



## **Executive**

Date: Wednesday, 9 September 2020

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Virtual meeting - [https://manchester.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/485348](https://manchester.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/485348)

This is a **Supplementary Agenda** containing additional information about the business of the meeting that was not available when the agenda was published.

### **The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020**

Under the provisions of these regulations the location where a meeting is held can include reference to more than one place including electronic, digital or virtual locations such as Internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers.

To attend this meeting it can be watched live as a webcast. The recording of the webcast will also be available for viewing after the meeting has ended.

## **Membership of the Executive**

---

### **Councillors**

Leese (Chair), Akbar, Bridges, Craig, N Murphy, Ollerhead, Rahman, Stogia and Richards

## **Membership of the Consultative Panel**

---

### **Councillors**

Karney, Leech, M Sharif Mahamed, Sheikh, Midgley, Ilyas, Taylor and S Judge

The Consultative Panel has a standing invitation to attend meetings of the Executive. The Members of the Panel may speak at these meetings but cannot vote on the decisions taken at the meetings.

## **Supplementary Agenda**

---

**4. COVID-19 Monthly Update Report**

The report of the Chief Executive was to follow and is now enclosed.

**All Wards**

5 - 52

## Information about the Executive

---

The Executive is made up of nine Councillors: the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and seven Executive Members with responsibility for: Children Services & Schools; Finance & Human Resources; Adult Services; Skills, Culture & Leisure; Neighbourhoods; Housing & Regeneration; and Environment, Planning & Transport. The Leader of the Council chairs the meetings of the Executive.

The Executive has full authority for implementing the Council's Budgetary and Policy Framework, and this means that most of its decisions do not need approval by Council, although they may still be subject to detailed review through the Council's overview and scrutiny procedures.

The Council wants to consult people as fully as possible before making decisions that affect them. Members of the public do not have a right to speak at meetings but may do so if invited by the Chair. If you have a special interest in an item on the agenda and want to speak, tell the Committee Officer, who will pass on your request to the Chair. Groups of people will usually be asked to nominate a spokesperson. Speaking at a meeting will require a telephone or a video link to the virtual meeting.

The Council is concerned to ensure that its meetings are as open as possible and confidential business is kept to a strict minimum. When confidential items are involved these are considered at the end of the meeting and the means of external access to the virtual meeting are suspended.

Joanne Roney OBE  
Chief Executive  
Level 3, Town Hall Extension,  
Albert Square,  
Manchester, M60 2LA

## Further Information

---

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact the Committee Officer:  
Donald Connolly  
Tel: 0161 2343034  
Email: [d.connolly@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:d.connolly@manchester.gov.uk)

This supplementary agenda was issued on 4 September 2020 by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 3, Town Hall Extension (Lloyd Street Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA

This page is intentionally left blank

## Economic Recovery Workstream- Sitrep Summary

As at 28/08/20: For Economy Scrutiny Committee on 03/09/20 (updated fortnightly)

Changes since last updated highlighted in yellow.

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
<p><b>Economic Overview:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>UK officially in recession-</b> The economy shrank 20.4% April-June compared to previous 3 months. First technical recession since 2009. On a month on month basis, economy grew by 8.7% in June (a sixth below level in Feb), after growth of 1.8% in May. (ONS/BBC 12/08)</li> <li>● <b>UK economic outlook- Mixed picture.</b> “Latest evidence points to a weaker economic performance this year with GDP contracting by between 10% and 13%. Progress in finding a vaccine increases the likelihood of an end to social distancing by May or Sept next year. This could see growth of up to 10% in 2021. However, recovery could be weaker due to uncertainties around future relationship with EU and significant dent the pandemic is having on the performance of the economy”. (KPMG 29/08)</li> <li>● <b>UK Purchasing Managers Index PMI-</b> shows sharp increase in private sector output in August. Both manufacturing and services continue to experience a recovery in consumer demand. (21/08)</li> </ul> <p><b>GM context:</b> Measures of GM business resilience have shown slight improvement in recent weeks (cashflow and reserves). However, measures remain at historically low levels and significant economic challenges remain, most immediately with the withdrawal of furlough scheme. 30% of eligible workforce on furlough during June. 88% rise in GM residents in receipt of unemployment benefits between March and June. 59% fewer online job postings week ending 18/07 compared with week ending 07/03. (GMCA 25/08)</p> <p><b>Manchester context:</b> See separate agenda item <i>Manchester's Economy- Quarterly Update (September)</i> for further detail. Headlines include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- C 74,800 furloughed resident jobs, 31% of total eligible jobs (as at June)</li> <li>- Business rates revenue dropped by 35% since 04/20 (£378m- to £245 m)</li> <li>- No. of Airbnb listings fallen by 16% (540 listings) in Quarter 2</li> <li>- Commercial development tracker- over 913,000 m2 floorspace expected to be delivered 2022/23 (city centre and Airport focus)</li> <li>- Construction activity returned to 95% of major commercial developments and planning activity returning to pre-Covid levels. Construction activity returned to all major residential developments.</li> <li>- Residential sales at a near halt. 95% lower in city centre in Q1 20/21 than 19/20. 85% lower across Mcr.</li> </ul>		

<p><b>Sectoral Impact</b></p>	<p><b>General- Manchester Business Sounding Board and Real Estate Sub group-</b> continue to call for speedy return to city centre workplaces to support the economy (25/08). BBC survey reports 50 UK largest employers not planning to return all staff full time in near future (26/08).</p> <p><b>OBI The Return to our City Survey-</b> Over 100 city centre businesses surveyed across sectors to understand return to workplace position. Smallest companies have largest percentage of employees back in the office. Those with 1-10 employees have 63% back. Timescales for returning: 45% Sept/Oct, 11% Nov-Dec, 11% Jan, 30% other (many unsure). Key concerns:: commute, exposure to Covid in the workplace, childcare, corporate policy to working from home, landlord building guidance and protocol. Responses to encourage more businesses to reopen: Reopen schools, affordable parking, greater capacity and frequency of public transport, safer cycling routes and bike storage. 86% of those who have returned are using coffee shop, 58% using retail, 42% using restaurants, 40% using bars. (27/08)</p> <p><b>Homeworking in UK: before and during 2020 lockdown</b> report by Cardiff and Southampton universities. 88% of employees who worked at home during lockdown would like to continue doing so in some capacity, with 47% wanting to do so often or all the time. About two-fifths (41%) said they got as much work done at home as they did six months earlier when most, but not all, were in their usual places of work. More than a quarter (29%) said they got more done at home, while 30% said their productivity had fallen. Sample of 6000-7,000 workers.(28/08)</p> <p><b>Retail/Leisure-</b>Footfall slowly increasing week on week but well down on usual figures.</p> <p><b>City centre footfall-</b> week of 23- 25 Aug so far:  <b>Total -38% (year on year) +1% (week on week)</b>  St Ann's Square -41% +4%  Exchange Sq -67% -1%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CBI UK raising concerns re impact on city centres- calling on govt to use effective test and trace systems and encourage commuters back onto public transport (27/08).</li> <li>● Intelligence gathering from sector representatives continues, to understand impact, issues, opportunities and support needed.Ongoing intel gathering with businesses re return to workplace plans. Used to inform workstream plans and lobbying.</li> <li>● Newsletter issued each week- over 7500 businesses with updated guidance and opportunities.</li> <li>● Ipsos Mori commissioned to carry out detailed survey work of key sector impact/business needs.</li> <li>● Business Sounding Board meeting fortnightly- focusing on communications and confidence campaign, getting people back to work, venues/events.</li> <li>● Involvement in GM Groups, e.g. Economic Resilience Group, GM Tourism Industry Emergency Response Group &amp; Place Directors.</li> <li>● Feed into national lobbying work, e.g. Core Cities evidence gathering, Chief Executive meetings with HMT, BEIS etc.</li> </ul> <p>Support for retail workers and employers- range of services available via Employ GM, led by Growth Company, including skills support for employment and redundancy support.</p> <p>Retailers on Market Street joining in with 'Alternative Pride' Celebrations with window displays.</p>
-------------------------------	--	--

	<p>King St -41% -5%  Market St -26% +4%  New Cathedral St -34% -4% (26/08)  Full week 33 (9th Aug) weekly footfall -45.7% (UK -39.2%)</p> <p>Monthly figures (year on year) July 20 -52.9%, June 20 -70%, May 20 -87%.</p> <p>Footfall in Mcr <b>district centres</b> (17-23 Aug)- Generally down and in some places quite a big reduction, probably due to adverse weather. -7.5% across the city week on week. -16.8% year on year. Gorton -20.4% week on week. Northenden -15.4%. Cheetham Hill- only area to see an increase 6.9%. Springboard (25/08)</p> <p>Week 34 <b>UK</b> -30.7% year on year/ +4.4% week on week. <i>“It seems that the increased quarantine measures imposed on a number of overseas destinations are having a positive impact on UK footfall. High streets remain adversely impacted by the lack of footfall in Central London and other UK regional cities, with smaller more local high streets and those appealing to holiday makers recovering to a greater extent.”</i>(Springboard 24/08)</p> <p>Major redundancy announcements continue- Marks and Spencers (7,000 UK wide over next 3 months), STA Travel (500 jobs at risk UK wide) (21/08), Wahaca- Corn Exchange (26/08), Pret a Manger (3,000 UK wide) (27/08)</p> <p>New openings: Hurlingham Polo on King Street (clothing store due to open soon). 202 Kitchen on Bridge Street (street food concept). Mecanica bar opens 28/08 in Northern Quarter</p> <p>Reopening: New Look (Arndale) 04/09, Wolf Italian (Arndale) preparing to reopen, Yo Sushi (Arndale) this week.</p>	
--	---	--

<p><b>Hospitality- Eat Out to Help Out-</b> local sector advisors report general feedback from restaurants that the scheme has been an incredible success but there are caveats. There is a worry for some that city centres benefited less than suburbs and rural sites, and that chains and larger groups did better than independents (as they are better able to staff and resource to open earlier in the week). Scheme did not help wet-led hospitality businesses and nothing for those not able to open viably under current restrictions (due to small spaces, lack of outdoor dining etc.)</p> <p>Meeting the next rent quarter will be a concern for many. Concerns protections are being removed, including for unpaid rent for the last two quarters, which is a big issue (operators could be removed or legal action taken). Some landlords are being supportive, and in London major landlords are starting to switch to <b>turnover rent</b>. Considered to be the only viable way forward, at least for the short to medium term.</p> <p>Other issues: <b>return of business rates, and the end of the tax reductions and holidays</b>, but more imminently the <b>end of furlough</b>. Sector experts raise major risk of mass closures amongst independents- though outside London this seems to be hitting sites owned by major casual dining groups. <b>Sector calling on MCC to focus support on independents.</b></p> <p>Brexit risks: further issues around staffing, produce/wine supply chains, currency fluctuations and impact on international tourism. Response to Growth Company survey suggest that many businesses across sectors are under-prepared (27/08)</p> <p><b>Visitor economy-</b> Hotels Association (27/08)- Understood those that opened in July had around 20% occupancy. Business improved in Aug to 30% to 35%. Weekends have been relatively strong with good leisure demand, however weekday is the opposite, largely due to a lack of events and</p>	<p><b>Hospitality-</b> 137 pavement licence applications received and granted or are in the process of granting around 120. Licensing team is continuing to engage with a small 'third tranche' and will continue to explore options to assist them. Licenses granted in other areas: Ancoats and Beswick (16)- most around Cutting Room Sq, Didsbury (1), Clayton &amp; Openshaw (1), Levenshulme (2), Chorlton (5), Crumpsall (1), Ardwick (1).</p> <p>The Licensing and Out of Hours Team- Since easing of restrictions the teams have resumed shift working and operating from 0800 until 0430 Fridays and Saturdays and 0800 until 0100 Sunday through Thursday. The teams are actively responding to complaints regarding the operation of the hospitality trade and undertaking proactive interventions to ensure compliance with current requirements. The approach is aimed at ensuring compliance with the current regulations and guidelines to create a safe environment for staff and customers. Officers are working alongside GMP and Health &amp; Safety colleagues to provide advice and guidance, where necessary formal action will be taken to ensure compliance where other interventions have not been successful or the requirements are being flouted putting public health at risk. 77 visits to licensed premises as a result of complaints. 1668 proactive visits to licensed premises. 3x Prohibition Notices ; served on premises that were found to be operating as nightclubs (City centre). 2x Direction Orders: served as a result of failure to implement sufficient controls (City Centre). 7x Improvement Notices; served on hospitality venues (not all licensed) as a result of failure to implement/insufficient risk assessment and/or failure to manage in accordance with risk assessment.(26/08)</p> <p>Plans for <i>Reopening High Street Safely Fund</i> being submitted for grant approval as part of ERDF requirements - focus on 1) pedestrianisation and changes to public realm and 2) communications across district centres. (See funding section below).</p> <p><b>Visitor economy-</b> #FindYourSpaceMCR (campaign targeted at tourism, hospitality, leisure and cultural sectors) 656,000 impressions on Twitter and 1.9 m impressions on Facebook. Adverts during the international test matches at Emirates Old Trafford last month. Some 15 million viewers</p>
--	---



	<p>corporate activity. Two main concerns for coming months: 1. City offices have not returned to normal and corporate business is unlikely to recover soon. 2. The events business is still struggling with local lockdown measures and major events can't start until at least Oct and even then demand is expected to be low.</p> <p>The local measures have resulted in a lack of confidence and holding back bookings and enquiries. Hoteliers hoping this will be released very soon. International business is also impacted with quarantine regulations affecting demand. The recent VAT changes and the 'Eat out to help out' schemes have helped the industry and the sector is hoping more such measures could be extended for the months ahead. Most hoteliers see low demand continuing in Sept, no real uptick until at least next Spring. (27/08)</p> <p>Stock Exchange Hotel reopens 26/08. Edwardian Manchester reopens on 03/09. Manchester Central to manage event space at Runway Visitor Park and Concorde Conference Centre. UVM Expo 2020 to be held 1/10 as Manchester's first hybrid conference and exhibition event- organised by unique venues of Manchester. 01/09 Cricket international (Pakistan T20) at Old Trafford (behind closed doors) 4-5/09 GB Athletics at Regional arena (behind closed doors) Mid- Sept Premier League re-commences (behind closed doors)</p> <p>Visit Britain Weekly Consumer Tracker Week 11 (27-21/07) Main type of destination for summer holidays and short breaks is countryside/coastal. 1 in 4 adults have no intention of travelling- significantly up from 1 in 5 recorded in week 10. Period Oct 20- March 21- likely to see SW, London and Scotland dominate. Cities/large towns likely to be lead destinations. (11/08)</p>	<p>watched across four days. 25/08 Campaign to be expanded to wider regional and national audiences in the Autumn. Short Breaks campaign- Hotels encouraged to run 'have a free night in Manchester offer via Marketing Manchester- MM to promote across UK and facilitate bookings'. (19/08)</p> <p>Space to Learn campaign (working with 5 GM universities) aims to attract UK students- runs throughout Aug and Sept. The University of Manchester campaign is live with adverts appearing on Ocean Outdoors big screens in several cities across the UK as well as at Piccadilly Station and along the Mancunian Way. 19/08</p> <p>Tourism and Hospitality Support Hub (Marketing Manchester)- continues to provide businesses with the most up to date information including reopening standards and guidance. Bespoke help and advice available via MM. DCMS Coronavirus Impact Business Survey- undertaking a second wave survey in order to better understand the impact on organisations in the digital, culture, media, sport, gambling, telecoms, and tourism sectors and what needs to be done to support businesses. Deadline 08/09</p>
--	---	--

	<p><b>Nat West North of England Tourism Business Barometer-</b> Measures tourism business environment including shifts in employment, trends in revenue and overall business confidence. Looks at how 200 businesses are performing as they re-open in 9 destinations. 85% of businesses trading at a loss year on year with 69% trading at over a 75% loss in revenue. Footfall figures are down 85% year on year. In the next month 31% of businesses expect to reduce permanent staff with 23% doing so significantly. 69% of businesses expect no adverse impact on permanent staff. 39% of businesses expect to reduce casual staff over the next month with 31% expecting to reduce significantly. 39% were expecting to take on additional staff over the next month. 62% of businesses expected things to return to pre-Covid levels by July 2022 and all businesses expected full recovery by 2023. (05/08) Second data set has been received, revealing some subtle shifts. Marketing Manchester are monitoring shifts and will provide further detailed analysis in the coming weeks. 19/08</p> <p>Marketing Manchester report messages from partners, expressing some confusion and concerns about business understanding of the Test, Track and Trace system. Business Growth Hub guidance being shared. (25/08)</p> <p><b>Culture- Planned/actual reopening dates:</b> Halle St Peter's (wedding venue and restaurant only) - opened in July/ National Football Museum - opened 23/07/ Manchester Craft &amp; Design Centre - open on Fridays and Saturdays in Aug/ Elizabeth Gaskell's House - opened on 12/08/ Museum of Science &amp; Industry - opened on 14/08/ Central Library (in addition to City Library opened 04/07) - opened on 20/08- visitor numbers: Thurs 20th 547, Sat 22nd 478, Mon 24th - 438/ Art Gallery - opened on 20/08 visitors numbers Thurs 20th - 206, Fri 21st - 196, Sat 22nd - 246, Sun 23rd - 432 / People's History Museum - 01/09/ The Portico Library - 01/09/ Centre of Contemporary Chinese Art - 02/09/ HOME - 04/09 (cinemas, bars and restaurant)/ The</p>	<p><b>Covid-19 Culture Recovery Board - Met 13/8.</b> Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACE Covid Recovery Fund £500m: Action - to maximise opportunities supporting individual applicants and joint projects through collaborative approaches.</li> <li>• Discussed role of Libraries &amp; outdoor events in the recovery strategy building confidence and audiences.</li> <li>• Interface between MCC Events Recovery Plan and cultural sector.</li> </ul> <p><b>Re-opening of cultural venues &amp; libraries-</b> Partnership of cultural organisations reviewing and piloting reopening strategies for participatory activities. (21/8)</p>
--	--	--

	<p>International Anthony Burgess Foundation 08/09/ The Whitworth - 14/09/ Manchester Museum - 14/09/ Castlefield Gallery 16/09/ ZArts planning to reopen for participatory activities - 28/09</p> <p><b>Grass Roots Music Emergency Fund</b> - ACE announced successful applicants 22/8. 11 successful applicants in Manchester received total £262,114. Originally fund value was £2.25m (England) but £3.36m has been awarded. Recipients: Deaf Institute, Gorilla, Jimmy's Manchester, Matt &amp; Phred's Jazz Club, Niamos Radical Arts and Cultural Centre, Night People, Off the Square, Retro, Soup Kitchen, The Peer Hat, The Stoller Hall.</p>	<p><b>Manchester Culture Recovery Plan</b> - need forecast- £72m          Consultation with sector task groups is ongoing. Recovery Strategy includes: Learning &amp; Skills needs (Culture and Work and Skills teams looking at how existing programmes can support entry-level roles and digital skills needs. Manchester Music City plans advancing for: commissioning music economy study; formation of industry body and leadership talent development and international project; bespoke support on property law to support music venues; and exploring concept for temporary pop-up outdoor stages for the autumn/ winter.</p> <p><b>Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) Grants</b> - £500m for England currently live- Being delivered by ACE for Cultural organisations (inc profit/ not for profit &amp; charities) in 2 rounds to 21st Aug and 4th Sept. Funding decisions to be made by Oct. Applications will be principal assistance to support the stabilisation element identified in the Manchester Culture Recovery Plan. It is estimated that Mcr organisations need to secure over £20m of stabilization funding in 2020/21. We are aware of at least 13 of the larger cultural organisations applying for funding, but anticipate that a large number of the city's cultural and music venues will put forward applications.</p> <p><b>Collaborative projects-</b> The fund does not allow for place based project applications - only for organisations in imminent financial difficulty. Cultural Leaders group has coordinated two collaborative projects so that multiple partners can feature in their applications to the CRF towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Education Partnership</u> - being led by ZArts and the Manchester Culture Education Partners supporting schools and children.</li> <li>• <u>Culture Campaign</u> - Venue audience engagement and confidence building campaigns. 13 leading venue partners have signed up.</li> </ul> <p>Culture Recovery Fund applications- Officers providing 1-2-1 support (MCC &amp; GMCA Cultural leads) and business advisers at the Business Growth Hub with the support of the Work &amp; Skills team.</p> <p><b>DCMS Culture Recovery Fund includes £120m to support existing arts &amp; heritage capital projects</b> that have experienced delays to build programmes. £55m to be distributed via ACE. Eligible projects will</p>
--	---	---

	<p><b>Aviation- Terminal 2 closing</b> until further notice from 02/09. All flights to operate from T1 and T3 to align operations with passenger demand. (21/08) July traffic statistics- Passengers: -89.5% year on year (-86.5% MAG). Cargo: -73.5% (year on year). Traffic figures at all MAG airports still severely impacted, as travel restrictions and dramatic reduction in demand for flights impacted the Group's passenger numbers. (14/08)</p> <p>Portugal added to the 'travel corridors' list last week. Four countries were removed from the 'travel corridors' list, including Croatia and Austria. (25/08) Switzerland, Jamaica and Czech Republic also removed- travellers will need to quarantine from 29/08 (27/08).</p> <p>A number of airlines are continuing to reintroduce routes and increase capacity to popular destinations, including some which aren't currently subject to automatic quarantine requirements on your return to the UK such as Italy, Turkey, Cyprus and now Portugal. Also, this week Hi Fly is commencing flights to Islamabad. 25/08</p> <p><b>Higher Education Institutions-</b> Following the A-level results and changes in grades, UoM has met its targets and will have a larger than expected number of admissions. Final numbers are still settling down. Intention is to offer blended learning experience with lectures online but some campus activity with face-to-face teaching including</p>	<p>demonstrate an urgent need for additional capital funding that is considered essential to the delivery of the intended benefits outlined in their original application. Deadline 10/9, decision 10/11.</p> <p><b>Events Strategy and Recovery planning-</b> Revising MCC approach to event programme, channelling original event investment assigned to cancelled events to support five identified areas of event development. To give clear direction to event organisers and partners for phase 2- transitional phase (Aug 20- March 21) and plans for next year as phase 3. (24/07) Manchester Food and Drink Festival confirmed for 24 Sept- 5 Oct with Festival Hub at Cathedral Gardens.</p> <p><b>Aviation-</b> Engagement with MAG to understand the impact on Manchester Airport. MAG undertaking ongoing recovery planning and tracking of confidence to fly. MA aim is to protect jobs wherever possible. MCC supporting lobbying by MAG to call for an aviation support strategy to aid recovery.</p> <p>Work &amp; Skills Team in discussion with the Airport re any support needed for staff on furlough or whose jobs are likely to be at risk.</p> <p><b>Higher Education Institutions-</b> UoM is working hard on visa applications, organising flights into Mancr and issuing regular messages to international students. University is working on innovation initiatives to support economic recovery, including ID Manchester and a new accelerator for spin-outs, the Manchester Graphene Company. (University of Mancr 25/08)</p>
--	--	---

	<p>laboratory classes for all students. Numbers of UK/EU postgraduate students and international students (whose contribution is critical financially), are not yet clear. Will be clearer in late Oct when fee payments are due (UoM 25/08)</p> <p><b>Financial Services-</b> The Co-operative Bank has announced proposals to reduce around 350 roles, including the closure of 18 branches (not Mancr). Aside from the specific branches affected, the reduction is expected to focus on middle management positions and head office roles. (25/08)</p> <p><b>Health Innovation-</b> Molecular Diagnostics firm, Hologic expanding testing/production capacity at its Wythenshawe site (24/08)</p> <p><b>Public Sector-</b> Public Health England to be abolished-regional hub at Piccadilly Place (18/08).</p> <p><b>Inward investment-</b> Steady flow of new enquiries- majority are high quality projects with high end jobs across sectors: fintech, adv man, life sciences &amp; logistics. Increasing number of UK based relocation enquiries incl from London. Hosted large investor in-visit last week. Continuing virtual events to promote message that Mancr is open for business. (MIDAS 13/08)</p>	<p>Alliance Business School to lead Productivity Institute (£32m ESRC). Aim is to develop long term policy recommendations to improve productivity and living standards. Partnership with 8 other institutions. Will create 8 regional productivity forums across UK to work with businesses and policy makers. 21/08</p> <p>MIDAS have ongoing contact with local account managed/large employers to understand challenges and future plans. Exploring opportunities around: north shoring and re-shoring of business critical functions (esp food manufacturing &amp; life sciences. Planning underway on target markets and sectors ie ecommerce, cyber security, digital technologies, healthcare and biotech. From Sept digital campaigns will be deployed incl webinars in key locales within target markets (eg medtech in Boston; ecommerce in Bangalore; advanced materials in Seattle).</p>
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p>Stimulating development &amp; investor confidence, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Understanding current impact through intelligence gathering.</li> <li>● Assessing sources and levels of investment, and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Planning Reforms-</b> The government has introduced a number of changes to the system of permitted development rights and to the use classes order which regulates changes between different uses. A Planning White Paper was also published to consult on significant changes to the planning system in England</li> </ul>

	<p>any obstacles (access to debt).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Seeking financial and other support needed to enable early start of key projects</li> <li>● Understanding supply chain issues and identifying appropriate support measures. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the appetite of contractors to bid for apartment led residential schemes has been significantly impacted in the short term due to issues in the supply chain (i.e. loss of subcontractors and access to materials). This concern has also been raised by developers of commercial schemes.</li> <li>● Developing guidance/share good practice for safe operation of sites</li> <li>● Expediting design &amp; planning phases of projects.</li> <li>● Productivity increased across most major sites- 97% of infrastructure and construction sites now operating. Social distancing measures impacting on programmes. Issues re supply chain/access to materials. Infrastructure sites are now achieving 89% of pre-Covid productivity. Housing sites 93% of sites now open. Reports that contractors are planning to reduce workforce by 11 % within the next 3 months.</li> </ul>	<p>(consultation ends 29/10/20)- emphasis on simplifying the system; a consultation on “Changes to the current planning system” has also been launched that contains a number of proposals that would be applied within the existing framework of planning legislation and guidance. (13/08) Officers undertaking detailed analysis to fully understand implications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Announcement of Government approval on 04/08 for Getting Building Funding for BASE Manchester Innovation Activities Hub at MSP (£4M) and Mayfield (£23M). Still awaiting grant approval letters, with full conditions (expected end of Aug/early Sept).</li> <li>● Discussions continuing with GMCA about potential projects for Round 1 of the £81m Brownfield Land Fund for schemes that start on site before 31 March 2021. 6 schemes/packages have been put forward in Northern Gateway, New Cross and St Michael’s, totalling around £19m. Proposals are expected to be submitted to Leaders in the next few weeks, following receipt of detailed criteria from Government. Further projects have been put forward for an additional 10% allocation from the Fund which GMCA have been invited to bid for. These include 2 Eastern Gateway schemes and a further phase at Northern Gateway.</li> <li>● Detailed business cases being prepared for schemes included within the Economic Recovery Plan, which will be submitted to Government by 24 Sept for the autumn Spending Review (see narrative section).</li> <li>● Pre contract discussions have been held with Homes England on Northern Gateway, with a view to entering in a contract in September, securing £51.6m in Housing Investment Fund grant that must be fully expended by March 2024.</li> <li>● Community consultation on the first phase of the delivery of Collyhurst will be restarted in advance of planning applications for the delivery of approximately 270 homes (including up to 130 new Council properties) in Collyhurst Village and Collyhurst South and the first phase of a new park. The intention is that this consultation exercise will lead to the submission of planning applications in the autumn of 2020. Subject to achieving planning consent the scheme could commence in the spring of 2021.</li> <li>● Consultation on the former Central Retail Park Development Framework and the Ardwick Green Neighbourhood Development Framework has begun and will run until 25/09 and 21/08</li> </ul>
--	--	---

		<p>respectively. The consultation on the updated NOMA Strategic Regeneration Framework started on 18/08 and runs until 29/08.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOMA: Following the announcement on 28/07 of new office speculative development at 4 Angel Square, with potential to create 2,000 permanent and 500 temporary jobs, the site has been cleared and enabling works are starting. Main works are due to start in October.</li> <li>• Planning Committee (27/08) approved: Land to the south of Store St - residential scheme in Piccadilly.</li> </ul>
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	<p>Risk to developer and investor confidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with RP's and other developers to understand current impact and forward plans.</li> <li>• Assessing sources and levels of investment, and any obstacles</li> <li>• Investigating grant funding, financial and other support needed to enable early start of key projects</li> <li>• Understanding supply chain issues and identifying appropriate support measures.</li> <li>• Developing guidance/share good practice for safe operation of sites</li> <li>• Expediting design &amp; planning phases of projects.</li> <li>• Risk of registered providers slowing down or pausing programmes to consolidate finances/liquidity</li> <li>• Ensure Zero Carbon and Fire safety provision are part of the programmes.</li> <li>• Potential flooding of the PRS sector as the short term let market shrinks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulator for Social Housing (RSH) has called for RP's to provide revisions of their business plans by September. This will identify any viability risks but should also identify progress on development programmes.</li> <li>• Managing existing onsite, pipeline and planned development with RP's. These were referenced in the June Executive report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 398 homes under construction and anticipated in the 2020/21 year. Re-mobilization of sites now underway.</li> <li>○ 252 homes currently in the programme for 2021/22.</li> <li>○ New projects emerging.</li> <li>○ The scheme with Clarion has been finalised to deliver shared ownership homes for the full development</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Silk Street</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Silk Street funding has been approved and will be progressing through the Capital Strategy Board. The project team being established to take this through to delivery with Rowlinson Construction.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Progressing the establishment of a Local delivery vehicle. Looking to start on site with key projects and novate across. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Approval at Exec 3 June. Detailed work programme now underway to accelerate progress.</li> <li>○ £1.5m from Housing Investment Reserve secured</li> <li>○ External support being commissioned.</li> <li>○ 5-year supply of land to develop 2000-2500 rented homes through the delivery model. Land assembly workshop scheduled for 8 July.</li> <li>○ Professional support for site master planning and massing will be appointed by the end of July</li> <li>○ CBRE will be appointed on 31/07/2020 to undertake master planning and cost build up of the proposed sites</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<p>for the vehicle. It is anticipated that this will take approx 4 weeks which will then feed into the financial modelling and business case scheduled to be included in the report to Oct Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Project 500 progressing. Will deliver 500-600 homes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The P500 RP development group have reviewed the sites and provided a list of indicative partners to deliver across the sites (includes community led housing, off-site and modular proposals and low carbon/zero carbon pilot projects). Work is underway to break the delivery down into 3 phases that will potentially support the development of off-site and modular construction, Community Led Housing and provision of temporary accommodation for rough sleepers. The phasing will be completed by the end of Aug and ward members will be contacted about the sites within their wards in Sept. (13/08)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Entering into formal agreement with Homes England and signing an MOU to take a partnership approach to accelerated development. Complements similar arrangements with GMCA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Action Plan in development following 3 workshops</li> <li>○ Next steps will be agreed on the necessary approval process for both parties, which will be a report to Oct Executive</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Ongoing intelligence gathering with developers to understand status of projects and support needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MHPP Growth workstream capturing current position and plans.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Prioritisation of land assembly and due diligence to allow acceleration of build programme.</li> <li>● Working with Your Housing Group to bring forward a 200+ newbuild scheme in East Manchester with 60% planned for affordable housing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transport and Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>Work with TfGM to agree a broad overall transport plan to support gradual opening up of the city with a focus on pedestrian movement and safe use of public transport linked to an agreed package of measures to support safe pedestrian access.</p>	<p><b><u>Additional Support Announced to Support Bus and Metrolink Networks</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 08/08 Government announced additional £256 m to support local bus and tram services across UK during the period when social distancing measures are impacting on capacity and patronage levels are still very depressed.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £218million for bus services for the next 8 weeks</li> <li>• £37.4 million for tram services over the next 12 week period. Total government funding to support Metrolink during the pandemic will have amounted to £44 million. From 24/08 Metrolink services will be extended to run until midnight (11 pm Sundays).</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Additional Funding Made Available to support additional school bus services.</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £2.249m to support additional school bus services during the autumn term as a result of the capacity of existing services having limited capacity as a result of social distancing measures.</li> <li>• Education colleagues are working with TfGM to identify pressure points where additional capacity may be required.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TfGM Survey of Attitudes to Future Transport Use</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of predicted transport requirements- TfGM undertaken a ‘Future Travel’ Survey” to gather the public’s views on using public transport after lockdown.14,000 responses received and initial findings have been shared with members of this group and the Business Reopening Analysis group (including MCC reps).A summary of the complete results from the survey is attached for members’ information.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Recent Manchester SpecificTransport Usage Data</u></b></p> <p><u>Bus</u> Patronage +1.6% (770,773) trips from the previous week (vs. +1.6% GM-wide). Network mileage -13.9% from the same month last year (vs. -17.2% GM-wide)</p> <p><u>Metrolink</u> • Metrolink Network patronage had a week on week decrease of 1.3% GM-wide. East Didsbury line was -2.7% (848) trips</p> <p><u>Highway</u> • In Manchester, the weekly average private vehicle trips was -24% from the same period last year (vs. -16% GM-wide)</p> <p><u>Rail</u></p>
--	--	---

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piccadilly footfall close to 50,000 per day (-60% from last year though)</li> <li>• Victoria daily footfall around 5,000 (+30% from the start of month)</li> </ul> <p><u>Cycling &amp; Walking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycle volumes were -3% from last week and 3% above the annual average.</li> </ul> <p><u>GM Wide Data</u></p> <p>Data from the last week shows the following differences with the position on 09/03 and end of July/ early Aug showing a <b>gradual but slow increase in public transport usage across GM, with car travel still reduced but much closer to pre lockdown levels.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Metrolink patronage 9/3/20 = 122,613 14/7/20= 31884 24/8/20= 45,659</li> <li>“</li> <li>○ Bus 9/3/20 515,309 14/7/20 191,093 24/8/20 237,566</li> <li>Rail 9/3/20 104,795 14/7/20 28,700 21/8/20 46,339</li> <li>GM Highway 9/3/20 5,082,000 14/7/20 4,032,000 31/7/20 4,385,916</li> </ul> <p>Data from NCP on year on year changes in car park usage for the period until the end of July demonstrates that some car parks eg King Street West, are now seeing usage comparable with last year’s level while others eg Spinningfields, still seeing user numbers some way below last year.</p> <p><b><u>Face Coverings-</u></b> Compliance across the transport network remains around 70% on bus and is now between 90-95% overall on rail. Compliance on Metrolink last week was near 89% in the AM peak, but fell to just below 77% in the evening peak</p> <p><u>Emergency Active Travel Fund</u></p> <p>MCC has obtained £180k from the first phase of the Government’s Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) to contribute to funding of work undertaken at Deansgate and Stevenson Square.</p>
--	--	---

		Proposals have been submitted by TfGM to Government for phase 2 of EATF. A bid to the value of £14 m was submitted on 7th Aug and £5.5 m of this was for proposals to support active travel within Mcr. A decision on the funding award is expected by the end of Aug..
	Analysis of businesses' plans for reopening, working with TfGM, CA, Chamber, Growth Company	TfGM linked into Day Time Economy recovery group work
	Identify and implement interventions that support social distancing and support business reopening and procure necessary equipment to facilitate this.	A presentation on outline proposals for the re - purposing of more city centre streets and open spaces to support hospitality businesses was given to the City Centre Infrastructure Working Group on 23rd July. These initial ideas are now to be developed further in consultation with members to support businesses over the late summer and early Autumn period. The proposals seek to draw on best practice from other cities in the UK and abroad.
	Continue with highway works that can be undertaken during lockdown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing with all our major projects that are on site and continuously monitoring government guidance about construction</li> <li>• Finding ways to accelerate all our programme of walking and cycling schemes aiming to have early starts on all our programmed projects</li> <li>• Maintaining our roads at business as usual levels by inspecting them and making repairs</li> <li>• Resurfacing and treating many more main roads than originally planned to take advantage of lower traffic levels</li> <li>• Working with TfGM to review bus stops and increase pedestrian phasing at signalised crossings.</li> </ul>
<b>Skills, Labour Market and Business Support</b>	<p>Significant growth in the number of Manchester residents claiming Universal Credit. Evidence base for THINK work shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 89% rise in claimant count in Manchester during April &amp; May - 33,825 claimants;</li> <li>• affects every LSOA in the City &amp; all age ranges;</li> <li>• particular impact on young people which has seen an increase of 98% (national fig 109%) &amp; over 50s (73%);</li> <li>• concentrations in areas with large Black, Asian and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• THINK have produced their report on skills &amp; labour market recommendations (shared with Scrutiny Committee Members at the last meeting) with 6 key priorities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) minimise the number of Manchester residents moving from furlough to redundancy as the job retention scheme winds down;</li> <li>(2) support unemployed Manchester residents to re-enter work as quickly as possible especially young people, those aged over 50 and BAME;</li> <li>(3) maximise new job creation, increasing overall labour demand in the City;</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

	<p>ethnic minority communities e.g. Longsight, Moss Side, Cheetham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 32% of Manchester residents are either furloughed (62,200) or receiving self-employment support (15,900);</li> <li>• Job losses compounded by significant drop in levels of vacancies;</li> <li>• 800 16-18 year olds who would normally pursue apprenticeships or move into employment at risk;</li> <li>• 74% national decline in apprenticeships</li> <li>• circa 10,000 graduates who would normally stay in the City will struggle to get graduate level work.</li> </ul> <p>ONS release 11 Aug- July figs for Manchester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claimant count : 34,750 all ages ; 7005 - aged 18-24;21,445 -aged 25 to 49 and 6290 aged over 50. Of the 34,750, men account for 21,465 and women 13,285. Unemployment in Manchester is now 6.5% of all 16-64 year olds</li> <li>• The increase in claimant count numbers of over 1,200 over the last month represents a large increase but not as sharp an increase as in April &amp; May.</li> </ul> <p>4.4% of 16 &amp; 17 year olds were NEET in July and 3.6% were unknown, giving a combined fig of 8% which is above national &amp; GM averages.</p> <p>The majority of post-16 providers are registering on line this year which may impact on school leavers taking up their offer.</p> <p>UOM and MMU have raised concerns about the employment outcomes for their class of 2019 as well as 2020. Also an impact on students employability from the loss of work experience and internships.</p> <p>Digital exclusion correlates strongly with social exclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(4) minimise the number of young people who become unemployed after leaving education and training in Manchester;</li> <li>(5) support apprenticeships &amp; other training opportunities to better equip employers with the skills to survive &amp; grow, while helping more residents to progress &amp; upskill in their careers;</li> <li>(6) improve the support available to unemployed, long-term inactive residents to reduce the risk that they are “crowded out” of the jobs market with the influx of new claimants</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chancellor announcements on Kickstart, traineeships and apprenticeship grants will provide support for young people in particular although we are still awaiting the details. Lobbying through GMCA, Core Cities for local involvement in the design &amp; delivery of Kickstart. Manchester’s CEX sits on the Local Economic Recovery Group for skills &amp; labour market &amp; is making the case. DWP has indicated that there will be local involvement within nationally set parameters</li> <li>• 4,553 young people which is 79.7% of the Year 11 cohort have a September guarantee, as compared with 6.7% in 2019. 3549 or 67.7% of Year 12 have a September guarantee. Post-16 education and training providers in the City are working hard and have summer programmes to engage young people e.g. TMC’s from Couch to College. Focus in last 2 weeks has been supporting schools &amp; colleges to navigate results and the transition of learners, with a heavy focus on young people identified as at risk of becoming NEET. Results day CEIAG (Careers Education Information Advice &amp; Guidance) was produced for schools &amp; colleges.</li> <li>• We have put in place a local support partnership for residents at risk of redundancy /newly unemployed with the aim of ensuring there is no wrong door. GDPR measures being put in place and landing page on MCC website being updated</li> <li>• Employ GM website is in the process of being updated by GMCA</li> <li>• Meeting regularly with the Hut Group to agree an approach to their proposed volume apprenticeship recruitment at the Airport site over the coming months. Up to 200 opportunities available and the</li> </ul>
--	--	--

	<p>and its effect on residents has been exacerbated by the Covid crisis.</p> <p>The latest <b>Business Growth Hub</b> survey w/c 24 Aug</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main three impacts facing businesses remain: decreased sales (67% vs 55% in previous reports), cashflow problems(28% vs 32%), and business travel to visit clients (36% vs 28%)</li> <li>• 61% (66% previously) of respondents said they had furloughed some of their staff. Of those furloughing staff 61.5% of firms said they furloughed more than half of the workforce.</li> <li>• 69% of firms said they were not planning to make redundancies at all, however 5% said they had made redundancies (but will make no more), 1% said they had made redundancies and were considering making more. &amp; 17% hadn't made redundancies but were considering it</li> <li>• 20% of firms were currently recruiting staff. 22% of firms said they partly had the right skills to match their current business plans, and 5% said they didn't have the right skills</li> <li>• Brexit is an issue but there are relatively low levels of awareness amongst businesses of the recent guidance from Government that will affect business &amp; lack of capacity to engage</li> </ul>	<p>Hut Group is interested in working with the City to develop a skills academy, with an initial focus on Wythenshawe. Opportunities are at all levels. Also apprenticeship opportunities for young people with CAB in contact centre and advice &amp; guidance roles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work has begun with Hewlett Packard Enterprise on apprenticeship opportunities for Manchester young people age 18 plus.</li> <li>• Working with MMU and UOM to understand their offer for graduates and connecting with the wider City offer. There will be a specific ask from Government for unemployed graduates, as part of the MCC Comprehensive Spending Review ask.</li> <li>• The Manchester Adult Education &amp; Skills Partnership is working together on a Comms plan to better promote learning &amp; skills opportunities to employers, residents &amp; community organisations;</li> <li>• Manchester Digital Device Scheme has been set up &amp; a steering group established to manage the roll out and evaluation of the device scheme.</li> <li>• The Work &amp; Skills, MAES &amp; Commissioning teams are working with Manchester's home care providers to connect unemployed residents to the employment opportunities and agree future approaches to training &amp; progression within the sector.</li> <li>• Employ GM website has been developed to include a specific retail campaign. The site has seen over 25000 visitors and there were 1,454 unique visitors to the site in the last week.</li> <li>• The discretionary business grants scheme to support small &amp; micro businesses received 1261 applications by 10 June closing date. Most of the £5.4m grant has now been paid to businesses &amp; charities. Ongoing business enquiries are being linked to support available through the Business Growth Hub, Enterprising You and BIPC which is providing additional programmes funded through Business Library Bounce Back funding</li> <li>• Strive &amp; Thrive - last week 411 delegates from 225 businesses registered to attend the Strive &amp; Thrive workshop programme, which supports business recovery from the impact of Covid</li> <li>• GMCVO have a loan fund of £1.5m to support social enterprises to recover from the effects of Covid and are prioritising their support for organisations in the sector delivering employability &amp; skills support and working with BAME communities</li> </ul>
--	--	---

<p><b>Funding</b></p>	<p>No specific known impacts on current external funding bids caused by C19 as yet. Known bids progressing through funding approval processes as expected.</p> <p>Team in City Policy developing a funding action plan based on C19 recovery and Corporate priorities</p>	<p>The City Policy team is continuing to track new funding opportunities from a range of sources including Government and European programmes which remain open to UK applicants.</p> <p><b>European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programme- Unlocking Clean Energy in GM has now secured its in-principle approval from MHCLG.</b> It brings in significant investment of £1.2m into a key part of our MCC Climate Change Action Plan with £8m of grant into GM as a whole. MCC playing a central role in delivery of that wider GM programme as well as the Manchester specific elements.</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><b>TOTAL</b></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><b>ERDF</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hammerstone Road</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£724,228</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£298,162</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Velodrome</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2,155,367</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£926,808</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Biohealth Accelerator</b> (MCC working with Health Innovation Manchester and UofM) has now been approved by MHCLG and is securing its final grant funding agreement approvals over the coming weeks</p> <p><b>Build a Business in GM Libraries</b> (MCC with GM Districts) - still being appraised by MHCLG Project</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><b>TOTAL</b></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><b>ERDF</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Biohealth accelerator</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£5,523,516</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2,786,252</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Build a Business in GM</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3,058,572</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,529,286</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>ERDF Reopening High Streets Fund-</b> All Local Authorities have received an allocation of ERDF from MHCLG to support the reopening of high streets. The MCC allocation is £488k. A work programme proposal for use of these funds was submitted to MHCLG for eligibility and approval checking and this has now been approved. Our proposals include communications and public information activity to ensure the reopening of the local economy in district centres and temporary public realm changes</p>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>ERDF</b>	Hammerstone Road	£724,228	£298,162	Velodrome	£2,155,367	£926,808		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>ERDF</b>	Biohealth accelerator	£5,523,516	£2,786,252	Build a Business in GM	£3,058,572	£1,529,286
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>ERDF</b>																		
Hammerstone Road	£724,228	£298,162																		
Velodrome	£2,155,367	£926,808																		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>ERDF</b>																		
Biohealth accelerator	£5,523,516	£2,786,252																		
Build a Business in GM	£3,058,572	£1,529,286																		

		to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely.
<b>Strategy &amp; Economic Narrative Review</b>	C19 has necessitated a review of existing strategies to understand whether they are fit for purpose given the predicted exacerbation of existing inequalities. This will inform the Economic Recovery Plan & Our Manchester Strategy reset. Formal refreshes would not take place until 2021 when the Our Manchester Strategy has been reset and the full impact of C19 is known.	<p>Work on Manchester's Economic Recovery Plan with Ekosgen and Metro Dynamics is developing. The developing narrative was discussed at 14 EMG Aug Recovery Workstream and is being presented to Economy Scrutiny on 3 Sept. This will be worked up into a full Economic Recovery Plan with a positive and forward thinking narrative about Manchester's future economy. The work is underpinned by projects under 'People, Place and Prosperity' headings and Strategic Outline Business Cases have been developed for over 50 projects which are being assessed and finalised. Key themes that run throughout the work are an inclusive economy, zero carbon and science, tech and innovation.</p> <p>The Economic Recovery Plan will be submitted to Government ahead of the Comprehensive Spending Review deadline on 24 September and a session with civil servants/SPADs is being arranged in advance to discuss the draft Plan.</p>
<b>External Influencing &amp; Lobbying</b>	The Government's economic response to C19 has been fast moving and feeding in Manchester's priorities has required a coordinated approach.	<p>The Local Economic Recovery Group Labour Markets and Skills task and finish group met on 14/08- co-chaired by Joanne Roney and Frank Rodgers (Liverpool City Region CA Chief Exec) - focused on proposed delivery models for the Government Kickstart Programme.</p> <p>Comprehensive Spending Review submissions the Council is contributing to include: the Local Government Association, Convention of the North, Core Cities and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. These will be supplemented with a MCC submission, covering the Economic Recovery Plan, funding and public service reform. Officers from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority have been invited to the Recovery Group chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive &amp; City Treasurer on 2 Sept.</p>
<b>Economic Intelligence</b>	1. Need to engage with Manchester Businesses and Key sectors to understand current status re Covid related impacts	1. Ipsos Mori appointed to undertake business survey work - looking at cross sector economic impact and sector specific issues. Survey went live mid-July. As at 12/08 681 surveys had been completed (507 telephone, 174 online). Officers have worked with Ipsos Mori to promote the survey widely. Good representation achieved from most sectors but there are some sectors

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Understanding of businesses in rented spaces and analysis to support the Business Rates Discretionary Grants</li> <li>3. Need to understand status of development pipeline across the city</li> <li>4. Need to update population modelling (MCCFM), reflecting both the impacts on and from the economy</li> <li>5. Demand appraisal for residential lettings market in Manchester post pandemic</li> <li>6. Challenge re the scale of analytical capacity required to support this, other Covid-19 workstreams and Business as Usual activities</li> </ol>	<p>with fewer responses than anticipated. Survey closed 14/08. Awaiting initial analysis.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Working with Leeds Council and Data City to commission / create a dataset to support allocation work in Manchester - dataset arrived informing initial Business Rates Grants work, further analysis of the dataset taking place currently to draw out wider insights.</li> <li>3. Tracking underway - pipeline used to support Financial Resilience work - including forecasting potential council tax &amp; business rates revenues - drafts for forecast CT / BR revenues from new development with Finance colleagues for comment</li> <li>4. Update of the MCCFM is in progress, more difficult and time consuming than normal due to macro uncertainties. ONS Mid Year Estimates released recently to support this work.</li> <li>5. Data sweep complete - work now underway to collate trends across sub-sectors (mainstream, students, short term lets) to contribute to overall appraisal.</li> <li>6. Ongoing discussions to re-prioritise work areas and understand where the gaps may be. Risk we could run out of internal capacity. Future format for economic monitoring currently being considered.</li> </ol>
--	---	---



**Covid-19 Sitrep Summary**  
**Residents and Communities Workstream**  
**Date: 28th August 2020**

Workstream	Impact / challenges experienced	Key planning and recovery activity being undertaken**
<b>Residents at risk</b>		
Shielded Residents and the Food Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the Government shielding programme came to an end at the end of July, there were circa 2,000 residents in receipt of national Government food parcels, which has led to a small increase in demand;</li> <li>National Government has issued a draft advisory framework for local authorities to consider in the event of future local or national lockdowns that will require people to shield. This is expected to be published by Friday 29 August;</li> <li>Resourcing continues to be an issue, as MCC staff are needed to plan for recovery &amp; business as usual.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are calling the c2,000 residents who were in receipt of food parcels at the end of July to ensure that they have access to an appropriate food offer. To date 565 have been contacted this is slower progress that we would have liked but no additional resources have been available to support this. All residents have received a letter from the Government and MCC so should be aware how to access support should they need it.</li> <li>We have responded to Government on the draft advisory framework guidance for future lockdowns</li> <li>We have reviewed the implications of this framework for the food response;</li> <li>Work is ongoing with food organisations to plan for transition back to a community model with the right level of resource &amp; support</li> </ul>
Domestic Violence & Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Latest report from Independent Choices indicates that the volumes of calls into the helpline remain higher than pre-lockdown levels (88 last week). Visits to the EndTheFear website have dropped slightly over recent weeks but still</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The helpline continues, via Covid funding, to be able to operate an additional phone line for most of not all of the week to meet increased demand;</li> </ul>

		<p>number over 400 per week. 73% of calls relate to requests for refuge accommodation. 28% of calls featured people affected by some form of immigration control issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LGBT Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service [IDVA] is supporting GMP with a Facebook Q&amp;A session on 27th August.</li> <li>• Volumes of referrals into Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences [MARAC] and the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service remain high as does the waiting list for support.</li> <li>• Refuge accommodation remains limited in availability in Manchester and across GM, while referral volumes remain high.</li> <li>• Planning for recovery and return to pre-covid delivery by our service providers is in hand.</li> <li>• Supply chain issues are hampering the ability of services to spend MoJ Covid funding in time for the October deadline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional capacity is being sustained via Ministry of Justice Covid emergency funding</li> <li>• Adult Social Care have identified funding to recruit a further short term Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service [IDVA] post to support the in-house team. The new Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service [IDVA] is now in post.</li> <li>• Funding has been agreed this week from the Violence Reduction Unit to recruit a further IDVA post until March 21 Recruitment to this post is in progress.</li> <li>• Pankhurst Trust and Manchester Women's Aid have a formal recovery plan in place that will enable Covid-safe workplaces, refuges and children's services.</li> <li>• A new 1-1 'Covid Measures Groupwork' programme has replaced the normal face to face offering, providing up to 4 support sessions, depending on their need and support plan</li> <li>• Lobbying of the Ministry of Justice has been successful in that the period by which the funding must be spent has been extended to 31st March 2021. Similar dialogue is ongoing with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government regarding the terms of their emergency funding for refuges.</li> </ul>
	Discretionary Support (Welfare Provision Scheme / Discretionary Housing Payment / Discretionary Council Tax Payment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uptake of Local Welfare assistance for unpaid carers lower than expected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of £24,494 has been paid to 195 carers to date out of an identified 'carers' budget of £100k. Further work with Adult Social Care may be undertaken in September with a view to increasing take-up.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crisis support to residents impacted by Covid-19</li> <li>• Use of Discretionary Housing Payments to provide additional support to residents claiming Housing Benefit or Universal Credit (Housing Element)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between 16/3 and 23/8/20 413 applications citing Covid-19 as the reason for requesting assistance have been paid to a value of £26,539 out of an identified 'Covid-19' budget of £100k. A proportion of other cases supported by Welfare Provision awards will also relate to Covid-19 but the reporting system does not offer a process of identifying these.</li> <li>• Recognising the impact of Covid-19 on residents, 503 DHP awards that had been due to end during April through to the end of August have been extended for a further 26 weeks.</li> <li>• Around 160 September cases are also being extended and a proportion of 169 October cases are also in scope (some of the October cases have already been extended for an initial 26 weeks and these will be reviewed in more detail). A decision on whether to extend cases due to end in November and beyond will be made in October based on budget availability and projected spend.</li> </ul>
Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victoria Warehouse Hotel has closed, with all residents having been safely moved on.</li> <li>• All A Bed Every Night, Covid Hotel and supported accommodation is full, and therefore moving additional people from the streets is challenging. A bid has been submitted to MHCLG for additional accommodation over the winter period and to create longer term accommodation to improve flow through the system. Whilst we wait the outcome of the bid vacancies are created through turn over and through movement into supported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future ways of working for the directorate are being co produced with the voluntary sector, which will include continued use of technology.</li> <li>• The service continues to work in a covid safe way. Support workers continue to discuss and remind people of the latest guidance. Staff are working closely with public health to ensure contact tracing works for the homeless population and all hostels and hotels are working within the new guidance. A couple of teams will be returning to Etrop Court and the Town Hall Extension as a pilot. Additional</li> </ul>

		<p>accommodation. The latest count of people sleeping rough is 49, and so remains lower than last year. This cohort mainly consists of people who have already been in accommodation and multi agency work is being progressed to help address their needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The challenge of moving people on from temporary accommodation will remain, given the pressures within Manchester's housing market - affordability of the private rented sector and availability of Social Housing and Supported Housing. The lack of 1 bed accommodation in the city remains a challenge.</li> <li>• Presentations continue to be high, data is on the link <a href="#">here</a>. This is expected to increase as the economic recession continues. The blanket delay on evictions for another month is becoming a concern as people will put off addressing rent arrears and it will become too late to be able to do any proper preventative or mediation work. Significant work with comms is progressing to encourage people to access advice and help before it becomes an unmanageable issue for them. Work with landlords is also progressing as many small landlords are reliant upon the income, and therefore are at risk of debt themselves.</li> </ul>	<p>space will be needed to bring all teams into the Town Hall Extension for 2 days a week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government bid was submitted last week with funding requested for the covid hotels, move on into the PRS and additionality of accommodation to improve flow through the homeless system. Capital funding for the acquisition of one bed flats was also requested.</li> </ul>
<b>Resilient communities</b>			
	Resilient Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The volume of calls has remained fairly consistent over the last couple of weeks, with call volumes over the last two weeks at the lowest levels we have seen since the helpline opened - c 300 calls per week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning taking place in relation to the community hub moving forward and a review of pathways to ensure residents continue to get support in a timely manner.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work is progressing to support resourcing requirements as we plan for any potential changes in demand as we move into the autumn/ winter.</li> <li>• The Teams Around the Neighbourhood are supporting engagement activity in neighbourhoods across the city undertaking community conversations with a focus on prevention messages. Very much a partnership approach to this work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links made to localisation of test and trace to ensure anyone who needs to isolate and needs support will receive it.</li> <li>• Planning for any further shielding arrangements where support for individuals is likely to come via the Local Authority rather than nationally as was seen previously.</li> </ul>
	Libraries, Galleries and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine libraries across the city have been open 3 days per week, 4 hours per day since 4th July and Central Library reopened on 20th August - 30 hours per week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ 223,893 visits to date</li> <li>➢ 1849 over 60's attended dedicated hour</li> <li>➢ 29,315 books issued</li> <li>➢ 4989 PC bookings,</li> <li>➢ 4001 calls to the library</li> <li>➢ 7516 F2F enquiries.</li> <li>➢ 21% of all visits are to access PCs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Data being currently gathered on ward breakdown and also sites being accessed to understand demand and use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenges include Beswick Library - in conversation with scholar use of space, Northenden Library - housing office not opening until at least November.</li> <li>• A challenge being faced by the city is the level of digitally excluded people who are more vulnerable during the pandemic. People most</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-opening of galleries, museums &amp; libraries underway across the city:</li> <li>• Manchester Central Library reopened to the public on Thursday 20 August - with limited capacity to enable social distancing.</li> <li>• Opening hours will initially be limited with the library closed on Fridays and evenings, to allow regular deep cleans, on top of an enhanced daily cleansing regime.</li> <li>• A maximum of 250 visitors will be allowed into the Central Library at any time. The library's Performance Space will be available to book for events, maximum of 21 attendees. Organisers will need to provide a plan and risk assessment in advance.</li> <li>• Manchester Art Gallery reopened on 20th August 2020 with reduced opening and limited numbers; 50 at a time.</li> <li>• Next phase of reopenings (dependent on discussions with partners) include: 13 libraries - run by Manchester City Council located in shared buildings with other amenities and the six community partnership libraries.</li> </ul>

		<p>likely to be facing this have one or more of the following protected characteristics: Elderly, first language is not English, disabled, low income.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Device giving is being progressed to those residents with no digital access.</li> <li>• Transition read gifted to over 7000 school children leaving primary school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital device scheme being progressed in conjunction with the Work &amp; Skills team, targeted at residents without digital access</li> <li>• Citizens Advice free phones introduced to selected libraries to enable vulnerable residents, who may not be able to use digital devices to access support</li> <li>• Covid-19 Culture Recovery Board in collaboration with sector partners is proposing a recovery plan with outline costs (£71m) for interventions designed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) stabilise the sector ensuring venues and cultural companies can survive, especially where extended closures are likely and</li> <li>b) stimulate recovery with targeted interventions for parts of the sector including employment programmes. Consultation with sector task groups is underway and a consultation document has been created.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cultural Recovery Funds administered by Arts Council England are now open and a number of applications are being developed.</li> </ul>
Parks, Leisure & Events		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support needed for the VCSE sector to provide sports &amp; leisure activities</li> <li>• Ensuring facilities &amp; services for groups with protected characteristics are not adversely affected by service changes</li> <li>• Issues with maintaining social distancing in high footfall areas, affecting sites such as Heaton Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VCSE support - Issues flagged in sport and leisure venues outside of MCCs control (ie 5aside pitches and cricket) regarding COVID measures and need for additional messages to be communicated. A meeting is taking place on Wednesday 26 August between MCC comms and MCRactive to agree a plan for addressing this. Plan will be distributed for agreement with relevant Exec Members on Thursday 27 August.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leisure centres mobilisation from 01 Aug with a restricted offer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equality impacts of service changes - The phased reopening of further exercise facilities continues in parks and there are no concerns with adverse impacts for protected characteristic groups. Bowls continues to be phased in.</li> <li>Poor weather has helped to alleviate some of the pressures with high footfall in parks over the last 2 weeks, however plans are in place for high numbers over the bank holiday weekend, which includes additional marshalling of play areas and pinch points at Heaton Parks. Proactive messaging is going out to groups where there is none compliance of large gatherings without consent.</li> <li>A briefing note is being developed and will be submitted to the Exec Member by 28 August on the next phase of leisure centre mobilisation from the 7th September. Further sites will be proposed for reopening.</li> </ul>
Youth		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-opening of youth clubs / centre based provision - young people &amp; families are asking for centres to be reopened.</li> <li>Current guidance is Amber. Providers are only using buildings for summer provision, not generic youth club sessions.</li> <li>Current guidance states that those 11+ must wear face covering in youth centres - this is creating an extra barrier for young people with some choosing not to attend.</li> <li>Reduced numbers accessing provision since the reintroduction of restrictions in Manchester.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are working with providers to ensure provision is still accessible to those young people who do not wish to wear face coverings, whilst ensuring the safety of young people and youth workers. Centres are planning to provide targeted provision indoors, but conduct street based work for more generic sessions</li> <li>Working with comms team and providers to push messages of safety to children, young people and parents. Ensuring all providers are Covid compliant and this is clear to</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Youth Voice &amp; Engagement - how we ensure we are reaching a large proportion of young people across the City, and how they use their voice to influence decisions being made about provision moving forward.</li> <li>● Summer provision - how we provide youth and play provision across the city and ensure we reach the right audience and capture the voice of children and young people. The challenge will be how we maintain universal access.</li> <li>● Funding &amp; Investment - a challenge for our youth and play providers is continued investment into services and access to unrestricted funds.</li> </ul>	<p>parents. Raising the positive profile of provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Working to clarify guidance so that it aligns to public health messages, as well as, being comparable to the expectation in leisure provision.</li> <li>● Youth Strategy working alongside youth providers to ensure risk assessments are up to date and Covid specific, as well as, ensuring safeguarding policies and procedures have been reviewed. Youth Strategy Team conducting regular visits to summer provision to provide support and guidance, as well as, quality assurance.</li> <li>● Mapping the support provided for people with different risk characteristics.</li> <li>● Youth Centres can open and operate provision indoors as long as they are Covid secure and adhere to track and trace and ratio guidance. All centres only operating in centres for summer provision. All Covid compliant.</li> <li>● Summer provision for Neighbourhoods &amp; Children's Services has been running from school sites throughout August.</li> <li>● Youth voice feedback collated and shared with Education colleagues to aid discussions about summer provision in schools.</li> </ul>
Children's Services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A steady state of deployment and demand has been evident for some months now. Performance remains strong in all key areas with children subject to Child Protection Plans, looked after and 'in need' are seen regularly by their worker across all 3 localities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Service is very much focussing on business as usual; applying some very creative new ways .</li> <li>● Continuous partnership working and improvement with practice is a key priority for all social work teams and our dedicated days</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Directorate continues to engage with parents and vulnerable children to ensure take up of the summer offer. This is focussed at foster carers and a report on uptake will be available at the next meeting</li> <li>• The service is both briefed and prepared for an increase in the level of referrals when schools reopen in September. We are in negotiations with our CAMHS colleagues to bolster both our front doors to service provision</li> <li>• Staff availability remains high, with local measures proving successful. Levels of staff sickness remain comparatively low despite Covid 19. Broadly speaking local lockdown arrangements have not impacted on the service , with the exception of family time -see below-</li> <li>• Preparation of buildings/ H&amp;S requirements are complete. As reported in the last report a priority is improving attendance/availability of staff who facilitate/enable family time. Progress on this has been slower than expected mainly due to the position taken by staff and health and safety Preparation of buildings , risk assessments and compliance with H&amp;S to support a limited number of appointments to both professionals and parents to enter our premises so that court related assessments can take place.</li> </ul>	<p>for learning are being successfully achieved, albeit 'differently'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been agreed that every child/young person's record will contain a quarterly update focusing on improvements to a child's/ young person's daily lived experience and progress that the child / young person has made.</li> <li>• The Directorate has since April held 2 staff engagement sessions and have planned a series of virtual staff engagements for the remainder of the coming year.</li> <li>• Much of Children's services activity relate to 'business as usual' and inc; strengthening collaboration and partnership working with MLCO, commissioning activity to improve the experience and outcome of children, review of services to ensure continued value for money inc Family First, Contact Service and realigning the Social Work Service to strategic ambition/priorities.</li> <li>• In addition, a key focus for the next 2 reporting periods is preparing for the potential increase in requests for a social work service and children becoming looked after in quarters 3 and 4.</li> <li>• A joint CAMHS front door is currently being finalised for referrals as schools reopen.</li> </ul>
	Schools and settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anticipate all children in the City will return to school the week of 7th September 2020. With the expectation of some primary schools and a small minority of special schools staggering intake.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back to school communications to support attendance have been launched: FAQs translated into 5 languages sent to schools, community groups and neighbourhood teams. Staff across the Council are raising awareness</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All schools are required to complete a risk assessment developed by MCC Health and Safety outlining the measures they will put in place to mitigate the risks of infection.</li> <li>• Following the change announced by the Government, A level grading and GCSE results were published on 20th August based on teacher assessments. BTEC results will also be calculated differently which has delayed their release. It has been agreed by all post 16 providers in the City that they would be sympathetic at enrolment if students still do not have a confirmed grade.</li> <li>• Significant work has taken place to support the mental health and wellbeing of students across the city, given the negative impact that social distancing and school closures may have caused. See activity outlined in the next column.</li> </ul>	<p>with families about children returning to school. “Hi! Good to see you” banners issued to all schools. An attendance helpline and inbox has been created for professionals or families to contact an officer about school attendance. Daily social media posts from Council will also promote school attendance. A model attendance policy with guidance for schools to record absence due to circumstances related to covid-19 has been distributed. School attendance will be monitored across the city with targeted work taking place if attendance is lower than expected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By mid August 148 risk assessments have been received (126 Primary and 22 Secondary schools). Following a review, 22 have been considered as requiring additional work. Guidance and support to the schools concerned has been provided by senior officers.</li> <li>• Of the 41 risk assessments outstanding 6 are from maintained schools, there has been close communication with all of them. To ensure that maintained schools are implementing their risk assessments, a sample of 10% will be visited in September by the Health and Safety team on a mutually agreed date</li> <li>• The Manchester Emotional, Mental Health and Wellbeing (MEMHWB) Directory, has been created providing resources on, anxiety, dealing with trauma bereavement. In addition, an anxiety pathway has been developed with partners for September. The Department for Education announced funding (£65k) to rollout</li> </ul>
--	--	--	---

			<p>training on mental health for schools and colleges to support pupils with their mental health in particular, bereavement and trauma support. Funding will facilitate a temporary post to provide training and support to schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The School HR Business partner will continue to provide information and advice to school leaders in september. This includes, FAQs, weekly contact with unions, HR updates summarising changes to government advice and daily telephone / email advice as required. A specific Workforce/COVID area added to the Schools Hub website for templates and information.</li> </ul>
VCSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OM Funds Programme Lead is working with the Covid Health Equity Group, jointly chaired by Population Health and MHCC, with work underway around quickly setting up and distributing a participation and engagement grant for up to date and ongoing comms and engagement (messaging and guidance) with targeted communities of identity delivered via VCSE leads. This will be based on data and intelligence that is coming through and key priority groups.</li> </ul>		
<b>Equalities and Inclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council continues with the Our Manchester Strategy reset, which is out to consultation at the time of writing. In addition to the public consultation, further engagement will be required to ensure a representative spread of feedback. The Council has been challenged in inclusion-focused partnership forums (Our Manchester Disability Board, Inclusion and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition to the three pronged engagement model underpinning the Our Manchester Strategy reset (see sitrep of 14.08.20), work has commenced to assess when and where the Council is engaging with equality groups on its recovery plans, and who this is with. The internal engagement review will assess across Directorates whether there is the scope and / or need to engage further with equality groups</li> </ul>	

	<p>Social Value Panel etc.) about the extent of its Covid-related engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has been urged by the Age Friendly Manchester Older people’s Board to adopt new measures to embed age friendliness in its communications and recovery approaches. A report to the Council outlining the main issues and proposed responses was requested as a first step in this approach.</li> <li>• The Greater Manchester BIG Disability Survey, conducted earlier this year to understand the impact of Covid and response work on disabled people across GM, was underpinned by a set of recommendations. The Council has been asked to respond to GMCA outlining its actions and</li> </ul>	<p>and the extent to which good practice is already being applied. A summary of the finding will be reported through the Residents and Communities workstream.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition, interviews were held in w/c 17 Aug for an Our Manchester Disability Plan Project Manager. Working to Breakthrough UK in a fixed term MCC funded role, the project manager will strengthen the governance, connectivity and engagement of the Board, and will link up with the Council to strengthen engagement between parties on the Our Manchester reset (scheduled to be considered by the Board at its next meeting), as well as Covid-related and mainstream disability equality work. The project manager starts on 7 September.</li> <li>• A start-up report looking at the Council’s priorities and activities to embed age friendliness in its Covid-related and mainstream approaches has been prepared by officers. This is being considered by the Age Friendly Manchester Older People’s Board at its meeting of 16 September and will be considered at a scrutiny committee meeting following that. Committee and date to be confirmed.</li> <li>• In order to advise the GMCA of its responses to the GM BIG Disability Survey recommendations, the Council has assessed current and proposed activity against each. This process has found that in most instances, the Council is progressing activity in each of the thematic areas, and that the work was already planned or in train pre-Covid.</li> </ul>
--	--	--

	<p>approaches to address the recommendations of the survey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Inclusion is being progressed as a cross cutting priority; this work pre-dates the Covid-19 outbreak, but has gained scrutiny and momentum in recent months. Feedback and research highlights issues around affordability of devices and data as priority areas for attention, along with the physical accessibility of technology and web content.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The survey and its findings will continue to be used to measure and coordinate progress, but is not the driver for the Council's activity in these areas. Work in this area will be reported through the Residents and Communities workstream as relevant, but overseen by the City Solicitor in her capacity as SMT lead for equalities.</li> <li>• The Work and Skills Team and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team are working to jointly coordinate a workshop with disabled people and their organisations to assess the issues and options around digital inclusion from a disabled people's perspective, involving groups representing a wide range of conditions and impairment types to give the most representative input available. This session is being planned for October.</li> <li>• A parallel piece of work is being undertaken to assess the access and inclusion priorities for the Customer Service Organisation review, with the EDI Team supporting the CSO management team to model a refreshed accessible service offer.</li> </ul>
--	---	--

\*\* There is clear evidence that COVID-19 does not affect all population groups equally. Many analyses have shown that older age, ethnicity, male sex and geographical area, for example, are associated with the risk of getting the infection, experiencing more severe symptoms and higher rates of death (*Beyond the Data: Understanding the Impact of COVID-19 on BAME Communities, PHE, 2020*). It remains vital that those who are frequently the most disadvantaged in society do not then take a 'double hit' from decisions taken to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. Please include detail of the activity you are planning to undertake to ensure recovery activity considers the impact of COVID-19 on different population groups. For example, undertaking an Equality Impact Assessment to support the planning for longer term changes to service delivery.

## Covid-19 Sitrep and Milestones, Future Council, 4 September 2020

Latest Milestone Plan (grey areas indicate when work will take place)

Future Council: High Level Milestone Mapping		Anticipated delivery											
Area	Milestone / activity	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April		
<b>1. Budget</b>													
Budget 2020/21	1.1 Budget monitoring 2020/21 to Executive, update of capital programme to Executive	Grey											
Budget 2021/22	1.2 Budget process with consultation to be determined	Grey	Grey										
	1.3 Government spending review, followed by settlement					Grey	Grey						
	1.4 Council's budget and precept setting process							Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey		
<b>2. Our Transformation - Our Ways of Working - workforce, culture, estates, health and safety, risk assessments</b>													
Workforce	2.1 Completion of risk assessments for all workforce requiring one, return to work for vulnerable and shielded	Grey	Grey										
	2.2 Design and agreement of principles for future working corporately	Grey											
	2.3 Engagement with DMTs	Grey	Grey										
	2.4 Phase 1 of return to site for 50% not currently on site			Grey									
	2.5 Extended roll-out of return to site				Grey								
Estates	2.6 Completion of buildings assessments	Grey	Grey	Grey									
	2.7 Work to rescope and consolidate use of estate where possible (aligned 2.2/2.3/2.4/2.5)		Grey										
<b>3. Our Transformation - Our Ways of Working - digital enablers</b>													
Microsoft 365	3.1 Assurance activities prior to migration	Grey	Grey										
	3.2 Roll-out of M365			Grey	Grey								
Intranet	3.3 Launch of new intranet			Grey									
End user device	3.4 Completion of procurement and roll-out				Grey	Grey	Grey						
	3.5 Work to ensure office space is fit for purpose		Grey		Grey								
Network capacity	3.6 Creation of additional direct access capacity and move to new data centre	Grey	Grey										
<b>4. Our Transformation - Strengthening Accountability and our processes</b>													
Phase 1	4.1 Constitutional changes, changes to HR and finance/procurement/shared service processes	Grey	Grey			Grey	Grey						
Phase 2	4.2 Digitisation of processes and delivery of appropriate system/s							Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey		
<b>5. Our Transformation - Resident and business digital experience programme</b>													
RBDXP	5.1 Design and delivery of new customer contact centre model	Grey	Grey			Grey	Grey						
	5.2 Implementation of new income management system	Grey	Grey										
	5.3 Design and engagement exercise on CRM approach							Grey	Grey	Grey			
	5.4 Resident, business and member engagement, alignment to digital inclusion programme							Grey	Grey	Grey			
<b>6. Our Transformation - Information governance and management</b>													
Rules and policies	Approval and application of new information management rules in line with M365 roll-out	Grey	Grey										

Workstream	Issues and challenges	Key planning and recovery activities																								
<b>Phased Return</b>	<p>Scale of risk assessment required for our workforce. At the moment work has focused on returning staff who are “at home and unable to work”. When this is complete there will be a larger number required for staff who are able to work from home but will return to onsite working for part of the week in September/October.</p> <p>Developing future ways of working based on increased flexibility, reducing our corporate estate and embedding high performance</p>	<p><u>Staff Working on Site</u></p> <p>With easing of government guidance more staff have been able to return to the workplace (all in line with government guidance on social distancing and/or PPE (where required).</p> <p>Current Position</p> <table data-bbox="1016 600 1865 906"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><b>Total Staff</b></th> <th><b>Staff on Site</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Adults</td> <td>1,811</td> <td>1,077</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Childrens</td> <td>1,473</td> <td>1,119</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Core</td> <td>1,771</td> <td>143</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Growth &amp; Development</td> <td>712</td> <td>264</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neighbourhoods</td> <td>1,570</td> <td>1,082</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>7,337</b></td> <td><b>3,685</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>% of headcount</b></td> <td></td> <td><b>50.2%</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Office space available capacity is <b>limited to 30%</b> whilst social distancing measures remain in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ <b>Building per building work</b> is in progress to review adherence to corporate guidelines</li> <li>★ <b>Individual risk assessments</b> are in progress for staff with underlying health conditions or black, asian and minority ethnic staff</li> <li>★ <b>Initial proposals</b> for larger scale return to the office in development following engagement with DMTs</li> </ul>		<b>Total Staff</b>	<b>Staff on Site</b>	Adults	1,811	1,077	Childrens	1,473	1,119	Core	1,771	143	Growth & Development	712	264	Neighbourhoods	1,570	1,082	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,337</b>	<b>3,685</b>	<b>% of headcount</b>		<b>50.2%</b>
	<b>Total Staff</b>	<b>Staff on Site</b>																								
Adults	1,811	1,077																								
Childrens	1,473	1,119																								
Core	1,771	143																								
Growth & Development	712	264																								
Neighbourhoods	1,570	1,082																								
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,337</b>	<b>3,685</b>																								
<b>% of headcount</b>		<b>50.2%</b>																								

		<p>★ <b>Scaling return for office based staff from September, and further extended return in October</b></p> <p><u>Building Risk Assessments</u></p> <p>Building-by-building work is in progress to review adherence to corporate guidelines. Of 157 confirmed premises (excluding assessments being done in parks) where staff are or plan to be working, risk assessments have been completed and 143 buildings have been signed off as Covid19 secure. This work is ongoing with a tracker in place to show the position for each site and the results of risk based Covid19 Secure compliance visits being undertaken by officers from the Health and Safety and Estates Services.</p> <p><u>Service Risk Assessments</u></p> <p>As well as buildings, all services are required to complete or update service risk assessments confirming their approach to ways of working and how risks will be addressed. Of 227 services / locations identified as requiring updated assessments, 141 have been confirmed and validated as complete. The areas of current focus are in adults and children's services where current assessments used during the peak of Covid19 require review or where resident facing services are returning to site. This will be a key focus of the Health and Safety Team with the respective Directorate Leadership Teams w/c 7 September.</p> <p><u>Vulnerable/Shielded Staff</u></p> <p>373 staff fall within the 'vulnerable' or 'living with someone that is shielding' categories who are now able to return to work following Government advice. Of the 373:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 334 have returned to work via a individual risk assessment</li> <li>● 30 have been assessed and are awaiting occupational health advice. In some cases, particularly Adults Services, occupational health advice has</li> </ul>
--	--	--



		<p>recommended not to bring employees back into the workplace. This is being challenged as it is felt the control measures are robust and sufficient enough to safeguard employees.</p> <p>The remaining are either off sick or the service hasn't returned on-site.</p> <p>HROD continues to monitor this cohort of staff specifically the completion of risk assessments and the number of staff returning to the workplace for corporate assurance.</p> <p>The Government confirmed with effect from 1 August people no longer needed to 'shield'. There are a total of 343 staff that fall within the 'shield' category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 281 are working from home</li><li>● 62 remain at home but unable to work off site due to the nature of their role.</li></ul> <p>The 62 staff who are at home but unable to work are all going through the risk assessment process and are being referred to Occupational Health in order to assess if they are able to return to their role. A proportion of these staff may remain off work due to the nature of their illness (e.g. staff undergoing treatment for cancer) and they will continue to be supported by their managers in line with the management of attendance policy. A number of staff will now be able to return to work and HROD will work with staff and managers to ensure this return is managed safely and in line with medical advice and government guidance. There may be a proportion who can return to work but not to their substantive role due to the level of risk, in this instance HROD will work with the individuals to look at alternative roles on a temporary or permanent basis to reduce the level of risk for these individuals.</p>
--	--	---

		<p>Understandably a number of staff who were previously classed as “shield” are very concerned about a return to the workplace and HROD and managers are working with individuals to support them through this transition (at the right time).</p> <p>Health and Safety have developed an Individual Risk Assessments Assurance Framework which enables monitoring levels of risk assessments which have been completed across the organisation. Status on levels of completion and quality assurance reviews will be reported w/c 21 September.</p> <p><u>Future Ways of Working/Return to the Office</u></p> <p>The ambition is that by October all of our staff will be able to work on site albeit on a much reduced basis to meet current social distancing requirements as in the main our buildings can only hold 30% of their previous capacity.</p> <p>Work is now underway to return staff to the THX and a number of teams/services are returning to test ways of working with all staff returning for a proportion of the week during October. To support this Heads of Service will stagger start and finish times and alter working patterns to try to minimise numbers of staff in at any one time and to reduce pressure on public transport. Continuous feedback will be sought from staff and managers during the pilot stage and beyond about how the workplace supports the type of work they need to carry out on site, how their journey was and how safe they feel in the workplace. Discussions are ongoing with Trade Unions and other stakeholders will be required to support this.</p> <p>Work is also underway led by the City Solicitor on arrangements for member meetings which involve additional challenges including participation/attendance of members of the public.</p>
--	--	--

<p><b>Our Transformation</b></p>	<p>Our Transformation pre-dates the covid-19 response and has been rescoped to ensure it supports delivery of our wider Future Council objectives, and enables us to respond at pace to the unprecedented change in our ways of working, as well as to plan longer term.</p>	<p>Milestone plans are now in place for all programmes/projects within Our Transformation ensuring understanding of dependencies between projects and critical path. Update from the last report:</p> <p><b>Our Ways of Working (ICT updates in separate section below)</b></p> <p><u>Intranet</u> - User Acceptance Testing for the intranet is now complete. We are in the pilot phase of the project with over 700 staff piloting the new system. Final work to resolve issues with logins is being undertaken by the Intranet Project Group. Activity over the next period will focus on resolving these to ensure that the site can be launched as soon as possible.</p> <p><u>Change leads and change champions</u> have been “recruited” from across the organisation so we now have c250 digital champions supporting on the intranet and over 100 change leads (one in each service) who will support on other change projects across the Our Transformation portfolio including the roll-out of Microsoft 365. The first Change Lead and Digital Champion onboarding event for M365 will take place on 7th September.</p> <p><b>Strengthening Accountability</b></p> <p><u>Review of leadership and Management Development offer</u> - work has started to revise the offer for leadership and management development. The draft manager expectations have been produced and will be tested by an organisation wide reference group of managers. This will be supported with guidance, training/support and accountability framework. The next steps will include: ensuring training and support/guidance is in place and up to date (eg intranet, Learning and Development offer), creation of a framework to monitor good practice and where managers don't meet required expectations and outline next steps.</p> <p><u>Constitution</u> - As part of the annual review of the Constitution we are exploring whether we can streamline the Scheme of Delegation. The Financial Regulations will also be streamlined and shortened and work on this is underway. Comparison with core cities shows others have more streamlined information relating to finance. Changes to the constitution will be agreed at the Annual Full Council General Meeting in October /November and will pick up any in year legislative, reorganisational etc changes which need to be reflected in the Constitution.</p>
----------------------------------	--	--

<b>ICT</b>	<p>Current ICT Position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 5,200 staff working remotely with c. 200 remote telephony users</li> <li>● 200 new machines a month being rolled out</li> <li>● Part way through data centre migration</li> <li>● Focused on ten key projects</li> </ul> <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Infrastructure at capacity</li> <li>● Balance between additional services that need bringing online including contact centre telephony and public computer access in Libraries, and not putting at risk current live services</li> <li>● Capacity in key areas (servers and networks) is a particular issue.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Our Ways of Working - digital enablers</b></p> <p><u>M365 Roll Out</u> - 60 pilot users have moved to Microsoft 365. The adoption and change workstream is well underway with champions recruited, surveys completed with heads of service, learning platform and comms plans being finalised. Planning is underway for migrations for September and October which will start for the wider organisation from 29th September.</p> <p><u>End User Device</u> - The tender process has ended and the evaluation process is underway. The challenge of supply chain availability since Covid incident remains.</p> <p><u>Data Centre Migration/Additional direct access capacity</u> - 1250 users have moved to the new Direct Access Service, with ongoing migration of other services. Migration of all but Telephony will be complete by September.</p> <p><u>Telephony</u> - Planning for the migration of all users over the next 10 months is underway. WAN and Wifi connectivity needs improving for some sites.</p>
<b>Finance and Budget</b>	<p>Overview as at MHCLG July Return data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Financial position - Net impact of COVID-19 on MCC General Fund is 163.5m (£163.1m in 2020/21, and £0.4m 2019/20), made up of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- £30.6m in costs (£30.1m in 2020/21, and £0.4m in 2019/20)</li> <li>- £132.9m income loss (Council only) and</li> <li>- £2m HRA</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Work is continuing on the budget planning and how this can be managed in light of the financial challenges from COVID-19. This includes work currently underway to assess the continuing support needs for residents.</p> <p>The next MHCLG COVID-19 is to be returned on 4 September covering the period to August 2020. The initial indications show an improvement from that reported last month of in excess of £2m in 2020/21 based predominantly on Directorate spend reductions, but a worsening of the position by around £1m net in 2021/22 due to changes in business rates assumptions and increasing CTSS requirements, however, these remain indicative until the return is finalised.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Budget Impact £22.9m in 2020/21; £161.7m in 2021/22. (after grants).</li> <li>● P4 - Expected to balance budget including Government funding for S, F &amp; C income loss.</li> <li>● Figures are before any assumption on the smoothing of the Collection Fund over 3 years.</li> </ul> <p>Challenges and Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Uncertainty of funding from Government, immediate and longer term</li> <li>● Figures do not assume there is any 'second spike' in infection rates - current restrictions due to increasing rate of infections from July has seen limited specific impact as yet - most significant is increased costs associated with GLL contract of £1.9m as well as impact on markets and risk to the Christmas market. Concerns over ASC requirements and potential issues if restrictions extend into school term or deepen.</li> <li>● Number of assumptions regarding impact based on the best information</li> </ul>	<p>Government has also issued guidance on the financial support for loss of income from sales, fees and charges. Claims will be considered in retrospect with the first to cover the period upto July 2020. Officers are currently working through the guidance; at present it is considered that around £7m may be eligible during 2020/21 but this will be dependent on a number of factors, including any further lockdown requirements.</p> <p>The Council will continue to lobby all levels of Government and its key messages continue to be around stability of funding, recognition of ongoing COVID-19 costs, support for loss of income and seeking some more bespoke intervention for the loss of commercial income. However the fiscal environment remains challenging. The Council will take stock of the budget position once the Spending Review 2020 has been published as this will provide a better indication of the overall financial position for Local Authorities in 2021/22.</p> <p>The expectation is that the Spending Review will not be issued until mid-late November. Engagement with Councils outside this will be focussed on those most at risk of financial failure in the short term.</p> <p>The Council's submission for the Spending Review is currently being drafted, and we will also feed into the GM submission.</p> <p>Work is continuing on the potential priority requirements for the capital programme to be considered as part of the budget process for 2021/22 onwards.</p> <p><u>Other Funding Updates</u></p> <p><b>Rough Sleeping £105m</b></p>
--	---	--

	<p>available at the time, including announcements of changes to lockdown restrictions, social distancing requirements and other requirements of Local Government inc Population Health to support businesses, residents and the wider control and monitoring of the pandemic.</p> <p>Pending Funding Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Further funding announcements for which LA allocations are awaited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 24 June the government announced funding of £105 million nationally to be used to support rough sleepers taken off the streets during the pandemic. See column opposite for update as at 20 August.</li> <li>○ £16 million so that vulnerable people currently in emergency accommodation can access specialist help needed for substance misuse issues. This has already been announced but has been brought forward due to the pandemic.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>MCC bid was submitted on 20th August, it will be moderated within two and a half weeks, with confirmed funding expected to be announced W/c 7th September.</p> <p>Bringing properties back online £161m (£130m capital and £31m revenue to support)</p> <p>These bids were written by RP's and submitted on 20th August, again with funding expected to be announced shortly.</p> <p><u>Phase 3 NHS response to COVID-19 inc changes to NHS funding for hospital discharges.</u></p> <p>From 1 September 2020, hospitals and community health and social care partners should fully embed the discharge to assess processes. New or extended health and care support will be funded for a period of up to six weeks, following discharge from hospital and during this period a comprehensive care and health assessment for any ongoing care needs, including determining funding eligibility, must now take place. The fund can also be used to provide short term urgent care support for those who would otherwise have been admitted to hospital.</p> <p>CCGs must resume NHS Continuing Healthcare assessments from 1 September 2020 and work with local authorities using the trusted assessor model. Any patients discharged from hospital between 19 March 2020 and 31 August 2020, whose discharge support package has been paid for by the NHS, will need to be assessed and moved to core NHS, social care or self-funding arrangements.</p> <p>The implications of this are being worked through to address the backlog in assessments.</p>
--	--	---

<p><b>Revenues and Benefits Activity</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Administration of the BEIS Business Rates grants scheme, ensuring eligible businesses apply and the scheme is closed to the deadline of 28 August.</li> <li>2. Considerable additional work now required for the various assurance and fraud checks and returns required by BEIS.</li> <li>3. Concerns about position on business rates collection rates, check, challenge and appeals and that the business rates base will be considerably reduced next year.</li> <li>4. Carefully monitoring Council Tax collection rates and CTS scheme claims to understand impact on residents and on future council tax base.</li> <li>5. Need to provide additional time before starting formal recovery. Need to ensure maximum collection ensuring that residents maximise their income and claim all support that they are eligible for and utilise discretionary support to vulnerable residents.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Business Rates Grants (Small Business Grant Fund and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund)</b></p> <p>The scheme for the small business grants fund and the retail, hospitality and leisure grants closed for new applications on 28 August 2020. Authorities have to 30 September 2020 to ensure the final applications are processed.</p> <p>In addition to a media campaign, all business properties that due to property description or their rateable value indicated that they may be liable for a grant have now had several contacts, mail, email, post and most recently a visit. The feedback from the visits suggest that in the majority of cases, there is no entitlement to a grant as the property is not occupied. In these cases the liability will be updated and where appropriate, business rates bills for empty property charges will be issued in the name of the owner or landlord.</p> <p>As of 30 August, £102.795m has been awarded to 8,232 businesses under the Small Business Grant Fund and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund scheme. Any grant remaining from the initial estimated funding requirement has to be returned to BEIS. This is not a case of the Council not using the money as determined. The Council was required to do an initial estimate based on the strict qualifying criteria using our database and property descriptions. During the course of the application process we determined that some businesses did not qualify and the database was not completely accurate in all cases as well as some businesses not being able to claim due to state aid limitations.</p> <p>The Council does not have any discretion to use the funds that were not allocated for other reasons outside of the strict criteria based on rates liability, rv and business activity.</p> <p>Following the closure of the schemes, BEIS expects that Councils will carry out some post payment checks to provide assurance over the validity of payments</p>
--	---	--

		<p>made. Plans in this area are being explored by Internal Audit. There will also be some investigation required where irregularities and potential allegations of fraud have been identified.</p> <p><b>Discretionary Grants Scheme (Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund)</b> The scheme end date for the Discretionary Grant Scheme is 28 August 2020.</p> <p>The Council's discretionary grants scheme closed to applications on 10 June 2020. Of the 1,258 applications received, the Council has determined that 951 are in scope for Discretionary grant. To 30 August all 951 grants have been allocated (100%) totalling £5.400m. The Council is looking to award some final grants to fully utilise the allocation of £5.432m.</p> <p><b>Assurance Reporting</b></p> <p>Regular assurance reporting to BEIS is required. BEIS have released a timetable for monthly submission of information until the end of March 2021. The Council has now submitted two reports in line with the timetable. All questions are required to be answered every month.</p> <p>The Council is also required to complete Fraud Risk Assessments for each of the three grants schemes, and to review these periodically. BEIS do not habitually require these to be returned but may ask to see them in future to support the central government post payment checking scheme.</p> <p><b>Business Rates Base and No Detriment Calculation</b></p> <p>The latest estimated Collection Fund shortfall for 2020/21 is £23.6m. The position does not reflect a concerning increase in business rates checks and challenges received by the VoA, citing material change in circumstances due to COVID 19.</p>
--	--	---



From May to July the Council received 2,786 new checks and challenges, up 899% on April's figures. The position is masked in 2020/21 as there are £143m Extended Retail Reliefs (which will achieve 100% collection) of which £138m are Covid-19 related and are not expected to continue into 2021/22.

#### **Business Rates collection**

The current collection rate for Business Rates is 32.74% at the end of August, 14.11% below last year at the same time. The current estimated collection rate for Business Rates this year is 10%, down from 97% in 2019/20. As previously reported billing has resumed, Enforcement Agents restarted recovery activity on 24.8.20 on previous years debts and formal reminders will be issued this week. It is hard to predict what the final outturn will be, but as recovery action starts and businesses in the city move to nearer normal, it is expected that the gap in performance will narrow.

#### **Council Tax and CTSS Claimants**

*The latest estimated Collection Fund shortfall for 2020/21 is £15.9m, reflecting the expected 6% reduction in collection (from 96.5% in 2019/20) and increased CTS claimants.*

The latest data from the dashboard showing the level of claims compared with the same period last year is included below.

#### **Council Tax Support Scheme Caseload:**

Date	Working Age	Working Age	Working Age	Pension Age	Total
	UC	No UC	All Cases	All Cases	All Cases
1/4/19	7,762	27,759	35,521	17,083	52,604

1/5/19	8,375	26,846	35,221	17,013	52,234
1/6/19	8,862	26,277	35,139	16,976	52,115
1/7/19	9,296	25,854	35,150	16,928	52,078
1/8/19	9,767	25,339	35,106	16,879	51,985
1/9/19	10,097	25,027	35,124	16,812	51,936
1/4/20	12,250	22,095	34,345	16,264	50,609
1/5/20	13,640	21,775	35,415	16,204	51,619
1/6/20	15,622	21,580	37,202	16,146	53,348
1/7/20	15,765	21,344	37,109	16,080	53,189
1/8/20	16,026	21,120	37,146	16,056	53,202
1/9/20	16,384	20,971	37,355	16,032	53,387

#### **Council Tax Support Activity**

The impact of Covid-19 and potential Brexit related changes have prompted the recommendation to leave the Council Tax Support Scheme in its current iteration in 2021/22.

Linking into the wider review of the Customer Service Organisation, the Benefits Service is reviewing the approach to document validation with a view removing any unnecessary evidence requirements in order to achieve faster claims processing; limiting the requirement for residents and staff to handle paper documents; and removing avoidable demand on the Customer Service Organisation.

The Benefits Service is also taking part in a DWP led study into current verification procedures. Details of each review will be shared as outcomes are known.

#### **Council Tax Collection Activity**

		<p>Although direct debits and standing orders were requested, we did not undertake any formal recovery action during full lockdown. This was to recognise limited access to advice and support, reduced access to banks and post offices and to allow people who may have been furloughed or lost their jobs to submit benefit claims. It also allowed time for us to award the additional £150 hardship payment to all recipients of Council Tax Support.</p> <p>The in year collection rate was 39.51%, 1.94% behind the same time last year. However, it is worth noting that collection in August 2020 was better than that in August 2019 in percentage terms. Arrears and costs recovery remains well behind last year.</p> <p>Over 25,000 soft reminders and around 24,000 formal reminders were issued in August. Enforcement Agents restarted recovery of previous years' debts w/c 24 August and have received updated guidance from both government and the Council on their approach that recognises the impact of Covid 19 on residents. The first Magistrates Court where current year Liability Orders will be sought will be on 24 September. These actions are all expected to have a positive impact on the collection rate and reduce the estimated shortfall above.</p> <p>For those residents in receipt of CTS, plus the hardship payment we are reviewing the way costs are allocated should we need to obtain a liability order to support collection from benefits. This will mean that in some cases (maximum benefit in lower bands with no other charges eg non deps), the costs will be reduced to 50 pence.</p> <p>We have agreed that activity action by enforcement agents can re-commence. At this stage this will be limited to their existing caseloads based on previous year debt collection. Additional guidance has been provided by the Council to protect vulnerable residents and to ensure that people affected by Covid are encouraged</p>
--	--	--

		<p>to claim financial support and given the opportunity to negotiate based on up to date circumstances.</p> <p><b><u>Additional and Discretionary Support to residents:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Council Tax £150 Hardship payment</u></b>  £5,991,604 paid out up to 31/8/20.  £5,788,639 paid to 38,979 households  £202,965 paid to 1,425 joint-tenant accounts</p> <p><b><u>Discretionary Housing Payments</u></b>  As of 2 September a total of £2,112,690 in DHP has been spent and committed. The government contribution towards DHP is £2,538,308.00. This will not be enough to cover the full year's demand and it is anticipated that between £1m and £1.5m of the additional £2m council funds directed to support residents through the DHP scheme will be drawn upon.</p> <p><b><u>Welfare Provision Scheme</u></b>  As of 30 August the WPS has paid out a total of £595,204  £234,130 of the total was paid in 4,334 awards delivering the Council's local 'free school meals' replacement scheme.  209 applications from carers have been approved, awarding 305 items to a value of £25,958.  431 applications citing Covid-19 as the primary reason for requesting support have been approved, awarding 522 items to a value of £28,151.  666 fuel requests have been paid to a value of £19,954.  1,481 applications for kitchen 'white goods' (cookers / fridges) approved to a value of £162,148  1,236 applications for beds and / or bedding approved to a value of £124,675.</p>
--	--	--