

Appendix B: SRBC - Corporate Strategy Projects 2023/24

Project	Status	Position Statement (Q2)
An Exemplary Council		
Deliver improvements to the Civic Centre workspace	GREEN	<p>The project to deliver improvements to the Civic Centre workspace has progressed with ongoing feasibility work to bring forward an options paper. The options that are being explored include making the best use of space and technology in the conference centre and also the currently vacant space on the top floor.</p> <p>An accommodation working group bringing together different services across the council will be established to oversee and progress the Civic Centre improvements to ensure a modern, fit for purpose environment and to support the wider deliver of the council's Workplace Strategy</p>
Continue to develop high quality and responsive Council services	GREEN	<p>The Council has an ambitious transformation programme that includes delivering improvements to ensure high quality and responsive services.</p> <p>A single operating model for Property and Development as well as Pest Control was successfully implemented, with both teams now operating on a shared basis with Chorley Council. This forms part of the wider programme of shared services, which will provide greater capacity, more resilience, and create development opportunities for staff.</p> <p>Delivery of the Property and Asset development plan has continued to enable a joint operating model.</p> <p>To ensure that services are more accessible for residents, external forms for the Council website have been reviewed and work is continuing with ICT and services to deliver channel shift improvements by enhancing the capability for online self-serve bringing forward new web forms and technology. A Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system will be procured, and new external website forms will now be developed.</p>
Work with partners to join up public services for residents	GREEN	<p>The Chorley and South Ribble Partnership has made progress with the development of a shared data and intelligence dashboard in collaboration with partners. Data sharing agreements have been established with Citizens Advice (CAB) and Runshaw College and work has been undertaken to refine the requirements for the dashboard and to identify which data metrics will add the most value to partners and will inform service delivery.</p> <p>The Partnership is also working with health organisations to implement changes proposed by the Integrated Care Board. This has involved making sure that local priorities for South Ribble are reflected in the plans and ways of working. The council has undertaken a comprehensive mapping exercise to assess the impact of different hubs and new teams/structures to ensure that there is no duplication, and that a place-based partnership model can be incorporated into its existing structures. The initial trial, which focuses on early years and family support, has progressed with the establishment of an Early Years Task Group which will have its first meeting in October 2023 to drive the project forward.</p>
A fair local economy that works for everyone		
Develop town centres as vibrant multi-use spaces	AMBER	<p>The £38 million Leyland town centre improvement project (Leyland Town Deal) has progressed with design development element of the programme and the completion of the first phase of the site investigation. All six planning applications have been approved and phase two of the site investigation work has commenced, which will enable future improvements to be taken forward including the demolition of the former Iddons Factory. This will create space for the BASE 2 business and skills hub, residential development, and a new car park.</p> <p>The Leyland Town Deal has been rated amber due to the ongoing risk implications connected to the finalisation of elements within the development design stage (RIBA 3). Discussions are being progressed in relation to the development designs via the consultants appointed by the council to add resource capabilities and expedite a resolution. Elements of the project are still progressing while discussions are taking place to ensure minimal disruption and to maintain the schemes overall delivery timescales.</p>
Deliver the Economic Strategy	COMPLETE	<p>The South Ribble Economic Strategy was finalised and approved at Cabinet in February 2023. The Economic Strategy aims to set out clear ambition and vision for South Ribble with a focus on four key areas which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Space and Place' to create the right conditions for business to grow, • 'Workforce and Skills' providing the right skills, training, and people, • 'Employability' working with communities to remove any barriers to employment, • Business Support – offering tailored assistance to respond to business needs. <p>Each priority is accompanied by a number of objectives and supporting actions set out in the strategy. Success measures have been identified to monitor the effectiveness of the strategy and help to provide a strong local economy within South Ribble.</p>

Develop green energy schemes for local businesses	GREEN	The council continues to support eligible local businesses through the Business Energy Efficiency (BEE) Scheme to reduce their energy usage, resulting in a reduction in their energy costs supporting business viability and contributing to the longer-term carbon reduction targets of the council by reducing their carbon footprint. At the end of quarter two, the delivery of the BEE grant scheme has continued with 88 applications being processed, of which 11 grant offers have been made to businesses and three grants have been paid for on the completion of the recommended energy saving (carbon reduction) measures. Applicants will continue to be processed as businesses complete energy audits and will progress to grant stage.
Deliver the South Ribble Skills Factory	GREEN	The South Ribble Skills Factory was launched on the Business in South Ribble website in February 2023 as a dedicated skills hub providing impartial advice, skills, training and recruitment support to business and free skills, apprenticeship, and employment support to residents of all ages across South Ribble. To support local businesses, people seeking jobs and careers information, the South Ribble Skills Factory has delivered a range of engagement activities. Events to highlight include. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A careers event at Runshaw College where impartial careers information advice and guidance was offered to 269 students. • The Recruitment Roadshow 2023 took place at the Civic Centre in July with over 400 people attending, supporting residents into employment and training. The skills Factory website has been developed and the Skills Factory profile will be raised with more events and activities with partners; and will continue to support careers delivery in schools and encourage local businesses to sign up to the Lancashire Skills Pledge.
Thriving communities		
Develop social prescribing in South Ribble	GREEN	The social prescribing service was launched on the 1 September with the aim of reducing health disparities and improving outcomes for residents. Significant progress has been made, including the recruitment and onboarding of all social prescribers. The primary focus for the service has been refining the processes to ensure that the council can deliver a high-quality service to residents. Since the service launch, the South Ribble Together website has been updated and referrals have been received from both the local community and partners. A training programme has commenced to support social prescriber link workers, which includes Health Coach training and Benefits Initial Assessment training from Citizen Advice (CAB). Furthermore, the service has collaborated with South Ribble Together and the Leyland Hub to promote the service and increase awareness of the support available. In quarter three, a review of community focused services and referral pathways will be undertaken to ensure that the Social Prescribing service is fully embedded and aligned with Active Health, Community Hubs, and wider council services.
Deliver Music in the Park 2023	COMPLETE	The council hosted the return of the 'Music in the Park' event at the beautiful location of Worden Park on Bank Holiday Sunday 28 May 2023. The event included an 80's and 90' themed concert and sold tickets to over 3,200 people. The acts included big names such as Bananarama, Peter Andre, Bad Manners and many more. In addition to the acts, there were 18 local business at the event, which included food vendors, face painting and a charity. The successful event has brought local communities together promoting a sense of belonging, boosted the local economy and encouraged visitors from across the region to South Ribble.
Create community support spaces	AMBER	As part of the council's commitment to investing in the local community, work has progressed with the purchase completion for the South Ribble Family Wellbeing Centre (Green's Dance Centre) in Lostock Hall. A paper outlining the plans to develop the centre was approved at Council in July 2023 and included approval of £300k budget to purchase and renovate the building. Draft lease agreements have been produced and a tender for the renovation has been published, with the refurbishment work expected to commence in quarter three. The project was rated amber as an early indication of potential issues that may impact on the completion times. Delays within the purchase and tender processes may impact on the original programmed completion date of December 2023. The renovation work will commence in October 2023, and it is expected that the South Ribble Family Wellbeing Centre will be open to the public in January 2024.
Deliver the Cost of Living action plan	GREEN	The Cost of Living action plan providing practical financial support to households including advice and access to services that promote resident wellbeing has progressed with the successful delivery of the summer Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. The programme provided access to free activity places and food to 11,025 young people over the summer period. In addition, the School Uniform Shop supported over 500 families and 1,000 young people with access to free school uniforms, food, practical advice, and support from partner agencies. In July 2023, the Council approved the grant allocation of £680k for round four of the Household Support Fund to support both vulnerable residents, and those who have been adversely financially affected by Covid and the Cost of Living crisis.
Good homes, green spaces, healthy places		
Complete a programme of improvements to local play areas across the borough.	GREEN	As part of the Councils continued investment into local green spaces and play areas, the council will be delivering a number of improvement schemes to enhance the quality and accessibility of play areas in South Ribble. The project will deliver improvements to playgrounds at Ryden Avenue (Leyland), Hutton, Longton, New Longton and King George V Playing Field Playground (Penwortham). The council has completed improvements works to Ryden Avenue toddler and junior play area. The play area opened to the public in June 2023 and the refurbishment included brand new equipment, new fencing, a carpet surface, and the existing toddler roadway will get new line markings and signs.

		Work has started on site for the £95k refurbishment of Hutton Play area and is expected to complete in October 2023. The refurbishment will include a range of accessible equipment such as swings, climbing frames, slides, and rockers for toddlers as well as juniors. In quarter three, a tender process will be undertaken for the improvement works to King George V Playing Field Playground in Penwortham.
Deliver affordable, quality homes to meet the needs of local communities	GREEN	<p>The affordable and energy efficient homes on the former McKenzie Arms site has been completed in April 2023, providing three, three-bedroom townhouses, nine one-bedroom apartments and three two-bedroom apartments on site. The new homes will help meet the increases in demand and a shortage of good quality affordable in the borough.</p> <p>The Jubilee Gardens project has progressed with a report going to Council to approve an increase of the budget to £20.5 million and approve the procurement strategy for the main contractor to deliver the 75-bed extra care facility scheme. Works on site began with early enabling works in August 2023, followed by a ground breaking event on the 13 September 2023 to officially launch the development works. In quarter three, groundworks on the site will be undertaken including works to the foundations and access roads.</p>
Deliver the climate change strategy	GREEN	<p>As part of the ongoing commitment to becoming net-carbon zero, protecting the local environment and addressing the issues of the climate emergency work has progressed with a number of activities including Council approval of the Biodiversity Action Plan, which sets out clear actions that will be taken over the next five years to restore, conserve and enhance the biodiversity in the borough.</p> <p>The Defra funded Clean Air Crew website is now live and the project was launched at the council's Green Homes and Business event. The successful two day event was attended by over 200 people and provided the opportunity for businesses and the local community to contribute to the Air Quality Action Plan consultation.</p> <p>Following the successful grant application, contracts are being agreed for the installation of 21 on street electric vehicle resident charge points (OSRC) across the borough. Over quarter three, a consultation will be undertaken as part of the review process for the Air Quality Action Plan, trees will be ordered in preparation for the planting season and the delivery of improvements to the green infrastructure will continue with the electric vehicle charging points.</p>