


Economic Growth

Assistant Director Fiona Duhamel

Main Achievements and Outcomes October - December 2019

Achievements: Evidence base refresh work has been completed including workspace study. This will support the economic strategy refresh in quarter 4. Vision for Prosperity projects including John Peel Centre commission, Regal investment and Suffolk FA HQ/3G pitch review have all progressed and ongoing. The launch of the Innovation Labs in Wharfside House as the first phase in the delivery of an Innovation Cluster in Stowmarket had over 100 people attend and will now continue to offer hot desking spaces, entrepreneur programmes and business support. Central Suffolk Chamber has launched in this quarter and will be vital in maintain business relationships in the area.. Local Growth Fund (SPSL - £500k for B&MS) decision due Jan 2020

Outcomes: Protect the district's employment base | support visitor economy and market town rejuvenation | Wellbeing outcomes. 

Key for trend graph:

- 2016/17
- 2017/18
- 2018/19
- 2019/20
- _____ target

Key:

- n/a not applicable
- n/av not available
- highlighted measure, further detail in main report

Open for Business Corporate Manager - Vacant

Performance measure	Period	Data	Target	Council	Trend	Comments	
OFB01 No. of businesses that have been supported through direct and referred enquires (overall figure for quarter recorded in graph) SECTORS Agriculture Construction Creative Industries (inc Tech) Food Production Hospitality and Leisure Manufacturing and Engineering OTHER Cabinet Member: Gerard Brewster Data Owner: Lee Carvell	2018/19		n/a	MSDC		Due to changing and increasing workloads there has been a reduction in the number of businesses directly supported. Resources were targeted to project work including the baseline evidence and strategy refresh. Previous months were higher due to work to promote the shopfront grant scheme. <i>BDC Qtr.3 2019/20 - 24</i>	
	Qtr.1	46					
	Qtr.2	60					
	Qtr.3	85					
	Qtr.4	67					
	2019/20						
	Qtr.1	38					
	Qtr.2	40					
	Qtr.3	30					
	Qtr.4						
Performance measure	Period	Data	Target	Council	Trend	Comments	
OFB02 No. of planning application consultation responses completed by Open for Business team where potential job opportunities have been highlighted. Cabinet Member: Gerard Brewster Data Owner: Lee Carvell	2019/20			MSDC		There has been a wide range planning application responses including farm and agricultural buildings diversification, businesses seeking improved sustainability, flexibility and expansion and seeking to protect loss from commercial to other uses. <i>BDC Qtr.3 2019/20 - 20</i>	
	Qtr.1	44					
	Qtr.2	26					
	Qtr.3	20					
	Qtr.4						

Performance measure	Period	Data	Target	Council	Trend	Comments
OFB04 No. of void/vacant premises in market towns (non cumulative) NEW MEASURE Cabinet Member: Gerard Brewster Data Owner: Lee Carvell	2019/20 Qtr.3 Qtr.4	10% (Stowmarket)		MSDC		This represents a strong position for Stowmarket businesses and retail. In comparison the Eastern average is 8.5% and the National Town Centre Vacancy Rate was 10.0% (in October 2019 figures). Q4 likely no change - vacant units survey to be undertaken Jan/Feb 2020. Work carried out as part of the Stowmarket Vision should continue to strengthen the town centre resilience through further diversification of uses including more leisure and cultural uses.
Performance measure	Period	Data	Target	Council	Trend	Comments
OFB05 No. of vacant premises in main industrial sites (non-cumulative) NEW MEASURE Cabinet Member: Gerard Brewster Data Owner: Lee Carvell	2019/20 Qtr.3 Qtr.4	76		MSDC		There was 76 vacant properties in totals: of those 61 properties available to let and 15 for sale in Mid Suffolk. it is worth noting that there may be some double counting between to let and sales. This data was provided by MENTA in October 2019 as part of the Workspace Study commissioned by BMSDC. The study also identified that there was significant demand for workspace units under 4000sq ft. https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Economic-Development/Workspace-Study-redacted-002.pdf
Performance measure	Period	Data	Target	Council	Trend	Comments
OFB06 No. of young people supported through The Mix Together project NEW MEASURE (annual measure as at end of year) Cabinet Member: Gerard Brewster Data Owner: Lee Carvell	2019/20 Qtr.4	87		MSDC		Year end report received December, of those engaged 32% have moved into work, education and training, 51% are still engaged with the programme and 17% have disengaged.