

This plan provides a roadmap for implementing the Local Economy Strategy 2024. Readers can find supporting information within the full Strategy document, which also includes details relating to the work undertaken to inform the Strategy and the rationale for the Strategy’s development.

The strategic goals and actions noted in this document are categorised under one of three policy pillars: Infrastructure and Place, Management, Enterprise and Consumer Experience, and Local Empowerment and Partnerships. Key goals are marked as priorities, with all goals contributing to achieving the Strategy’s overall vision: To ensure the Island is a great place to live, supporting vibrancy and distinctiveness in our city, towns, and villages by empowering communities and enabling retail, leisure, and hospitality businesses.

2025

**Q1 2025: Launch first round of new schemes and adapted existing schemes** in support of the Local Economy Strategy, including Local Economy Fund, Domestic Event Fund, and Town and Village Regeneration Scheme.

**Q1 2025: Implement monitoring and control tools and metrics** such as footfall counters and **undertake commercial premises vacancy rate survey.**

**Q2 2025: Publish Business Isle of Man Programme 2025** including details of cross Government projects and reviews that will support Strategy implementation. Support the formulation or strengthening of Town Plans / Visions. **Continue promotion and administration of relevant support schemes.**

**Q3 2025: Progress review using Local Economy Dashboard provided to Business Isle of Man Board to report on Strategy Outputs and Key Measures** (detailed on following page). Review will allow for benchmarking of data, assessment of stakeholder feedback, evaluation of approach, and adjustment of prioritisation and resourcing.

**Q4 2025: Conclude first-year reviews led by Business Isle of Man and detailed as actions within Local Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan.** Undertake consumer and business focussed local surveys to assess progress and inform the development of initiatives.

2026

**Q1 2026: Coordinate second “empty shop” vacancy rate survey** to assess impact of Local Economy Strategy on vacant commercial premises. **Report key metric data, trends, and progress towards objectives to Business Isle of Man Board** for review and analysis. **Agree and prioritise Business Isle of Man led projects for 2026 with Agency Board.**

**Q2 2026: Publish Business Isle of Man Programme for 2026** and commence Business Isle of Man-led reviews for 2026, adjust implementation mechanisms if needed. **Continue to engage with businesses and other stakeholders to promote schemes** developed to advance the Local Economy Strategy and fulfil Town Plans/Visions.

**Q3 2026: Undertake 2026 Town Audit project** to allow for the development of key urban areas to be assessed against 2024 benchmark data. **Complete comprehensive 18-month review of Strategy based on Outputs and Key Measures;** report to Business Isle of Man Board for review.

**Q4 2026: Develop additional schemes and projects and publish Strategy Implementation Plan for 2027-28.** **Strengthen areas of success and, if required, propose changes to strategic implementation mechanisms,** such as funding schemes, based on Strategy review and guidance of Business Isle of Man Board.

# Local Economy Strategy – Implementation Priorities 2025-26

# Introduction and Plan Components

**Guiding Principles:** Guiding principles will be considered when devising actions and initiatives and reviewing the impact of work undertaken to implement the Local Economy Strategy.

*Consultees broadly supported the Strategy’s Guiding Principles. Over 85% of survey respondents considered six of the Strategy’s seven Guiding Principles important.*

- Actions undertaken to implement the Local Economy Strategy should:**
- Foster and build great communities.
  - Support a strong and diverse economy.
  - Lead to job creation.
  - Be consistent with the Island’s Climate Change Plan.
  - Reflect a local-first approach.
  - Stimulate investment.
  - Support the development of a local economy that caters to a broad range of consumers.

**Outputs and Key Measures:** Outputs listed in this document will contribute to achieving the related strategic goals. Key measures will be closely monitored, and action taken will be adjusted accordingly. In addition to the outputs measured detailed in the adjacent box, Business Isle of Man will monitor the number of applications per scheme to gauge their impact and suitability.

*Consultees considered increased town centre footfall and reduced commercial vacancy rates to be of primary importance.*

- The following monitoring tools and outputs will be integral to ensuring strategic goals are achieved:**
- **Local Economy Dashboard** – produced with Treasury guidance, this visual asset will collate key control metrics.
  - **Economic Data** – published reports, including the Monthly Labour Market Report, will allow employment in relevant sectors to be monitored. Sustaining employment levels in relevant industries is a target of the Local Economy Strategy.
  - **Footfall Counters** –The Local Economy Strategy aims to stimulate annual increases in footfall of 10% during the Strategy’s initial implementation period with increases evidenced from the second year of the Strategy. Anonymised data will be provided by footfall counters positioned in areas that are key to the delivery of Strategic Goals.
  - **Vacancy Rate Surveys** – an annual survey will be undertaken to benchmark vacancy rates in the Manx retail, leisure, and hospitality sectors against those in other countries and regions. Progress will also be monitored towards achieving a 10% annual decrease in relevant vacancy rates during the Strategy’s initial implementation period.
  - **Local Economy and Business Confidence Surveys** – surveys will be undertaken at least every two years to monitor the economic health of relevant sectors and public perception of retail, hospitality, and leisure.
  - **Town Audits** – audits or reviews will be completed every two years to evaluate the impact of the Strategy in specific urban locations.

**Implementation Mechanisms:** A variety of initiatives will be introduced to implement the Strategy, including the introduction of new support schemes, the expansion of existing schemes, and projects focussed on outreach and stakeholder liaison work.

The tables within this document stipulate the scheme or project that is most relevant to the related action. In some cases, Business Isle of Man will be responsible for the mechanism and undertaking the initiative; in other cases, actions will be completed through the effective promotion and delivery of support schemes. Where a suitable scheme exists, promoting and explaining this scheme will be critical to Business Isle of Man’s work; if a suitable scheme does not exist, Business Isle of Man will work with stakeholders to explore introducing new schemes or expanding existing schemes.

**Timescales and Funding:** This implementation plan details actions to be undertaken over 2025 and 2026. The Strategy acts as a framework, aligning existing funded schemes and proposing new schemes and initiatives.

During Q3 and Q4 2026, progress will be evaluated. If progress is deemed insufficient relative to the targets set, actions noted in the “Contingency Plan” sections of the Local Economy Strategy will be reviewed. This plan notes any instances where funding for proposed initiatives has not been secured for the 18-24 month initial implementation period. The success of each initiative will likely impact the level of allocated funding in future periods.

**Funding Schemes:** Numerous support schemes are relevant to the delivery of the Local Economy Strategy; each scheme will be adequately financed.

- Local Economy Fund
- Domestic Event Fund
- Town and Village Regeneration Scheme
- Business Emissions Saving Scheme
- Business Improvement Scheme
- Island Infrastructure Scheme

Local Economy Strategy – Implementation Priorities 2025-26			Infrastructure and Place Management		
Strategic Goal	Action	Implementation Mechanism	Timescale	Output	Key Measure
<b>1.1 Transform Underused and Vacant Spaces</b> <i>Priority Goal</i>	1. Support collaboration to fill underutilised spaces.	<b>Local Economy Fund, Domestic Event Fund, and Town &amp; Village Regeneration Scheme</b> – collaboration with Local Authorities.	Focus for 2025 & 2026.	Empty premises filled.	10% annual reduction in vacancy rates.
	2. Make upper floors in high street properties more usable.	<b>Town and Village Regeneration Scheme</b> – promoted by Business Isle of Man.	Focus for 2025 & 2026.	Increase town centre accommodation.	10% annual increase town centre footfall.
	3. Support increased provision of leisure Infrastructure through attracting private sector investment (support action 2.7.1).	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025</b> – promote Island Infrastructure Scheme, and Town and Village Regeneration Scheme to potential investors.	Q1-Q2 2025. Review Q3-Q4 2025.	Increase choice of financially viable facilities.	Improved Local Economy Survey scores: '25 vs '23.
	4. Encourage using visual assets to improve appeal of vacant premises.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025</b> – support landlords and estate agents to lease properties.	Duration of 2025. Review Q4 2025.	Attractiveness of vacant premises improved.	10% annual reduction in vacancy rates.
<b>1.2 Invigorate High Streets and Catalyse Vibrancy</b> <i>Priority Goal</i>	1. Support events, markets, and other initiatives that stimulate footfall and address bureaucratic challenges (in support of action 3.5.1).	<b>Domestic Event Fund and Business Isle of Man Programme 2025</b> – ensure proposed planning changes related to events are communicated and licencing regulations are reviewed.	Focus for 2025 & 2026.	Support vibrancy through measurable increase in events.	10% annual increase town centre footfall.
	2. Make events easier to hold; explore changes relating to event licensing / planning requirements.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme for 2025/26</b> – work closely with Planning Policy team and liaise with local stakeholders.	Project focus for 2025 – review Q4.	Encourage events in town-centres.	10% annual increase town centre footfall.
	3. Incentivise improvements to the public realm with the aim of encouraging private sector investment.	Town and Village Regeneration Scheme and Local Economy Fund – promote both schemes and play an active role in highlighting opportunities to private sector investors.	Focus for 2025 & 2026.	Increase accommodation in town centres.	10% annual increase town centre footfall.
	4. Encourage and promote extended and more flexible opening hours on the Island's high streets.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025 and Local Economy Fund</b> – encourage and enable improved communication and coordination between business owners.	Duration of 2025. Review Q4 2025.	Improved financial sustainability in retail, hospitality, and leisure.	10% annual increase town centre footfall.
	5. Support the development of new attractions in town centres, including those that involve the creative and cultural sectors.	<b>Local Economy Fund and Domestic Event Fund</b> – close collaboration with Local Authorities and other stakeholders in the spheres of arts, culture, and heritage.	Focus for 2025 & 2026.	Increased appeal of urban centres and new reasons to visit.	10% annual increase town centre footfall.
<b>1.3 Encourage Town Centre Regeneration</b>	1. Relaunch Town and Village Regeneration Scheme.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025</b> – business focussed stakeholder outreach to explain and promote scheme.	Duration of 2025. Review Q4 2025.	Empty premises filled and business financial sustainability improved.	10% annual reduction in vacancy rates.
	2. Ensure businesses are involved in decision-making related to urban development.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025</b> – work closely with relevant Government departments to ensure impacted businesses and consulted and informed regarding proposed works.	Duration of 2025. Review Q4 2025.	Barriers to business reduced and decision-making improved.	Improved Town Audit results.
	3. Incentivise the investment in public spaces including public streets, squares, and parks.	<b>Town and Village Regeneration Scheme and Local Economy Fund</b> – close collaboration with Local Authorities.	Focus for 2025 & 2026.	Increased appeal of urban centres.	Improved Town Audit results.

Local Economy Strategy – Implementation Priorities 2025-26				Infrastructure and Place Management		
Strategic Goal	Action	Implementation Mechanism	Timescale	Output	Key Measure	
1.4 Improve Town Centre Accessibility	1. Support town centre projects that address environmental and sustainability-related objectives.	<b>Local Economy Fund and Business Emissions Saving Scheme. Business Isle of Man Programme 2025</b> – promote existing schemes and consider potential alternatives.	Duration of 2025/26.	Ensure increasing local footfall is consistent with Net-Zero Goals.	Improved Town Audit results.	
	2. Ensure parking provision is appropriate.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – review relevant strategies across Government and support .	Schedule during 2025/26.	Planning policy and strategy that reflects business needs.	10% annual increase town centre footfall.	
	3. Prioritise the support of accessible built environment features.	<b>Local Economy Fund</b> – close collaboration with Local Authorities. <b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – stakeholder liaison.	Duration of 2025/26.	Urban area features that enable access.	Improved Town Audit scores.	
	4. Support policy that makes town centres more walkable, accessible, and signposted.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme for 2025/26</b> – evaluate relevant policies and inform and direct relevant policy development.	Schedule during 2025/26.	Strong policy supporting walkable urban areas.	10% annual increase town centre footfall.	
1.5 Support Strategic Planning Policy	1. Undertake evidenced based review of planning policy related to high street properties and “change of use” regulations.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme for 2025/26</b> – work closely with Planning Policy team.	Project focus for 2025 – review Q4.	Increased investment in town-centre premises.	10% annual reduction in vacancy rates.	
	2. Support planning policy that encourages vibrant urban centres; communicate these policies effectively to stakeholders	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme for 2025/26</b> – work closely with Cabinet Office Planning Policy team; providing stakeholder feedback and communicating existing policies effectively to businesses and local authorities.	Project focus for 2025 – review Q4.	Urban centres aligned with providing the goods and services Manx residents desire.	Improved Town Audit results.	
1.6 Encourage Sustainable Practices	1. Promote existing Government schemes to support investment that will lead to long-term cost savings and improved environmental practices.	<b>Local Economy Fund and Business Emissions Saving Scheme</b> – communication and explanation of schemes through outreach.	Duration of 2025/26.	Business efficiency and contribution to climate change targets.	Improved business confidence scores.	
	2. Ensure Strategy schemes have sustainable practices at their core, particularly by reducing the need for consumers to travel long distances.	<b>Domestic Event Fund and Town and Village Regeneration Scheme</b> – build scheme guidance and promotional activities to emphasise local-first approach.	Schedule during 2025.	Productivity and contribution to climate change targets.	Progress towards Climate Change Plan objectives.	
1.7 Improve Collaboration to Maximise Business Potential	1. Collaborate with Visit Isle of Man to raise awareness of visitor activity and relevant events.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme for 2025/26</b> – project to liaise with all stakeholders to maximise the economic benefit of visitors.	Schedule during 2025/26.	Increased visitor spend and engagement.	Improved business confidence scores.	
	2. Develop a calendar of events across the Island to minimise competition and maximise benefits.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme for 2025/26</b> – work with businesses, Local Authorities, and Government departments.	Project focus for 2025 – review Q4.	Published calendar of events.	10% annual increase town centre footfall.	
1.8 Enable Place Promotion and Branding	1. Assist stakeholders in identifying and advertising the unique selling points of towns and urban areas.	<b>Local Economy Fund</b> – work with Local Authorities to develop cohesive plans and support funding applications (support 3.5.2).	Focus for 2025/26.	Defined and distinctive town visions.	Improved Town Audit results.	
	2. Undertake "Shop Local" marketing activities highlighting town features and local stores.	<b>Business Isle of Man marketing activities</b> such as the Christmas Shop Local campaign and “Meet Your Street” initiatives.	Duration of 2025/26.	Marketing and promotional assets.	10% annual increase town centre footfall.	

Local Economy Strategy – Implementation Priorities 2025-26			Enterprise and Consumer Experience		
Strategic Goal	Action	Implementation Mechanism	Timescale	Output	Key Measure
<b>2.1 Encourage Increased Consumer Choice</b> <i>Priority Goal</i>	1. Support businesses to provide products and brands that are underrepresented on the Isle of Man.	<b>Business Improvement Scheme</b> – promote the Business Improvement Scheme and explore how the scheme may be used, expanded, adapted, or supplemented to fulfil this action.	Project focus for 2025 – review Q4.	Increase in range of products available on the Island.	Local Economy Survey Scores; based on received applications
	2. Introduce schemes that support the economic strength of the night-time economy, encouraging vibrancy and variety.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – conduct survey and supporting research to understand the value, importance, and strength of night-time economy.	Schedule during 2025/26.	Data and information from which initiatives can be developed.	Improved Local Economy Survey Scores.
	3. Prioritise engagement with anchor tenants and ensure they are aware of the support schemes available to them.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – undertake project to define and build strong relationships with anchor tenants, increasing their awareness of support schemes available to them.	Duration of 2025. Review Q4 2025.	Commitment from and investment by anchor tenants.	Sustaining of reported sector employment levels.
<b>2.2 Reduce Barriers to Business</b> <i>Priority Goal</i>	1. Incentivise modernisation of retail, hospitality, and leisure premises. Support businesses to invest; enhancing customer experience, business assets, and aesthetic appeal of their stores.	<b>Town and Village Regeneration Scheme and Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – promote relaunched scheme and undertake a project to determine how existing schemes may be used, expanded, adapted, or supplemented to fulfil this action.	Project focus for 2025 – review Q4.	Upgraded outlets, better customer experiences, sustainable businesses.	Improved business confidence scores.
	2. Remove obstacles to growth and innovation, such as banking services, payment providers and access to funding.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – work with Digital Isle of Man and Finance Isle of Man to ensure digital and financial services available in the UK are available to Manx businesses.	Project focus for 2025 – review Q4.	Digital and financial equivalency.	Improved business confidence scores.
	3. Improve Government led stakeholder communication and ensure processes are efficient and understood.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – work with Digital Isle of Man to improve the readability and usability of guidelines and policies relevant to businesses in retail, hospitality, and leisure.	Project focus for 2025 – review Q4.	Centralisation of relevant business support information.	Improved business confidence scores.
	4. Provide support for businesses to invest in digital and technological infrastructure, providing opportunities for improving customer service and increasing efficiencies.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – work with the Enterprise Support Team to research and devise a support scheme, or utilise existing schemes, that stimulates business investment in equipment and digital processes.	Project focus for 2025 – review Q4.	Measurable improvements in business productivity.	Improved business confidence scores.
	5. Lead campaigns and launch initiatives to alleviate staffing challenges and promote careers in retail, leisure, and hospitality (support action 2.6.2).	<b>Business Isle of Man and Hospitality Isle of Man</b> – work with Hospitality Isle of Man and University College Isle of Man; address challenges and raise awareness of career opportunities.	Schedule during 2025/26.	Business Isle of Man promotion and engagement campaign.	Sustaining of reported sector employment levels.
<b>2.3 Foster Entrepreneurship</b>	1. Create opportunities for micro-businesses to revitalise underutilised and vacant spaces.	<b>Micro Business Grant Scheme and Domestic Event Fund</b> – support from Business Isle of Man focus where need is evidenced.	Focus for 2025 & 2026.	Stimulate start-ups and consumer choice.	10% annual reduction in vacancy rates.
	2. Repurpose vacant units - create incubator spaces that empower local entrepreneurs.	<b>Micro Business Grant Scheme and Local Economy Fund</b> – work closely with Local Authorities and town-focused trader networks.	Focus for 2025 & 2026.	Stimulate start-ups and consumer choice.	10% annual reduction in vacancy rates.
	3. Increase support for businesses seeking to build on their experience in schemes such as the Micro Business Grant Scheme.	<b>Business Isle of Man and Enterprise Support Team</b> – work with Enterprise Support Teams to better support business growth once businesses advance from a micro-phase.	Schedule during 2025/26.	Economically stronger and more sustainable businesses.	Improved business confidence scores.

# Local Economy Strategy – Implementation Priorities 2025-26

## Enterprise and Consumer Experience

Strategic Goal	Action	Implementation Mechanism	Timescale	Output	Key Measure
<b>2.4 Encourage Increased Consumer Choice</b>	1. Encourage growth in high street diversification and rise in experience-based high street retail or leisure. Encourage the development of multi-channel retail where consistent with wider goals.	<b>Business Improvement Scheme and Financial Assistance Scheme</b> – promote existing schemes and explore how they may be used, expanded, adapted, or supplemented to fulfil this action. Support businesses in developing an online offering that supports bricks and mortar stores.	Project focus for 2025 – review Q4.	Increase in number of in demand products available on the Island.	Improved Local Economy Survey Scores.
	2. Facilitate the provision of business advice allowing local businesses to assess opportunities and react to changes in consumer preferences.	<b>Business Improvement Scheme and Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – promote Business Improvement Scheme and distribute relevant reports and data to local businesses.	Duration of 2025. Review Q4 2025.	Business improvement scheme applications and outreach project.	Improved business confidence scores.
<b>2.5 Utilise Data-led Decision Making</b>	1. Provide data extract reports to local businesses, including key metrics such as footfall, vacancy rates, and demographics to support decision-making.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – develop Local Economy dashboard and relevant data collection processes alongside Treasury – use to report to the business community.	Project focus for 2025 – review Q4.	Local Economy Dashboard and outreach project.	Improved business confidence scores.
	2. Collect, collate, and publish benchmarking data providing insights into the characteristics of Manx residents and retail, leisure, and hospitality sectors.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – coordinate relevant research and analysis work, such as business confidence and local economy surveys, and make data accessible and useable.	Duration of 2025. Review Q4 2025.	Local economy data depository and outreach processes.	Improved business confidence scores.
<b>2.6 Enable Businesses to Improve Quality of Service</b>	1. Facilitate the provision of training services to ensure staff can offer high service standards and are knowledgeable, skilled, and motivated.	<b>Business Isle of Man and Hospitality Isle of Man</b> – work with Hospitality Isle of Man, University College Isle of Man, and other training providers to develop or strengthen support schemes.	Schedule during 2025/26.	Demonstrable improvement service standards.	Sustaining of reported sector employment levels.
	2. Support businesses in attracting high-calibre Employees (support action 2.2.5).	<b>Business Isle of Man and Hospitality Isle of Man</b> – supplement action 2.2.5, work with Hospitality Isle of Man, Locate Isle of Man, and UCM to gear campaigns towards attracting skilled individuals.	Schedule during 2025/26.	Business Isle of Man promotion and engagement campaign.	Sustaining of reported sector employment levels.
<b>2.7 Stimulate the Provision of Entertainment and Leisure Facilities</b>	1. Complete a review of large-scale vacant sites to determine the viability of investment and the likelihood of entrepreneurship (support action 1.1.3).	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> –work alongside the Planning Policy team to identify key sites and potential uses. Work will inform action taken under point 1.1.3	Q1-Q2 2025 review Q3-Q4 2025.	Increase choice of financially viable facilities.	Improved Local Economy Survey scores: '25 vs '23.
	2. De-risk entrepreneurship through schemes that include underwriting and / or capital cost reduction provisions.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – review existing schemes to determine relevance and inform the development of new schemes or the adaptation of existing schemes.	Schedule during 2025/26.	Increase choice of financially viable facilities.	Improved Local Economy Survey scores: '25 vs '23.

# Local Economy Strategy – Implementation Priorities 2025-26

# Local Empowerment and Partnerships

Strategic Goal	Action	Implementation Mechanism	Timescale	Output	Key Measure
<b>3.1 Encourage Increased Consumer Choice</b> <i>Priority Goal</i>	1. Provide targeted support to develop, launch and strengthen partnerships and stakeholder networks prioritising the Island’s significant economic areas.	<b>Local Economy Fund and Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – work with businesses and Local Authorities to establish potential for strengthening networks and related opportunities.	Project focus for 2025 – review Q4.	Formation and / or reinforcement of business networks.	Improved business confidence scores.
	2. Work with stakeholders to establish appropriate civic organisations to drive positive local change.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – form part of agency outreach; review opportunities and challenges with stakeholders.	Schedule during 2025/26.	Review to be considered by agency board.	Improved Town Audit results.
<b>3.2 Empower Local Authorities by Creating New Funding Routes</b> <i>Priority Goal</i>	1. Create new funding routes and enhance existing schemes, such as the Domestic Event Fund, to provide the financial backing that will enable Local Authorities to action projects that deliver improvements to town centres.	<b>Business Isle of Man / Department for Enterprise</b> – finalise guidance and seek required approvals to confirm the introduction of new schemes and adaptation of existing schemes in a manner consistent with the Local Economy Strategy’s Strategic Goals.	Project focus for 2025 – review Q4.	Launched funding schemes.	Local Economy Dashboard – funding schemes will impact all metrics.
<b>3.3 Empower Stakeholder Partnerships</b>	1. Support trader networks and stakeholder groups to run projects, initiatives, and events and stimulate economic activity; providing access to funding to enable Local Authorities to utilise the resources they require.	<b>Local Economy Fund</b> – close collaboration with Local Authorities and business networks. Business Isle of Man to promote Local Economy Fund and work with stakeholders to develop proposals, highlighting the positive impact town centre managers can have.	Project focus for 2025 – review Q4.	Increase in events held and community-focused town centre projects.	10% annual increase town centre footfall.
<b>3.4 Create Open and Clear Communication Channels</b>	1. Build on the work completed by the Local Business Executive within Business Isle of Man, to create an open door into the Isle of Man Government and reach previously unengaged business owners.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – ongoing business engagement work to stimulate feedback regarding the implementation of the Local Economy Strategy to inform decision-making, and to encourage businesses to discuss challenges and opportunities.	Duration of 2025/26.	Continual updating of business feedback records with reporting provided to the Business Isle of Man Board.	Local Economy Dashboard – future decision making will impact all metrics.
	2. Facilitate the creation of new groups and industry bodies where representation is currently lacking to ensure two-way communication channels.	<b>Business Isle of Man Programme 2025/26</b> – support the formation of industry bodies, such as Hospitality Isle of Man, that have the knowledge and expertise required to advocate for businesses operating in the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors.	Project focus for 2025 – review Q4.	Establishment and consolidation of industry-led business networks.	Improved business confidence scores.
<b>3.5 Drive Community Engagement</b>	1. Enable and facilitate community-led initiatives in high streets, such as community markets, cultural events, and art Installations (supported by action 1.2.1).	<b>Domestic Event Fund and Business Isle of Man Programme 2025</b> – support point 1.2.1, identify potential for collaboration between Local Authorities, businesses, and bodies such as the Isle of Man Arts Council and Manx National Heritage.	Focus for 2025 & 2026.	Increase in town-centre events that attract a diverse range of attendees.	10% annual increase town centre footfall.
	2. Actively promote a sense of social identity among residents by supporting and encouraging community-driven projects.	<b>Local Economy Fund</b> – support action 1.8.1 – enable tangible examples of town / area identify. May include artistic, cultural, or heritage projects that drive vibrancy and commercial growth.	Schedule during 2025/26.	Inclusive community projects that instil civic pride.	Improved Town Audit results.
	3. Provide frameworks and pathways for community involvement in decision-making.	<b>Local Economy Fund</b> – support Local Authorities and business networks to engage with and consult local traders and residents.	Schedule during 2025/26.	Increased level of community consensus.	Improved Town Audit results.