

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Economy Scrutiny Committee – 27 May 2021

**Subject:** Update on COVID-19 Activity

**Report of:** Strategic Director – Growth and Development

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**Summary**

This report provides Committee Members with a further update summary of the current situation in the city in relation to COVID-19 and an update on the work progressing in Manchester in relation to areas within the remit of this Committee. Further detail on specific issues will be available as required.

**Recommendations**

The Committee is requested to note the update.

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**Wards Affected:** All

<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

<b>Manchester Strategy Outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	This unprecedented national and international crisis impacts on all areas of our city. The 'Our Manchester' approach has underpinned the planning and delivery of our response, working in partnership and identifying innovative ways to continue to deliver services and to establish new services as quickly as possible to support the most vulnerable in our city.  A reset of the Our Manchester Strategy is now underway following a meeting of the Our
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	

A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Manchester Forum on 16 June 2020. An extensive engagement exercise will take place to inform a draft document in late 2020 and a final version in February 2021.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

None

## Economic Recovery Workstream- Sitrep Summary

As at 13/05/21 for meeting on 14/05/21. Updated fortnightly. Latest updates shown in yellow.

Issue/theme/activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
<p><b>General Overview</b></p>	<p><b>Queens Speech 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Subsidy Control Bill will set out post-Brexit regulations on how the government can support private companies, now the UK has left the EU's "state aid" regime.</li> <li>• Another post-Brexit piece of legislation, the Procurement Bill, will replace EU rules on how the government buys services from the private sector.</li> <li>• A new UK agency to search for ground-breaking scientific discoveries will be established by the Advanced Research and Invention Agency Bill.</li> <li>• New powers to build and operate the next stage of the HS2 high-speed rail line are contained in the High Speed Rail (Crewe-Manchester) Bill.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Powering Recovery: Manchester's Recovery and Investment Plan'</b> launched in Nov. Four investment priorities around: innovation; city centre and urban realm; residential retrofit programme; and North Manchester regeneration. Seeking govt funding for over 50 projects of £798.8 m. The plan can be accessed <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>United City</b> business-led campaign launched 22/11 and supported by MCC.</p> <p><b>Business Sounding Board</b> and <b>Real Estate subgroup</b> continue to meet regularly to share intel across sectors and to help support MCC lobbying.</p> <p>Weekly MCC <b>newsletter</b> issued to over 9,000 businesses with updates.</p> <p><b>Fourth round of SEISS available:</b> the latest round of the Self Employed Income Support Scheme has been launched and applications are accepted until 1 June.</p>

- A Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Bill will scrap fixed five-year period between general elections and return the power to call early elections to the prime minister.
- A Judicial Review Bill will set out the government's plans to change how its decisions can be challenged in the courts
- A Planning Bill will introduce changes to the planning system in England, including a zoning system. The changes would require local authorities to zone parcels of land for either 'growth', 'renewal' or 'protection':
  - **Growth areas** – such a designation would automatically grant outline planning permission for developers looking to build there
  - **Renewal areas** – the designation would introduce approval in the form of an in-principle/development order
  - **Protection areas** – development would continue to be subject to full

The **Expanded Additional Restrictions Grant (EARG)** -

The grant schemes have now closed apart from the Strategically Important Cultural and Convention Facilities scheme which will be launched imminently.

The Economic Growth Grant (EGG) scheme which aims to support businesses of strategic importance to the city that have suffered a significant negative impact on trading as a result of COVID-19, closed on the 31st March.

**12<sup>th</sup> April opening of non-essential businesses and outdoor hospitality:**

Footfall in the city centre was up 193% compared to the previous week and up 17% compared to the same week in 2019. Over 100 hospitality venues in the city centre and Ancoats opened using outdoor space with the number expected to reach 150 by the weekend. Outside the city centre, Chorlton, Withington and Didsbury also saw strong support for hospitality venues. Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> saw a similar picture with venues at or near capacity.

Portaloos were installed at two sites – Piccadilly Gardens and St Ann's Square to support the daytime economy. The St Ann's facilities have since been removed due to low usage.

MCC comms on social media included two business owners talking about what they have been doing in preparation for safe re-opening.

Since 12<sup>th</sup> April, MCC and GMP licensing compliance teams have been busy engaging with hospitality businesses to

planning control by local authorities and developers would have to submit applications to build there

- A new system for regulating the safety of high-rise buildings, and inspecting construction sites, will be set out in the Building Safety Bill.
- A Skills and Post-16 Education Bill will introduce a new "flexible loan" system designed to promote wider participation in further education in England.
- A Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill will place new legal duties on students' unions and universities in England to ensure free speech on campus.
- The Government will continue with the vaccination programme, planning for a booster campaign in the autumn and will provide a further £29 billion to the NHS next year in Covid-19 funding.

**Lockdown easing:**

- Boris Johnson announced that data shows that we can move to the next stage of lockdown easing on 17<sup>th</sup> May. This will mean:

enable them to operate safely. Overall, a high level of compliance has been reported although drinking on the street and in open spaces has increased partly due to licensed premises being full. PSPO signage is going up week comm 26/4 and supermarkets etc are being asked to display posters advising street drinking is not permitted.

Preparations for the 17<sup>th</sup> May continue and include a webinar for businesses hosted by CityCo on 12<sup>th</sup> May featuring MCC licensing and city centre officers together with GMP.

Demand for outside space for the use of hospitality has continued and new applications continue to be assessed and processed.

- Indoor hospitality can reopen and indoor entertainment venues such as cinemas and bingo halls.
- The Rule of Six will be extended to indoor areas, which means groups of six – or larger if they are from just two households – can meet in people’s homes.
- Domestic overnight stays will also be permitted.
- Groups of up to 30 will be allowed outdoors.
- Indoor events will have a capacity of 1,000, or 50 per cent, whichever is smaller.
- Outdoor events will be capped at 4,000 or 50 per cent capacity, and outdoor seated events – such as football matches – at 10,000 or 25 per cent capacity.
- In a key relaxation of previous guidance, the Prime Minister also confirmed that hugging loved ones from different households is to be allowed again subject to caution and guidance.
- Foreign holidays can resume under a traffic light system.

**ONS National Indicators (week up to 6<sup>th</sup> May):**

- Following the reopening of hospitality, estimates for UK

seated diner reservations on Saturday 1 May 2021 were at 71% of the level seen on the same Saturday of 2019. Estimates for Manchester and London on Saturday 1 May 2021 had increased by 7% and 2% from the previous week to 90% and 43% of the levels seen on the equivalent Saturday of 2019, respectively.

- Nationally the percentage of businesses currently trading has increased from 77% in early April to 83% in late April 2021. This is now at a similar level to that seen in mid-December 2020.
- At the national level, in the week to 1<sup>st</sup> May, retail footfall was 74% of its level in the equivalent week in 2019.
- The percentage of working adults that had travelled to work has been gradually increasing since mid-February (44% in the period 10 to 14 February 2021 compared with 60% in the week to 1<sup>st</sup> May).

#### **Manchester performance retail and hospitality**

- Retail sales – many national brands have reported a 'record week' well ahead of June 2020. Fashion and jewelry reported

stronger sales than 2020 and often 2019.

- Postcode analysis of visitors to Manchester (from mobile phone data) shows a widening travel radius
- Hospitality/NTE (source CityCo) wet-led venues have been trading better than dry. Trade was significantly up in the dry weather but then dipped. A NQ venue, for example traded up 138% in week 2; in the Village, venues on Canal Street have traded up 30% during the dry weather compared to pre-Covid. The turn in weather resulted in trade being at -27%. Staffing costs in most venues have increased significantly

**Levelling Up White Paper:** there will be a [White Paper published later this year](#) that will “will focus on challenges including improving living standards, growing the private sector and increasing and spreading opportunity”. Neil O’Brien, MP for Harborough, has been appointed by the PM as his Levelling Up Adviser.

**Hospitality loses legal challenge:** the legal case brought to the high court by



	<p>Sacha Lord to bring forward the indoor reopening date <a href="#">has been dismissed</a>.</p> <p><b>1 in 7 shops vacant:</b> retail vacancies have increased across all shopping destinations and regions in the first quarter of 2021, according to the <a href="#">BRC-LDC Vacancy Monitor</a>.</p> <p><b>Materials shortage looms:</b> the construction industry is reporting a shortage of materials, particularly <a href="#">steel</a>. The <a href="#">RICS has reported</a> that workloads rising, with confidence growing, in the face of greater tender enquiries and firms are planning to increase hiring activity over the rest of the year. Financial constraints and a shortage of labour also continue to be issues that are holding back projects.</p>	
<p><b>Rebooting Manchester's Business Activity Post-pandemic</b></p>	<p>The Chief Executive was a panellist on a business event on post pandemic activity in the city. Headlines from the panel discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The city is resilient and there is demand to return from employees and employers should support this.</li> </ul>	

event 12<sup>th</sup>  
May

- As people have begun to return to the city they have realised what they have been missing.
- The city is building back better, with greater use of space and activation of those areas that had previously been solely used by cars or very limited pedestrian traffic.
- Large businesses make a big difference to footfall and particularly the advisory community is important to drive the return to the office. It was noted that clients may soon look to seek face to face meetings
- Businesses shouldn't be embarrassed about wanting to return to an office environment and there needs to be recognition of a hybrid approach and what works best for each business. Many offices are being refurbished to support this (ie. more collaboration space, private 'pods' for calls).
- The hospitality industry is frustrated at being forced to close first, when there is no evidence of

transmission and it is a safe environment.

- The risks of working from home had hit young people particularly hard with social isolation, difficulty to access training and poor home working environments. There was also recognition of the 'osmosis' effect of being in the office, particularly on younger/ new entrants to the workplace in picking up professional behaviour and the culture of an organisation.
- Young people had suffered mentally and emotionally from lockdown more so than other sectors of society.
- The 'death of the office' was not considered an issue in Manchester. The market is strong and resilient, particularly in e-commerce where Manchester is very strong and our other growth sectors of digital and life sciences. We have a well rounded office market and have seen new entrants to the city and north-shoring.

**Footfall****Footfall trends- City Centre**

(Springboard / CityCo)

Week 17- Sun 25 Apr to Sat 1 May			
	Week on week %	Year on year %	Pre Covid
St Ann's Sq	-4%	+478%	-42.5%
Exchange Sq	-2%	+2532%	-21.5%
King Street	-24%	+640%	-48.5%
Market Street	-7%	+585%	+3%
New Cathedral St	-3%	+602%	-36%

Week 18- Sun 2 May to Sat 8 May			
	Week on week %	Year on year %	Pre Covid

St Ann's Sq	-2%	+384%	-34%
Exchange Sq	-8%	+2646%	-21%
King Street	-28.5%	+319%	-58%
Market Street	-28%	+338%	-15%
New Cathedral St	-21.5%	+390%	-45%

NB Given the low level of current footfall, small increase in numbers can lead to relatively high percentage increases. The significant increases relating to year on year figures are as a result of the comparison with footfall between 2020 and 2021.

**Mon 26 Apr to Sun 2 May**

Week on week: **-32%** (UK figure was **-4.5%**)

Year on year: **+97%**

**Comparison to pre-covid: -19%**

**District Centres**

	Week on week %	Year on year %
Cheetham Hill	-35.5%	+44%
Chorlton	-21%	+94.5%

	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Fallowfield</td> <td>-26%</td> <td>+247%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gorton</td> <td>-25%</td> <td>+17%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harpurhey</td> <td>-7%</td> <td>+102%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Levenshulme</td> <td>-36%</td> <td>+27%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northenden</td> <td>-61%</td> <td>+94%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rushholme</td> <td>-17%</td> <td>+128%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Victoria Avenue</td> <td>-12%</td> <td>+88%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Withington</td> <td>-63%</td> <td>+95%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The reasons for the week on week fall across the district centres and city centre is not fully clear, but it may due be a combination of the worsening weather and a reduction in the initial surge following the easing of some restrictions on 12<sup>th</sup> April.</p>	Fallowfield	-26%	+247%	Gorton	-25%	+17%	Harpurhey	-7%	+102%	Levenshulme	-36%	+27%	Northenden	-61%	+94%	Rushholme	-17%	+128%	Victoria Avenue	-12%	+88%	Withington	-63%	+95%	
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<b>Higher Education Institutions</b>	From 17 <sup>th</sup> May all remaining university students eligible to return to in-person teaching.																									
<b>Aviation</b>	<p>Government has confirmed that foreign travel can resume from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May under a traffic light system, with countries ranked green, amber or red. Travelers from an amber list country will need to self isolate for 10 days with the</p>	<p>The Transport Secretary confirmed last week that international travel can safely resume to a limited number of destinations on the 17th May. Destinations included are Portugal, Israel, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei, Iceland, Gibraltar, Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the</p>																								

	<p>option to shorten that period with a negative PCR test. Whilst those from a red list country will be required to quarantine in a hotel for 10 days. All travelers will be required to take a pre-departure test and a further test on day 2 of returning to the UK.</p>	<p>South Sandwich Islands, and St Helena, Tristan de Cunha and Ascension Island.</p> <p>It is important to note that whilst the Government is allowing travel to these countries, this is not reciprocated by the destination Government, for example in Australia and New Zealand.</p> <p>While it is positive that the Government has lifted its overall ban on international travel, almost all of the UK's most important destinations remain closed. MAG recognises the Government's desire to be cautious, but there is strong scientific evidence to demonstrate that testing and vaccinations can support safe travel to a larger group of low-risk destinations. The Government should now immediately publish the evidence and criteria it is using to classify red, amber and green countries, to help customers and the travel sector plan for potential changes in the classifications over time. MAG has publicly stated that if the easing of travel restrictions is too slow to support this year's 'summer season' then the effects on the already weakened aviation industry will be severe.</p> <p>In response to last week's announcement, Manchester Airport is gearing up to be operationally ready for an increase in flights.</p>
<p><b>Culture</b></p>	<p><b>Extended impact of the Pandemic on the cultural sector including continued closures.</b></p>	<p><b>Reopening Plans</b></p>

**Roadmap for easing COVID restrictions announced 22 Feb** Most venues able to legally open at stage 3.

This week's Government's announcement on the progress of the Roadmap means that **cultural venues can start to reopen from 17 May**

National Event pilots are underway testing reopening strategies.

Plans to reopen from 17th May discussed at Cultural Leaders Group 4/5

- Fears about the forecasted 3rd wave of Covid-19 in the Autumn. Some companies planning socially distanced work in anticipation, some not able to take financial risk on major works for the Autumn so are planning a more flexible approach including the use of covid-safe outdoor events over the summer.
- Options about the COVID Vaccine certification and COVID testing regimes being trialed may be a gateway to opening to larger audiences but concerns about equalities remain and that this won't be acceptable to audiences for smaller events.
- Venues are trying to achieve improved ventilation to facilitate safer reopening where possible and where heritage building restrictions allow.

Manchester Art Gallery - Opens 19 May booking arrangements for Grayson's Art Club exhibition have been announced.

Whitworth Art Gallery - opens from 19 May Wed to Sun

Manchester Museum - opens from 19 May top floor Nature & Wellbeing education & co-working space. Opening more fully in the summer and then closed for 14 months to complete major capital works.

CFCCA opens from 19 May, Wed-Sun

HOME- Opens cinemas and gallery on 17 May.

HOMEGround outdoor performance space opening 28 May



with 2 stages (most of the venue's kit will be on the outdoor events).

National Football Museum opens 19th May and working with MIF on Cathedral Gardens events.

Frog & Bucket comedy venue opening from 17 May with live shows and streaming.

Hope Mill Theatre- opens w/b 25 May with live and online show though to end June.

Then July to August running outdoor theatre performances in Ancoats/ Pollard St for 3 weeks.

Palace and Opera House opens from August.

The Edge (Chorlton) will be open for courses and classes but not for public performances until Sept.

Company Chameleon (Openshaw) - continuing with online classes and artists in studios - will reopen for public live classes in Sept and a refinished flexible studio /theatre that can accommodate 112 capacity at their Varna Street School Site.

RNCM venues will remain closed until Sept to prioritize student use.

		<p><b>ZArts</b> - already opened for participants and launching exhibition <i>The Tiger Who Came to Tea &amp; the adventures of Mog</i> 28th May. June to Sept 'Summer of Play' centering on outdoor events in park settings. Theatre returns in Sept. Also for info - <b>Lowry</b> - Galleries from 19 May and first live show 21 June with socially distanced Northern Ballet (600 instead of 1700 capacity) almost sold out.</p> <p><b>Halle Summer Season at Bridgewater Hall: The Halle Orchestra</b> are performing 6 live concerts at the Bridgewater Hall. The stage has been extended so that all players can come together safely to perform.</p> <p><b>Manchester International Festival</b></p> <p>The MIF21 programme launched on 28 April. All events will be Covid safe.</p> <p><b>Campaigns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cultural Recovery</b> - Joint audience development campaign by cultural partners launches 17 May. #HereforCultureMCR</li> <li>• <b>Music Venue Trust 'Revive Live'</b> - audience campaign launching w/c 10/5</li> </ul>
<b>Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued development interest in the city for both commercial and residential scheme.</li> <li>• All schemes are back on site, and construction levels increased since the beginning of the pandemic,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brownfield Housing Fund</b> - Officers continue to work with GMCA on grant agreements for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round and additional 10% schemes, which need to be in place by July 2021.</li> <li>• <b>Victoria North - Collyhurst:</b> The planning application for 244 new homes (including 100 new Council</li> </ul>

	<p>although with some overall delays to programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks around supply chains/access to materials, with associated increases in costs.</li> <li>• Access to finance for hotel and retail schemes likely to be more challenging.</li> <li>• Economic Recovery &amp; Investment Plan identifies key schemes which can drive recovery and create new jobs. Ongoing work to identify funding opportunities for schemes.</li> <li>• Long term impact on office demand being monitored on an ongoing basis, but positive indications from office agents and the Business Sounding Board.</li> <li>• Government increased housing target by 35% in UK's 20 largest cities, including Manchester, in December 2020. The implications of this are currently being assessed.</li> </ul>	<p>houses) and the first phase of a new park in Collyhurst Village was submitted in February. The scheme could commence in Spring 2021 subject to the outcome of the Brownfield Land Fund application referenced in the bullet point above which is for enabling works. The determination of the planning application is expected by early June 2021. A further planning application 30 new Council homes for Collyhurst South is expected to be submitted before the end of May 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation has taken place on plans for the <b>next phase of regeneration at Ancoats</b>. A total of 225 homes (including over 100 affordable homes) will be delivered across three developments (Eliza Yard, Downley Drive and Ancoats Dispensary) plus a mobility hub, incorporating shared car and cycle parking/hire facilities, electric vehicle charging outlets, and a last-mile delivery consolidation centre, to reduce vehicle movements and street parking. Planning application have now been submitted for the 3 sites – w/b 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 10<sup>th</sup> May.</li> <li>• Construction of the <b>Co-op Live</b> 23,500-capacity arena started w/b 3<sup>rd</sup> May, providing significant new jobs and support for construction companies. BAM, the contractor for the arena, estimates that more than 2,000 people will work directly on the site over its three-year construction phase, while the developer, OVG, have forecast that Co-op Live will create a further 1,000 jobs when operational.</li> </ul>
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- **Hotel development:** Premier Inn opened its fifth hotel in Manchester city centre on 7<sup>th</sup> May, located at Circle Square, with 157 bedrooms. The hotel operator for the Renaissance site on Deansgate has been confirmed as Treehouse. Manchester will be the brand's second UK location after London. As previously reported, the hotel forms part of the first phase of a £200m redevelopment, which is being brought forward by a Starwood Capital and Property Alliance Group JV. A planning application for the first phase has been submitted.
- **HBD have paid £5.8m for a Manchester business park**, which comprises 27,000 sq ft of industrial space and is earmarked for redevelopment into a residential scheme. HBD, previously Henry Boot Developments, bought City Court Trading Estate in Ancoats from joint-owners Urban Splash and Pears Group. Located on a 1.3-acre plot off Poland Street, the industrial scheme comprises 13 units across three sheds and could be redeveloped to accommodate a 217-home scheme, according to a feasibility study carried out by architect SimpsonHaugh late last year. HBD could create a 220,000 sq ft development featuring 23 townhouses, and a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments, according to the study.
- **Warp & Weft work to start:** the NQ scheme, which would involve the demolition of two Grade II listed former weavers' cottages, has been approved for some works to the site. There is an appeal ongoing on the site.

<p><b>Affordable Housing</b></p>	<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> <li>• Potential flooding of the PRS sector as the short term let market shrinks.</li> </ul>	<p>Following another record year for affordable completions in Manchester in 2020-21 – initial forecasts suggest a further 413 new affordable homes will be built across Manchester in 2021-22. This includes 244 social rent, 103 affordable rent, 64 shared ownership and 2 rent to buy homes</p> <p>In addition, there are currently 844 new affordable homes currently under construction across the city and expected to complete over the next few years. This includes a number of large-scale developments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Belle Vue Stadium Site</b> – Countryside and Great Places have begun work on the redevelopment of the mixed tenure scheme which includes 130 new affordable homes</li> <li>• <b>Grey Mare Lane Estate</b> – One Manchester have started construction on the first two phases of the Estate Regeneration programme (Blackrock Street &amp; Windermere Close) which are expected completed in 2021-22. The redevelopment is set to deliver c.290 new affordable homes (incl. 124 of reprovision) and the retrofit of 169 homes over the next 5 years</li> <li>• <b>Gorton Lane</b> – One Manchester have also begun construction on the scheme delivering 109 homes (18 for shared ownership &amp; 91 for rent-to-buy) – expected to complete in 2022-23</li> </ul> <p>Updates on further key schemes:</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A consultation on <b>Ancoats Dispensary</b> and <b>Downley Drive</b> ran until April. The 2 schemes delivered by Great Places, are set to deliver 107 new affordable homes in Ancoats &amp; New Islington. A planning application for both schemes is expected later in 2021</li> <li>• Procurement of the various design and delivery teams for the package of Housing Infrastructure Fund works in <b>Victoria North</b> will be complete by the late Spring of 2021 and enabling works and design processes for land remediation, flood mitigation, new public open space, new highways and cycle / pedestrian linkages, together with an improved utilities network will commence in the autumn.</li> </ul>
<b>Transport and Infrastructure</b>	<p>The GM Mayor has unveiled measures to improve Greater Manchester’s transport system, making it more integrated, affordable and easier to use.</p> <p>The Mayor’s announcements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans for immediate discussions with Government to seek support for powers and funding to accelerate bus franchising so that all parts of Greater Manchester have better buses, integrated with Metrolink by May 2024 – a year earlier than originally planned</li> <li>• Delivering 95 new Electric Vehicle charging points by the end of this year, with plans for a further 200</li> </ul>	<p><b>Summary of transport activity for week ending 2 May</b></p> <p>In total there were around 46.61 trips made in Greater Manchester last week – this broadly equivalent to the previous week (-1%)</p> <p>It was a mixed week on public transport, with bus trips increasing by 0.9% - while falls in activity were seen on the Metrolink (-2.7%) and rail (-0.2%) networks</p> <p>Elsewhere, highway remained consistent with the previous week, however there was a steep fall in cycling activity (-18%) due to unsettled weather</p>

charging points next year, in partnership with government

- A pledge to complete 100km of cycling and walking routes by the end of the year
- A new Greater Manchester Bike Hire scheme to launch in November this year, with the preferred delivery partner unveiled in June
- Opening negotiations with Network Rail to agree a plans to make all rail stations in the city-region accessible by 2025, or to give Greater Manchester the funding and power to do it

The weather conditions may have contributed to an increase seen in trips to out of town shopping centres and retail parks including Trafford City (+7.9%), Middlebrook Retail and Leisure Park in Bolton (+13.1%) and Manchester Fort (+8.3%).

Face covering compliance currently stands at 75% on rail, 81% on Metrolink and 90% on bus.

### **Manchester (LA) Transport Usage Data**

**(week ending 2 May 2021)**

**Bus** Patronage, +0.9% on the previous week and -32.4% on pre-COVID levels

**Metrolink** - Network patronage, -2.7% on the previous week and -57.9% on pre-COVID levels

**Rail (footfall Piccadilly)** - Passenger numbers, +0.2% on the previous week and -61.7% on pre-COVID levels.

**Highway** - Private vehicle trips, -0.4% on the previous week and -6.4% on pre-COVID levels

**Cycling** - Cycle journeys, -17.7% on the previous week and +4.6% on pre-COVID levels

**Walking** - Pedestrian traffic, -2.5% on the previous week and -10.3% on pre-COVID levels

**(week ending 9 May 2021)**

**Bus** Patronage, **-13.9%** on the previous week and **-41.7%** on pre-COVID levels

**Metrolink** - Network patronage, **-12.9%** on the previous week and **-63.1%** on pre-COVID levels

**Rail (footfall Piccadilly)** - Passenger numbers, **+10.8%** on the previous week and **-65.6%** on pre-COVID levels.

**Highway** - Private vehicle trips, **-5.6%** on the previous week and **-11.7%** on pre-COVID levels

**Cycling** - Cycle journeys, **-20.9%** on the previous week and **-17.3%** on pre-COVID levels

**Walking** - Pedestrian traffic, **-4.8%** on the previous week and **-14.6%** on pre-COVID levels

GM Wide Data (based on busiest day of the week)

Metrolink

09/03/20	119,298
13/04/20	4,915
18/05/20	8,718
15/06/20	18,723
13/07/20	29,055



17/08/20	40,187
14/09/20	51,668
12/10/20	44,621
16/11/20	31,843
14/12/20	43,119
18/01/21	20,512
15/02/21	22,476
26/2/21	27,333
12/3/21	34,841
17/3/21	36,381
24/3/21	35,946
30/3/21	40,322
6/4/21	29,645
9/4/21	33,696
16/4/21	55,862
22/4/21	56,223
30/4/21	59,987
7/5/21	58,047

Bus

09/03/20	513,338
13/04/20	20,742
18/05/20	81,993
15/06/20	130,476

		13/07/20	182,18 9	
		17/08/20	219,30 1	
		14/09/20	319,76 3	
		12/10/20	315,67 8	
		16/11/20	266,56 1	
		14/12/20	326,42 3	
		18/01/21	173,42 2	
		15/02/21	179,13 9	
		26/2/21	191,69 8	
		12/3/21	274,67 4	
		19/3/21	274,07 2	
		25/3/21	277,88 2	
		30/3/21	274,27 4	
		6/4/21	194,84 1	

9/4/21	194,42 0
12/4/21	279,79 9
20/4/21	348,07 9
30/4/21	356,92 0
7/45/21	358,48 1

Rail

09/03/20	104,71 5
13/04/20	6,536
18/05/20	11,685
15/06/20	18,272
13/07/20	28,759
17/08/20	41,075
14/09/20	44,339
12/10/20	37,322
16/11/20	27,426
14/12/20	35,820
18/01/21	19,459
15/02/21	21,987
26/2/21	26,415
12/3/21	28,718

19/3/21	29,306
26/3/21	31,478
30/3/21	33,161
6/4/21	26,070
9/4/21	33,756
16/4/21	50,051
23/4/21	50,051
1/5/21	52,113
3/5/21	39,383

GM Highway

09/03/20	5,081,79 3
13/04/20	1,463,01 8
18/05/20	2,948,44 6
15/06/20	3,735,12 1
13/07/20	4,078,16 8
17/08/20	4,326,26 3
14/09/20	4,444,33 5
12/10/20	4,366,36 6

		16/11/20	3,913,01 0
		14/12/20	4,535,30 4
		18/01/21	3,507,89 1
		15/02/21	3,812,70 0
		26/2/21	4,376,61 9
		12/3/21	4,550,17 6
		19/3/21	4,591,50 8
		26/3/21	4,632,91 8
		1/4/21	4,871,59 2
		9/4/21	4,662,22 8
		16/4/21	4,940,06 4
		23/4/21	5,113,98 8
		30/4/21	5,142,72 4
		7/5/21	5,117,31 6

Cycling

09/03/20	107,73 8
13/04/20	151,19 6
18/05/20	151,08 4
15/06/20	159,25 0
13/07/20	121,25 2
17/08/20	125,01 4
14/09/20	169,33 1
12/10/20	88,868
16/11/20	87,694
14/12/20	87,898
18/01/21	54,249
15/02/21	164,55 5*
28/2/21	177,42 6*
9/3/21	107,86 0
21/3/21	150,19 8

24/3/21	143,53 8
30/3/21	185,36 4
6/4/21	176,07 8
9/4/21	134,93 5
17/4/21	146,77 2
22/4/21	165,78 7
26/4/21	146,81 9
5/5/21	140,73 4

\*NB this period covers half term

Walking

09/03/20	1,491,50 8
13/04/20	511,033
18/05/20	691,620
15/06/20	789,318
13/07/20	1,046,43 6
17/08/20	1,208,02 2

		14/09/20	1,492,523
		12/10/20	1,215,760
		16/11/20	881,551
		14/12/20	985,692
		18/01/21	699,527
		15/02/21	855,548
		22/2/21	913,976
		8/3/21	1,049,128
		21/3/21	990,592
		22/3/21	1,026,886
		4/4/21	1,168,243
		9/4/21	1,177,789
		18/4/21	1,287,803
		19/4/21	1,386,083
		26/4/21	1,372,352
		6/5/21	1,292,677



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<p><b>Skills, Labour Market and Business Support</b></p>	<p><b>Furlough and newly unemployed</b></p> <p><b>Headlines include</b></p> <p><b>Headlines include</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In March 2021 there were 36,100 claimants of unemployment benefits in Manchester – up slightly from 35,590 in February.</li> <li>- In the week of 27th February it was reported that there were 6000 vacancies.</li> <li>- c.36,100 residents furloughed in March. Increases in the number of residents furloughed in November &amp; January reflects the introduction of subsequent national lockdowns</li> </ul>	<p><b>Furlough and newly unemployed</b></p> <p><b>Newly Unemployed Support</b></p> <p><b>MCFC Market place Event 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Over 70 employers and 35,000 vacancies across a range of sectors have been secured over 2 days</li> <li>- MCFC and MCC will be pushing messages out as it is a ticketed event</li> <li>- Work and Skills are working closely with MCFC to support a joint <b>Marketplace Event 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b> to recruit businesses to the event.</li> <li>- Event will be ‘more than just a jobs fair’, with plenty of job opportunities and training opportunities, alongside a range of support services - debt advice. See <a href="#">attached the brochure</a> MCC is working hard to promote</li> </ul> <p>Take up on the Help to get work scheme has had 94 residents requested support since offer went live. Offers of support include Careers advice, welfare advice and support with training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A review into Newly Unemployed workstream has started to look at comms, data and the partnership. This will also include a telephone survey of those residents we have supported, about the service they received to inform any improvements .</li> <li>- MCC are leading on development of a drop-in webinar for Newly Unemployed/ residents for whom furlough ending in May, to include NCS, DWP, Legal Advice, overview of work club support.</li> </ul>
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Debenhams:- staff are receiving employment support from officers across the partnership (DWP/GC and W&S). MCC will continue to liaise with managers to ensure all staff can benefit from support and advice.

Skills assessment results due out this week after which results can shape the offer with DWP and MAES/ Mcr College.

Concerns have been raised via the Business Sounding Board about high vacancy rates within the hospitality sector as a result of previous workers moving to roles within other sectors such as retail during the pandemic and not wanting to return to hospitality due to more favourable terms and conditions; migrant workers returning to country of origin; reduced number of students in the City. Work is being undertaken to develop an offer to hospitality businesses through the Newly Unemployed Support Partnership and a comms campaign to advertise opportunities etc in the hospitality sector.

	<p><b>Offer for 16-19 year olds</b></p> <p>The February submission to the DfE reported a combined NEET / Unknown of 6.3% (3.6% NEET and 2.7% Unknown) This is a 0.6% decrease on the January submission. This is higher than the national average of 4.9% combined NEET / Unknown figure.</p> <p>All schools have now completed the verification of their lists of high and medium risk of NEET students. Out of a total cohort of 5,823 – 560 (9.6%) have been identified as high risk with more than one risk factors and 605 (10.4%) have been identified as medium risk with the majority having one risk factor.</p> <p>Schools and Colleges have increasing concerns about the current year 11, 12 and 13 who have experienced two years of disrupted education and how this will impact on their transition and progression.</p> <p>Most high schools have decided to let their year 11 students to leave school at the May half term holiday.</p>	<p><b>Offer for 16-19 year olds</b></p> <p>Comms campaign for young people and parents highlighting key messages in relation to opportunities and high-level guidance particularly to support transition from School into an EET destination.</p> <p>The RONI process to identify those at risk of being NEET in Year 11 has been completed. Schools will be encouraged to secure an offer for all these students and put transition plans in place for the high-risk learners. Career Connect and the Growth Company (ESF NEET Contract) will be meeting with pastoral leads in high schools to identify those young people who will need transitional support over the summer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Post 16 Transition Guides have now been circulated to providers. The Transition Guide is supported with a toolkit which includes a wide range of resources that schools can use with their school leavers in preparation for moving on.</li> </ul> <p>The MEET your Match website, commissioned by MCC and delivered by GMCVO is now live with over 70 pre-employment opportunities listed, including study programmes, employability courses, traineeships, entry level 1 / 2 apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>MCC is working with GM Commissioned services (Princes Trust and ESF NEET) to ensure the additional resources are complimenting current offer.</p> <p>MCC is working with schools and Colleges to identify other ways we can support this year's school and college leavers and mitigate against a rise in NEET numbers. This includes</p>
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	<p>The data is telling us that we need to focus more on reducing the numbers of unknown in year 12 /13.</p>	<p>looking at more bespoke post 16 provision for our most at-risk students, working with NEET providers to improve progression routes that lead to employment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working with Youth Strategy Team to develop a programme of summer activities for those most of risk of becoming NEET.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Youth unemployment</b></p> <p>Maximise the opportunities from and work with partners to roll out the Kickstart Scheme.</p> <p>Access DWP funding to deliver Youth Hubs in areas of need across the city.</p>	<p><b>Youth unemployment</b></p> <p>The 1<sup>st</sup> cohort of seven MCC Kickstart placements are still awaiting approval - we are communicating with DWP weekly to fast track these opportunities, in addition to bringing forward future cohorts.</p> <p>Working closely with The Princes Trust to support their Kickstart offer to Manchester businesses. Linked to this we are currently updating the Council Kickstart web pages to include a Kickstart signposting tool, in addition to case studies and testimonials.</p> <p>MAES Kickstart support offer agreed in principle. Planning underway around promotion of the offer and connecting to DWP and SME's</p> <p>In Principle agreement in place to host four Manchester Climate Change Agency Kickstart placements. It is hoped to begin recruitment to these opportunities in June.</p> <p>Youth Hub partnership formed to push the Youth Hub proposal with DWP in Wythenshawe. Second draft Youth Hub proposal developed and agreed with partners, awaiting response from DWP.</p>

<p>Promotion of Apprenticeships and Traineeships.</p> <p>Developing a clear offer to support our graduates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First GM Apprenticeships Intermediary Network meeting held Friday 23 April. to share knowledge and resources and improve joint working across</li> <li>- GM Network attended by 30 key organisations including, local authorities, training providers and employers.</li> <li>- Meetings held with MMU to improve employment outcomes for Graduates. Establishing an SME support scheme and higher learning forum - UoM and UCEN approached to take part.</li> <li>- Draft SME support proposal received from MMU. Working group to be reconvened in May to further develop this approach.</li> <li>- PRI colleagues and MMU sharing data on graduate pipeline to support planning.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skills and employment support for adults</b></p> <p><b>Challenge -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extending the MCC Digital Device Scheme</li> <li>• Ensure that the City's learning provision is responding to new challenges as well as existing challenges.</li> <li>• Working with providers who are developing proposals for CRF funding – encouraging consortium bids where possible.</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Further develop a comms campaign and events to raise the profile of adult learning and the ambition of MAESP -</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Manchester Adult Education and Skills Awards</u> 113 nominations. Planning going well and event will include a talk from local female leader and a learner, music from local providers and each award has been made across learners from MMU and the 3D printing company Dicey Tech</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Providers having access to up-to-date Labour Market intelligence to support them to design their skills offers to better align with the cities current and future needs -</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AEB, 2 hour provider workshop hosted, 17 provides attended. Providers were consulted on what they want to see from the following workshops.</li> </ul>

- First adult learning 'learning lunch' to take place – THINK to present skills reform research and recommendations for the first due to take place this month.

***Enable the CRF and MAES CL programme to deliver Manchester's priorities -***

- Conversations with a number of providers to offer advice and enable collaborations where similar activity is being planned. So far projects covering – green skills, work placements for young people not on UC, employment support for those further from the labour market, bootcamps for digital industry, support programme for black businesses, VCSE grant funding for wellbeing support and training.

***Support all residents to access and effectively engage with the internet for both work and life –***

- Citizens Advice Manchester Digital Inclusion and Engagement Officer role is now live and being promoted in the right places for a representative candidate.
- Initial planning meeting to be held to start phase 2 of pilot scheme this month.
- Total of 297 devices given to schools and colleges through GM Tech Fund since Jan 2021.
- MCC Digital Device Scheme – trial demo site set up and set to partners to test. Partners have been giving a survey and will be meeting as a collective to discuss.
- MCC Digital Action Plan – objectives set against workstreams across the programme. A monthly report

		<p>will be produced from June for consistent monitoring against actions and objectives.</p> <p><b>Develop a high-quality Manchester approach to CEIAG for adults in which best practice, current opportunities and resources are shared and deployed for optimum impact</b> – research taking place to understand what our key providers are currently offering in light of covid and impacts with IAG for those residents 19+. Insights so far – providers want IAG teacher training and IAG leads want a network.</p>
	<p><b>Social Value and Local Benefit</b></p> <p>Challenge: Many residents are not connecting to opportunities created in the city – how can we use social value internally to maximise creation of employment/skills/training opportunities targeted at our residents and use our influence to do the same with organisations externally?</p> <p>Ensure that MCC’s approach to SV reflects current economic circumstances and <i>Think</i> recommendations.</p> <p>Coordinate employment and skills related social value “offers” from across MCC’s largest suppliers and capital projects into a pipeline of opportunities that can be</p>	<p><b>Social value and local benefit</b></p> <p><b>Develop pipeline of opportunities through large suppliers and capital projects where MCC is the client</b> – Officers are now connected with contract managers in Capital Programmes. Working to pull together a summary of the number of opportunities from the largest projects.</p> <p><b>Reach a decision on supporting a bid of lottery funding to aid with co-ordination of social value commitments across contracts.</b> Corporate Procurement have identified a number of pilot contracts and are now linked in with the ANTZ team directly to progress this work.</p> <p><b>Maximise Social Value opportunities arising from Victoria North and North Manchester General Hospital developments</b> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A wider conversation about how we resource Victoria North is underway.</li> <li>- Options appraisal looking at establishing a construction skills hub is underway with Think Trinity Ltd leading, due to complete by June.</li> </ul>



	<p>promoted to residents and employment/skills/training organisations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CLES commissioned to review FEC development area business plans from a social value perspective, timescales TBC.</li> </ul> <p><b>Maximise employment, skills and training opportunities from within MCC's own supply chain</b> – First pass of analysis of MCC's largest contracts complete. Now need to look more closely at those with outstanding commitments and get in touch with contract managers.</p>
	<p><b>Business Support, Sustainability &amp; Growth</b></p>	<p><b>Business support, sustainability and growth</b></p> <p><b>Business Grants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work continues, with Revs and Bens and City Centre Regen to ensure that ARG grants, are processed and close out enquiries on the current ARG scheme.</li> </ul> <p><b>District Centres Support</b></p> <p>Work is underway to support Local High Street and District centres. A collective group has formed with reps from Biz Growth Hub, GC, Neighbourhoods and W&amp;S to support the work around comms, safe re-opening.(Manchester Business Support Group)</p> <p>Initiatives are being developed to support footfall across High Streets and DCs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First Business workshop held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May – with a Business Resilience workshop and update on Biz Grants.</li> <li>- Over 80 SME businesses signed up to this first event, awaiting data on those Businesses that engage to see if this is representative across all Sectors.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Led by Biz Growth Hub focused on health and wellbeing in the workplace and supporting the workforce, to include practical SME support and MCC will promote grants and initiatives available.</li> <li>- Planning future sessions is underway, with positive feedback from those engaged SMEs . Survey of businesses to encourage and to help plan further workshops, this will be reviewed by the core group.</li> <li>- This will develop into a virtual network to cascade useful information around recovery and business support opportunities.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Brexit Impacts</b>  GM Chamber continue to report an increase in the number of enquiries relating to Brexit, specifically in relation to advice around export documentation.</p> <p>Anecdotally the key issues remain similar to the last update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing issues relating to import/export documentation</li> <li>• Some businesses are highlighting that Businesses remain confused about additional charges levied on imports/exports of goods</li> </ul> <p>Nationally  <u>Delays at the UK/EU border increase as new customs paperwork continues to cause problems (cips.org)</u> Survey of 350 members from the Chartered Institute of</p>	<p><b>Brexit Response</b></p> <p>Business Growth Hub and GM Chamber alongside Work and Skills Team continue to promote comms such as webinars for businesses.  This continues to be a challenge as a result of this current lock down.</p> <p>Gov.uk updated information on</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Webinars for importers of food and drink products from the EU to Great Britain</u></li> <li>2. Cabinet Office tailored support through its <u>Field Force Support Programme</u> for businesses that trade over £250,000 of goods with the EU offering specialist 1-21 support</li> </ol> <p>The Business Growth Hub is also providing a range of resources for business, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>A Brexit toolkit</u> for businesses (GC)</li> </ul>

	<p>Procurement &amp; Supply (CIPS) reported that 63% have experienced delays of at least 2-3 days getting goods into the UK, up from 38% in a similar survey in January this year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly podcasts on the business support and any changes in the info that may have an impact in SMEs</li> <li>• Monthly blogs on key topics such as EU Settlement Status, retaining EU talent and supply chain issues.</li> <li>• Weekly Brexit news updates</li> <li>• Updates via social media</li> </ul> <p><u>Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce</u> has also produced information for its members about Brexit, including a Brexit information guide and checklist. <u><a href="#">Read the Chamber's Brexit information guide</a></u></p>
	<p><b><u>Covid Testing for Businesses</u></b>  Requiring messaging to businesses in connection with support for onsite testing particularly important as the economy opens.</p>	<p><b><u>Targeted Testing at Scale for Business</u></b>  <b><u>Reporting two or more COVID cases in a workplace</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>The MCC web pages for businesses have been updated</u>  <a href="https://manchester.gov.uk/businessCovidcases">https://manchester.gov.uk/businessCovidcases</a></li> <li>- <u>Comms will advertise the form on social media and via bulletins.</u></li> <li>- <u>A hard copy of the leaflet is being printed – <a href="#">copy here</a></u></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Update: Home Testing Kits for Businesses deadline 12 April</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manchester produced comms for businesses planning to re-open and distributed via a range of channels. <u><a href="#">See attached</a></u></li> <li>- Advising of the 12th April deadline to register for home testing lateral flow test kits for asymptomatic staff. They can register if they have 10 or more staff.</li> <li>- Comms are looking at doing a leaflet beyond the 12th April that can be printed to hand out to businesses re: testing options but waiting till after 12th April to see if</li> </ul>

		<p>the deadline is extended and if further Government advice is provided.</p> <p>Working with David Regan’s team to ensure businesses are directed to support the testing of staff using either local testing centres on to set up testing on their premises.</p> <p>Comms messages promoting Lateral Flow Device Testing have been developed and distributed to key agencies including and through our business bulletin and added into the Business rates booklet.</p> <p>There are two routes to access the testing:  <u>The Government’s scheme</u>  Businesses who wish to set up regular rapid testing in at their business premises can sign up to a <a href="#">Government scheme</a> to do their own testing- must register before 31 March to receive free tests up until the end of June.</p> <p>Manchester has set up its own email for businesses who have questions about setting up rapid testing facility onsite <a href="mailto:mft.central.coordinationcentre@nhs.net">mft.central.coordinationcentre@nhs.net</a></p> <p>Employees can still book into our test sites <a href="#">Here</a></p>
	<p><b>Equalities/ Disadvantaged</b></p>	<p><b>Equalities/ Disadvantaged</b></p>

	<p>Ensure that disadvantaged and underrepresented groups are supported by activity included in Workstreams 1-6. This would include Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups, young people, over 50's, homeless, veterans, survivors of DV&amp;A, ESA claimants, and those experiencing family poverty.</p> <p>Covid has worsened the situation for many already experiencing inequality – the challenge is to ensure support is targeted to reach the communities in most need.</p>	<p>Supporting the Uncertain Futures older women and work project, led by MAG, to include a careers fair in the Autumn. PR campaign to start at the end of May.</p> <p>Supporting the appraisal process for round 8 of the ESF 'Step Ahead' grants which seek to support organisations who are ready to reach out by using approaches which tackle the new and emerging barriers arising from the impact of COVID 19, working both remotely and within social distancing requirements, once restrictions are eased.</p> <p>Family Poverty 'sustainable work' workstream focusing on community provision in North Manchester. A task and finish group being formed to develop a network of providers to strengthen access to support and strengthen pathways to employment. (with links to the NMESG)</p>
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<p><b>Funding</b></p>	<p>No specific known impacts on current external funding bids caused by C19 as yet. Known bids progressing through funding approval processes as expected.</p> <p>Team in City Policy developing a funding action plan based on C19 recovery and Corporate priorities</p>	<p><b>Levelling Up Fund</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Officers are working on round 1 bids ahead of the 18<sup>th</sup> June deadline.</li> </ol> <p><b>Community Renewal Fund</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Closing date for applications to GMCA is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May</li> <li>2. We are expecting a number of applications from partners in Manchester.</li> </ol>
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	Working with City Centre Growth to map funding opportunities through the 2020 Spending Review	
<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>• Meetings are ongoing with government and civil servants on various aspects of the levelling up agenda.</li></ul>