

**This Covid19 Monthly Update Report of Manchester City Council has three parts**

**(a) Residents and Communities Situation Report**

**(b) Economic Recovery Situation Report**

**(c) Future Council Situation Report**

## Covid-19 Sitrep Summary

Residents and Communities Workstream  
Date: 6 November 2020

Workstream	Issues and challenges experienced	<b>Current position:</b> Has recovery activity closed down (been mainstreamed / returned to BAU), or is continuing? Please give detail.
<b>Residents at risk</b>		
Shielded Residents and the Food Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation in place for commencement of lockdown on 5th November. Whilst shielding hasn't been re-introduced, guidance will be sent via a national letter to all those that are defined as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. This will be followed up by a local letter sent via GPs with more detail about how to access support locally via the Covid Helpline.</li> <li>• There is a move away nationally from direct food provision to supporting self sufficiency. Those who are CEV will be able to register on line to obtain a preferential supermarket slot and request to be linked in to a local support offer. We are very mindful that there will be a number of residents that are digitally excluded and will not be able to access this offer. The helpline will be available to offer support needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numbers coming through to the food response still remain low, we expect demand to increase and are taking a proactive approach with food providers to ensure that they are prepared and supported to respond.</li> <li>• The food response will continue to support people with either a clinical or financial vulnerability</li> <li>• The focus for the food response will remain on providing access to support, rather than providing a universal food response.</li> <li>• Demand will be monitored daily and appropriate measures put in place to scale up as required, there is the potential for this to have implications on resources. Volunteer capacity is being considered and work is underway to increase this. Driver capacity would pose an issue so this will need to be carefully considered if demand for CEV is great.</li> <li>• Work is underway to ensure that digital support is integrated so that more residents can benefit from online options</li> <li>• The New Smithfield Market function is on standby subject to demand increasing - the</li> </ul>

			<p>feasibility of commissioning this out is being considered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A proactive response will be put in place for those that received government food and shielded last time, the mechanics of this are still being determined</li> <li>• Transition to the new team is underway with the final posts due to be filled over the next couple of weeks.</li> <li>• The Our Manchester Food Partnership has launched and a series of webinars are being held to help make food providers make connections with other support services. Alongside this the donations page is now live on the Council website which provides a mechanism for business to donate surplus food. This is being embedded within the corporate Social Value framework refresh.</li> </ul>
	Domestic Violence & Abuse	<p>Domestic abuse community services are working at and in some cases over capacity. Previous lockdown saw a steady increase in referrals to DA services apart from the IRIS services which links GPs directly to the DA advocate.</p> <p>Staff resilience is a risk given the length of previous and new restrictions. Consideration to be made as to what support providers may need to maintain staff wellbeing in order to continue with service delivery</p>	<p>IRIS referrals are still lower than pre COVID periods so there may some capacity again to work across contract areas with the commissioners agreement.</p> <p>Comms to be reviewed to reinforce message that services are still open and victims can leave the home to escape an abusive relationship.</p> <p>Meeting with providers next week to review any immediate impact</p>
	Welfare Provision	An increase in demand and new schemes to administer, as a result of national lockdown	<p>Test and Trace Support provides £500 for low income residents who are required to self-isolate and unable to work. There have been 1600 applications from the mainstream pot with 373 claims paid with a value of £186,500. The aim is</p>

			<p>to turn around applications within a 3-day period. There is also a discretionary pot of £227k. Demand for both is higher than national Government anticipated when setting the budget.</p> <p>Free School Meals - in the absence of a national scheme, MCC introduced a citywide scheme for families eligible for FSM to cover the half-term holiday period 23 Oct to 01 November. The scheme is funded by MCC's Local Welfare Provision and has had 4,000 applications, with 2,630 of those paid. The scheme is open for applications up to Friday 13 November for eligible families.</p>
	Digital Inclusion	During the last lockdown, it became evident that residents who were digitally excluded were further disadvantaged in terms of access to services and support.	MCC has funded a digital inclusion project delivered by the Work & Skills and Libraries teams. Over the last week 400 residents were supported with the skills & knowledge to go online. Separately 300 residents received digital devices & data. Early analysis shows that all of these residents have a health condition, a large number have a disability and there were a high number of residents over the age of 60. This is positive as it maps against characteristics of residents most likely to be digitally excluded. The reach to BAME residents is not as high as it needs to be, so there will be more work to target the scheme in BAME communities
	Homelessness	Increase in presentations to pre-Covid levels has continued, presenting additional pressures as access to move-on and temporary accommodation remains limited. Re-start of s21 evictions not being seen as a major factor yet, but this process has only recently re-started and pent-up demand will be seen in the system again soon.	Working with partners to maximise access to move-on accommodation, including targeted interventions in the private rented sector. This will remain a significant challenge, particularly in light of national lock down.

		<p>Increases in domestic abuse presentations has been sustained.</p> <p>Currently in the process of identifying arrangements for winter provision for people who sleep rough. Numbers have shown a slow but consistent trend of increase. Commitment to not use night shelters wherever possible, but concern as to the availability of self-contained accommodation, its cost and the availability of adequate staffing and support services, including a food offer.</p> <p>Concerns with finding sufficient suitable accommodation for people who are positive, and a testing process for people who sleep rough</p> <p>Challenges with more staff testing positive, or needing to self isolate.</p>	<p>Regular meetings with partners are considering the options for the city for winter. There is a strong view that shelters should not be used though an absolute commitment to this cannot be made, it is a shared aspiration. The scale of provision required and the additional cost will be continuing challenges, as will the availability of adequate staffing should a prolonged period of provision be required.</p> <p>Working with contract tracing steering group to agree processes, outreach having testing kits is one possibility.</p> <p>Contingency plans are in place to ensure sufficient staffing across the portfolio, this may include increase in overtime or agency.</p>
<b>Resilient communities</b>			
	Resilient Communities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls into the helpline have seen a slight increase over the past week. Lots of calls that are general queries about guidance and what you can and can't do, particularly in relation to the new period of lockdown.</li> <li>• The partnership approach at a neighbourhood level continues to work well, with the Team around the Neighbourhood working collectively to engage with residents re Covid in hotspot areas as well as supporting those most at risk.</li> <li>• MCRVIP continues to promote opportunities for volunteers to support with the covid response.</li> </ul>

	Libraries, Galleries and Culture	<p>Government plans for a national lockdown have been the main focus for Libraries, Galleries and Culture.</p> <p>Guidance excluded libraries in the first instance but this has now been published.  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november</a></p> <p>Call with Culture Minister 5/11/2020 as member of DCMS Library Working Group</p>	<p>National lockdown will result in Museums, Galleries and Cultural venues being closed across the city including Manchester Art Gallery.</p> <p>Libraries can remain open to provide access to IT and digital services - for example for people who do not have it at home - and for click-and-collect services.</p> <p>We have temporarily closed the following libraries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arcadia Library (Levenshulme)</li> <li>• Barlow Moor Community Library</li> <li>• Burnage Library</li> <li>• Central library (City Library on the lower ground floor is open)</li> <li>• Fallowfield Community Library</li> <li>• Hulme High Street Library</li> <li>• Miles Platting Community Library</li> <li>• Moss Side Powerhouse Library</li> <li>• New Moston Community Library</li> <li>• Northernden Community Library</li> </ul> <p>All of our <a href="#">other libraries</a> are open but will only offer very limited service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet access for essential use only</li> <li>• Book return service</li> <li>• Books that have been reserved or requested in advance can be picked up.</li> </ul> <p>Library users can reserve books to be picked up when their chosen library is open, using the <a href="#">online libraries catalogue</a> or you can ring one of the open libraries and tell them the type of</p>
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			<p>books you enjoy and they will select some for you to pick up.</p> <p>Books To Go The Books To Go service for housebound people will continue to operate to existing customers The freephone to contact Citizens Advice Manchester will also continue to be available to use at Chorlton Library, Didsbury Library, Gorton Library, Longsight Library, Newton Heath Library Wythenshawe Forum Library, as will the Citizens Advice video contact at Longsight Library.</p> <p><b>Expected Impact of New national lockdown measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All cultural venues closed to the public and those with reopening plans have been suspended.</li> <li>• It is understood venues as places of work can remain open allowing for the rehearsal of work and performance for broadcast.</li> <li>• Financial impacts on cultural organisations will include loss of income from audience based and participatory activities that were planned. Costs in terms of cancellation fees and loss of income from hospitably services.</li> <li>• Some organisations have benefited from Cultural Recovery Fund Grants which for may would have included income assumptions based on being open and delivering a reduced, but emerging, public facing programme. We expect ACE to apply flexibilities to the grant</li> </ul>
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			management process but losses of projected income will impact on financial forecasts.
	Parks, Leisure & Events		<p><b>Sport &amp; Leisure</b></p> <p>All of our indoor sport and leisure facilities were ordered to close to the general public on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. Given the late issuing of the detailed guidance quick decisions on what is and isn't permitted going forward. Whilst all sport and leisure facilities have been ordered to close to the general public we will continue to support the following permitted activities at key sites:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opening up Elite Training Centre sites for elite athletes only – this will include sites such as the National Cycling Centre, the National Taekwondo Centre and the Manchester Aquatics Centre, commencing from 5<sup>th</sup> Nov.</li> <li>2. Opening up facilities for the provision of NHS activities such as COVID testing, vaccination and general support – This will include sites such as Denmark Road, Abraham Moss, Wythenshawe Forum and the Tennis Centre, commencing from as and when these activities are required.</li> <li>3. Opening up dual use education sites for use by the Schools for curriculum PE – This will include sites such as Abraham Moss (temporary sports hall), Whalley Range and Belle Vue, commencing from 5<sup>th</sup> Nov.</li> <li>4. Opening up facilities for access to formal child care provision – This applies to Northcity Family &amp; Fitness Centre only, commencing from 5<sup>th</sup> Nov.</li> <li>5. Opening up Swimming Pools for Primary School Education Swimming only – Following</li> </ol>



			<p>a demand assessment, pools will be open during the school day for primary school swimming only. This has been communicated to the schools. .</p> <p>6. Opening up Evans Cycles at the National Cycling Centre for Bicycle sales, commencing from 5<sup>th</sup> Nov.</p> <p>There was some confusion regarding the regulations which appeared to permit supervised activities for children in indoor sport and leisure centres, however it has now been confirmed that this only applies to support parents to work or access education, therefore our out of school supervised programmes for children will not be permitted to take place in our venues.</p> <p><b><u>Parks</u></b></p> <p>Services that can continue to operate with amendments to their operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play areas</li> <li>• Cafes (as a takeaway service only)</li> <li>• Ice cream vendors (as a takeaway service only)</li> <li>• Toilets</li> <li>• The Garden Centre at Heaton Park</li> <li>• Allotments (access to outdoor areas only, with limitations on individuals meeting in line with guidance)</li> </ul> <p>Services that will close under the current guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athletics tracks</li> </ul>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal baseball, cricket, football and rugby pitches.</li> <li>• Heaton Park boat hire.</li> <li>• Heaton Park Tree Top Trek.</li> <li>• Wythenshawe Park Horticultural Centre</li> <li>• Flat and crown green bowling greens</li> <li>• Golf courses</li> <li>• Stables (livery services and animal care can still continue)</li> <li>• Outdoor gyms</li> <li>• Multi use games areas, tennis courts, BMX and skate parks</li> <li>• Voluntary activity that is not essential (i.e. linked to health and safety of visitors or providing care to animals).</li> </ul>
	Youth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Following the Government announcement on 31/10/2020 – all youth provision operating inside buildings will have to close.</li> <li>2. Expectation that there will be increased numbers of young people congregating on the streets due to the closure of youth, leisure and sports facilities.</li> <li>3. Closure of provision could increase the financial risk for youth and play partners – furloughing of staff members, reduction in donations and income.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We are working closely with the 4 hubs to understand what 1:1 &amp; support provision they will be providing; supporting with risk assessments and interpretation of the guidance. Planned meeting for hubs 3/11/20 Planned meeting with the youth and play sector 5/11/2020 to activate 'Protective Youth Work' again</li> <li>2. We will support partners to increase their detached / street work provision. Support provided around risk assessments and virtual training.</li> <li>3. We will meet regularly with partners to understand and support with the furlough process, as well as, understanding the financial impact on organisations. Our funding to partners will continue as planned. Mapping process will continue to understand the 'state of the sector' during and post lockdown.</li> </ol>

<p>VCSE</p>	<p>Ongoing communication and engagement with the VCSE sector around Covid response and recovery plans – In terms of the latest lockdown, this has specifically been in relation to request for information and guidance on community centre and venue opening.</p> <p>Impact of Covid 19 on the VCSE sector (and those that they serve)</p> <p>VCSE future funding (both MCC and external) - Good range of emergency covid reponse funds made available but concerns around longer term funding of the sector e.g MCC OMVCS grant</p> <p>Covid Health Equity - communication and engagement and key messages to communities of identity</p> <p>Overall strategic leadership of the work with the VCSE - work takes place across a number of officers, teams and departments. This can create communication issues, duplication of effort and lack of clarity around priorities, accountability and progress and what is being expected of Macc and other VCSE partners.</p>	<p>Macc are/will be putting out additional Covid bulletins, cascading MCC and NHS information and providing clarity/additional information for the sector where they can. Conversation space for VCS venues and groups that had already re-opened, held on 04.11.2020. This provided the opportunity for groups to share how they are coping, challenges and seek any clarification they need around guidance etc. This is being followed up by further comms and information responding to specific queries, asks, offers of support and any further updates to Covid guidance.</p> <p>OMVCS grant fund (and connected Development Fund) is being extended for three months 1st April 2021 – 30th June 2021, whilst the budget settlement and future Council position is considered. Comms sent to all Members and the funded groups 04.11.2020, with more general comms being shared from next week. The plan around next steps for the OMVCS grant fund will be managed via BAU and will include the undertaking of an Equality Impact Assessment.</p> <p>VCSE funding (across the Council) mapping work currently being conducted to help support future budget discussions and decisions.</p> <p>Initial discussions held this week between Head of Neighbourhoods and OM Funds Programme Lead about the potential use of some of the latest central government Covid funding allocation to support the work of the VCSE sector in key areas/gaps etc e.g. mental health, isolation, older people, carers. This will be progressed over the</p>
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		<p>coming weeks with a view to moving quickly to set something up, if agreed.</p> <p>VCSE Covid Recovery Fund development work by MCC, MHCC, Young Manchester and Macc is being considered alongside the above to ensure that the purpose of the funds is clear and the timing of the release of this resource is best placed and has the most impact.</p> <p>Covid Health Equity Group (CHEG) - partners (including the VCSE sector) across the city working together to improve experiences of and outcomes for communities that suffer disproportionate adverse impacts from COVID-19. Engagement grant work is being progressed and will continue via the Covid Health Equity workstreams (new normal)</p> <p>Strategic conversation with the VCSE sector meeting scheduled to take place at the end of the month with senior officers across departments and VCSE leaders in the city. This will be continue to be managed by BAU arrangements with Policy, Performance and Reform</p>
<b>Equalities and Inclusion</b>	<p>The enforced national lockdown through November and measured through winter could compound some of the existing impacts experienced by the most at risk groups earlier in the year.</p> <p>Equality impacts related to the response to lockdown and the winter effects of Covid will interplay with the Council's budget decision</p>	<p>Need commitment for any new activity related to response to be equality impact assessed on the Covid-19 EIA template, across workstream areas.</p> <p>Support, advice and quality assurance is available for services on request.</p>

	making (also subject to EIAs) and will need to be considered in the round.	<p>Covid-19 EIA template is being adapted and adopted as org standard for the purpose of budget EIAs</p> <p>EIAs to be completed in tandem with assessment of poverty impact: meeting between Angela Harrington, Sean Pratt and Keiran Barnes to plan how the two interplay on 5 Nov</p> <p>Budget EIAs to inform a cumulative equalities impact assessment in new year; Manchester-specific focus building on the broader Covid equality impact report produced in June.</p>
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\*\* 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 Monthly Update November 2020 – Economic Recovery Situation Report

As at: 5/11/20 For Economic Scrutiny mtg on 09/11/20 Changes since last updated highlighted in yellow. Updated fortnightly.

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
General overview	<p><b>Prime Minister announcement 31/10</b> : the PM announced that from 5/11/20, the country will enter its second national lockdown until at least 2 December when, England will revert to the tiered system. The lockdown will involve the closing of non-essential retail, hospitality and leisure venues, but venues relating to education, public services and workplaces can continue to stay open (such as construction sites). Whilst not as stringent as the March lockdown, the general principles remain the same The PM's decision was agreed in Parliament on 4/11/20 by 516 votes to 38.</p> <p>As part of the new lockdown, the Government announced additional support to businesses and the public:</p> <p><b>Targeted Furlough</b> The Job Retention Scheme was due to end in October and replaced by the Job Support Scheme which was less attractive to businesses. However, as a result of the November lockdown the Government has put in place an extension of the Job Retention Scheme. The coronavirus Job Retention Scheme – also known as the furlough scheme – was originally to be <b>extended until December</b>, with employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500, but the <b>Chancellor has announced (5/11) that this will now be extended until March 2021.</b></p> <p><b>Local Restrictions Support Grant</b> In addition, business premises forced to close in England are to receive local grants worth up to £3,000 per month under the Local Restrictions Support Grant.</p>	<p>Analysis underway to understand implications of Chancellor's statement 22/10.</p> <p>Business Sounding Board supporting our position to govt on support required to accompany Tier 3 restrictions. 20/10</p> <p>Dashboard of publicly available economic data has been created to support work being undertaken with the Business Sounding Board, which will inform strategies to drive economic recovery.</p> <p><b>We are working with GM to coordinate the application of relevant components of grant and to pull together a lessons learned report from the last round of business grants administered, which would help inform the new discretionary grant funding for businesses.</b></p>

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	<p><b>SEIS</b> To reflect the recent changes to the furlough scheme, the UK-wide Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) has been extended, with self-employed individuals receiving 80% of their average trading profits for November</p> <p><b>Tier 3 announcement 20/10-</b> Numerous businesses have made direct contact with MCC in support of GM position.</p> <p><b>Spending Review</b> to conclude late Nov. This will be one-year only and focus on Covid and response to jobs. 3 priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing departments with the certainty they need to respond to C19 and deliver the <i>Plan for Jobs</i>;</li> <li>• giving vital public services some enhanced support to fight the virus</li> <li>• investing in infrastructure to deliver the levelling up agenda (21/10)</li> </ul> <p><b>Business Feedback-</b></p> <p><b>GM Economic Resilience Group 4/11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 79 Kickstart vacancies have now been created in GM and first young people started this week.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism Recovery Support Plan to be launched next week by Marketing Manchester.</li> <li>• Travel across all modes of transport has started to drop following the latest Government announcements.</li> <li>• Aviation – Following the travel ban announced as part of the lockdown, MAG are expecting a removal of 98% of traffic from Manchester Airport and are likely to look to reduce operating hours. There is also expected to be a significant impact on the supply chain. MAG are campaigning on the importance of the aviation industry to the economy, and there is due to be a Mayoral statement early next week. Support from partners in the campaign is welcome.</li> </ul> <p><b>Business Sounding Board 28/10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Webinar to be hosted by the Business Sounding Board to launch Manchester's Economic Recovery Plan.</li> <li>• Discussion that a roadmap out of restrictions is essential to build back confidence in the business community</li> <li>• Indications that some cultural venues are quickly selling out tickets for events in 2021</li> </ul> <p><b>Footfall figures-</b></p> <p>Footfall had been slowly improving from June to Sept but now seeing decline in trend over last couple of weeks.</p> <p><b>City Centre Footfall Trends</b></p>	



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	<p><b>Full week- w/c 25 October : 453,041 visitors in the week, a reduction of 51.4% on the same period last year but a 12.6% increase on the previous week</b></p> <p><b>There were 4 days where footfall numbers were higher than the previous week:</b></p> <p><b>Tues 27/10 +5.63%</b></p> <p><b>Wed 28/10 +31.81%</b></p> <p><b>Fri 30/10 +20.18%</b></p> <p><b>Sat 31/10 +41%</b></p> <p><b>UK High Street -41 % year +4.2% week</b></p> <p>The increases in footfall would appear to be as a result of the half term school holiday and also as a reaction to leaked information of the PM's announcement of another national lockdown.</p> <p><b>Manchester wide figures (excluding city centre)-</b></p> <p>Week 43/ week commencing 26/10/20.</p> <p><b>-7.2 % week on week (-30.4% year on year)</b></p> <p><b>District Centres Week on Week</b></p> <p><b>Cheetham Hill -8.6 %</b></p>	

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	<p>Chorlton <b>-0.7%</b></p> <p>Fallowfield <b>-17.2 %</b></p> <p>Gorton <b>-0.7 %</b></p> <p>Harpurhey <b>-4.3 %</b></p> <p>Levenshulme <b>-3.8 %</b></p> <p>Northenden <b>-8.6 %</b></p> <p>Rusholme <b>-8.2 %</b></p> <p>Victoria Avenue <b>-17.3 %</b></p> <p>Withington <b>-3.1 %</b></p> <p>In the district centres Friday and Saturday were the only days to see an increase in footfall on the previous week of 2.65% and 33% respectively.</p> <p>The decreases in footfall within the district centres are likely to have been as a result of the increases experienced in the city centre.</p> <p><b>Hospitality and Night time economy-</b> CityCo impact report 5/11 The full week of tier 3 regulations left approximately 180 venues still trading in Manchester city centre, mainly based around the Northern Quarter and Deansgate. All but one venue in the Village decided to close as it would not be financially viable to install food</p>	

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	<p>offerings. While the potential for street-food or take-away provision was considered, most bars felt this would not compensate for the loss of wet-business.</p> <p>The process for the next few days will be for several hospitality businesses to offer take-aways where they can make the finances work. Already seeing coffee shops staying open in much larger numbers than in first lockdown, operating purely as take-aways. The late news of alcohol take-away being allowed has left the door open for some attempts to mirror business adapting as happened in the first lockdown (hopefully without the accompanying social issues).</p> <p>Within the BID area the following numbers of businesses remain open:</p> <p>36 classed as essential</p> <p>21 stores for click &amp; collect only</p> <p>29 Takeaway &amp; delivery services</p> <p>8 for delivery only</p> <p>Most city centre hotels are currently planning to remain open in November for essential workers, business travel and in some, allowing the booking of meeting rooms.</p>	

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	<p>All businesses are hoping that lockdown will only last until early December, and that therefore there will still be time for some Christmas trade.</p> <p><b>Retail-</b> The news of the national lockdown has come as a blow for retailers, as they enter the two most critical months of the year with the highest footfall and largest proportion of profits made. Sales up to the end of October have been challenging anyway with sales performance from major chains of clothing retailers and coffee shops etc. remaining in double digit decline with a lack of footfall, office workers and demand for formal clothing.</p> <p>The larger flagship city stores in cities like Manchester continue to underperform against sister stores in smaller market towns in percentage terms. Primark reported their full year results this week and indicated that, since June reopening to the year-end, sales were 12% lower on a like-for-like basis. If the four large UK destination city centre stores are excluded, which include Manchester, the decline was 6%. Overall operating profit declined at Primark by 60% for the year. Likewise M&amp;S has just reported the first loss in its history for the first 6 months of the year, at nearly £90m into the red. Clothing sales in flagship M&amp;S city centre stores between July and September were 53% down, although the new Ocado partnership for online foods has made a strong start.</p> <p>Online sales – National picture is that, as of August, on line spending has seen year on year growth of 51.6%, although some areas saw a</p>	

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	<p>decrease in on line sales when compared with July. Clothing/footwear/household goods are areas where there was continued growth in on line sales from the previous month. The biggest year on year increase in online sales relates to the purchase of food at 89.5%. (ONS).</p> <p>King Street continues to see more stores closing, with DKNY having now closed despite many years in the city, and nearby Kiehls has also now closed. As the second lockdown kicks in, on top of a long summer of restrictions locally, it will be likely that not all brands will be able to recover sufficient trading profit via online alternatives, or trading in the remaining weeks before Christmas even if the lockdown does end early December. We would therefore expect to see further significant rationalising of store estates in the new year.</p> <p><b>Culture/Events/Sport</b></p> <p><b>Expected Impact of New national lockdown measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All cultural venues that were open to the public will be closed to the public from Thursday 5 November. Those with reopening plans have suspended plans.</li> </ul>	<p>Support for hospitality and retail- 21/10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance has been prepared involving environmental health, licensing and GMFRS regarding use of outdoor heaters and shelters. Briefing with businesses on 23/10.</li> <li>Tier 3 guidance being produced by CityCo with MCC involvement.</li> <li>Range of businesses supported in developing creative ideas such as use of tipis and 'ski chalets' to create additional indoor space.</li> <li>CityCo continuing to engage with landlords in King Street area.</li> <li>'Ambassador' role being developed for high footfall shopping areas.</li> <li>Working with businesses as outside area temporary pavement licenses are due for renewal in Nov.</li> </ul> <p>Escape to Freight Island (outdoor F&amp;B market) at Mayfield has seen over 80k visitors and created over 1,000 (permanent and part time) jobs in the 3 months since it opened on 24 July. It has also received over 200 pieces of coverage, an online readership of 1.4bn, and 55.5k social media followers, showing an extensive reach. The development of Escape to Freight Islands "Winter Island" (first fully heated outdoor F&amp;B market) and the indoor F&amp;B Ticket Hall have progressed as planned, but the opening has since been delayed until lockdown restrictions are lifted, after which up to 12k visitors a week are expected.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All organisations are finding planning very challenging in the current circumstances. Not having an informed view of the likely scenarios coming out of this current national lockdown makes lead times for planning for reopening and presenting work in the future incredibly difficult.</li> <li>• It is understood venues as places of work can remain open allowing for the rehearsal of work and performance for broadcast.</li> <li>• Libraries can remain open to provide access to IT and digital services - for example for people who do not have it at home - and for click-and-collect.</li> <li>• Financial impacts on cultural organisations will include loss of income from audience based and participatory activities that were planned. Costs in terms of cancellation fees and loss of income from hospitality services.</li> <li>• Some organisations have benefited from Cultural Recovery Fund Grants which for many would have included income assumptions based on being open and delivering a reduced, but emerging, public facing programme. We expect ACE to apply flexibilities to the grant management process, but losses of income will impact on delivery plans and financial viability for even those in receipt of recovery funds.</li> </ul> <p><b>Local Restrictions Support Grant</b></p>	

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
	<p>Pending further details and guidance for the authority to distribute the new grants, in light of the announcements extending scope of access to this business support grant, the Culture Team will be looking to ensure cultural organisations benefit from these support grants where possible.</p> <p><b>Manchester Business Sounding Board Indicators</b></p> <p>Collection and reporting process now established to be reported into the weekly Manchester Business Sounding Board for the suite of key indicators for the city centre.</p> <p>Latest weekly visitor numbers (<a href="#">w/e 1 Nov</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Library: 3,228</li> <li>Art Gallery 1150</li> <li>HOME 10,669</li> <li>Combined Total - 15,047</li> </ul> <p><b>DCMS announced £1.57 billion investment 'Culture Recovery Funding (CRF)' (5/7)</b></p> <p><b>Culture Recovery Fund Grants - £500m for England.</b></p> <p>Fund being delivered by ACE for Cultural organisations and National Lottery Heritage Fund/ Historic England for heritage sector</p>	

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	<p><b>Aviation-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact of the national lockdown need to be assessed, although the breadth of the aviation supply chain make it difficult to truly ascertain the impact</li> <li>• This is on the back of MAG announcements, confirming that <b>465 jobs at Manchester airport were at risk</b> (with a further 427 job losses for East Midlands and Stansted airports).</li> <li>• MAG has had to close two of its terminals and has had to undertake measure to reduce its staff costs and has widely used the Government furlough scheme.</li> <li>• Work and Skills alongside MAG, The Airport Academy, DWP and the Growth Company and other key partners are working behind the scenes to ensure there is a high quality offer and level of support for those people whose jobs are affected.</li> <li>• Work and Skills officers will continue to work in partnership with BGH, and their manufacturing and aviation advisers as</li> </ul>	<p><b>Culture/Events/Sport</b></p> <p>50 Windows of Creativity (Organised by Wild in Art) launched on 26 Oct across city centre- showcase of local artists. Runs until 5 Dec.</p> <p>Collective work underway with marketing campaign to encourage people back into venues.</p>



Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
	<p>a GM level who have links with many supply chain businesses to continually gain local intelligence.</p> <p><b>Wider national and international context on passenger numbers</b> The International Air Transport Association has downgraded its 2020 traffic forecast from 63% to down to 66% when compared to 2019 traffic volume on the back of poor August figures that have reflected a weaker-than expected recovery from the effects of the global pandemic. August revenue passenger kilometres (RPKs) were down 75.3% when compared to August 2019.</p> <p>The International Air Transport Association identified the key negative turning point in what appeared to be a growing recovery in passenger numbers in August as the period when a number of governments in key areas re-introduced restrictions based on the resurgence of the COVID-19 virus. Whereas the decline in year-on-year growth of global RPKs was expected to have moderated to 55% by December, a much slower improvement is now expected with the month of December forecast to be down 68% on a year ago.</p> <p><b>MAG</b> Locally, MAG have indicated that Overall passenger demand was not expected to recover before 2023-24.</p> <p>In addition to the immediate “on Site Jobs” affected there are wider implications for Manchester in terms of the wider supply chain including maintenance and the services sector that are a crucial part of the Airport</p>	<p>A number of partners are exploring the idea of a broader Go out to help out scheme- Manchester specific to incorporate cultural venues and wider offers. Consideration being given to potential timing for this, possibly January.</p> <p><b>Christmas-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Viewing Tower for Exchange Square progressing and intention to open to coincide with Christmas Lights switch on 17th Nov.</li> <li>Proposal for 'freight island' style offer on Piccadilly Gardens being progressed.</li> </ul> <p><b>DCMS announced £1.57 billion investment ‘Culture Recovery Funding (CRF)’</b> <b>Culture Recovery Fund Grants - £500m for England</b> Being delivered by ACE for Cultural organisations (inc profit/ not for profit &amp; charities) <u>Awards under £1m</u> - Round 1 and Round 2 decision have been made awarding £333 million of the up to £500m fund. See appendix showing where cultural organisations in Manchester have received ACE Emergency Funding and ACE delivered CRF grants.</p> <p><u>Awards over £1m and repayable finance</u> - Announcements are pending</p> <p><b>Capital Kickstart Fund.</b> <b>£120m to support existing arts &amp; heritage capital projects</b> that have experienced delays to build programmes. £55m to be distributed via ACE. Decision on applications now due end November. <b>Local Restrictions Support Grant</b> Pending further details and guidance for the authority, it is unlikely that any cultural organisations will benefit from these support grants.</p>

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	<p>In addition to MAG's announcements, other National companies' have proposed redundancies, affecting roles in baggage handling and catering, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 783 jobs at Swissport</li> <li>• 304 at Menzies</li> <li>• 219 at BA</li> <li>• Other firms consulting on job cuts are Gate Gourmet, Stobart Aviation, ICTS, Alpha LSG, ASIG, Sodexo and North Air.</li> </ul> <p>The Aviation Sector was lobbying for the introduction of a Covid-19 testing system for travellers to the UK in a bid to shorten the quarantine period imposed on travellers returning from many destinations and give confidence to airlines and customers to travel in 2021. An announcement was expected in November with the improved testing regime in place from December. However, this is likely to be delayed as England enters a national lockdown from 5 November.</p> <p><b>Higher Education Institutions-</b></p> <p>MMU are moving to online teaching with 3 hours on campus teaching per week. They have exceeded targets for 1<sup>st</sup> year student enrolment and met the target for 2<sup>nd</sup> year students. In respect of international students there are a lot that have not arrived in the</p>	<p>Local Restrictions Support Grants are only available for businesses that are instructed to close because of the measures not if they <u>can</u> be open but can't make it viable with covid-safe requirements to be open. So, if the government makes it still permissible to hold performances but venues can't operate viably without a bar and hospitality offer, they will be excluded from the grant.</p> <p><b>Music Venues Survey results</b></p> <p>A survey was concluded on 19 October 2020. 15 Venues responded. Headline results include:</p> <p>The most critical businesses issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ income levels</li> <li>○ reducing expenditure</li> <li>○ reopening strategies,</li> <li>○ being open and covid safe.</li> </ul> <p>Issues of significant concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ income levels</li> <li>○ reducing expenditure</li> <li>○ reopening strategies,</li> <li>○ being open and covid safe.</li> </ul> <p>A third of venues indicated they were at risk of becoming insolvent. 60% responded yes or maybe to this question.</p> <p>Just under half of the venues indicated they had or were having to issue staff redundancies</p>

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
	<p>country as yet but they are broadly where they were last year in terms of number of students that have arrived.</p> <p>Throughout the period staff cases have remained low. Positive student cases increased very rapidly from almost no cases to over 200 in just four days. Reported infections are now declining. (Daily cases are reported on UoM website)</p> <p>This decline in infections is encouraging but they could increase again, particularly in light of high infections in the region. The new local testing site may result in an increase as more students and staff are able to access tests. University remains committed to having robust COVID security measures in place, many of which exceed what is required. Risk assessments are kept under review and have been developed with our trade unions.</p> <p>Testing facilities on Denmark Road and mobile facility in Fallowfield.</p> <p>Student numbers are higher than expected with an estimated 80% of international students arriving (continuing to arrive in waves). Overall number of returning students is marginally down. Accurate picture of enrolments will be available in early November. U of M 14/10</p>	<p>Only two of the fifteen venues had not applied for Arts Council emergency or Culture Recovery Funding. Summary of responses can be read here <a href="#">Manchester Music Venues Survey Results Summary.docx</a></p> <p><b>Aviation</b></p> <p>Work and Skills alongside MAG, The Airport Academy, DWP and the Growth Company and other key partners are working behind the scenes to ensure there is a high quality offer and level of support for those people whose jobs are affected.</p> <p><b>Role of the Work and Skills Team (Manchester focus)</b></p> <p>In advance of MAG's announcement re job losses, the team has been in discussion with the Communications Director at MAG, alongside colleagues in the Neighbourhood Team to prepare for this scenario. Local elected members have been fully briefed by MAG, in advance of the National news breaking. Work and Skills team has provided a summary of the support on offer to MAG</p> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p>

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	<p><b>Inward investment-</b> 13/10 MIDAS remains positive with a number of projects coming in. Many investment decisions however on hold due to range of practical issues.</p> <p>Some redundancies in back office functions demonstrates extent of events sector/cultural sector impact.</p> <p>Some companies looking to centralise functions in one regional hub.</p> <p>A number of enquiries received following recent virtual sessions on green growth, fintech and ecommerce. Legal tech identified as a particular opportunity for north shoring from London/SE.</p> <p><b>Real estate sub group- 13/10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive messages around <b>resilience of the office market</b> in Manchester- Two pre-lets for Q4: <b>BT at New Bailey</b> 175,000 sq ft (20% reduction in requirement to take into account anticipated changes in work patterns) and <b>Trader Media Group at First Street</b> (Auto Trader expansion)</li> <li>• Specialised space remains strong- ie science &amp; tech</li> <li>• Growing interest in out of town product.</li> <li>• Significant investor appetite remains.</li> <li>• OBI- smaller deals on hold a few weeks ago now resuming with increasing concessions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers across work and skills, DWP and AA are liaising directly with MAG's HR representatives to develop a better understanding of the roles and demography.</li> <li>• Officers will ensure Neighbourhood colleagues and local elected members are regularly appraised of the situation.</li> <li>• Working with MAG and the AA, the W&amp;S team will support them to develop a plan to ensure all people affected are provided with a level of outplacement support including training, advice, guidance and support around employment, skills and financial support.</li> <li>• As part of these discussions the team hope to ascertain with MAG if there might be wider supply chain implications that the taskforce partnership could support with.</li> <li>• The Hut Group has offered its support to do what it can to support as many people with the right skills to move them into opportunities.</li> <li>• Work and Skills officers will continue to work in partnership with BGH, and their manufacturing and aviation advisers as a GM level who have links with many supply chain businesses to continually gain local intelligence.</li> </ul>

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Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Residential market remains buoyant</b>- international investment continues.</li> <li>• <b>Retail</b>- significant concerns re oversized sector- trend growing towards purpose driven shopping at hubs. Significant restricting underway. Need to understand consumer activity and purpose.</li> <li>• Challenge for city centre is how our offer will need to evolve to meet consumer needs and as a meeting place?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Inward Investment-</b></p> <p>MIDAS focusing messaging around resilience of Mancr.</p> <p>One year GM International Strategy released this week- key messages around global competitiveness and resilience. 13/10</p> <p>Group preparing comms on positive messages around commercial developments/activity.</p>
<b>Development</b>	<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 any obstacles (access to debt).</li> <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> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCC has now entered into contract with Homes England for £51.6m Housing Infrastructure Fund (Forward Fund) grant award for Northern Gateway and procurement processes are commencing to deliver civil engineering / core infrastructure works that will unlock development plots for c5,500 new homes in the Redbank neighbourhood. Infrastructure works must be delivered by March 2024 and housing delivery will commence from that point onwards.</li> <li>• Announcement of Government approval on 04/08 for Getting Building Funding for BASE Manchester Innovation Activities Hub at MSP (£4M) and Mayfield (£23M). Draft offer letters received early September, with final terms being negotiated with GMCA (hoping to conclude by 30/10) The final terms for Mayfield have now mainly been agreed <b>and work on the park is due to start on 9<sup>th</sup> November.</b></li> <li>• 2 Manchester schemes approved in principle for Round 1(22/09) of the Brownfield Land Fund (for schemes due to start 2020-21) <b>Mulbury City - New Cross Zone A and Viadux. Call for Round 2 now launched, with closing date of 23/11, and a number of schemes are being worked up with partners.</b> Decision awaited on the bid for an additional 10% allocation.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Key shovel ready schemes are included within Recovery Plan, included as part of CSR submission.</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. Scheme could commence Spring 2021.</li> <li>● Planning &amp; Highways Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct considered a new commercial development at Speakers Corner, Deansgate (which could provide over 700 new FTE jobs); the refurbishment of Cavendish House on Chapel Walks to create additional office space; and a new hotel at 2-4 Whitworth Street. Cavendish House was approved, with the other 2 schemes deferred to the November Committee.</li> </ul>
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Risk to developer and investor confidence.</li> <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> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Extra Care facilities in development: 4 schemes under construction 257 apartments 3 RP schemes 1 MCC (PFI scheme)</li> <li>● Regulator for Social Housing (RSH) 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> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential flooding of the PRS sector as the short term let market shrinks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The scheme with Clarion has been finalised to deliver shared ownership homes for the full development</li> </ul> </li> <li>Silk Street           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Silk Street funding has been approved and is progressing through the Capital Strategy Board with the CP2 complete. The project team has been 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>Site assessments have now been completed by CBRE and this work is now with PwC who are producing a financial model to ensure project viability.</li> <li>The financial modelling will influence the final legal structure to be used and how future phases are going to be delivered.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Project 500 progressing. Will deliver 500-600 homes.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sites have been broken down into 3 phases and RP's have been allocated to work up individual designs</li> <li>A number of member drop in sessions will run in Nov.</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>The GMCA proposed partnership has been delayed so this will have a knock on effect to the Manchester Collaboration.</li> <li>The Manchester Collaboration report to Executive is proposed for December but is subject to the GMCA/HE one being set up first.</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> </ul>

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Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with Your Housing Group to bring forward a 200+ new build scheme in East Manchester with 60% planned for affordable housing</li> <li>• Working with One Manchester to deliver the regeneration of the Grey Mare Lane Estate, which will lead to the reprovision of 124 existing homes, the retrofit of 169 homes and the delivery of 166 new homes. Masterplanning / community consultation currently underway and a masterplan will be taken to MCC Executive for endorsement in early 2021 in advance of the scheme commencing.</li> <li>• Work progressing on a mixed tenure scheme on the former Manox site in East Manchester. This will provide over 400 new homes on a very complex site, proposed delivery of a net zero carbon scheme with just under 30% of affordable housing.</li> <li>• Homes England recently announced a new Affordable Homes Programme Fund for 2021-2026. Officers are working with partners to maximise the funding for a Manchester Affordable Housing Programme that will include a substantial amount of specialist and supported housing. AHP submission is still proposed for December.</li> </ul>
<b>Transport and Infrastructure</b>	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>TfGM issued updated messages on Tier 3 travel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You should not travel into or out of GM unless your journey is essential for work, education, medical reasons, to access youth services, for caring responsibilities, or as part of a longer journey.</li> <li>• You can continue to travel within GM but please think about how and when you travel and aim to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible.</li> <li>• You can use public transport, but space is limited due to social distancing.</li> <li>• Please cycle or walk if you can.</li> <li>• You should work from home if possible.</li> <li>• Plan ahead, allow extra time for your journey, consider travelling outside the busy morning and afternoon peak times, and using quieter routes.</li> <li>• Download the <a href="#">NHS COVID-19 app</a> before you travel.(21/10)</li> </ul>



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		<p><b><u>Manchester Specific Transport Usage Data</u></b> (for w/e 1/11)</p> <p><b><u>Bus</u></b> Patronage, 1,455,320, <b>reduced by 19.7%</b> on the previous week and was <b>-52.9%</b> on the same period last year</p> <p><b><u>Metrolink</u></b> Network patronage, 258,697, <b>reduced by 9.5%</b> on the previous week and was <b>-69.4%</b> on the same period last year.</p> <p><b><u>Highway</u></b> - Private vehicle trips, 28,633,253, <b>decreased by 2%</b> on the previous week and were <b>-17.8%</b> on the same period last year,</p> <p><b><u>Rail</u></b> - Passenger numbers, 242,899, <b>increased by 0.9%</b> on the previous week and were <b>-68%</b> on the same period last year.</p> <p><b><u>Cycling</u></b> - Cycle volumes, 487,496, <b>decreased by 26.5%</b> on the previous week and were <b>-43%</b> on the same period last year.</p> <p><b><u>GM Wide Data</u></b></p> <p>Latest data shows the following differences with the position on 09/03 (based on the busiest day of the week) showing a <b>slight decrease in all modes of transport over the last couple of weeks.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Metrolink patronage 9/3/20 = 122,613 14/7/20= 31, 884 4/9/20=53,215 18/09/20= 56,884 4/10/20= 53,578</li> </ul>

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Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
		<p>11/10/20= 51,381</p> <p>○ Bus 9/3/20 515,309</p> <p>14/7/20 191,093</p> <p>24/8//20 238,503</p> <p>4/9/20 292,832</p> <p>18/09/20 333,220</p> <p>4/10/20 332,949</p> <p>11/10/20 330,733</p> <p>Rail 9/3/20 104,795</p> <p>14/7/20 28,700</p> <p>11/09/20 48,123</p> <p>18/09/20 47,871</p> <p>4/10/20 46,550</p> <p>11/10/20 45,201</p> <p>GM Highway 9/3/20 5,082,000</p> <p>14/7/20 4,032,000</p> <p>25/8/20 4,370,915</p> <p>8/9/20 4,528,836</p> <p>18/09/20 4,838,128</p>

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Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
		<div data-bbox="1361 323 1738 411"> <div>4/10/20</div> <div>4,836,856</div> <div>11/10/20</div> <div>4,758992</div> </div> <p data-bbox="1167 496 1995 663">Latest year on year data on car park usage across the NCP Joint Venture car parks shows a mixed picture. Generally those car parks that focus on retail or leisure markets (King St West and Arndale) are doing better in terms of recovery to last year's volumes, than those focussing on commuters or business related journeys (eg Spinningfields). 01/09</p> <p data-bbox="1167 746 1995 807"><b>Face Coverings-</b> Face covering compliance is around <b>80%</b> on buses, <b>83%</b> on Metrolink and <b>75%</b> on trains. (as at 11/10)</p> <p data-bbox="1167 868 1995 967"><u>City Centre Transport Strategy</u> consultation launched 23/09- as of 21/10 there have been <b>847</b> responses to the survey questions. The consultation ends on 4/11.</p> <p data-bbox="1167 995 1487 1023"><u>Emergency Active Travel Fund</u></p> <p data-bbox="1167 1051 1995 1254">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. Proposals have been submitted by TfGM 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. Decision delayed- expected this month.</p>
	Analysis of businesses' plans for reopening, working with TfGM, CA,	TfGM linked into Day Time Economy recovery group work

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Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
	Chamber, Growth Company	
	Identify and implement interventions that support social distancing and support business reopening and procure necessary equipment to facilitate this.	Re-purposing of city centre streets and open spaces. Initial ideas are now being developed further in consultation with members. 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 ethnic minority communities e.g. Longsight, Moss Side, Cheetham</li> <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</li> </ul>	<p><b>04/11/2020</b></p> <p><b>Furlough and Newly unemployed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redundancies - 5 HR1's received this week with 8 employers notifying 340 redundancies in 5 sectors Manufacturing, Information &amp; Communication, Arts &amp; Entertainment, Accommodation &amp; Food Services and Transportation &amp; Storage. Areas in GM affected were Stockport, Trafford, Manchester, Bury and Leigh.</li> <li>DWP is working in partnership with Man CC, Airport Academy and The Hut Group to support those affected by redundancy at Manchester Airport Group.</li> <li>The supporting comms campaign is now live across LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook</li> </ul>

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
	<p>apprenticeships or move into employment at risk;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 in September - August figures- for Manchester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claimant count: 35,230 all ages up from 34,755 in August; 7165- aged 16-24; 21605 up from 21,450 (Aug) -aged 25 to 49 and 6455 up from 6325 (Aug) aged over 50. Of the 35,230, men account for 21,620 and women 13,605.</li> <li>The increase in claimant count numbers of 475 over the last month represents an increase but not as sharp an increase as in April &amp; May. It is expected that the next significant rise in unemployment will be in October when furlough comes to an end.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Furlough and Newly unemployed</u></b></p> <p>HR 1 data (advance notification of redundancies) from the Insolvency Service showed that nationally UK employers planned 58 000 redundancies in August, an increase of 150 on a year earlier. However, planned redundancies were down from the 150 000 high seen in both June and July. A total of 498 000 redundancies were planned between August and March, when the coronavirus crisis began.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Much of the partnership support is focused on large scale redundancies so a core offer will be set up to ensure that all residents can benefit.</li> <li>Support is being provided to One Manchester to develop enhanced employability provision for BAME communities. An application to DWP Flexible Support Funding will be submitted to fund additional activities.</li> <li>Workclub monitoring is underway, analysis from this will help to inform provision moving forwards to ensure that it is meeting the needs of residents across the city.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Offer for 16-19 year olds</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work is underway to understand systemic changes and changes relating to graduate outcomes resulting from COVID-19 . This includes an overview of changes to the educational and employment landscape resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic to date, that will impact on graduate retention and employment in the city.</li> <li>Official Higher Education Statistics Agency Data detailing graduate outcomes for 2020 students will not be published until Easter 2021. Anecdotal evidence from The University of Manchester between 1 September to 26 October 2020 includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>61 careers meetings for 2020 graduates and 192 clients with alumni status</li> <li>reports of existing offers of internships and employment for 2020 being rescinded</li> <li>plans to travel, work or study abroad have been canceled/postponed at scale</li> <li>students graduating may have returned home to live with family whilst searching for work in a more challenging market</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
	<p>HR 1s submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manchester Airport Group- 465 – working with MAG, Airport Academy and key partners including DWP and GC to ensure support is in place as part of the consultation period. Awaiting liaison with MAG HR.</li> <li>Booking.com - DHL supply chains = 99</li> <li>DWP notified the number of redundancies (GM) - 5 HR1's last week = 340 redundancies across 5 sectors. Offers have gone out re: DWP redundancy support and directly delivering support sessions to those people affected. Main recruitments – Peak recruitment for warehousing – Amazon, THG opportunities. HMRC customer services WFH – 6 months DWP work coaches.</li> <li>Many firms had brought staff back to work, the Growth Company survey shows that 65% still have staff on furlough and of these 65 of firms said they have furloughed more than half of their workforce.</li> <li>The sectors still furloughing high proportions 50 or more) of staff are in Hospitality Leisure and Tourism, Creative and Cultural, Retail, Manufacturing and Services sectors.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Offer for 16-19 year olds</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NEET figures for Manchester are running at 49% of NEET and unknown. This is normal for this time of the year as all destination hasn't been captured including the Colleges. Better position than this time last year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>graduates interested in arts, culture and heritage particularly impacted</li> <li>graduates report applying for numerous vacancies and feeling disheartened when they receive multiple rejections, feeling deflated when they don't hear back from businesses</li> <li>graduates are receptive alternatives e.g. remote volunteering, connecting with industry professionals on LinkedIn, doing online courses and reaching out for work shadowing opportunities.</li> <li>The scale of the challenges facing the HE sector, students and graduates seeking work remains unknown. Key insights in terms of potential impact include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>retention of students remains a significant concern with the impact of this likely to be seen from January 2021 onwards after the Christmas break</li> <li>students financial hardship, exacerbated by constraints on availability of part time work, causes stress impacting upon attainment and retention<sup>4</sup></li> <li>retention of students on undergraduate courses could impact upon unemployment and claimant rates in the city and the talent supply in the labour market</li> <li>digital inclusion has become a significant issue with access to hardware and stable, high speed internet being a prerequisite for new online and blended teaching models. Similarly digital exclusion may lead to potential constraints when applying to enter the labour market and ability to virtually take part in open days, interviews and assessment centres</li> <li>the impact of the disruption in education in summer term 2020 and the predicted grades system has yet to be seen, there is a likelihood of a gap in study skills and therefore</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
		<p>long term attainment and therefore skills when entering the labour market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ universities are reporting that they are struggling to secure work placements and internships and where they exist they have moved online and are for the main part unpaid; reduced employer engagement opportunities, particularly with SMEs, is identified as a key barrier to skills development and progression outcomes student experience will be vastly different with lost opportunities for extracurricular and broader development opportunities with the potential to exacerbate gaps in employability skills</li> <li>○ mental health and well-being of students remains a high priority in light of local lockdowns in university accommodation and isolation; the impact of poor mental health may impact when entering the labour market and in turn affect productivity</li> <li>○ there has been a significant increase in the number of students remaining in university to study post-graduate level courses to ride out the worst of the downturn in the labour market</li> <li>○ family financial constraints may also impact upon university starters for 2021 which will impact on the labour supply in 2024/25.</li> <li>● Recommendations for the Council and key partners to consider to ensure that a pipeline of graduate talent can continue to support inclusive growth in the city, have been made and will be taken forward as part of economic recovery.</li> </ul> <p><b>Youth Unemployment</b></p>

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Hubs - Proposal worked up for citywide Youth Hubs in partnership with The Princes Trust and wider Youth Employment Group partners. Next step to agree funding parameters with DWP.</li> <li>• Apprenticeships - we have connected Total People to our ongoing work with Citizens Advice Bureau to explore delivery of a new level 3 pathway. Next steps include feasibility and understanding compatibility with traineeships and Kickstart.</li> <li>• Kickstart - 76 KS vacancies, 24 of which are currently open. 12 are based in and around Manchester, the rest are spread across GM. 1145 referrals have been made and 574 have resulted in an application . Vacancies include customer services (Tesco), display representatives (working in retail outlets), recruitment screening support, product copywriter, buyer intern, digital content intern, digital marketing, trainee pharmacy dispenser, associate delivery consultant, storytelling executive, online developer, sales and operational support. Also seeing home working Kickstart jobs (sales roles for digital billing solutions company).</li> </ul> <p><b>Skills &amp; employment Support for adults</b></p> <p>300 digital devices have now been distributed out to residents. Data collected so far has started to give us a better understanding of people's circumstance and the challenge of digital inclusion.</p> <p>Highlights so far show -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correlation with poor health, carers, food poverty and those at risk of or experiencing DV.</li> <li>• Majority of residents are within 20% more deprived areas IMD.</li> </ul>



Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
	<p><b><u>Business Support, Sustainability &amp; Growth</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37% of UK employers plan to make staff redundant over the next three months, according to a YouGov poll of more than 2000 managers commissioned by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.</li> <li>Salary &amp; Vacancy Trends Source: Growth Company– Vacancy details from Adzuna. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The average Manchester salary is £36,582</li> <li>-Currently there are 17,794 live job ads in Manchester, out of 645,604 jobs nationally. This is up from the 16,496 live job ads in Manchester on October 8th</li> <li>-The top companies hiring in Manchester are: The Hut Group, Tesco, Spires Online Tutoring, HC One and MITIE.</li> <li>-Most live job ads in Manchester are for IT Jobs and Teaching Jobs.</li> <li>-Salaries in Manchester have gone up 10.0% year on year while the national annual change is 4.3%.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Concerns remain about the implications as a result of a <b>no deal Brexit</b> and officers will work with comms to develop a social media campaigns to promote GM Chamber and Business Growth Hub. At present according to BGH survey data Oct 2020 just under half (47%) of firms said that the impact of EU exit will have a ‘neutral effect’ on their business, 12% said ‘negative effect’, 41% said they are ‘unsure’. Suggesting that there is still uncertainly.</li> <li>Future challenges facing the business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Getting access to new domestic sales opportunities (32%),</li> <li>-managing the business finances (17%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>So far there is poor ethnicity diversity - next steps are to work with partners to improve reach. Large majority of referrals are from those 65+ which meets our objectives, and the second most prolific age group is 30-40. This age group has not been expected therefore there is some work to look into intersectionality on this.</li> <li>MAES have 3479 enrolments from a target of 4303 for this time of year (80.9%).</li> <li>The standard delivery model for MAES is half in centres and half online.</li> <li>The service has initiated a scheme to loan Chrome Books to learners - circa 200 devices have been distributed so far.</li> <li>DfE guidance suggests that adult education providers should explore delivering courses online where possible in the November lockdown.</li> <li>MAES has added some new programmes to its offer in response to the current situation including Make it Happen: Retrain, which prepares people who have lost their jobs for new employment. There is a Social Care pathway and a more generic 'new directions' pathway which focusses on skills reframing for new contexts.</li> <li>MAES has also worked with DWP to provide pre-employment training for new work coaches. There have been 127 participants on this training since September.</li> <li>There are some challenges in moving forward workstream objectives away from digital inclusion based on partnerships with learning providers input being focussed on other digital inclusion and other covid-19 related priorities. Need to consider how to take this forward.</li> </ul>

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
	<p>-the impact of the end of EU transition period (11%) and getting access to new markets overseas (11%).</p>	<p><b>Social Value and Local Benefit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Value policy recommendations to be progressed to SMT in November for approval.</li> <li>• Changes have been made to the local labour process to ensure outcomes from new construction in the city reflects the recovery priorities. This will only apply to new applications.</li> <li>• Significant work required to raise awareness of new priorities amongst MCC staff and particularly commissioners.</li> </ul> <p><b>Business Support, Sustainability &amp; Growth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labour Market and Business Sectors under Threat</li> <li>• In Manchester the specific sectors at greatest risk include aviation, arts, cultural and creative industries and parts of the leisure and hospitality industry and associated supply chains.</li> <li>• As of September 2020, the number of individuals on universal credit totalled over 74,000 in Manchester, a 76% increase compared to March statistics. While this remains lower than the national figure of 89%, there are great concerns around the impact on young people. Those 20-34 claiming universal credit increased by 79% and youth unemployment doubled . The impact of COVID-19 has hit the self-employed particularly hard. As of 31 September 2020, 28,200</li> <li>• Data / Intel work ongoing with PRI and other key stakeholders to inform the economy dashboard</li> <li>• Scenario planning work with Rates to prepare for Business grants</li> <li>• Freelancers - "Enterprising You" BGH will be delivering webinars and promoted.</li> <li>• Comms for business critical to underpin business offer – while we navigate complex Business grant schemes</li> </ul>

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BGH has developed an internal document which sets out their products / services - will help to inform ongoing comms work / campaigns</li> <li>• BREXIT - deal unlikely, implications re: trade could be significant – continue to push messages re: Preparation as this could get lost.</li> <li>• <b>Targeted Furlough</b> - The Job Retention Scheme was due to end in October and replaced by the Job Support Scheme which was less attractive to businesses. However as a result of the November lockdown the Government has put in place an extension of the Job Retention Scheme. The coronavirus Job Retention Scheme – also known as the furlough scheme – will remain open until December, with employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500.</li> <li>• <b>Local Restrictions Support Grant</b> – (FURTHER DETAILS ARE TBC) In addition, business premises forced to close in England are to receive local grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Local Restriction Support Grants (Sector) -Grants for businesses that were required to close in March and which have never been able to re-open (nightclubs and Sexual Entertainment Venues) will be paid grants of up to £3,000 for every four week period that they have to remain closed. Grant payments will start from 1 November 2020. They will not be backdated to March.</li> <li>○ Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) There will be a discretionary scheme for businesses that were severely impacted by the Greater Manchester COVID restrictions that were in place between 1 August and 4 November 2020.</li> <li>○ Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Grants to support businesses who pay business rates and are forced to close as a result of COVID Alert Level: Very High or a National</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
		<p>Lockdown. Eligible businesses will be paid a single grant to cover each four-week period in which they are required to close, based on the rateable value of the property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SEIS</b> - To reflect the recent changes to the furlough scheme, the UK-wide Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) has been extended, with self-employed individuals receiving 80% of their average trading profits for November.</li> <li>• <b>Loan schemes:</b> application deadlines extended to January 31 2021 for the following schemes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan</b> - for fast tracked smaller scale finance including loans ranging from £2,000 up to 25% of a business' turnover capped at £50,000.</li> <li>○ <b>Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan</b> – for debt finance of up to £200m (for larger businesses with a turnover of more than £45m)</li> <li>○ <b>Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme</b> - for loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance of up to £5 million (for SMEs with an annual turnover of no more than £45 million)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Incentive payment to hire new apprentices</b> - If you hire an apprentice between 1 August 2020 and 31 January 2021, you will receive a one-off payment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ £2,000 for apprentices aged 16 to 24</li> <li>○ £1,500 for apprentices aged 25 and over</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>VAT: reduced rate for the tourism and hospitality sectors</b> – Valid until March 31 2021. VAT registered businesses can apply for a temporary 5% reduced rate of VAT to certain supplies relating to hospitality, hotel and holiday accommodation and admissions to certain attractions.</li> </ul>

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Payment holidays for VAT and self-assessment tax</b> If a business has deferred VAT (due from 20 March to 30 June 2020) they have the option to spread out their VAT bill over eleven smaller interest-free payments during the 2021-22 financial year using the government's new VAT deferral "New Payment Scheme". To take advantage of the scheme, businesses will need to opt-in. The opt-in process will be set up by HMRC in early 2021.</li> <li>• Those who complete a Self-assessment tax return and chose to delay their second payment on account, can pay a deferred July 2020 payment on account any time up to 31 January 2021.</li> <li>• And if you have up to £30,000 of Self-Assessment liabilities you will be able to benefit from an additional 12-month extension from HMRC on the "Time to Pay" self-service facility. This means that payments deferred from July 2020, and those due in January 2021, will now not need to be paid in full until January 2022.</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	<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><b>1) Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)</b> - The development of the PSDS bid is progressing well and that we are aiming to submit a bid with the GMCA into the 23rd November bidding round. We estimate a bid level of at least £7m for MCC. We are continuing to liaise with the GMCA and local public sector bodies. An initial bid by the GMCA to secure upfront pipeline development funding of £1m has been successful which bodes well for the larger capital bid to follow later this month.</p> <p><b>2) Green Recovery Fund</b> - 2 bids full bids submitted 26th October with Manchester components. The first one is looking to do work in Wythenshawe Woodlands and Irk Valley, and the second is around greening the Rochdale canal in the city centre.</p>
<b>Strategy &amp; Economic Narrative Review</b>	<p>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 &amp;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business webinar being planned for mid November on Economic Recovery Plan with Business Sounding Board.</li> <li>• Final version of the Plan with Comms for proofing and design</li> </ul>

COVID-19 Monthly Update November 2020 – Economic Recovery Situation Report

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of the key projects and deliverables being produced to support lobbying (see below)</li> <li>• Our Manchester Strategy discussed at Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee and with the Our Manchester Forum on 3 November.</li> <li>• Drafting of the Strategy now underway following feedback on the consultation analysis. Draft to be produced for SMT 24 November.</li> </ul>
<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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Cities Cabinet met 3 November to focus on Covid-19 and a public statement has now been drafted focussing on an 8</li> <li>• Lobbying grid being developed to pitch key projects from the Economic Recovery Plan to key Civil Servants in Government.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Intelligence</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Need to engage with Manchester Businesses and Key sectors to understand current status re Covid related impacts.</li> <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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ipsos Mori large scale survey results to inform MCC priorities. Ongoing dialogue with business community to understand latest issues and impact.</li> <li>2. 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>3. 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>4. Data sweep complete - work now underway to collate trends across sub-sectors (mainstream, students, short term lets) to contribute to overall appraisal.</li> <li>5. 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 and Milestones, Future Council, 29 October 2020**

**Latest Milestone Plan** (grey areas indicate when work will take place, currently being updated)

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



Workstream	Issues and challenges	Key planning and recovery activities
Workforce /Onsite Working	<p>Providing safe clean workspace for staff who are required to be on site to carry out their role, and also for staff who cannot work from home for any reason</p> <p>Building a resilient workforce who are able to continue to work through a period of prolonged disruption, ensuring staff have the tools and support to work effectively from work or at home</p> <p>Identifying work for staff who are home but unable to work</p>	<p><b>Staff Working on Site</b></p> <p>The staff working on-site figure has been split into two categories to reflect those that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclusively working on-site (e.g staff employed within Libraries, or School Catering)</li> <li>• Blended (which reflects those staff that are able to work from home and work on-site - this includes services such as children's social workers)</li> <li>• The total number of staff working on-site has reduced from 3934 to 3812 which represents 51.94% of the Council workforce.</li> </ul> <p>The total number of COVID-19 related absences has increased to 115. Of these, 49 cases are confirmed COVID positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults 11</li> <li>• Children's 15</li> <li>• Core 13</li> <li>• Neighbourhoods 8</li> <li>• Growth &amp; Development 2</li> </ul> <p>Currently, 50 employees have been identified as a 'contact' and are self-isolating as a result of the Test and Trace system.</p> <p>Shielding: The total number of shielding staff that are at home and unable to work stands at 65 and HR are currently working with Heads of Service to identify if meaningful work can be provided to these staff so they can work from home.</p> <p>Covid Roles: Work has been completed to identify staff on a more permanent basis to support the Covid response (in the main call centre, food delivery and test and trace). Resource has now been identified for the vast majority of these roles and staff will start to move into these roles in the coming weeks.</p>

		<p><b>Building a resilient workforce:</b>  Work is underway to further develop the principles for working over the next 6 months in line with the government's announcement which will ensure we continue to have the safest working environment for staff who have to or want to be onsite and provide support to staff and managers who will be working in the main at home or in a mixed model of on site and at home for some time.</p> <p><b>Committee Meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work is also underway led by the City Solicitor to develop with members the approach to committee meetings over the coming months</li> <li>• Building per building work continues to assure compliance with corporate Covid Secure risk assessments</li> <li>• Individual risk assessments are in progress for all staff with underlying health conditions, black, asian and minority ethnic staff and staff previously in the shield category- the current position is reported below.</li> <li>• Initial proposals for larger scale return to the office in development following engagement with DMTs</li> <li>• Scaling return for office based staff from September, and further extended return in October</li> </ul> <p><b>Building Risk Assessments</b></p> <p>Building-by-building work is in progress to review adherence to corporate guidelines. Of 146 confirmed premises (excluding assessments being done in parks) where staff are or plan to be working, risk assessments have been completed, 145 buildings have been signed off as Covid19 secure. The remaining 1 is not currently in use. 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 are reported to senior officers for action.</p>
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		<p><b>Service Risk Assessments</b></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 219 services / locations identified as requiring updated assessments, 215 have been confirmed and validated as complete. The four outstanding relate to Adults Services and have been escalated to Adults DLT for action.</p> <p><b>Individual Risk Assessments</b></p> <p>All services are required to confirm that individual risk assessments have been completed for relevant staff who are in high risk categories. Of 154 services, responses for 12 are outstanding from Adults (8) and growth and Development (4) and are being followed up with Heads of Service and with DLTs to ensure assessments are in place for all staff working on site or from offices. It has been made clear that unless these assessments are in place then it is not permitted for staff to work from site or from the office.</p>
Our Transformation	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>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</b></p> <p><u>Intranet</u> – Launch date moved to start of November. Forms, accessibility, and SAP issues now mostly resolved. New issue arising in availability of support for those accessing intranet from own device which could incur extra costs.</p> <p><u>Working on site</u> – Advice and Guidance for people working on site, and those working from home are being updated to take account of ongoing guidance and restrictions in place.</p> <p><b>Strengthening Accountability</b></p>

		<p><u>Review of leadership and Management Development offer</u> - Draft manager expectations have been produced and will be supported with guidance, training/support, and accountability framework.</p> <p><u>Constitution</u> - Revisions to the Constitution are now planned to go to meeting of Council on 25 November 2020. Update on substantive changes will be reported through internal governance prior to Council meeting.</p> <p><u>HR processes</u> – Changes to streamline recruitment processes with new forms incorporated. Next step to review the pre-employment process to consider how it can be streamlined without compromising safeguarding requirements.</p> <p><u>Finance and procurement processes</u> - “How do I?” guide is under development alongside a suite of tools to support user friendly processes. Plan developed to progress remaining quick wins by Nov &amp; to start to map next phase actions.</p> <p><b>Resident and Business Digital Experience</b></p> <p><u>Consultancy Support Tender</u> – Contract commencement agreed for 9 November 2020.</p> <p><u>New Face to Face Customer Engagement Model</u> - A report detailing the full future operating model for the CSO was presented and agreed at Future Council in October. Next steps are the development of a timetable, comms strategy and engagement with staff, trade unions and members.</p> <p><u>Income Management (CivicaPay)</u> - Discussions held with Civica have proposed a revised Go-Live date of 8th December which is to be agreed by the Project Board over the next period.</p> <p><u>Website Contract</u> - Currently working with procurement to ensure maintenance and support contract with incumbent supplier continues for the next 3 years as a minimum.</p>
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		<p><u>Telephony</u> - Planning has started for back office telephony build and migration timescales with queue optimisation and customer experience enhancements also planned.</p> <p><b>Information Governance and Management</b></p> <p>The final meeting of the Information Governance Group took place on 23 October. Legacy activities have been identified and allocated to other individuals / forums</p>
<b>ICT</b>	<p>Current ICT Position: 5,200 staff working remotely with c. 200 remote telephony users 200 new machines a month being rolled out Part way through data centre migration Focused on ten key projects</p> <p>Challenges: Parts of Infrastructure at capacity Reduced risk to live services including contact centre telephony and public computer access in Libraries, and not putting at risk current live services Capacity in key areas (servers and networks) is a particular issue.</p>	<p><b>Our Ways of Working - digital enablers</b></p> <p><u>M365 Roll Out</u> - 5500 users have now migrated with the rest of staff and members scheduled to be completed by the end of October.</p> <p><u>End User Device</u> - Roll out process and prioritisation are being developed. New machines starting to be ordered in November, with rollout from December. Supply chain challenges still remain. Service redesign is being planned</p> <p><u>Data Centre Migration/Additional direct access capacity</u> - R2 (callsign) remote access being migrated over next two weeks, delayed as issues identified. Internet cutover being planned (November). Telephony hardware being planned (November / dec)</p> <p><u>Telephony</u> – Migration of all users planned during Jan to March. WAN and WIFI connectivity needs improving for some sites.</p>

		<p><u>WAN/ LAN/WIFI</u> - Preferred bidder decided upon for LAN / WIFI contracts.</p> <p>WAN tender evaluation closed and evaluation underway</p>
<b>Finance and Budget</b>	<p>Overview as at MHCLG September Return (draft) data</p> <p>Financial position - Net impact of COVID-19 on MCC General Fund is £151.7m (£151.3m in 2020/21, and £0.4m 2019/20), made up of:</p> <p>£25.5m in costs (£25.1m in 2020/21, and £0.4m in 2019/20)</p> <p>£126.2m income loss (Council only) also:</p> <p>£2m HRA</p> <p>Budget Impact £15.1m in 2020/21; £163.1m in 2021/22. (after grants but before funding for sales, fees and charges which is estimated at c£6.4m).</p> <p>P5 Monitoring - Balanced budget excluding assumptions regarding Government funding for Sales, Fees &amp; Charges income loss as per comment above. In year COVID-19 losses for airport dividend, Council Tax and Business Rates will not appear as a budget pressure until next year.</p> <p>Figures are before any assumption on the smoothing of the Collection Fund over 3 years.</p>	<p>Work is continuing on the budget planning and how this can be managed in light of the financial challenges from COVID-19 and the latest announcements from the Government. This includes work currently underway to assess the continuing support needs for residents particularly in light of the extended lockdown requirements.</p> <p>The claim for financial support for loss of income from sales, fees and charges has been submitted (1 October). Claims will be considered in retrospect with the first to cover the period up to July 2020 with a claim value of £3.6m. At present it is considered that between £4.5m and £6.4m may be eligible during 2020/21. This is dependent on the treatment of market income (excluding all market income is c£4.5m estimated claim; excluding only that relevant to specialist markets is c£5.1m claim; allowing all is £6.4m claim). MHCLG have indicated to other LAs that Councils would need to make a case for its inclusion.</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. The Local Government Finance Settlement detailing individual Local Authority funding is expected in mid-late December.</p> <p>The expectation is that the Spending Review will not be issued until mid to late November. Engagement with Councils outside this will be focussed on those most at risk of financial failure in the short term.</p>

	<p>Any capacity created in 2020/21, through other savings and mitigations in addition to Government funding will be used to offset 2021/22 pressures.</p> <p><b>Challenges and Assumptions</b>          Uncertainty of funding from Government, immediate and longer term          It is difficult to isolate the additional costs due to increasing rate of infections and further restrictions - most significant is increased costs associated with Leisure contract, as well as impact on markets and risks to the Christmas market.          Concerns over increasing Adult Social Care requirements, linked to new national changes to NHS support as it moves into phase 3 from 1 September.          Number of assumptions regarding impact based on the best information available at the time, including announcements of changes to lockdown restrictions, social distancing requirements and other requirements of Local Government including Population Health to support businesses, residents and the wider control and monitoring of the pandemic.</p> <p>Funding Announced - Individual LA Allocations Awaited.</p> <p>17 September - £546m for extension of the Infection Control Fund (ICF) for care providers</p>	<p>The Council's submission for the Spending Review was submitted 24 September. The City Council has also fed into the GM submission. The submission to tranche one of the Business Rates Call for Evidence was submitted 18 September.</p> <p>Work is continuing the potential priority requirements for the capital programme to be considered as part of the budget process for 2021/22 onwards.</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. MHCLG have requested additional information from the RP's on the smaller schemes, mainly in relation to deliverability by 31st March. This was provided to MHCLG yesterday and will be considered along with returns from other LA's, so we are hoping for confirmation next week. Note: MHCLG were concerned about the deliverability of the modular schemes by 31st March. Once the bids for 2020/21 funding are confirmed we are expecting discussions to begin around a funding allocation for 2021/22</p>
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	<p>The Infection Control Fund has been extended to the end of March 2021 to give providers further resources to halt the transmission of COVID-19 throughout winter</p> <p>The fund can be used to pay staff wages for those self-isolating and hire more staff to restrict movement between homes.</p>	
<b>Revenues and Benefits Activity</b>	<p>Administration of the BEIS Business Rates grants scheme, ensuring eligible businesses apply and the scheme is closed to the deadline of 28 August. Considerable additional work now required for the various assurance and fraud checks and returns required by BEIS.</p> <p>Concerns about position on business rates collection rates, check, challenge and appeals and that the business rates base will be considerably reduced next year.</p> <p>Carefully monitoring Council Tax collection rates and CTS scheme claims to understand impact on residents and on future council tax base.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Business Rates</b></p> <p>Business Rates Grants (Small Business Grant Fund and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund)</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 had to 30 September 2020 to ensure the final applications were processed. Additional resources were deployed to finalise pending cases prior to the deadline. There will be a small number that will be closed as not paid as businesses have not provided the required evidence prior to this deadline.</p> <p>As at 30 September 2020 we have paid out 8,501 grants totalling £105.58 million, representing 94.6% of expected payments under the Small Business Grant Fund and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund scheme.</p> <p>Following a final reconciliation exercise 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 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>Discretionary Grants Scheme (Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund)</p> <p>Nationally the discretionary grants scheme closed for new applications on 28 August. As above, all payments had to be made by 30 September with any money unspent being returned to the government, The Council has awarded all of the £5.432m that was provided to the Council.</p> <p>The Council received around 1,258 applications and paid 958 grants to businesses. As above there will be a final reconciliation exercise and return to central government in the days ahead.</p> <p>Future schemes to support businesses affected by covid (Local Restrictions Support Grant)</p> <p>Further guidance has now been issued in relation to the Government announcement on 9 September that there will be additional business grants for those businesses who have recently reopened and are now required to temporarily close. There are two schemes, one for eligible businesses with a linked business rates account and a further discretionary scheme where there is no business rates liability <i>or the business is severely impacted by the local lockdown. From 23 October, Manchester is required to provide these schemes for implementation. Officers are working on a Manchester response but we are still waiting for final guidance from central government.</i></p>
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		<p>The <i>existing</i> guidance for the Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB) is published on <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-support-grant-guidance-for-local-authorities">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-support-grant-guidance-for-local-authorities</a>, <i>but this has been superseded by new draft guidance</i></p> <p><b>Business Rates Base and No Detriment Calculation</b></p> <p>The latest estimated Collection Fund shortfall for 2020/21 is £20.8m. 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. From May to August the Council received 2,864 new checks and challenges, up 1081% 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.</p> <p><b>Council Tax Collection and Recovery</b></p> <p>The in year Council Tax collection rate at the end of September is 47.4%. Although this is 1.26% worse than at the same time last year, this represents a significant improvement from the position at the end of July when collection was 1.73% behind. This improvement appears to indicate that many of those residents who had their instalment plans amended from twelve to nine months are making the required. In addition, reminders are now being issued regularly.</p> <p><i>Council Tax Liability Order hearings were held at the Magistrates Court on 23 and 30 September but these were experimental. The hearings generally went well with a few minor issues that were resolved. We have further hearings scheduled for 6 November, 9 December and 16 December, but these have been released on an ad hoc basis and nothing has been confirmed after these hearings. It is clear that the Court Service in Greater Manchester is well ahead of other parts of the country.</i></p>
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*We have a court list of 4,500 for 6 November which has been accepted by the Magistrates Court and further numbers will depend on how the new systems cope.*

### **Business Rates Collection and Recovery**

The current collection rate for Business Rates is 41.21 % at the end of September, 13.59% below last year at the same time. This is an improvement of 0.52% on the position at the end of August. The current estimated collection rate for Business Rates this year is 10%, down from 97% in 2019/20. As previously reported, billing has resumed, reminders are being issued and Enforcement Agents have restarted recovery activity on previous years' debts. 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 CTS 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
		1/10/19	10,481	24,490	34,971	16,741	51,712
		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
		1/10/20	16,656	20,677	37,333	16,015	53,348
		<b>Council Tax Support Activity</b>					
		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.					
<b>Additional and Discretionary Support to residents via the Council</b>							
The government has provided a hardship payment of £7,458,231 to the Council. In the main this is prescribed by the government, requiring the Council to provide all recipients of CTS with a one-off payment towards the 20/21 Council Tax account. The Council is able to use the remaining funds to support other essential activity in the city.							
<b>Council Tax £150 Hardship payment</b>							
£6,102,166 paid out up to 30/9/20.							
£5,888,272 paid to 39,865 households							
£213,894 paid to 1,504 joint-tenant accounts							

	<p>In most cases, the £150 Hardship Fund is payable to any working age claimants in receipt in CTS in 2020/21. In the six months from April to October 2020, an additional 7,449 working age claims have been paid. This means the current projected spend of £6,177,933 will be exceeded. The modelling has now been modified to take into account an additional 7,500 cases between October 2020 and March 2021, and increased the projected spend to £7,227,166, but accuracy of this is dependent on the economic impact of the cessation of the job retention scheme, and this is difficult to model currently.</p> <p>The spend and budget across all areas associated with this activity and the budget of £7,458,231 is in the process of being reviewed. This includes the CTS payments as well as other priority areas including WPS, food, digital, DCTP carers etc that we are supporting with this fund.</p> <p><b>Discretionary Housing Payments</b></p> <p>As of 28 October a total of £2,433,274.15 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>Welfare Provision Scheme</b></p> <p>As of 18 October the WPS has paid out a total of £720,364.</p> <p>£234,130 of the total was paid in 4,334 awards delivering the Council's local 'free school meals' replacement scheme. This has now been recovered from schools who were subsequently funded by central government.</p> <p>292 applications from carers have been approved, awarding 450 items to a value of £39,041</p> <p>509 applications citing Covid-19 as the primary reason for requesting support have been approved, awarding 629 items to a value of £34,327</p> <p>815 fuel requests have been paid to a value of £24,443</p>
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		<p>2,068 applications for kitchen 'white goods' (cookers / fridges) approved to a value of £224,562 1,714 applications for beds and / or bedding approved to a value of £173,661.</p> <p><b>Free School Meals – Support over Half-Term</b></p> <p>On Friday 23 October the WPS Team were alerted to the requirement to provide a Free School Meals replacement scheme for the half-term week. The required speed of standing up the replacement scheme meant that the WPS application form was not amended to capture specific half-term FSM applications. This means that a significant number of these new FSM applications are reflected within the other WPS application reasons reported against. As a result the WPS data for Carers / Covid-19 and other distinct areas currently includes the FSM cases and so offers no useful insight into demand, approvals and spend. When the Team have completed processing the FSM applications steps will be taken to cleanse the data and create updated reports.</p> <p>Between Friday 23 October and Wednesday 28 October 3,894 WPS applications were received across all request types (the vast majority for FSMs) and completed 443 of these. Additional staff have been directed onto the team to support prompt processing of the cases. The expectation is to have cleared all FSM applications received by Friday 6 November.</p> <p><b>Test and Trace Support Payments</b></p> <p>Following the introduction of a new legal obligation to self-isolate if someone tests positive or is identified as a contact by NHS Test and Trace, the Government has introduced a new Test and Trace Support Payment scheme providing a lump sum payment of £500 to support employed and self-employed residents on low incomes if they cannot work during their self-</p>
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	<p>isolation period and will suffer a loss of income as a result. The Council is required to provide this support within the strict criteria set by the government.</p> <p>To be eligible for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment, a resident must meet all elements of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You must have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace either because you have tested positive for COVID-19, or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive.</li> <li>• The start date of your self-isolation must be on or after 28 September.</li> <li>• You must be employed or self-employed.</li> <li>• You must be unable to work from home and will lose income as a result of having to stay at home and self-isolate.</li> <li>• You must be receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit.</li> </ul> <p>The scheme applies to residents who have been advised to self-isolate on 28 September or later. Claims are administered by benefits assessment staff. These staff have access to DWP records and the NHS Test and Trace data. The scheme will run until 31 January 2021.</p> <p>Applicants are required to provide evidence that they meet the criteria and checks will be made against the NHS Test and Trace data, DWP income benefit records and with employers to verify that the applicant cannot work from home and will suffer a loss of income as a direct result of the requirement to self-isolate.</p> <p>The Government is also providing local authorities with discretionary funding to support those that also require financial support because they must self-isolate but do not meet the criteria for the Test and Trace Support payment on the basis that they are not currently in receipt of means tested benefits. The Council has received £226,671.36 to undertake this activity, which represents 25 awards per week.</p>
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		<p>The rules for accessing support through the discretionary scheme have been agreed across AGMA practitioners. The discretionary scheme will apply to residents who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive;</li> <li>• are employed or self-employed; and</li> <li>• are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result.</li> </ul> <p>And:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• who have property related costs, e.g. rent/mortgage and are liable for Council Tax (occupied properties only). We may consider applications from those who are not liable for Council Tax where a formal tenancy agreement is in place;</li> <li>• who are not currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit; and,</li> <li>• who are on low incomes and will face financial hardship as a result of not being able to work while they are self-isolating.</li> <li>• who have no recourse to public funds if they meet the criteria above.</li> </ul> <p>As at 25 October we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received 1,466 applications of which 1,245 are eligible within the scheme parameters.</li> <li>• Paid £127,000 to 254 main scheme applications</li> <li>• Paid £28,500 to 57 discretionary cases</li> <li>• Declined 445 applications (239 main scheme and 206 discretionary) *</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 132 cases pending awaiting further information</li></ul> <p>*The main reasons for refusals are where the income is above the threshold based on the agreed AGMA model</p> <p>The following changes have been introduced by the government to respond to the Covid pandemic and the impact on low income households. There is now pressure on the government to extend these measures into the new financial year.</p> <p><b>Universal Credit</b> All the standard rates for single people &amp; couples have been increased by £86.67 a month (£20 a week) Equivalent support to low income households in work and receiving Working Tax Credit ( rather than UC) was also provided.</p> <p><b>LHA rates</b> The LHA rates unexpectedly increased in April 2020 following an announcement by the chancellor on 20 March 2020 due to Covid 19. The rates now meet the 30th percentile of the rented properties in the LHA area. It is not clear whether this change is permanent or the LHA rates will drop in April 2021. The table below shows the result of the difference between the old and new rates for the two areas we use in Manchester. The majority of people in the city fall within the Manchester Central area.</p> <table><tr><th>Central</th><th>Shared</th><th>One Bed</th><th>Two Bed</th><th>Three Bed</th><th>Four Bed</th></tr><tr><td>April 19</td><td>£67.20</td><td>£105.04</td><td>£123.58</td><td>£137.32</td><td>£186.47</td></tr><tr><td>April 20</td><td>£75.50</td><td>£138.08</td><td>£149.59</td><td>£166.85</td><td>£218.63</td></tr><tr><td>Weekly inc</td><td>£8.30</td><td>£33.04</td><td>£26.01</td><td>£29.53</td><td>£32.016</td></tr></table> <p>Alongside the changes to the UC standard rates, these changes to LHA have had a significant impact on the finances of the poorest and financially</p>	Central	Shared	One Bed	Two Bed	Three Bed	Four Bed	April 19	£67.20	£105.04	£123.58	£137.32	£186.47	April 20	£75.50	£138.08	£149.59	£166.85	£218.63	Weekly inc	£8.30	£33.04	£26.01	£29.53	£32.016
Central	Shared	One Bed	Two Bed	Three Bed	Four Bed																					
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Weekly inc	£8.30	£33.04	£26.01	£29.53	£32.016																					

		vulnerable households (those living in private landlord tenancies) in the city and there would be a significant immediate, detrimental impact of these changes being withdrawn.
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