

# Appendix 7 - 2022/23 Q1

## LEVELLING UP, REGENERATION, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

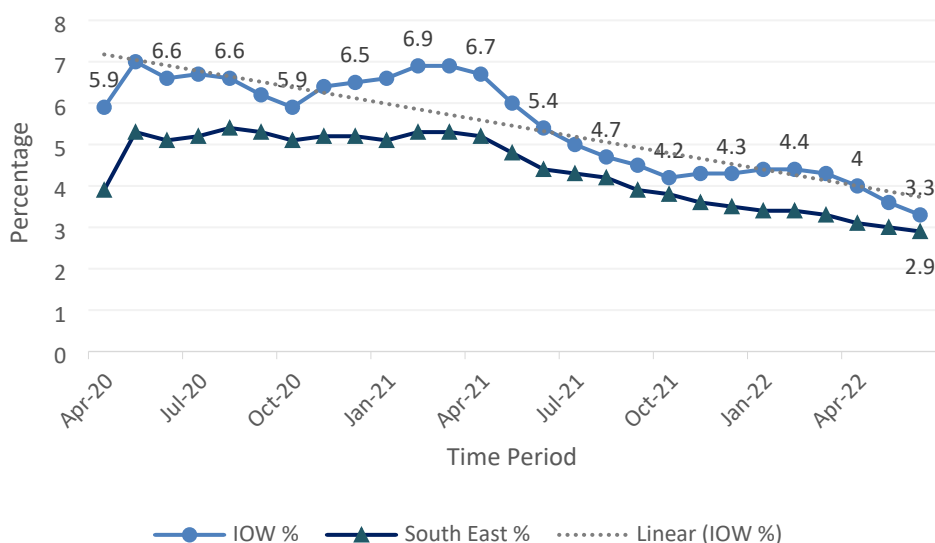
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Julie Jones-Evans

**Portfolio Responsibilities:**

- Economic Development
- Events
- Regeneration Projects
- Levelling Up, SLEP
- Tourism
- Leisure Centres
- Sports Development

### 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:** June 2022

**Monitoring Measure Only**

**Previous Status:** March 2022

**Monitoring Measure Only**

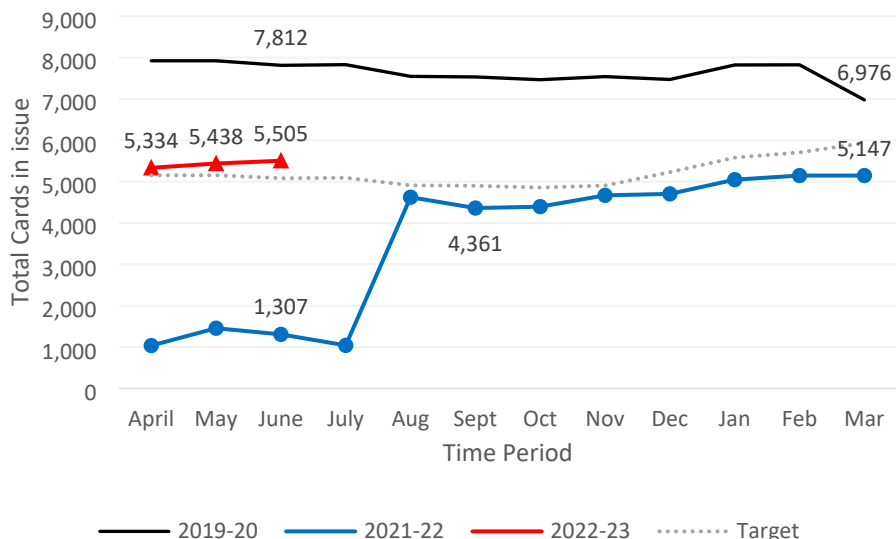
- The number of out of work benefit claimants dropped to a two-year low in June this year (3.3 percent of the working age population), a figure which has not been seen on the island since March 2020 when it stood at 3.2 percent.
- We remain above the South East average of 2.9 percent, but below the England average of 3.8 percent
- The rate of reduction is typical of this time of year as seasonal employment opportunities become more widely available.
- The number of claimants on the IW is falling at a faster rate than regionally or nationally and this downward trend shows the island in a far healthier position that at the same time last year, when the claimant count stood at 5.4 percent for June 2021, indicating positive economic recovery as we continue to exit the pandemic
- The actual claimant count for 2021-22 and 2022-23 is shown in the below table

Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22
5370	4775	4290	4005	3770	3550	3365	3385	3395	3455	3460	3380	3145	2855	2856

#### Number of visitors to IOW

- **Aim:** Increasing number of visitors to the isle of Wight
- **UN Sustainable Development Goal:** 8
- Data capture during 2020 was impacted due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions creating a temporary gap in the domestic tourism monitor. Fieldwork resumed in April 2021 and Visit Britain / Visit England are aiming to publish 2021 data (April – December) in mid-October 2022 (barring any unforeseen circumstances)

### 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:** June 2022

**GREEN**

**Previous Status:** March 2022

**AMBER**

- The number of One Cards (giving unlimited access to selected sports and leisure activities, subject to availability) in issue has seen a steady rise since the phased re-opening of facilities began in the 2021-22 financial year with the first accurate reflection of membership numbers appearing in September 2021 once the first post-Covid direct debits and cancellations have been processed.
- We have not yet returned to pre-Covid levels of membership (we are currently at 70 percent of membership as of June 2019), though over target and well above the 1,307 membership of June 2021. This reflects the impact of sales campaigns around membership, along with investment at Medina Leisure.
- The council recognises the importance of leisure services to residents and visitors to the island and is carrying out a review of services in the light of the large increases in fuel costs and the overall impacts of the rise in the cost of living.

### Service Updates - Key Aspirations and Ongoing Business

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

Analysis of the consultation feedback on the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) around Newport Harbour is ongoing with the results and recommendations scheduled to be presented to Cabinet in October 2022. Following this we will go back to the market for development partners. The site is expected to yield between 250 and 350 residential properties.

The Vision document for a Pop-up container project (which would in effect be a small outdoor event centre on Newport Quay) is complete and has been reviewed by Regeneration members board and the aim is to have it in operation by April 2023.

An analysis of the projected land values compared to site development costs has been undertaken at Venture Keys. Expressions of interest for the site have been received and evaluated and Cabinet will be asked to decide to approve the preferred option for the site. It is hoped that planning applications for homes on the site will be submitted before the end of 2022.

Cabinet approved the sale of the freehold interest in the Shanklin Spa site to a preferred bidder in June 2022 and disposal of the site is complete subject to financial appraisal of terms. The preferred bidder's proposal is for a mixed-use regeneration scheme comprising a thirty room Apart-Hotel (the Island's first); fourteen private apartments with parking over ground floor leisure/retail/commercial unit. The project also proposes seven refurbished office/workshops in the currently derelict rear arches on the site, a new public climbing wall, a communal garden area and forty new public pay and display spaces, to be retained by the council.

£5.8 M approved from the Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF bid) for East Cowes marine hub projects which need to be complete by March 2024. Works are in progress and are scheduled to be completed entirely

by Winter 2023/24. Elevation works are complete at the Columbine building (in East Cowes), with hoist crane works underway. Design and costing work on other elements highlighting cost risks will however result in an impact on the scope of the overall development.

The Digital Innovation Centre at Rangefinder House in Cowes had its soft opening in July 2022 ahead of a full official opening scheduled for September 2022.

Brewery fit out works at Branstone Farm Business Park are scheduled for completion and handover alongside Phase 1 Business Units scheduled for September 2022 with tenants occupying shortly after.

Further analysis of the drainage surveys around the Camp Hill estate is required to complete the programme of works for the site. Information for Wightfibre will be analysed to mitigate the risk of having to dig up roads that have already been repaired and resurfaced. Phase 2 of the lighting works is also now in progress. An annual milestone report will be submitted to the Ministry of Justice by the end of August 2022.

**The following activity supports UN Sustainable Development Goal 16:**

A review of council owned sites is being carried out to identify their suitability and viability for development. These sites include the Old Newport Library and Elmdon.

The Council will be submitting an Isle of Wight Shared Prosperity Investment Plan in August 2022 as part of an application the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) which is part of the government's Levelling Up agenda. The IW has been awarded around £1.7m over the next Three years and the locally constructed Investment Plan needs to be approved centrally to allow us to draw down those funds.

## Strategic Risks

N/A