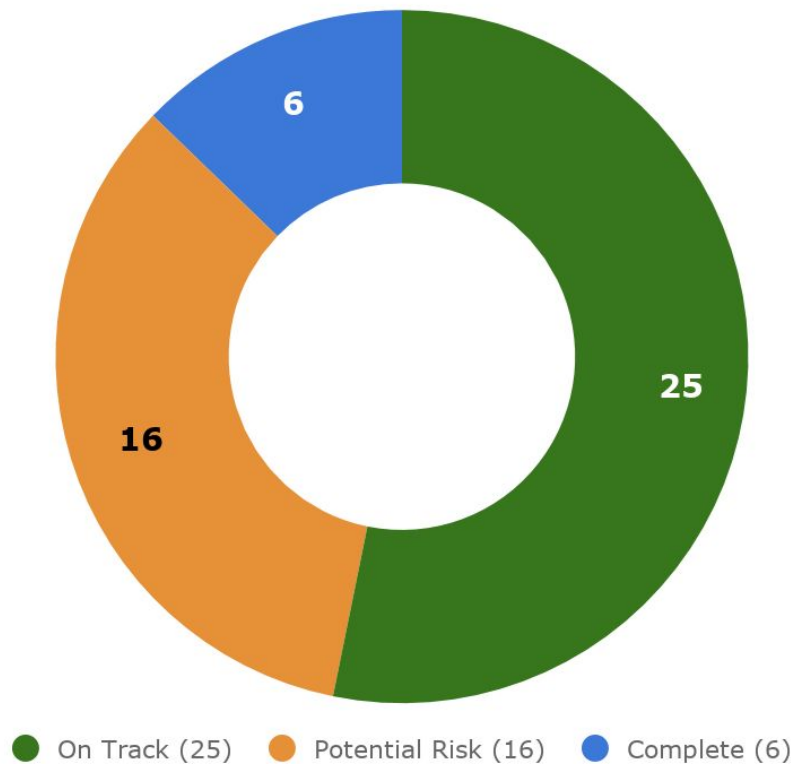


Commitment Tracker



Overview : last six months

There have been a series of important steps forward on commitments to develop our Financial Economies during the past six months, as we seek to support the development of our creative and digital sectors, respond to the changing nature of our town centres, strengthen our relationship with local business and continue to see progress on major site.

We are seeking new ways to support our growing creative and digital sectors, including moving to the next stage with proposals for Colonnade House to underpin its future as a creative and digital hub, along with the significant expansion of the ultrafast fibre network to an additional 83 council sites including town centre, secondary shopping areas, seafront and park locations.

Over the last six months the health of retailing on our high streets has become of great concern across the country. We are exploring new and imaginative ways of addressing this challenge in partnership with those who wish to invest in our town centres and on the seafront.

To realise our local economies potential we are having a sharper series of conversations with the Adur & Worthing Business Partnership having focused on Brexit and Sustainability. This, together with active engagement with the Worthing & Adur Chamber of Commerce, means a coordinated approach to deliver a series of important events to support our local economies.

OUR FINANCIAL ECONOMIES



We have seen significant progress on our major projects sites. We received two planning applications for the former Teville Gate site, one of which has already been determined. The Secretary of State chose not to call-in the New Monks Farm and Shoreham Airport planning applications and work is underway to finalise the planning approvals for both schemes. The new office development 'Focus House' has been completed on time and on budget on the site of the former Adur Civic Centre car park, and we now look forward to the development of the main Adur Civic site.

Platform Highlights : last six months

- 1. Our Creative Economy:** Worthing Borough Council has agreed to establish an independent Cultural Trust to develop and manage the town's cultural assets. The aim is to take the development of Worthing's cultural offer to the next level. Meanwhile the cultural hub at Colonnade House continues to see 100 per cent occupancy and full gallery booking until March 2020.
- 2. Digital infrastructure:** Adur & Worthing are clear leaders in the south east for ultrafast full fibre, with a major extension to the council fibre network now agreed, connecting an additional 83 council sites over the next 2-3 years including in our town centre, seafront, and parks.
- 3. Recognition for local attractions:** Worthing Pier has been voted Pier of the Year 2019 by the National Pier Society, while Shoreham Farmers Market has been recognised as the best Farmers Markets in Sussex at the Sussex Food and Drink Awards.
- 4. Focus House, Shoreham:** Adur District Council has completed the £9.8 million construction of Focus House on the Adur Civic Centre car park site has been completed ahead of time and within budget. The project will ensure the retention of 250 jobs in the area while allowing it to continue to grow - with hopes of a further 150 to 200 jobs created in the first 18 months of occupation.
- 5. Specialist HMRC site at Teville Gate:** 70,000 sq ft office development approved by Planning Committee in June. The new five storey development is set to replace the existing building currently on the site and could accommodate around 900 full time equivalent employees by March 2021. Worthing will be one of five specialist sites located across the UK.
- 6. Taxi Regulation:** We have updated and relaunched our new Taxi Handbooks for Adur and Worthing and continued to work closely with the licensed trade around safeguarding and wellbeing, promoting Wellbeing Checks at the Taxi Forums to improve Drivers wellbeing

and securing the introduction of CCTV in vehicles as part of our efforts to ensure effective safeguarding.

Challenges

1. **Thriving town centres:** We will need to respond to the challenges facing the retail sector in our **town centres**. A series of coordinating interventions will help to ensure that an evolving town centre is well equipped to offer a higher quality experience for residents and visitors. This will include our public realm; improving our car parks and supporting a year round programme of events and activities.
2. **Delivering our Economic Strategy:** A greater understanding of the local skills landscape is needed and the constructive role the Councils' can play. Also further thinking is required on how our ambitions to develop Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering in Adur is realised.

Future Focuses

1. **Major Projects:**
 - a. WBC is working in partnership with West Sussex County Council and both '**Teville Gate**' developers to transform Railway Approach and deliver a high quality public realm that welcomes visitors to the town;

- b. Progress continues to be made on the **Bayside development** on the site of the former Aquarena;
- c. Work commenced on a seasonal giant **observation wheel** for Worthing seafront;
- d. Procurement of a development partner for **Decoy Farm** has commenced.
- e. Our partnership with London & Continental railways has seen a scheme for **Union Place** move into the design stage;
- f. we have successfully marketed the **Adur Civic Centre main site**, and look forward to progressing its development.

2. **Activating Digital Infrastructure:** The installation of gigabit provides our places with a new digital capability. The next period will see how this capability can impact our place, including businesses and the place making agenda. This includes examining the role of digital infrastructure in the changing nature of our town centres and data to inform economic and town centre development.

3. **Responding to the changing nature of our town centres:** Looking at what strategic inputs are required to respond to the changing nature of our town centre. The Councils will continue to pursue other initiatives to help enhance the town centre experience including events, markets, the Worthing Observation Wheel and public realm development.