Transport related customer perception/satisfaction results to report at Q2 2012/13.

## **RISK**

There is one Economic Regeneration and Transport related high risk featured in the Corporate Risk Register:

- Economic Downturn (Risk rating of 16).

## **FINANCE**

- It is anticipated that Planning fee targets will be exceeded by £80k in year but Building Regulation fees will be short by £27k.
- Gross expenditure of £3.4m estimated to be made in year on learning services carried out under Tees Achieve. Fully funded through fees and grant contributions.
- Capital investment of £20.4m approved on Stockton Town Centre Regeneration.
- Additional £800k has been requested from the Skills Funding Agency for the Pace and Purpose programme to the period ending March 2013.