



**Corporate Improvement Priority:** To support and invest in our town centres and communities to promote economic growth, regeneration and sustainability, maximise job opportunities and improve access to employment.

RAG Status	Summary of Progress
<p><b>Green</b></p>	<p><b>Regeneration</b></p> <p>Overall we are on track to deliver all activities planned for 2016-17.</p> <p>Despite on-going challenging circumstances surrounding the economy, The Regeneration &amp; Economic Development Team has continued to deliver significant outputs throughout the year.</p> <p>A number of the Vibrant &amp; Viable Places projects have already been completed, with several more coming on-line shortly.</p> <p>The second phase of the Neath Town Centre redevelopment will soon be on site, and we continue to provide the infrastructure and facilities to further grow the visitor economy in the Borough, including the recently completed Adventure Golf Course on Aberavon Seafront and the forthcoming Camping &amp; Caravanning Club site at Margam Park.</p> <p>The Economic Development Team is focused on growing our indigenous companies, as well as attracting Inward Investment to the area, and has achieved unprecedented results in terms of Community Benefits with over 3800 training weeks already achieved this year. They also helped establish the Port Talbot Waterfront Enterprise Zone.</p> <p>Our Employment Services remit has also been given a massive boost now that Workways+ has been re-established to provide work opportunities to those experiencing difficulties in doing so.</p> <p>Together, the Regeneration &amp; Economic Development Team continues its commitment to improving the economic prospects of our communities and our citizens.</p>



What will be different? (Outcomes)	Lead Officer	RAG Status	Progress
<b><u>Regeneration</u></b>			
1. We will encourage inward investment and bring forward a range of opportunities, including residential, retail and commercial developments.	S. Brennan	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We led on the Distinctive Places and Competitive Infrastructure strategic aim of the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy to deliver a regional co-ordinated approach to delivering schemes such as Visit Wales Destination Attractor project; Building for the Future and developing a package of Strategic Employment Site projects including Harbourside to submit to Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO).</li> <li>• Supported the establishment of a Regional Marketing Suite for Swansea Bay City Region including a Regional 3D Map and new 'invest' website to support a newly established regional inward investment team endorsed by the Swansea Bay City Region Board.</li> </ul>
2. The next phase of Neath Town Centre redevelopment will be completed.	S. Brennan	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submitted Planning Application for next phase of the scheme which will include a parade of smaller retail units and apartments.</li> </ul>
3. The development of leisure and commercial opportunities at Aberavon Seafront will continue and will include a new adventure golf course.	S. Brennan	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The completion and opening to the public of the new 12-hole adventure family golf course in July 2016 is supporting the ongoing regeneration of Aberavon Seafront.</li> <li>• Supported 1 existing business with external improvements resulting in the creation of 2 new jobs, the safeguarding of 11 jobs and over £17k private sector investment.</li> </ul>
4. Caravan and camping facilities at Margam Park will be developed.	S. Brennan	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work is progressing towards providing the enabling infrastructure to bring forward a scheme to improve tourism</li> </ul>



			<p>and visitor numbers to Margam Park and the area as a whole.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed start on site - Autumn 2016.</li> </ul>
5. We will access funding to refurbish, repair and maintain locally important buildings and structures.	S. Brennan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building for the Future applications submitted for The Plaza, Port Talbot Magistrates Court and 8 Wind Street. Awaiting decision from WEFO.</li> </ul>
6. We will drive forward regeneration projects in the valleys, to encourage tourism and improve employment opportunities.	S. Brennan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic Development Team has taken on the management of the Neath Port Talbot Destination Management Plan. Action plans are being developed for Margam Park, Afan Valley, Aberavon Seafront and Swansea, Dulais and Neath valleys.</li> <li>The Rural Development Plan funded Business Development Officer has been appointed and will be responsible for encouraging and promoting activities within the rural wards of Neath Port Talbot that increase the contribution that the tourism industry makes to the local economy.</li> <li>To date, supported 7 companies within the valley areas of Neath Port Talbot to deliver investment projects valued in excess of £90,000. These projects have created 8 new jobs and safeguarded 15.</li> </ul>
7. We will continue to deliver the Vibrant and Viable Places Programme to combine support for people and places whilst encouraging partnership working	S. Brennan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Vibrant and Viable Places Programme consists of 12 projects to be delivered over a 3 year period. The Employability Centre and Green Park Riverside Phase 1 projects have been completed so far this financial year. Several projects are awaiting planning approval and will commence within 2016-17.</li> </ul>
8. We will identify employment for local people and supply chain opportunities for local companies within major developments in the county borough by working in partnership with	S. Brennan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of local people helped to get back into work – (latest data from 1st April 2016 – 30th June 2016 – 41. In 2015/16 we supported 75 people so are well on track to exceed last year's performance.</li> </ul>



<p>developers/organisations who are delivering substantial investment programmes.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of completed apprenticeship training weeks, traineeships and work experience opportunities – (latest data from 1st April 2016 – 30th June 2016 - over 3800 weeks completed. This has already exceeded the 270 weeks achieved in 2015/16.</li> <li>• Number and value of contract opportunities secured by local businesses – (latest data from 1st April 2016 – 30th June 2016 – more than 50 companies secured contracts valued in excess of £8.6m). In 2015/16, 90 companies were supported so again we are on track to exceed this output. Value of contract is a new output introduced to measure performance so there are no historical figures to benchmark against.</li> <li>• 2 projects completed achieving more than 97% spend with contractors in Wales. % spend is also a new output introduced this year so there are no historical figures to benchmark against.</li> </ul>
<p>9. We will continue to support local businesses to help them prosper; create more jobs and business start-ups.</p>	<p>S. Brennan</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of business enquiries resulting in advice, information or financial support given to existing companies. (1st April 2016 – 30th June 2016: 139)</li> </ul> <p>During the first quarter of 2016/17, the Team has received a high volume of enquiries from existing businesses looking for support on issues such as property, rates relief, local contract opportunities, tendering, events, etc. Although outputs are slightly down in comparison to the same period last year (181), Business Wales have now let their new business support contracts so additional referrals are expected which will improve performance in the next quarter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of new business - start-up enquiries assisted. (1st April 2016 -30th June 2016: 98)</li> </ul>



As a direct result of the Team working in partnership with Careers Wales and the Department of Works & Pensions to support individuals affected by the Tata redundancies, the number of referrals to attend the Council's Enterprise Club looking for advice and guidance on self-employment has increased in comparison to the same period in 2015/16 (87).

- The number of new start-ups assisted through Innov8 programme.  
(1st April 2016 -30th June 2016: 8)

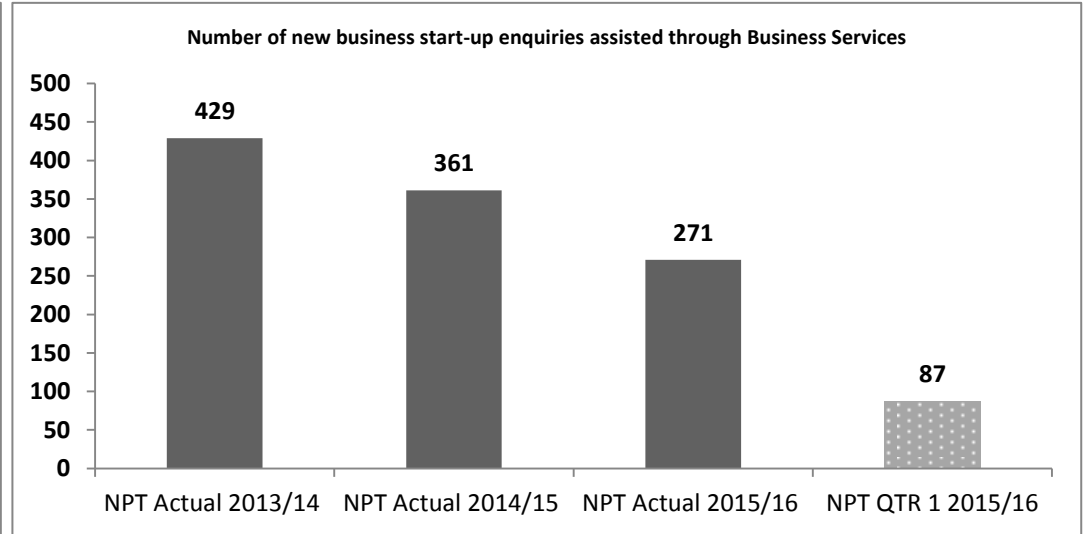
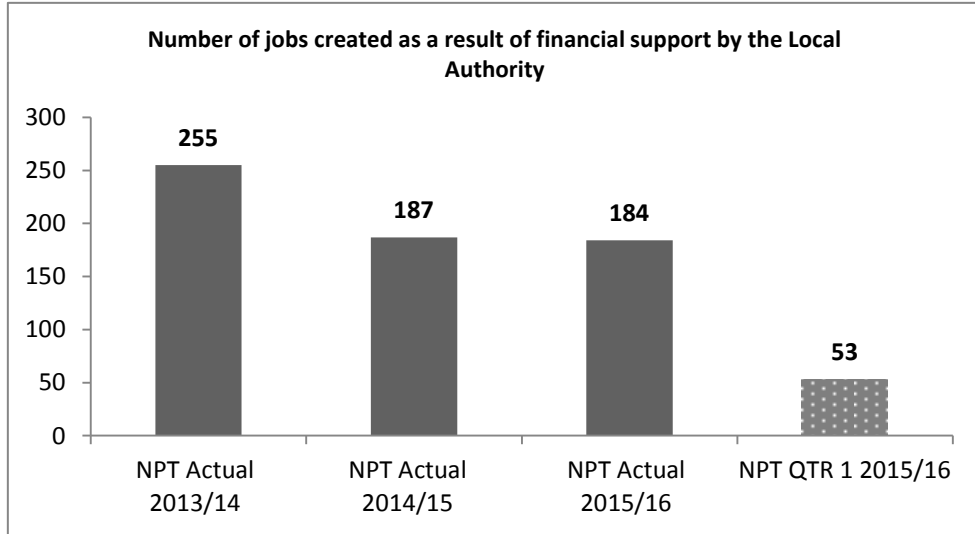
This output is slightly down on the same period last year (14) but the Team are currently in the process of administering a number of applications from people looking to start up in business so it is anticipated that performance will increase significantly in the next quarter.

- The number of jobs created as a result of financial support by the Council (1st April 2016 -30th June 2016: 28)

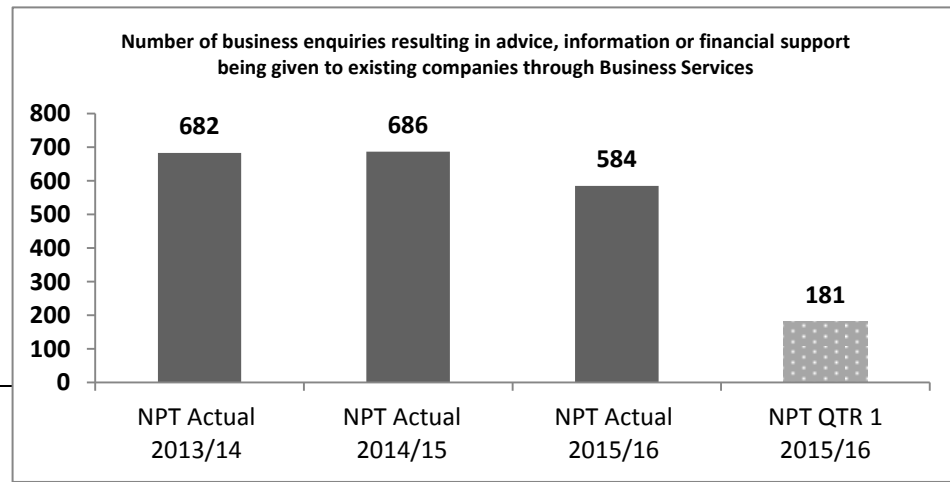
Although lower than the first quarter last year (53), the Team are currently in the process of administering a number of applications from local businesses for funding to support investments in areas such as capital equipment, website development, accreditations, training and general marketing activities. It is anticipated therefore that performance will increase significantly in the next quarter.



**Measures: Graphs**



**Figure 1**  
**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**



**Corporate Risks (Corporate Risk Register):**

Ref	Section	Risk Description	Mitigating Action	Latest L'hood score June 16	Latest L'hood impact June 16	Latest Total score at June 16	Latest Proximity at June 16	Target Date	Risk owner
ENV06	Engineering and Transport	Adopted bridges/ retaining structures - inadequate revenue and capital funding required to meet maintenance needs leading to potential failure resulting in closure, weight and / or highways restrictions - negative impact on residents, communities and businesses	Enhance programme inspections; identify priority projects for improvement in HAMP and CPSG, also links to ENV05 and ENV11	5	5	25 H	1-4	Ongoing	Head of Engineering and Transport
ENV20	Planning	Failure of the owners / former operators of the Margam opencast coal site to complete an acceptable restoration of the site which is essential to protect the health and safety of surrounding communities which would otherwise be at risk of flooding from the void. The failure to restore will also result in the retention of a scarred landscape which has an unacceptable visual impact upon the	A working group is established to discuss an alternative restoration scheme which will secure a safe and restored site going forward. This scheme is the subject of a new planning application which is submitted with an agreed and restricted period of time. Should planning	5	5	25 - H	1-4	01/06/2017	Head of Planning and Public Protection

## Highlight Report – April to June 2016



# Prosperity for All

*promoting economic growth*

		character and appearance of the surrounding countryside.	permission be granted the escrow fund is used to deliver and implement the approved scheme.						
ENV19	Planning	Planning permission is not implemented in accordance with the approved planning permission for the continuation and extension of the East Pit opencast coal site and / or due to the reduction in coal prices, the operator ceases to make regular payments to the restoration bond. This will lead to the retention of an unrestored and insufficiently bonded opencast coal site which could fill with water in an uncontrolled manner to the detriment of the health and safety of local communities	Ensure that regular and constant monitoring of the site is undertaken to secure compliance with the approved plans. Hold regular meetings with the operator with regard to the financial liabilities associated with delivering completion of coaling and restoration of this site. Take a cautious approach to paying back bond monies until absolute certainty is reached with regard to completion of the tasks associated with the restoration of the site.	5	5	25 H	1-4	on-going - upto 2020	Head of Planning and Public Protection
ENV14	Property & Regeneration	Difficulties in securing public and private investment necessary to deliver town centre regeneration	Continue to develop town centre proposals to provide investment opportunities	4	5	20 H	1-4	on-going	Head of Property & Regeneration
NPT02	All	Increase in demand for council services created by loss of jobs in local businesses (e.g. TATA)	Involvement in task group; early contingency planning through partnership working	4	4	16 H	1	Ongoing	Director of Environment
NPT07	All	EU - a 'no' vote in the referendum ballot taking place on 23rd June 2016 could lead to the inability to access European funding	Contingency plan to be developed. UK Government to develop / negotiate new relationship with EU within 2 years.	3	4	12 H	1	Review 30/09/2016	Director of Finance and Corporate Services





ENV13	Property & Regeneration	Abortive maintenance / construction costs as a consequence of changing service delivery strategies	Clear visibility from services on changes in future service delivery; impact statement included in business plans for 2016/17	4	3	12 H	1-4	Ongoing	Head of Property & Regeneration
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**Risks are assessed in terms of proximity i.e. when the risk would occur. Estimating when a risk would occur helps prioritise the risk.**

**The proximity scale to be used is:**

- 1. Zero to one year**
- 2. One year to two years**
- 3. Two years to three years**
- 4. Three years plus**