

Report Title:	Valley Plan Annual Outturn Report 2025/26		
Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny	Date:	15 th June 2026
Report of:	Head of People and Policy	Cabinet Portfolio:	Environment and Corporate Services
Cabinet Lead Member:	Councillor Lythgoe	Wards Affected:	All
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Integrated Impact Assessment:	Required: <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Valley Plan Priorities	Thriving Local Economy: This involves securing new inward investment, creating a sustainable economy, matching local skills with future job opportunities, and supporting town centres as unique destinations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	High Quality Environment: This includes having a "clean and green" local environment, reducing the borough's carbon footprint, improving waste and recycling rates, and delivering new homes with a good mix of housing tenures.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Healthy & Proud Communities: This priority focuses on improving the health and physical/mental wellbeing of residents, reducing health inequalities, ensuring access to better leisure facilities and health services, and fostering a sense of pride in the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Effective & Efficient Council: The aim is to provide good quality and responsive services, embrace new technology, be a financially sustainable council with a commercial outlook, and ensure sound governance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the Council's annual performance and associated achievements for 2025/26.
- 1.2 The Council's [Valley Plan 2025-29 – Our Place, Our Plan](#) was adopted by Full Council in April 2025. An annual action plan has been developed to support the Plan's delivery.
- 1.3 The Council produces a quarterly Performance Management Report to regularly monitor the Council's performance against the Valley Plan throughout the year. This report is reviewed by the Corporate Management Team, Cabinet, and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.4 During 2025/2026, the Council has continued to deliver within its 4 priority areas to achieve the outcomes outlined within the Valley Plan. External funding has been allocated to continue the delivery of multiple regeneration programmes, and the Council has continued to improve its services to become more effective and efficient.
- 1.5 Overall, the outturn for 2025/2026 was positive. 44 performance measures were reported within the 'green' RAG status, 7 performance measures within the 'amber' RAG status, and 15 performance measures within the 'red' RAG status.

2. RECOMMENDATION

For Overview and Scrutiny to consider and note the Council's annual Valley Plan update and associated achievements for 2025/2026.

3. BACKGROUND AND REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1 The Council refreshed its Valley Plan 2025-29 – Our Place, Our Plan in March 2025 following multiple consultations with stakeholders. The outcomes from the consultation indicated the current vision and priorities should remain the same.
- 3.2 The Plan was formally adopted by Full Council on 2nd April 2025.
- 3.3 The Council’s vision is:
- “To have a thriving economy, built around our changing town centres, creating a quality environment for all and improving the life chances of those living and working in the borough.”*
- 3.4 An action plan and service area business plans are reviewed annually to ensure work is focused on delivering the Council’s Valley Plan and vision.
- 3.5 The annual action plan identifies the Council’s service actions and performance measures for each priority. These will be monitored via the Council’s quarterly Performance Management Report. Compliments, complaints, and corporate risks are also included within this report.
- 3.6 The Council’s performance is monitored using the red, amber, green (RAG) rating status (green – on track, amber – slight concern, red – action required).
- 3.7 An arrow system is used to indicate performance trend, indicating the direction of travel (upwards – performance increase, sideways – no change, downwards – performance decrease).
- 3.8 Throughout 2025/2026, 66 performance measures were reported. The measures were split down into two tiers; tier 1 measures reporting on high level strategic targets and tier 2 measures reporting on operational performance.

Thriving Local Economy – 6 performance measures;
High Quality Environment – 20 performance measures;
Healthy and Proud Communities – 14 performance measures;
Effective and Efficient Council – 26 performance measures.

4. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

- 4.1 Throughout 2025/2024, the Council has continued to deliver the Valley Plan. Despite ongoing challenges, the Council has delivered effective and efficient council services and is proud of its achievements.
- 4.2 The Council’s performance measures demonstrate that the Council has performed well with 44 (67%) ‘green’ RAG status measures, 7 (11%) ‘amber’ RAG status measures, and 15 (22%) ‘red’ RAG status measures.

5. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

5.1 Thriving Local Economy

Throughout 2025/2026, significant work has progressed the Council’s regeneration projects across Rossendale’s main town centres and within the rest of the borough.

Significant achievements include; the temporary relocation of Rawtenstal Market, completion of public realm works along Deardengate in Haslingden, installation of pilot town square and canopy in Waterfoot, and planning approval for the proposed Bacup Market site.

A number of engagement events and activities have been delivered to support the Council's ongoing regeneration programmes with the aim of increasing footfall, supporting local business, and improving Rossendale's vibrancy and atmosphere.

Relationships with businesses have continued to develop via ongoing business support, increased officer presence within town centres, and through Rossendale Means Business and the Rossendale Digital Tech Hub.

Rossendale Works has successfully supported 94 economically inactive people into either employment, education or training, and will continue to improve the local skills provision for residents.

5.2 High Quality Environment

The Operations service has continued to deliver effective and efficient waste, street cleansing, and green spaces services. Significant preparations have been undertaken in preparation for the proposed Waste Transfer Station and the introduction of food waste collections from April 2026.

Stubbylee and Moorlands Park (Bacup), Rawtenstall Library Gardens and Whitworth Memorial Gardens were awarded the 'Green Flag' for 2025/2026. Additional efforts have focused on improving the Borough's parks and providing support to local community groups who maintain and improve public spaces across Rossendale.

The removal of reported fly-tipping has remained below the 5-working day target and a significant number of reports have been investigated and progressed to legal enforcement penalties.

The Council's Climate Change Strategy has progressed well. The Building Decarbonisation project and the Net-Zero Terraces Streets project have both been completed.

5.3 Healthy and Proud Communities

The Council has continued to work with partners to improve access to homes, leisure facilities, and health and wellbeing support for residents. 100% of minor and 98% of major planning applications have been determined within the statutory deadline, and a Local Plan Steering Group has been established in preparation for the Local Plan review during 2026/27.

Other work has focused on improving the Council's homelessness support as part of the ongoing national issue. Other efforts have provided 151 Disabled Facilities Grants to allow residents to remain within their own home.

Throughout the year, the Council has provided c.£388k to residents and foodbanks via the Household Support Fund in response to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. In addition to this, Rossendale's Better Lives Strategy has been approved.

The Council has continued to work with partners to deliver the Rossendale Health and Wellbeing Plan. A Leisure Asset review has been completed, and a Play Pitch Strategy has been approved by Sport England.

5.4 Effective and Efficient Council

Work has continued to support effective and efficient Council services through good governance, financial management, and robust performance monitoring.

An accessibility tool 'Recite Me' has been integrated into the Council's website to improve customer service and accessibility standards. Internally, laptop and software upgrades have supported staff within their roles.

In collaboration with budget holders, a balanced budget was produced for 2026/2027 setting out a growth-focused financial plan aligned with the Council's Valley Plan priorities while continuing to deliver key services for residents.

The Council has continued to develop a safe and skilled workforce. At the end of 2025/2026, 92% of staff had completed their annual appraisal, and the annual staff survey found that 97% of respondents 'enjoy working for the Council'.

Externally, the Council's annual resident survey had 42% more responses than the previous year, with residents' satisfaction remaining high.

Momentum has increased in regards to the Local Government Reorganisation in Lancashire, with officers providing ongoing support Lancashire-wide workstreams. Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation were submitted in November 2025.

6. FORTHCOMING YEAR

- 6.1 The Council is set to refresh its Performance Management Framework to support effective and efficient service deliver and to develop a robust approach to performance and risk management.
- 6.2 The Council will develop and agree an annual action plan, programmes, service actions, and performance measures for 2026/27 to ensure the Valley Plan is prioritised within service delivery, whilst addressing ongoing challenges and promoting opportunities.
- 6.3 Together with partners, the Council will continue to deliver its ambitions to make Rossendale a place where people want to live, work and invest.
- 6.4 The Council will continue to identify efficiencies to ensure it provides best value service for residents. Further work will be required to develop Rossendale's town centres, attractions and visitor offer, as well as increasing local and national engagement for the great work the Council does.

7. RISK

- 7.1 A range of local, regional and national factors can impact on the Council's ability to deliver the priorities within the Valley Plan. The Council continuously monitors these risks through the Corporate Risk Register and quarterly Performance Management Report to track the overall implementation of the Council's priorities which includes information on progress against the priorities, programmes and projects, and performance measures.

8. SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTS (FINANCE)

- 8.1 Financial implications and risks arising are identified within this report

9. MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS (LEGAL)

9.1 Legal implications and risks arising are identified within this report

10. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 No Integrated Impact Assessment is required, Performance management supports equitable service delivery and monitoring across all Valley Plan priorities.

11. POLICY/STRATEGY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 A range of local, regional and national factors can impact on the Council's ability to deliver the priorities within the Valley Plan. The Council continuously monitors these risks through the Corporate Risk Register and quarterly Performance Management Report to track the overall implementation of the Council's priorities which includes information on progress against the priorities, programmes and projects, and performance measures

12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Performance management arrangements will inform transition planning under any future Local Government Reorganisation arrangements to ensure service continuity and governance oversight.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	
2025-26 Achievements Summary	Appendix 1
2025-26 Performance Summary Infographic	Appendix 2



Annual Outturn 2025/26

Priority 1 – Thriving Local Economy

Outcomes

Our towns will be thriving, vibrant and attractive centres for our communities and businesses.

We will be a supporting environment for business growth, innovation and job creation.

We will have cultural and community attractions that support a strong visitor economy.

Key Achievements

- Rawtenstall Market temporarily relocated to Rawtenstall Town Square while redevelopment works progress.
- Contractor appointed and redevelopment works commenced on the existing Rawtenstall Market site in January 2026, in line with schedule.
- A new operator appointed for Rawtenstall Market.
- Phase 2 designs for the Rawtenstall gyratory project approved.
- Draft Car Park Strategy submitted to the Rawtenstall Chamber of Commerce.
- Installation of the new canopy and platform at Waterfoot Town Square completed.
- Mural completed at Waterfoot Tunnel.
- Engagement events delivered in Rawtenstall and Waterfoot to attract visitors to the temporary market site and pilot town square including, arts and crafts, family fun days, heritage tours, etc.
- Public realm improvements completed along Deardengate in Haslingden, including widened footpaths, improved parking and access, new artwork and sculptures, and restoration of the Big Lamp.
- A programme of events delivered across Haslingden Market and Deardengate, including Guitar and Grub, Culture and Heritage, Celebration of Haslingden, Stone Carving, Christmas events, and pop-up market days.
- Mural completed on the former railway steps behind Shawforth Chapel in Whitworth.
- Bacup Market designs consulted on and approved.
- Partnership established with B&E Boys to redevelop the former Bingo Hall and Snooker Hall site on Burnley Road, Bacup.
- Capital funding secured to support the development of Stubblelee Hall in Bacup.
- Rossendale’s Digital Tech Hub established, alongside a programme of engagement events and webinars.
- The number of vacant shops across the borough reduced by 3.5% compared with 2025/26 levels.
- 94 economically inactive residents engaged through the Rossendale Works programme.

Priority 2 – High Quality Environment

Outcomes	Key Achievements
<p>Our local environment will be high quality, clean and green.</p> <p>We will be carbon neutral by 2030, supporting the wider Borough to reduce carbon emissions.</p> <p>We will have enhanced our waste and recycling services, boosting recycling rates and minimising the impacts of food waste.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Action taken to manage 90 ash dieback trees, helping to prevent the further spread of disease across parks and green spaces. ● Regular community clean-up events delivered in areas including Prinny Hill in Haslingden, Reedsholme in Rawtenstall, and Blackthorn in Bacup. ● Reported fly-tipping investigated and removed within five days throughout the year. ● 73% of residents responding in the 2025 Residents Survey reported satisfaction with the cleanliness of Rossendale’s local areas. ● Household waste collections averaged 124.9kg per quarter, 7.6kg below target levels. ● 99.5% of general waste bins collected in line with schedule throughout the year. ● 98% of public litter bins emptied in line with schedule throughout the year. ● Successful procurement completed for food waste vehicles, caddies, and related equipment ahead of the introduction of weekly food waste collections in April 2026, in line with Government requirements. ● Proposals submitted for Planning approval for a new Waste Transfer Station. ● Continued to procure operational vehicles as per the agreed vehicle replacement programme. ● The Net Zero Terraced Streets project completed, with three council-owned properties receiving full retrofit works. ● Building Decarbonisation Project completed, including installation of LED lighting at The Whitaker, Bacup Library, The Ashcroft, and Maden Recreation Ground. A new Building Management System was also installed at Futures Park. ● Junior Play Park completed at Whitaker Park. ● £90k funding secured to improve the Junior Play Park at Edgeside Park. ● Significant works undertaken to improve safety across Rossendale’s cemeteries. ● Green Flag Awards for 2025/26 achieved for Rawtenstall Library Garden, Whitworth Memorial Gardens, and Stubblelee and Moorlands Park in Bacup. ● Support provided to Rossendale Civic Pride for the 2025 Britain in Bloom awards, resulting in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Silver Gilt Medal for Best Large Town – Gold Award for Best Pocket Park at Sparrow Park, Rawtenstall – Gold Award for Best Small Town in the North West category – Clean Sweep Award for consistent cleanliness standards across the town

Priority 3 – Healthy & Proud Communities

Outcomes	Key Achievements
<p>We will have accessible and appropriate housing in Rossendale.</p> <p>Residents will lead healthier lifestyles, with better access to the support services they need.</p> <p>Rossendale will be a safe place where people are proud to live.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Five properties purchased to provide temporary accommodation for residents presenting as homeless to reduce spend on out-of-borough Bed and Breakfasts. ● Better Lives Strategy approved. ● Ongoing support provided to 2,376 households through the Household Support Fund, with a total of £388k distributed throughout the year. ● A Low-Income Family Tracker developed to help identify and target support for low-income households. ● £60k funding per annum secured for two years to strengthen refugee and asylum seeker integration support. ● 151 Disabled Facilities Grants awarded to support residents to live independently. ● Leisure Assets Review completed in preparation for Local Government Reorganisation. ● Local Plan Steering Group established in preparation for the Local Plan review. ● 100% of minor and other planning applications, and 98% of major planning applications, determined within statutory deadlines. ● 92% of residents responding in the 2025 Residents Survey reported feeling safe in their local area during the day. ● Women and Girls Taskforce established to promote inclusive physical activity across the borough. ● Play Pitch Strategy approved by Sport England. ● New wheeled sports areas completed at Edgeside Park in Waterfoot and Victoria Park in Haslingden. ● Community wellbeing activities continued across local parks, including Yoga in the Park at Whitaker Park and Stubbylee and Moorlands Park, alongside junior parkruns at Victoria Park and Stubbylee Park. ● Rossendale Triathlon and Tour de Manc supported, attracting more than 1,200 participants. ● 295 adults and 29 families supported through the healthy weight management programme delivered by Rossendale Leisure Trust. ● £10k funding secured to launch the “She Runs” campaign in partnership with Rossendale Leisure Trust. ● £81k funding smoke-free campaign commissioned through Rossendale Leisure Trust. ● White Ribbon campaign delivered across the borough.

Priority 4 – Effective & Efficient Council

Outcomes

Residents will receive modern, high-quality services.

The Council will be financially stable, delivering services and projects within a robust governance framework, always ensuring value for money.

Council services will be delivered by a skilled and motivated workforce.

Key Achievements


- Accessibility tool “Recite Me” integrated into the Council’s website to improve customer access and user experience.
- Internal digital upgrades implemented to improve systems and tools for staff including laptop replacements and upgraded Microsoft software.
- Cyber security training delivered to both staff and Members, with periodic email phishing simulations to strengthen the Council’s cyber security resilience.
- Data Centre Audit completed, confirming full compliance.
- New applicant tracking system procured to modernise and improve the Council’s recruitment processes.
- Recruitment completed for a range of new roles created to support emerging Council services and priorities, including Food Waste Collections, Housing, and the establishment of a Local Government Reorganisation Office.
- Three officers completed Level 5 Coaching qualifications.
- Senior Leadership Team completed IOSH Leading Safety training.
- Health and Safety Action Plan delivered to improve safety standards across the Council.
- 95% of responses in the annual staff survey stated that employees enjoy working for the Council.
- Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation submitted in November 2025.
- Officers continued to support Lancashire-wide workstreams linked to Local Government Reorganisation.
- Award submissions made to the LGA and Municipal Journal.
- 2026/27 Budget approved, setting out a growth-focused financial plan aligned with the Council’s Valley Plan priorities while continuing to deliver key services for residents.
- 95% of Council Tax collected and 98.8% of NNDR collected throughout the year.
- 2,986 bulky waste collections processed throughout the year.
- 19,281 online service request forms completed throughout the year.
- 1,898 Freedom of Information requests, 133 MP enquiries, four Member enquiries, 153 complaints, and 66 compliments processed throughout the year.
- 63 positive news stories published and circulated through the Council’s website and communications channels.
- 8,072 responses received to the 2025 Annual Residents Survey, representing a 42% increase compared with 2024.
- Overall resident satisfaction remained high, with 77% of residents responding to the 2025 Residents Survey stating they are satisfied with Rossendale as a place to live, 3% above the LGA average.

Annual Outturn 2025/26

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 2025/26



Rawtenstall Market relocated, with works beginning in January 2026.



8,072 responses to the 2025 Residents Survey, increasing by 42%



Completion of Public Realm works on Deardengate, Haslingden



Green Flag awards retained in Rawtenstall, Bacup, and Whitworth




Supported 2,376 households via the Household Support Fund



Preparation completed for April 2026 food waste collection launch




THRIVING LOCAL ECONOMY




Installation of pilot town square and canopy in Waterfoot



Bacup Market designs approved




Murals completed in Whitworth, Waterfoot, and Haslingden




Partnership established to bring forward the former Bingo Hall site in Bacup




HIGH QUALITY ENVIRONMENT



98% of bins collected as per schedule throughout the year



Junior play park completed at Whitaker Park




Net Zero Terrace Streets project completed




Proposals approved for a new Waste Transfer Station at Futures Park




HEALTHY & PROUD COMMUNITIES




5 properties purchased to increase temporary accommodation offer



Leisure Asset Review completed




92% of residents feel safe in their local area during the day



Better Lives Strategy approved, supported by Low-Income Family Tracker data




EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT COUNCIL



Local Government Reorganisation proposals submitted



95% of staff enjoy working for the Council





2026/27 annual budget approved



'Recite Me' tool integrated into the Council's website, improving customer accessibility

OUR PERFORMANCE IN NUMBERS


94  economically inactive residents engaged via Rossendale Works

19,281 online service requests processed 

151 Disabled Facilities Grants awarded 

63  positive news stories circulated and uploaded to the website

100%  of planning applications (98% major) decided within deadline

77%  residents satisfied living in Rossendale, 3% above LGA average