

# Appendix 5 – 2023/24 Q4 ECONOMY, REGENERATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE

**Cabinet Member: Councillor Julie Jones-Evans**

**Portfolio Responsibilities:**

- Economic Development
- Events
- Regeneration Projects
- Levelling Up, SLEP
- Tourism
- Leisure Centres
- Sports Development
- Libraries
- Theatres
- Museums
- Archaeology
- Records Office

## Performance Measures

**Average number of out of work benefit claimants (per month)**

**Aim:** Reduction in the number of out of work benefit claimants

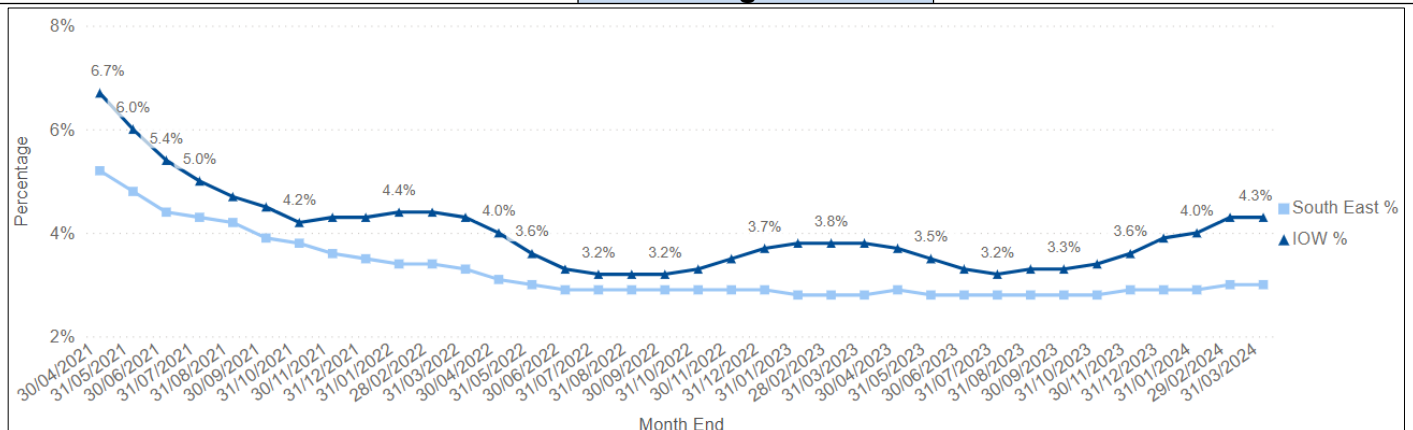
**UN Sustainable Development Goal:** 8

**Most Recent Status:** March 2024

**Monitoring Measure**

**Previous Status:** November 2023

**Monitoring Measure**



- Labour market data is released by the Office of National Statistics.
- The data shows that the number of out of work benefit claimants rose slightly over Quarter 4 and is 0.5 percent higher than at the same time last year.
- IOW remains above the Southeast average of 3 percent, but below the England average of 3.9 percent.
- In March 2024 there were a total of 3,370 claimants among the working age population of the island (aged 16 or over).

**Total number of One Cards in issue**

**Aim:** Increase in the number of One Cards in issue

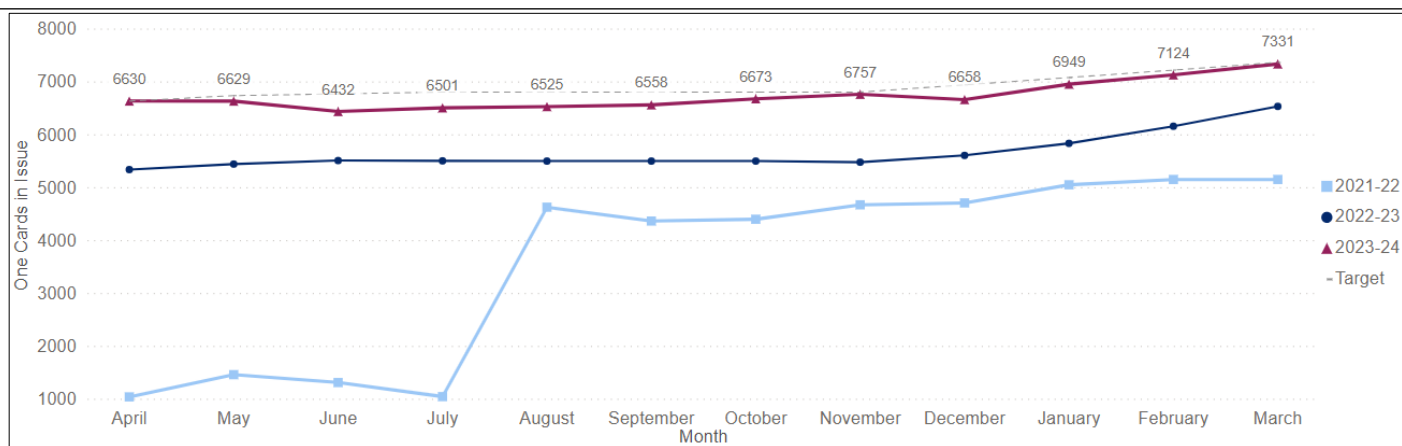
**UN Sustainable Development Goal:** 3

**Most Recent Status:** March 2024

**AMBER**

**Previous Status:** December 2023

**AMBER**



- Data from Leisure Facilities shows the number of One Cards (giving unlimited access to selected sports and leisure activities, subject to availability) in issue.
- Quarter 4 has seen the new year rush plus the contract offer that ran up to the end of March.

**Average gross weekly wage for an IOW resident (mean income level)**

**Aim:** Increase in the gross weekly wage for an IOW resident

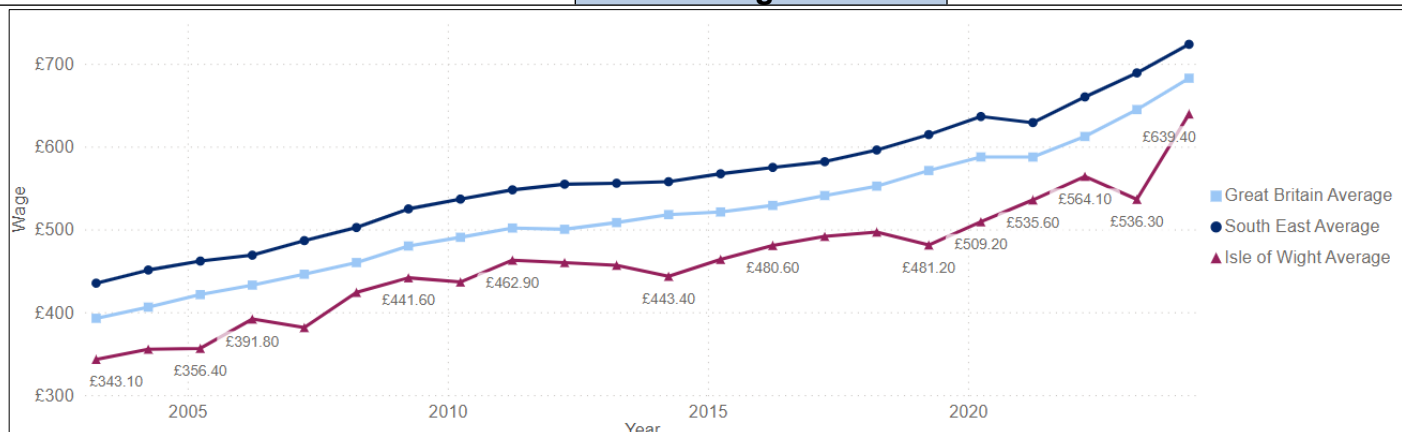
**UN Sustainable Development Goal: 8**

**Most Recent Status:** March 2024

**Monitoring Measure**

**Previous Status:** March 2023

**Monitoring Measure**



- Annual Nomis data released by Office of National Statistics, based on the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings conducted in April each year.

**Service Updates - Key Aspirations and Ongoing Business**

**The following activity supports UN Sustainable Development Goal 4:**

The Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) scheme has been remodelled and will start to be delivered this financial year.

Grant funding has been secured from the Department of Work and Pensions to support the grant aided project to improve young peoples’ skills to get into the workplace. This will be delivered by the Youth Trust.

The Museum Estate and Development Fund (MEND) bid has been successful and will be announced shortly. Consideration will now be given to continuing the discussion about the future of Dinosaur Isle with stakeholders.

The Newport Cultural Centre is currently not considered to be financially viable due to no seed funding being awarded as part of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) round 3 decisions. This project will now be put on hold until future funding can be identified. Discussion on the alternatives for the new records office will need to be discussed.

**The following activity supports UN Sustainable Development Goal 8:**

Conversations with Homes England have restarted around the Venture Quays housing site.

The Venture Quays Levelling up Fund projects have experienced some delays and will seek to formalist an extension to the delivery window. This is to ensure the best outcomes are delivered as the project tackles cost increases due to inflation, the effects of which will be reduced through value engineering.

Business support and a small grant scheme have been started to help businesses on the island with regeneration progress, this will utilise the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) grant.

Capital works contractors are on site at The Department, Ryde, and the works are progressing well. Funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) has enabled the appointment of a Creative Curator to create exhibitions to tell the story of the building and to create an exhibition/event to mark the completion of the scheme, due March 2025.

Eight murals have been created by a range of local female artists in locations around Ryde town as part of the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) funded Women's Art Trail. The trail was officially launched in Monkton Arts on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Discussions continue over the potential use of the Building 41 sheds by Shademakers as a maker-space for local creatives.

The Isle of Wight Cultural Strategy 2023-2033, "All the Wonder" continues to be the key reference point for cultural activity on the island.

Several press releases have been made within the quarter:

- Bay area town and parish councils formally launch Bay Area Place Plan (January)
- Place plan public launch provides insight into future of the Bay area (January)
- £369,000 partnership with Council boosts employment prospects for Islanders (January)
- Successful first year recognised as Cowes' Building 41 celebrates birthday (February)
- Council looking to recruit people to lead transformation of Ryde (February)
- Islanders invited to celebrate Heritage Action Zone programme achievements (March)

Other activities include the Bay Place Plan launch event, a social media campaign for National Apprenticeship Week and a celebration of Heritage Action Zone events in Newport and Ryde.

**The following activity supports UN Sustainable Development Goal 9:**

The Wightfibre project continues to progress and is due to be completed during the financial year 2024/2025.

**The following activity supports UN Sustainable Development Goal 11:**

Work continues on Sandown Town Hall as per the Youth Investment Fund project to renovate and reopen the building as a youth and community centre. The deadline for the completion of these works is March 2025. The Bay Area Place Plan has now been launched, and a public appeal has

been made for volunteers to represent their sector in the steering group. The steering group will commence with the prioritisation of the action plan in quarter 1 of the 2024/2025 financial year.

Support continues for the Shaping Newport Partnership, with the 2023/2024 action plan rolling forward into 2024/2025. Key priorities for short and longer-term delivery are underway, including commissioning new banners for High Street lamp posts (to be installed April 2024), developing and establishing a town events programme, improving appearance and people's perception of town centre lanes and alleyways (discussion ongoing with premises owners to secure permission for new murals), securing funding from Homes England for design development for Newport Guildhall, bringing together agencies concerned with young people in the town to develop a coordinated response to the challenges they face, and finding a new use for the South Street toilet/shop mobility unit.

Work continues with Ryde Town Council on developing an action plan for the Place Plan and its resultant projects which include Western Gardens, Ryde Skate Park, and beach accessibility. It remains to be seen how the Place Plan will influence the emerging government funded long-term plan for Ryde.

Work continues to support the East Cowes area related improvement projects that are linked to the East Cowes Town Plan. These include public realm, Bells landing refurbishment, the reintroduction of the white-tailed eagle and a collaborative large scale mural project linked to the biosphere for which £40,000 of Forestry England and Arts Council funding has been secured. Work is due to start in April/May 2024.

In Cowes, the changing places (disabled toilet) project completed in March 2024. Support continues for the 'Cowes Cut' pedestrianisation project as well as the development of the Cowes and Northwood Place Plan, for which governance, advisory/steering and working groups have been established. Short and longer goal projects are being proposed by the working groups to the steering group for assessment.

## **Strategic Risks**

N/A