

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Executive – 2 June 2021

Subject: Covid19 Monthly Update Report

Report of: The Chief Executive

Summary

This report provides the Executive with the monthly updates on the following three Covid19 Sit Reps:-

- (a) Residents and Communities Situation Report
- (b) Economic Recovery Situation Report
- (c) Future Council Situation Report

Recommendations

The Executive is asked to note the updates.

Wards Affected - All

Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Contribution to the strategy
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 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 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	
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	

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for

- Equal Opportunities Policy
 - Risk Management
 - Legal Considerations
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Financial Consequences – Revenue

Not Applicable

Financial Consequences – Capital

Not Applicable

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

None

To	Executive Meeting
From	Fiona Worrall, Strategic Director, Neighbourhoods
Date	28th May 2021
Subject	Resident and Communities Subgroup– Workstream Overview

Purpose

The table (below) provides a summary overview from each workstream area reported to the Residents and Communities EMG Subgroups

Residents and Communities - Residents at risk	
Workstream	Summary Overview
Shielded Residents and the Food Response	<p><u>Community Response and Shielding</u></p> <p>The Covid response hub was set up to provide support to residents, focusing on five key areas. These are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food • Medicines • Support for isolation • Fuel • Help getting online. <p>The helpline went live on 30th March 2020 and during the first few weeks over 2000 calls were received each week. Over time call volumes have decreased (with smaller peaks when there has been changes in restrictions) with most recent numbers totaling just over 100 calls per week. In total over 30,000 calls have been made into the helpline since it became operational. Most calls made have been in relation to food support.</p> <p>Wider support has also been provided to those that are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV). Following on from the end of direct government food support at the end of July 2020, residents in this group were asked to register on the National Shielding Service Website if they wanted to</p>

be connected into a local support offer - this could have been food support or support for wider mental health and wellbeing. C600 people registered for this support during the period where shielding was in place. Each resident was given a call back and referred to the most appropriate local support. Shielding has been paused since 31st March 2021.

Food Response

- MCC Food Response Team was set up during the initial Covid lockdown to ensure that vulnerable residents affected could access a food offer. Residents were initially provided with food deliveries – both directly from MCC and from commissioned providers; when appropriate, this was stepped down to mainstream food provision, using local VCS food providers, and a network of Neighbourhood Teams, Early Help and volunteers. From July 2020 onwards, MCC moved the model of support into a commissioning model, utilising the VCS offer to ensure that residents were supported, either through directly commissioned food deliveries (paid for by MCC and administered by the Food Response Team), through community providers (food banks, pantries and mutual aid organisations), or newly established mainstream mechanisms (eg DEFRA prioritised supermarket deliveries). The Our Manchester Food Partnership was established in this period, engaging over 60 food support providers, and other associated stakeholders, such as Housing Associations, Social Care, and Citizens Advice. The Partnership regularly meets and holds engagement events and will produce a food action plan for the City later this year.
- At the initial peak of lockdown, MCC Food Response was directly supporting approximately 500 households per week, and co-ordinating VCS provision to a further 200+. We have directly delivered or commissioned over 125,000 food deliveries. In the second 'peak' of lockdown (early November 2020) we supported approximately 250 households per week, either with one off deliveries, or ongoing support. The team has become experts at stepping down into mainstream support provision. Excellent referral pathways have been established, into community food support provision and to appropriate 'wrap-around' support, such as Social Care, Early Help and poverty mitigation support (eg Revs and Bens, CAB, Digital Champions Network). The Team reports directly to Directorate of Neighbourhoods, the Family Poverty Strategy 'Basics'

	<p>Working Group, and the Manchester Food Board. At present, we are supporting approximately 40 households per week, and have just agreed a new referral pathway with NHS Track and Trace Team, which is supporting residents who have no access to the mainstream food offer. We are proactively planning for upcoming changes to lockdown support mechanisms such as the end of furlough and the ending of UC top-up.</p>
<p>Domestic Violence & Abuse (DVA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVA incident volumes being recorded by GMP have settled during April and May, to levels being seen through late Feb and March. Referrals discussed at MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and being received by specialist Domestic Abuse (DA) services remain high, with MARAC volumes for 2020-21 being significantly up on those for the previous year, placing additional pressures upon the IDVA service. • Manchester Metropolitan University have completed a research project looking at DVA and Safeguarding during Covid 19 and will be releasing some early learning and recommendations from this piece of work. • A GM wide piece of work, led by GMCA is looking into the issue of continuing and increasingly high levels of referrals into MARACs and is currently considering a report produced by the GMP Force MARAC Co-ordinator. • MCC colleagues in Community Safety and Commissioning continue to liaise closely with our in house and commissioned service providers as we move out of restrictions in order that any potential demand / capacity issues can be identified early and acted upon.
<p>Poverty & Welfare Provision</p>	<p><u>Welfare Provision Scheme (WPS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WPS operated Covid-19 specific support during 2020/21 to support residents in response to Covid-19 (broad focus, £100k budget) and Carers (£100k budget). The Carers budget has been maintained for 2021/22. • £116,580 was paid to Carers in 2020/21 and £9,243 has been paid in April 2021. • £83,298 was paid in Covid-19 support in 2020/21. The core WPS scheme will be available to provide support within the scope of the scheme to residents impacted by Covid-19 during 2021/22.

Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) and Council Tax Support Hardship Fund

DHP awards are typically short/medium-term and require renewed applications where longer-term support is required. In recognition of the limited opportunities available to residents to secure cheaper accommodation or secure employment as a result of Covid-19 2,148 'automatic' extensions were applied during 2020/21. A similar approach is being applied through to November 2021.

A Hardship Fund (government funded in 2020/21) to apply £150 credits to working-age residents in receipt of Council Tax Support was awarded to 45,407 households to a total spend of £6,614,707. The Council is replicating the scheme in 2021/22 (Council funded) and at 1st May, 37,252 accounts had received a credit at a cost of £5.6million.

Test and Trace Support Payments (TTSP)

The TTSP scheme was introduced by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) effective from 28 September 2020, through to 30 June 2021. The scheme applies to residents who test positive or are identified as a contact by NHS Test and Trace. In March 2021 it was extended to include parents and carers who need to take time off to support a child who is isolating. It provides a lump sum payment of £500 to support those on low incomes if they cannot work during their self-isolation period and will suffer a loss of income as a result.

At 24 May we have:

- Received 6,863 eligible applications.
- Paid £828,000 to 1,656 main scheme applications.
- Paid £286,000 to 572 discretionary cases.

The DHSC have indicated that they may extend the scheme beyond June, but this has not been confirmed.

Homelessness	<p data-bbox="539 188 1917 231"><u>Statutory Homeless</u></p> <p data-bbox="539 263 1917 821">The number of presentations continue to rise, as does the number of people to whom we owe a duty at the relief stage. This has resulted in an increase in people residing in temporary accommodation, but nowhere near the numbers presenting. There was a lack of move on options during lockdown, this has recently increased, with 123 moving into social rented accommodation, and 186 moving into private rented accommodation in the last quarter. There has been a big drop in the number of households presenting due to eviction from private rented sector properties due to the government moratorium on evictions, but bailiff evictions are commencing at the start of June, an increase is likely to start to show. There has been a redesign of the homeless service; the PRS team is being significantly increased to ensure a focus upon moving people on into settled accommodation. A pilot to transfer dispersed accommodation to a registered provider to remove the subsidy loss has started and will be monitored closely. Several new schemes have commenced in the past few months, a step down for singles at Princess Road and a hostel for families at Alex House. Both schemes are focused upon how we can help move people out of homelessness into affordable accommodation in the private rented sector as quickly as possible.</p> <p data-bbox="539 853 1917 896"><u>People sleeping rough.</u></p> <p data-bbox="539 928 1917 1045">At the beginning of the pandemic MHCLG funded a scheme called 'Everyone In'. At its height in May 2020, there were 275 individuals accommodated across 12 accommodation schemes at any one time.</p> <p data-bbox="539 1077 1917 1193">There is now just one accommodation centre still open, the Rams Lodge. This has received funding to continue to March 2022; it has closed a gap in provision for accommodating complex and vulnerable individuals.</p> <p data-bbox="539 1225 1917 1375">MHCLG have ceased the 'Everyone In' funding; the Council has successfully bid for the 'Protect Programme', providing accommodation for people who have been through all accommodation offers in the city and have not managed to remain in them for a myriad of reasons. The Protect Programme has intensive mental health and substance misuse support in</p>
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	<p>place.</p> <p>The Council and GMCA have been successful at-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme funding, over 150 units in the city are being purchased with support to accommodate people who have slept rough, or whom are at risk of sleeping rough in the future. • Bidding for both ABEN and Rough Sleeper Initiative funding, ensuring that the services that are in the city for people who sleep rough can continue for the next 12 months. <p>The approach taken over the past twelve months has shown significant outcomes; the latest headcount showed 40 people sleeping on the streets, a significant decrease. With the city opening up again, and the opportunities for begging increasing, the team are focused upon keeping people who have moved off the streets and into accommodation, remaining in their accommodation and not gravitating back to a street lifestyle.</p>
<p>Team Around the Neighbourhoods engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams around the Neighbourhood continue to support engagement activity, particularly in respect of vaccination roll out in areas where coverage is less than the city average. • Door knocking activity is taking place in the eight wards that are an area of focus for increased vaccination. Housing Providers and Health colleagues are supporting this activity.
<p>Digital inclusion (DI)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work and Skills and Libraries have worked closely to develop a programme of work to support digitally excluded residents and raise the profile of digital inclusion inside the Council and within its key partners. The operational elements of digital inclusion is now embedded in the libraries structure. In addition to the provision of free supported Internet through libraries, we have since May 2020 operated a telephone support scheme for people with Internet access and delivered device schemes for those without Internet access – this will continue over coming years. We have worked closely with third sector groups and adult skills organisations to support digitally excluded residents, to motivate residents to ‘go

	<p>online' and to help ensure support is sustainable.</p> <p>2. Since May 2020 over 800 residents have been supported by the telephone support line for people with Internet access, but without the skills or confidence to use it effectively. Nearly 500 Internet connected devices have been donated to eligible digitally excluded Manchester residents during the pandemic, and another 600 more will be over the next 6 months. Each of these recipients are supported by a digital champion. Over 20 organisations and 100 volunteers support these initiatives.</p>
<p>Schools & Education</p>	<p>Whilst the full extent and impact of Covid19 on the development, life chances and opportunities for the city's children and young people the impact is not yet fully understood and may not be for some time. However, there are themes/issues emerging for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The education gap between those children considered to be disadvantaged and their counterparts will have widened. • There are indications of increased rates of anxiety and mental health issues, • The pandemic has increased inequality in the city; there has been 6% increase in the overall number children being eligible for Free School Meals; In addition, at times, we have seen on average an 150% increase in families accessing foodbanks over the past 12 months and financial hardship becoming a feature of everyday life for many children. • There is a potential for increased levels of school exclusions as some young people struggle to return to routine and boundaries. • Lack of opportunities for young people post school and college are likely to lead to increased levels of Not in Employment Education and Training (NEET) . • Several children have reported feeling anxious about transition between school/college phases, their future opportunities and feeling isolated/lonely. This appears to have the potential to compromise the aspirations/hopes of young people across the city
<p>Children's Services</p>	<p>Childrens services in Manchester have continued to provide services to vulnerable children and their families throughout the current COVID pandemic. Since March 2020, the service has operated under the working premise of "business as usual but doing things differently". This</p>

	<p>mission statement reflected the services commitment to ensure children were safeguarded and their needs were effectively met. As such the service has, throughout the pandemic, mindful of relevant health and safety advice, continued to work directly with children and their families. The service has shown significant creativity and flexibility in our approach to service provision, whilst at the same time supporting the partnerships capacity to continue to develop collaboration in the knowledge that some families require a co-ordinated multi agency level of support to safeguard children. Since the start of the pandemic staff were rota'd on a two-weekly cycle to either be working from the office, working from home and visiting children in their communities and working from home carrying out</p>
<p>Early Help</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early Help Hubs focus in 20/21 has been on the Covid-19 pandemic response as we have looked to deliver business as usual, differently. Residents/families have continued to access 'whole family' support although the offer was often modified to suit the circumstances with less home visits and adaptations such as video calls and door step visits. • One example of an adaptation was the establishment of a Parenting support line between April – September 2020. This phone appointment system was designed to provide reassurance and 'quick wins' for parents struggling with the initial lock down. Set up in less than a week, with direct links into CAPs (for under 5's) and Education Psychologists (for parents of SEND), the support line supported over 160 parents/families with phone consultations. • The volume of requests to our Early Help front door slowed down in the early part of the pandemic but since September 2020 has remained high as children returned to school and more 'normal' partner activity recommenced. The pressure on the Early Help front door / triage has been particularly felt by North Early Help Hub who had 46% of all contacts in 2020 / 2021. We continue to monitor the pressure on the North area of the city and have re-allocated resources accordingly.
<p>Youth</p>	<p>The Youth, Play & Participation team are working with youth and play organisations across the city to ensure that children and young people have access to high quality, safe and fun</p>

activities within their neighbourhoods, ensuring that they have a voice in the decisions which affect their lives and the lives of young people.

- The youth and play sector continue to operate as they have throughout the covid restrictions, providing safe, supportive and fun provision for children and young people across the City. In 2020-2021 the sector worked face to face with 7,872 children and young people across the City, this equates to 50% of their usual reach, we expect this to increase dramatically during quarter 2 following easing of restrictions.
- The roadmap set out on May 17th saw a reduction in restrictions for the sector, increasing the numbers of children and young people who can attend provision and seeing a return to universal access.
- The 4 youth hubs, 5 youth and play partnerships and the sector leader's group have been briefed on the new guidelines following the Government roadmap announcement with officers providing support around risk assessments and safe working practices.
- The youth team are working closely with Hub Leads to ensure continued provision and support for children, young people and families.

Young Manchester Review

- Following the finalisation of the review into Young Manchester, we continue to work collaboratively with Young Manchester and the sector to minimize impact on delivery for children and young people. Area youth leads are attending all youth and play partnership meetings to offer support and provide reassurance around investment for 2021/22.
- The Head of Service is working with the Sector Leaders Group to understand concerns and agree a plan moving forward. We have issued a sector engagement paper across the City which outlines the scope and plans for engagement.
- Youth Focus NW have been commissioned to facilitate 6 engagement sessions across the City, this will cover the 5 youth and play partnerships, sector leaders group, Young Manchester, the detached forum and the play network.

	<p><u>HAF</u></p> <p>Easter HAF report shared with SMT and lead members on 18th May. The paper outlines the data from the programme, as well as lesson learned. Stats Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21004 Playscheme in a bag delivered • 3394 unique participants attended provision • 9489 visits over a 3-week period • 571 sessions hosted • 2168 food parcels delivered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are working with partners to implement a commissioning strategy for summer and Christmas delivery which will increase availability of provision across the summer for those eligible. The HAF prospectus and application form launched on City website w/c 24th May and has been shared with schools, youth & play providers, private providers, sports, leisure & arts providers. • We are working on the ambition of operating provision at least 1 school per ward, working with over 100 providers from across youth, play, education, sport, leisure, arts and culture; Aligning our HAF offer with the free swimming offer at our 9 sites, as well as, working with the outdoor providers network to offer adventure learning at Debdale, Ghyll Head, Platt Fields Park and WAC. • In addition, the universal funding offered via Young Manchester funding will compliment HAF to increase the universal offer.
VCSE	<p>Our Manchester VCSE Team Summary - Through 2020/21 and the first quarter of 2021/22, the work of the team focused on maintaining our core funding for groups within the OMVCS programme, the Development Fund our Population Health Targeted Funds and the Covid Impact Fund. Delivery of these programmes is integrated into the work of the OMVCS Team in City Policy for the remainder of 2021/22 however, where budgets have been temporary in direct response to Covid on the Covid Impact Fund, these funds will cease as planned during 2021/22 and other programmes will end in line with current budget allocations at the end of</p>

	<p>2021/22. Extensions or new budgets will be subject to Council budget setting during 2021/22.</p> <p>OMVCS Grants & Development Programme - £7.4million over three years has been awarded to 63 organisations. Originally the OMVCS grant was to end in March 21 however, the current grant has now been extended until March 22, which provides much needed stability within the sector, for residents and ensures adequate co-design and consultation can be undertaken to deliver the right funding approaches, models and priorities for the city. The Development Fund was originally set up in 2018/19 forming part of the mitigation from the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and gap analysis from the OMVCS grant. The fund has continued to be delivered in parallel to the OMVCS grant, subject to the review of the organisations progress against agreed development plans. This has included joint funding in year 2 (2019/20) from MHCC and at present is fully funded by MCC, working with 9 groups. Similar to the OMVCS grant, this has received an extension of funding until March 2022.</p> <p>Population Health Targeted Funds - 81 organisations funded across two programmes. The Population Health Targeted Fund, in partnership with MHCC, was launched in April 2020. £2.1million of MHCC funding has been invested in VCSE partnerships who have been delivering activities with the aim to improve outcomes in the first 1,000 days of a child’s life, and to support older people to be as healthy as they can be. Programme evaluation work will take place over the next year, alongside developing plans to reallocate the remaining £100k under the First 1000 Days fund.</p> <p>Covid Impact Fund - 59 projects have been funded across two funding rounds. Support prioritises the following groups: Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities; Disabled people; LGBTQ+ communities; North Manchester residents; Older people (65 years and over). Total investment across Round 1& 2 is £737,952.94 from an overall pot of £745k. Remaining money to be used to invest in digital inclusion capability of identified groups. Working with colleagues in Work & Skills to look at how we allocate this resource and further support the groups.</p>
Equalities & Inclusion	From the outset of the pandemic, several identity groups were identified as being at greatest risk of infection including, older people, disabled people, people with long term health

	<p>conditions, Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority groups. These groups have remained the focus of the Equality and Inclusion workstream throughout the pandemic. The relevance of poverty and deprivation and poor mental health disproportionately affecting residents within these identity groups was also recognised. The Equality and Inclusion workstream has sought to draw on reliable local, regional and national data throughout the sitrep process to highlight prevailing issues and risks for identity groups and provide assurance or highlight concern where provision was / was not addressing the identified risks. Common features of the assessments include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher rates of infection in the identified groups compared to the wider population. • Difficulties accessing information (especially digital information) and some services for all identified groups. • Reported mental wellbeing and satisfaction with life being lower for these groups than the population more generally. • Disparity in vaccination rates for some Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups compared to the wider population. <p>Whilst the Equality and Inclusion workstream has taken a broader view of equality impact for the at-risk groups, the individual service updates across other workstreams have increasingly focused on meeting the differing needs of communities of identity with specific reference to that service. They have described how service provision has flexed and adapted to support a diverse population. Equality and Inclusion, therefore, has been increasingly mainstreamed through the Residents and Communities COVID response work. This provides a strong platform to continue to build on: an ongoing read-across the equality implications of the Council's COVID recovery activity will provide assurance that those identity groups that remain at the greatest risk are being adequately and appropriately supported.</p>
<p>Health and Wellbeing Recovery</p>	<p>This workstream was added to the work of the EMG subgroup, March 2021. The work has not yet 'delivered' quantifiable outputs, the update reports on the process to date. A framework has been developed that covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resume services and working through backlog of health and social care that residents need.

- Addressing the physical and mental health impacts on the population of Manchester.
- The contribution of health and social care to the wider city recovery

The framework has consulted with the following groups at meetings:

- Manchester Partnership Board
- Bringing Services Together city-wide group
- Directors of Strategy for Health and Social Care
- Locality Primary Care sub-group
- MHCC Patient and public involvement committee
- Covid Health Equity Manchester group
- MHCC Strategy Committee
- MCC Executive Members' Recovery sub-group (Residents and Communities)
- MCC Officers' Recovery sub-group (economic recovery)

Feedback has been positive. Amendments made as a result of feedback are as follows:

- To split theme two into two parts. The first focusing on health inequalities and public health interventions; the second to look at the new physical and mental health needs of the population.
- To include health's role in enabling people to be fit to work as an aim within the health and care contribution to the economy.
- To make the most of connections with wider work, partnerships and services
- To look at the structural aspects of discrimination within health and social care
- Make best use of insight from business intelligence and engagement with people/groups with lived experience.
- To undertake an inclusion assessment quarterly, to be overseen by the Covid Health Equity Manchester group, which will review analysis of outcomes split by protected characteristic and deprivation.

Next steps are to develop this framework into an action plan with deliverables, impacts and

	timescales. This will be aligned with existing governance and programmes of work in order to avoid duplication. A quarterly outcomes and performance dashboard will monitor and report on progress to the Manchester Partnership Board
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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>General Overview</p>	<p>Queens Speech 11th May 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Another post-Brexit piece of legislation, the Procurement Bill, will replace EU rules on how the government buys services from the private sector. • A new UK agency to search for ground-breaking scientific discoveries will be established by the Advanced Research and Invention Agency Bill. • 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. • 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 	<p>Powering Recovery: Manchester's Recovery and Investment Plan' 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 here.</p> <p>United City business-led campaign launched 22/11 and supported by MCC.</p> <p>Business Sounding Board and Real Estate subgroup continue to meet regularly to share intel across sectors and to help support MCC lobbying.</p> <p>Weekly MCC newsletter issued to over 9,000 businesses with updates.</p> <p>Fourth round of SEISS available: the latest round of the Self Employed Income Support Scheme has been launched and applications are accepted until 1 June.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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 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

12th 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 13th 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 12th April, MCC and GMP licensing compliance teams have been busy engaging with hospitality businesses to 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 17th May continue and include a webinar for businesses hosted by CityCo on 12th 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.

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 17th May. This will mean:
 - 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 6th 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 1st 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 1st 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-ten 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

	<p>“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.</p> <p>Hospitality loses legal challenge: the legal case brought to the high court by Sacha Lord to bring forward the indoor reopening date has been dismissed.</p> <p>1 in 7 shops vacant: retail vacancies have increased across all shopping destinations and regions in the first quarter of 2021, according to the BRC-LDC Vacancy Monitor.</p> <p>Materials shortage looms: the construction industry is reporting a shortage of materials, particularly steel The RICS has reported 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>Rebooting Manchester’s Business Activity Post-pandemic event 12th</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"> • The city is resilient and there is demand to return from employees and employers should support this. 	

May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	
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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%
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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%

	<p>District Centres</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Week on week %</th> <th>Year on year %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cheetham Hill</td> <td>-35.5%</td> <td>+44%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chorlton</td> <td>-21%</td> <td>+94.5%</td> </tr> <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 12th April.</p>		Week on week %	Year on year %	Cheetham Hill	-35.5%	+44%	Chorlton	-21%	+94.5%	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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<p>Higher Education Institutions</p>	<p>From 17th May all remaining university students eligible to return to in-person teaching.</p>																																		
<p>Aviation</p>	<p>Government has confirmed that foreign travel can resume from Monday 17th May under a traffic light system, with countries ranked green, amber or red. Travelers from an amber list country will need</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 South Sandwich Islands, and St</p>																																	

	<p>to self isolate for 10 days with the 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>Helena, Tristan de Cunha and Ascension Island. 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. 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. In response to last week's announcement, Manchester Airport is gearing up to be operationally ready for an increase in flights.</p>
<p>Culture</p>	<p>Extended impact of the Pandemic on the cultural sector including continued closures. 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 <u>Event pilots</u> are underway testing reopening strategies.</p>	<p>Reopening Plans Plans to reopen from 17th May discussed at Cultural Leaders Group 4/5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>ZArts - already opened for participants and launching exhibition The Tiger Who Came to Tea & the adventures of Mog 28th May. June to Sept 'Summer of Play' centering on outdoor events in park settings. Theatre returns in Sept. Also for info - Lowry - 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>Halle Summer Season at Bridgewater Hall: The Halle Orchestra 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>Manchester International Festival The MIF21 programme launched on 28 April. All events will be Covid safe.</p> <p>Campaigns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Recovery - Joint audience development campaign by cultural partners launches 17 May. #HereforCultureMCR • Music Venue Trust 'Revive Live' - audience campaign launching w/c 10/5
<p>Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued development interest in the city for both commercial and residential scheme. • All schemes are back on site, and construction levels increased since the beginning of the pandemic, although with some overall delays to programmes. • Risks around supply chains/access to materials, with associated increases in costs. • Access to finance for hotel and retail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownfield Housing Fund - Officers continue to work with GMCA on grant agreements for the 2nd round and additional 10% schemes, which need to be in place by July 2021. • Victoria North - Collyhurst: The planning application for 244 new homes (including 100 new Council 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

	<p>schemes likely to be more challenging.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic Recovery & Investment Plan identifies key schemes which can drive recovery and create new jobs. Ongoing work to identify funding opportunities for schemes.• Long term impact on office demand being monitored on an ongoing basis, but positive indications from office agents and the Business Sounding Board.• 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.	<p>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">• Consultation has taken place on plans for the next phase of regeneration at Ancoats. 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 3rd & 10th May.• Construction of the Co-op Live 23,500-capacity arena started w/b 3rd 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.• Hotel development: Premier Inn opened its fifth hotel in Manchester city centre on 7th 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
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		<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>Affordable Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk to developer and investor confidence. • Working with RP's and other developers to understand current impact and forward plans. • Assessing sources and levels of investment, and any obstacles • Investigating grant funding, financial and other support needed to enable early start of key projects • Understanding supply chain issues and identifying appropriate support measures. • Developing guidance/share good practice for safe operation of sites • Expediting design & planning phases of projects. 	<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"> • Belle Vue Stadium Site – Countryside and Great Places have begun work on the redevelopment of the mixed tenure scheme which includes 130 new affordable homes • Grey Mare Lane Estate – One Manchester have started construction on the first two phases of the Estate Regeneration programme (Blackrock Street & Windermere Close) which are expected completed in 2021-22. The

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of registered providers slowing down or pausing programmes to consolidate finances/liquidity • Ensure Zero Carbon and Fire safety provision are part of the programmes. • Potential flooding of the PRS sector as the short term let market shrinks. 	<p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gorton Lane – One Manchester have also begun construction on the scheme delivering 109 homes (18 for shared ownership & 91 for rent-to-buy) – expected to complete in 2022-23 <p>Updates on further key schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consultation on Ancoats Dispensary and Downley Drive ran until April. The 2 schemes delivered by Great Places, are set to deliver 107 new affordable homes in Ancoats & New Islington. A planning application for both schemes is expected later in 2021 • Procurement of the various design and delivery teams for the package of Housing Infrastructure Fund works in Victoria North 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.
<p>Transport and Infrastructure</p>	<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"> • 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 	<p><u>Summary of transport activity for week ending 2 May</u></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>

- a year earlier than originally planned
- Delivering 95 new Electric Vehicle charging points by the end of this year, with plans for a further 200 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	182,189
17/08/20	219,301
14/09/20	319,763
12/10/20	315,678
16/11/20	266,561
14/12/20	326,423
18/01/21	173,422
15/02/21	179,139
26/2/21	191,698
12/3/21	274,674
19/3/21	274,072
25/3/21	277,882
30/3/21	274,274
6/4/21	194,841
9/4/21	194,420
12/4/21	279,799
20/4/21	348,079
30/4/21	356,920
7/45/21	358,481

Rail

09/03/20	104,715
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	5,081,793
13/04/20	1,463,018
18/05/20	2,948,446
15/06/20	3,735,121
13/07/20	4,078,168
17/08/20	4,326,263
14/09/20	4,444,335
12/10/20	4,366,366
16/11/20	3,913,010
14/12/20	4,535,304

18/01/21	3,507,891
15/02/21	3,812,700
26/2/21	4,376,619
12/3/21	4,550,176
19/3/21	4,591,508
26/3/21	4,632,918
1/4/21	4,871,592
9/4/21	4,662,228
16/4/21	4,940,064
23/4/21	5,113,988
30/4/21	5,142,724
7/5/21	5,117,316

Cycling

09/03/20	107,738
13/04/20	151,196
18/05/20	151,084
15/06/20	159,250
13/07/20	121,252
17/08/20	125,014
14/09/20	169,331
12/10/20	88,868
16/11/20	87,694
14/12/20	87,898
18/01/21	54,249
15/02/21	164,555*
28/2/21	177,426*
9/3/21	107,860
21/3/21	150,198
24/3/21	143,538

30/3/21	185,364
6/4/21	176,078
9/4/21	134,935
17/4/21	146,772
22/4/21	165,787
26/4/21	146,819
5/5/21	140,734

*NB this period covers half term

Walking

09/03/20	1,491,508
13/04/20	511,033
18/05/20	691,620
15/06/20	789,318
13/07/20	1,046,436
17/08/20	1,208,022
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

<p>Skills, Labour Market and Business Support</p>	<p>Furlough and newly unemployed Headlines include</p> <p>Headlines include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In March 2021 there were 36,100 claimants of unemployment benefits in Manchester – up slightly from 35,590 in February. - In the week of 27th February it was reported that there were 6000 vacancies. - c.36,100 residents furloughed in March. Increases in the number of residents furloughed in November & January reflects the introduction of subsequent national lockdowns 	<p>Furlough and newly unemployed Newly Unemployed Support</p> <p>MCFC Market place Event 2nd and 3rd July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 70 employers and 35,000 vacancies across a range of sectors have been secured over 2 days - MCFC and MCC will be pushing messages out as it is a ticketed event - Work and Skills are working closely with MCFC to support a joint Marketplace Event 2nd and 3rd July to recruit businesses to the event. - 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. <p>See attached the brochure MCC is working hard to promote</p> <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"> - 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 . - 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. <p>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.</p> <p>Skills assessment results due out this week after which results can</p>
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		<p>shape the offer with DWP and MAES/ Mcr College.</p> <p>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>
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	<p>Offer for 16-19 year olds</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>The data is telling us that we need to focus more on reducing the numbers of unknown in year 12 /13.</p>	<p>Offer for 16-19 year olds</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"> - 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. <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 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"> - Working with Youth Strategy Team to develop a programme of summer activities for those most of risk of becoming
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	<p>Youth unemployment 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>Promotion of Apprenticeships and Traineeships.</p> <p>Developing a clear offer to support our graduates</p>	<p>NEET.</p> <p>Youth unemployment The 1st 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First GM Apprenticeships Intermediary Network meeting held Friday 23 April. to share knowledge and resources and improve joint working across - GM Network attended by 30 key organisations including, local authorities, training providers and employers. - 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
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		<p>part.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft SME support proposal received from MMU. Working group to be reconvened in May to further develop this approach. - PRI colleagues and MMU sharing data on graduate pipeline to support planning.
	<p>Skills and employment support for adults Challenge -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending the MCC Digital Device Scheme • Ensure that the City's learning provision is responding to new challenges as well as existing challenges. • Working with providers who are developing proposals for CRF funding – encouraging consortium bids where possible. 	<p><i>Further develop a comms campaign and events to raise the profile of adult learning and the ambition of MAESP -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manchester Adult Education and Skills Awards 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 <p><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></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEB, 2 hour provider workshop hosted, 17 provides attended. Providers were consulted on what they want to see from the following workshops. • 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. <p><i>Enable the CRF and MAES CL programme to deliver Manchester's priorities -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.

		<p>Support all residents to access and effectively engage with the internet for both work and life –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 will be produced from June for consistent monitoring against actions and objectives. <p>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 – 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>Social Value and Local Benefit</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>Social value and local benefit</p> <p>Develop pipeline of opportunities through large suppliers and capital projects where MCC is the client – 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>Reach a decision on supporting a bid of lottery funding to aid with co-ordination of social value commitments across</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 promoted to residents and employment/skills/training organisations.</p>	<p>contracts. 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>Maximise Social Value opportunities arising from Victoria North and North Manchester General Hospital developments –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A wider conversation about how we resource Victoria North is underway. - Options appraisal looking at establishing a construction skills hub is underway with Think Trinity Ltd leading, due to complete by June. - CLES commissioned to review FEC development area business plans from a social value perspective, timescales TBC. <p>Maximise employment, skills and training opportunities from within MCC’s own supply chain – 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>Business Support, Sustainability & Growth</p>	<p>Business support, sustainability and growth</p> <p>Business Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. <p>District Centres Support</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&S to support the work around comms,</p>

		<p>safe re-opening.(Manchester Business Support Group) Initiatives are being developed to support footfall across High Streets and DCs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First Business workshop held on Thursday 6th May – with a Business Resilience workshop and update on Biz Grants. - 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. - 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. - 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. - This will develop into a virtual network to cascade useful information around recovery and business support opportunities.
	<p>Brexit Impacts 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"> • Ongoing issues relating to import/export documentation • Some businesses are highlighting that 	<p>Brexit Response 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"> 1. <u>Webinars for importers of food and drink products from the EU to Great Britain</u> 2. Cabinet Office tailored support through its <u>Field Force Support Programme</u> for businesses that trade over £250,000 of

<p>Businesses remain confused about additional charges levied on imports/exports of goods</p> <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 Procurement & 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>	<p>goods with the EU offering specialist 1-21 support</p> <p>The Business Growth Hub is also providing a range of resources for business, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A Brexit toolkit</u> for businesses (GC) • Monthly podcasts on the business support and any changes in the info that may have an impact in SMEs • Monthly blogs on key topics such as EU Settlement Status, retaining EU talent and supply chain issues. • Weekly Brexit news updates • Updates via social media <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>Read the Chamber's Brexit information guide</u></p>
<p><u>Covid Testing for Businesses</u></p> <p>Requiring messaging to businesses in connection with support for onsite testing particularly important as the economy opens.</p>	<p><u>Targeted Testing at Scale for Business</u></p> <p><u>Reporting two or more COVID cases in a workplace</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MCC web pages for businesses have been updated https://manchester.gov.uk/businessCovidcases - Comms will advertise the form on social media and via bulletins. - A hard copy of the leaflet is being printed – copy here <p><u>Update: Home Testing Kits for Businesses deadline 12 April</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manchester produced comms for businesses planning to re-open and distributed via a range of channels. See attached - 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. - Comms are looking at doing a leaflet beyond the 12th April that can be printed to hand out to businesses re: testing

		<p>options but waiting till after 12th April to see if 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 Government scheme 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 mft.central.coordinationcentre@nhs.net</p> <p>Employees can still book into our test sites Here</p>
	<p>Equalities/ Disadvantaged Ensure that disadvantaged and underrepresented groups are supported by</p>	<p>Equalities/ Disadvantaged Supporting the Uncertain Futures older women and work project,</p>

	<p>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&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>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>
Funding	<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>Working with City Centre Growth to map funding opportunities through the 2020 Spending Review</p>	<p>Levelling Up Fund</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Officers are working on round 1 bids ahead of the 18th June deadline. <p>Community Renewal Fund</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Closing date for applications to GMCA is Friday 14th May 2. We are expecting a number of applications from partners in Manchester.
External	The Government's economic response to C19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings are ongoing with government and civil servants on

Influencing & Lobbying	has been fast moving and feeding in Manchester's priorities has required a coordinated approach.	various aspects of the levelling up agenda.
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Internal Covid Response Sit Rep

26 May 2021

<p>Workforce Update</p>	<p>Latest Position</p> <p>56% of our workforce (4,214) are regularly working on site and 34% are currently working from home. From the 21st of June all staff will be able to spend some time working on site. Social distancing requirements will remain which will reduce the occupancy levels in office space.</p> <p>Preparations are now underway for all staff being able to spend more time working on site from 21st June, which includes:</p> <p>Ongoing comms and engagement with our workforce to let them know what the arrangements will be Engagement with Directorates to help with planning including staggering start and finish times, rotas etc Tidy up of all our sites (removing old signage, ensuring up to date guidance is visible as well as cleaning materials) All remaining service risk assessments and any required individual risk assessments are being completed</p> <p>As at 27th May there are currently 23 staff not in work through Covid related absence of which: 13 staff have tested positive 9 are symptomatic and awaiting the results of a Covid test 1 is an identified contact and has to self isolate</p>
<p>Finance and Budget</p> <p>Overview</p> <p>COVID-19 Related costs - Overview as at round 12 April MHCLG Return data - submitted 30.4.21.</p> <p>Net impact of COVID-19 on MCC General Fund is £162.2m in 2020/21, made up of:</p>	<p>Latest Position</p> <p>Recent COVID 19 Funding Announcements</p> <p>Of the COVID related grants received in 2020/21 £30.044m will be carried forward to support COVID-19 related spend in future years, in line with grant conditions.</p> <p>Additionally the following COVID-19 related grants have been confirmed for 2021/22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infection Control Fund £1.120m• Rapid Testing in Adult Social Care £0.755m• Contain Outbreak Management Fund 2021/22 £5.737m• Cultural recovery £303k• Covid Local Support Grant £0.607m• Test and Trace Support Payment April £0.658m• Welcome Back Fund £489k• New Burdens Business Support Grants £415k

<p>£20.9m in costs, and £141.2m income loss (Council only) also: £0.4m HRA</p> <p>The budget impact will fall over a number of years</p>	
<p>Impact of the pandemic on the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates 2019/20 data in brackets for comparison</p>	<p>Council Tax</p> <p>For 2020/21, the total amount of Council Tax due to the Council was £262.9m (£243.2m). £49.1m (£38.9m) was paid in Council Tax Support (CTS), leaving £213.7m (£204.3m) to be collected. In addition to Council Tax Support payments, an additional £150 hardship payment was also allocated to eligible working age residents in receipt of Council Tax Support.</p> <p>Due to the pandemic no reminder or summons notices were issued during the first quarter. Recovery action recommenced during quarter two and we worked closely with HM Courts & Tribunals Service to arrange virtual liability hearings. These commenced during quarter three, though we have received restricted court time and a reduced frequency of hearings, resulting in fewer summons notices being issued during 2020/21. Last year no accounts were issued to enforcement agents for collection.</p> <p>As part of the support provided by Government in respect of reduced Sales, Fees and Charges income we have included the reduction in summons income as part of the claim, this support is ongoing for the first quarter of 2021/22.</p> <p>By the end of March 2021, 90.15% of this had been collected, 2.58% less than last year.</p> <p>It is expected that collection of Council Tax in the year ahead will remain challenging due to the economic situation in the city as we recover from the impact of the pandemic.</p> <p>Business Rates</p> <p>At the end of March 2021, 87.91% (97.80%) of the collectable debit had been collected. This in year recovery rate is almost 10% less than the outturn for the previous financial year. The recovery rates during the last financial year are not comparable to previous years due to significant changes in the amount due to be collected linked</p>

to the large number of discounts and reliefs provided to businesses and the fact that many businesses that had something to pay were facing significant challenges due to the pandemic.

Revenues and Benefits - Support to residents

Latest Position

Council Tax Support

Covid-19 has seen an increase in Council Tax Support claims from working age residents:

Between 1/4/19 - 1/4/20 the working age CTS caseload fell by 3.31%

Between 1/4/20 - 1/4/21 the working age CTS caseload rose by 7.85%

Between 1/4/21 - 1/5/21 the working age CTS caseload has risen by 1.16%

Date	Working Age UC	Working Age No UC	Working Age All Cases
1/1/20	11,339	23,189	34,528
1/4/20	12,250	22,095	34,345
1/7/20	15,765	21,344	37,109
1/10/20	16,656	20,677	37,333
1/1/21	17,309	19,927	37,236
1/4/21	18,075	18,966	37,041
1/5/21	18,518	18,954	37,472

Additional Support with Council Tax

As part of the 2021/22 budget considerations the Council agreed to fund and continue the additional hardship payment/credit of £150 towards the Council Tax due to be paid by working-age residents in receipt of Council Tax Support (last year this was introduced and funded by the government as one-off support).

Accounts were credited with the £150 and issued with new bills during April 2021. The credit will also be made as new people become eligible for Council Tax Support throughout the year.

As at 1st May, the credit had been made to 37,252 accounts at a cost of £5.572 million. The costs of the scheme will rise throughout the year due to churn in the caseload including any new claimants of CTS.

The following table shows the annual balance to pay for those residents in properties with Council Tax bands A-C:

	Single person: Balance to pay after single adult discount, max CTS and £150 hardship	Couple: Balance to pay after max CTS and £150 hardship
Band A	£8.01	£60.68
Band B	£34.34	£95.79
Band C	£60.68	£130.91

Discretionary Housing Payments

Discretionary Housing Payments continue to be made to support residents with housing costs. The Council has provided additional funds of £1m to support the government contribution.

This year the management of the budget locally is more complex and challenging due to changes in the funding regime. The DHP national pot has been cut this year from £179.5 million to £140 million and only £100 million of this has been allocated to authorities. DWP plan to announce the allocation of the remaining £40 million in September.

This means that Manchester has been allocated a government contribution of £1,404,496. If we assume the same 1.40% of the national funding later in the year, we can expect a further £560,000, although at this stage this has not been confirmed.

Spend up to 26/5/21:

- a) Net Amount Spent = £592,106
- b) Future Payments Allocated = £749,245
- c) Total Amount Committed (a + b) = £1,341,351
- d) Budget (Government Contribution) £1,404,496
- e) Budget (MCC contribution) £1,000,000
- f) Total Budget (Including MCC Contribution) £2,404,496
- g) Amount unspent (f - c) £1,063,145

DHP awards for cases where Covid-19 severely limits the options available to resolve the rent shortfall are being extended for a further period up to between September and November 2021 without requiring a new application. 102 cases have been extended for cases due to end in April and May.

Further issues that will make the ongoing management of the DHP budget challenging include the end of the moratorium on evictions, phased ending of furlough and the removal of the £20 uplift on Universal Credit. We continue to carefully manage the budget to ensure that our most vulnerable residents are supported and tenancies are sustained.

Welfare Provision Scheme position at the end of April

The Council continues to deliver support from the scheme with cash grants and the provision of furniture and white goods.

The annual budget is £600,000 with a further £100,000 set aside to support carers.

Reason for application	Number Approved	Value of Awards
Moving Home/Resettlement	142	£60,864
Other Reason	105	£10,389
Disaster	44	£2,952
Providing Care for Others	40	£9,243
Travel	0	£0
Total	331	£83,448

Carers' Emergency Fund - 1 April to 30 April 2021

There is a £100k budget set aside to support carers in the city. The shape of this element of the wider WPS service has been developed for 2021/22 in consultation with Carers Manchester Contact Point (CMCP), Manchester Carers' Forum and Carers' Commissioning. Access to this budget is now directed through the CMCP and the Carers' Team.

40 applications have been approved to a value of £9,243 with an average award value of £231

Covid-19 support

The Covid-19 support budget was for 2020/21 and not carried across to 2021/22. Residents who need support still have access to the Welfare Provision Scheme, however this will no longer be identified as Covid-19 support.

Test and Trace Support Payments

The scheme has been open since 28 September 2020. At 24 May we have:

- Received 6,863 eligible applications
- Paid £828,000 to 1,656 main scheme applications
- Paid £286,000 to 572 discretionary cases
- Declined 4,565 applications (2,041 main scheme and 2,524 discretionary)
- 69 cases pending awaiting further information
- All applications allocated

- 84% paid within three days

The average number of daily applications received has reduced significantly from 25 in early March to eight in mid-May. The scheme is due to end on 30 June 2021 although there is a suggestion that it may be further extended.

The TTSP Team are working with colleagues in Neighbourhoods Test and Trace Population Health Team to support the new Department of Health and Social Care funded Greater Manchester Test and Trace Pathfinder. This is aimed at ensuring residents are receiving targeted support to enable them to self-isolate when directed. This covers financial and non-financial support.

The Pathfinder has a budget of £435,816 with a focus across eight wards linked to enhanced vaccination requirements: Ardwick, Cheetham, Crumpsall Longsight, Levenshulme, Moss Side, Rusholme, and Whalley Range.

Changes to legislation providing support to vulnerable residents in the city

The government has recently announced a couple of changes that come into effect from the end of May. These changes relate to housing benefit paid to care leavers and people that have spent over three months living in a hostel.

Single people under 35 usually have their Housing Benefit or UC Housing Element assessed based on the Local Housing Allowance rate for a room in shared accommodation.

Care leavers under age 22 and people that are over 25 and have lived for more than three months in a homeless hostel have been exempt from this, so their Housing Benefit or UC is assessed based on the Local Housing Allowance rate of a one bedroom self contained property. Based on the Central Manchester LHA rate this increases the amount of HB that can be paid from £75.50 per week to £138.08 per week. To qualify for the exemption, people who have lived in a hostel need to be living in self-contained accommodation. If they live in shared accommodation they won't be entitled to the exemption. Care leavers can live in any type of accommodation.

The new changes extend access to the exemption, based on age, that residents are able to claim the single room rather than shared room rate.

Care leaver exemption - the upper age limit to qualify for the for care leavers' exemption is extended from 22 up to 25.

Homeless hostel exemption - the lower age limit of 25 for the homeless hostel exemption is lowered to 16.

Details have been shared with staff who work with these young people as it is important that their status is declared at the point of claim so that the rules can be taken into account by both the Council and/or the DWP.

Support to Businesses

The Council is providing support to businesses in the city. This is made up of grant and rate relief support based on central government criteria that is wholly funded and other grants using a separate pot of discretionary funding described as Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)

Business Grants

The Council has administered the following government grants since March 2020.

The Small Business Grant (SBG) and Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grant (RHLG) were grants of either £10k or £25k paid during the spring and summer of 2020/21. In addition Local Authority Discretionary Grant (LADG) were awarded to businesses that do not have a business rates liability with grants of up to £25k. In total the Council paid out £111.293m to eligible businesses shown in the table below, including a discretionary scheme of £5m that was fully allocated.

Grant	Volume	Amount paid
Small Business Grant @ £10k	6,464	£64,640,000
Small Retail, Hospitality & Leisure @ £10k	628	£6,280,000
Medium Retail, Hospitality & Leisure @ £25k	1,398	£34,950,000
Local Authority Discretionary Grant	958	5,422,500
Totals	9,448	£111,292,500

Following this, as the country moved into the various tier restrictions and lockdowns in the autumn and winter, the Council administered and paid the following grants to businesses in the city that met the Government's criteria.

Grant	Volume	Amount paid
Local Restriction Support Grant (includes £7m discretionary funding)	19,675	£41,455,224
Closed Bus Lockdown Grant	3,934	£21,073,000
Restart Grants	3,468	£29,582,239
Totals	27,077	£92,110,463

From October 2020 to May 2021 the Council paid grants to businesses that were required to close due the restrictions. This

included various iterations of the Local Restrictions Support Grant during local restrictions and national lockdowns, the Christmas Support Payments to wet led pubs and Closed Business Lockdown Payments.

This also included a backdated discretionary amount of £7.9m LRSG (Open) to businesses for the period July to October when businesses were not required to close but were significantly impacted as the city was in tier 3 restrictions.

From April 2021 the Council has been paying out the government's Restart Grants and has allocated a further £29.5 million to eligible businesses.

In total the Council has paid out and claimed back from the government, more than £203m in grants to eligible businesses for this period.

Additional Restrictions Grants

The Council has also been granted discretionary funds of £16.609m (paid in two tranches of £11.698m and £4.911m).

All the funds have now been allocated and we are in the final stages of paying this out to eligible businesses across a range of schemes to support the city's priorities and to aid recovery.

The Council is also able to claim a further £4.3 million in discretionary support on the basis that the original £16.609m has been fully spent by the end of June 2021. Once granted the Council then has until the end of March 2022 to spend any remaining funding.

Based on our spending profile, the Council will be claiming this additional funding from early June. Although not yet received, the additional funding has already been allocated and will be used to pay additional grants to those businesses that are not eligible to claim the restart grants but are deemed appropriate for additional support after April 2021, either because they are in the supply chain of leisure, hospitality and personal care etc as determined in the original ARG scheme.

The full funding model for the ARG scheme was covered within the presentation to full Council and included sub-schemes to support charities, cultural organisations, child care providers and other business groups. It is expected 95% of all additional discretionary grant funding to businesses will be spent by the end of June with a number of ongoing awards linked to the licensed tax trade continuing through the remainder of the financial year.

Relief from Business Rates

During the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial year, significant numbers of businesses have been provided with relief from paying business rates. This is in addition to the normal discounts for small businesses and businesses that are exempt.

Expanded Retail Discount

From April 2020 the government provided an additional rate relief for certain types of businesses affected by the pandemic. To qualify businesses have to be wholly and mainly being used:

as shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas and live music venues

for assembly and leisure; or

as hotels, guest and boarding premises and self-catering accommodation.

The Government has provided guidance on the types of businesses that fall within each of the above categories.

The total amount of discount available is 100% of the net amount of business rates chargeable. There is no rateable value limit on this discount and state aid/subsidy limits do not apply. In 2020/21 a total of £148.9m of relief was awarded.

From 1 July 2021 the discount will reduce to 66% and be subject to additional 'cash caps' determined by the government.

There are currently 3,947 rate accounts out of the c27,000 in the city in receipt of ERD.

Non LA Childcare providers (nursery) relief

This relief has been applied to properties occupied by providers on Ofsted's Early Years Register and wholly or mainly used for the provision of the Early Years Foundation Stage and which are subject to business rates in the year 2020/21. There will be no rateable value limit on the relief.

The amount of relief mirrors that for Expanded Retail Discount including the reduction that comes into effect on 1 July 2021. In 2020/21 a total of £0.896m was awarded.

79 rate accounts are currently in receipt of nursery relief.