

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Economy Scrutiny Committee – 22 July 2021

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

**Report of:** Director of City Centre Growth and Infrastructure and Director of Inclusive Economy

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**Summary**

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

**Recommendations**

The Committee is requested to note the update.

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**Wards Affected:** All

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

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

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

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

None

## Economic Recovery Workstream- Sitrep Summary

As at 08/07/21 for Economy Scrutiny on 22/07/21. Updated fortnightly. Latest updates shown in yellow.

Issue/theme/activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
<b>General Overview</b>	<p><b>ONS National Update 1<sup>st</sup> July</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the week to 26 June 2021, overall retail footfall in the UK remained broadly unchanged at 75% of the level seen in the equivalent week of 2019 (Springboard).</li> <li>• In the last two weeks, currently trading businesses reported that 11% of their workforce have moved from furlough or fully homeworking to a hybrid model of working (Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS)).</li> <li>• On 25 June 2021, the total volume of online job adverts remained unchanged compared with a week ago and above the level seen before the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at 129% of its February 2020 average (Adzuna).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Powering Recovery: Manchester’s Recovery and Investment Plan’</b> launched in Nov. Four investment priorities around: innovation; city centre and urban realm; residential retrofit programme; and North Manchester regeneration. Seeking govt funding for over 50 projects of £798.8 m. The plan can be accessed <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>United City</b> business-led campaign launched 22/11 and supported by MCC.</p> <p><b>Business Sounding Board</b> and <b>Real Estate subgroup</b> continue to meet regularly to share intel across sectors and to help support MCC lobbying.</p> <p>Weekly MCC <b>newsletter</b> issued to over 9,000 businesses with updates.</p> <p><b>Comms update</b></p> <p>Link to the film: <a href="#">Manchester is back. Stronger than ever. - YouTube</a></p> <p>The film performed most well on Twitter with over 100k impressions, 13k view of the video and over 300 likes. Our</p>

- In the week to 28 June 2021, the seven-day rolling average estimate of UK seated diners fell by 4 percentage points compared with the previous week, to 124% of its level in the equivalent week of 2019 (OpenTable).

**Consumer Price Inflation (CPI)** increased to 2.1% in May, it's highest level for two years and above the Bank of England's 2% target. The ONS said the rise was driven by the rising cost of fuel and clothing. The Bank of England said that it expected inflation to go above 3% for a temporary period and therefore voted to keep unanimously to keep interest rates at 0.1%, a historic low.

**Gap to close all 81 stores in UK and Ireland.** Estimated loss of more than 1,000 jobs. The company will continue to operate online.

In April, a study by the **Centre for Retail Research** found that almost 190,000 jobs had been lost in retail between the start of the pandemic and 31 March 2021. The industry has warned that action is needed by the government to adjust business rates, a property tax which they say

Twitter followers tend to include partners and well as residents and businesses. It also did well on LinkedIn with 7k views and 367 likes.

The Welcome Back campaign moved into the next phase of lockdown messaging from the 17th May with emphasis on culture venues opening back up. We produced another film with the Contact Theatre on what opening up meant to them and how important it is to support our cultural venues. [Manchester art & entertainment venues are opening](#)  
[#WelcomeBackMCR - YouTube](#)

Alongside this, visitors to the city will see a raft of Welcome Back messaging from outdoor digital advertising, poster sites, shop windows and in taxis to name a few.

The weekly Welcome Back ebulletin signposts to the events taking place, such as the flower show, along side key advice to ask that people continue to follow the advice and guidance so we can all return safely.

### Re-opening update

c. 400 licences have been issued to the hospitality sector. Overall businesses have responded to all requirements positively, have engaged with authorities and are overwhelmingly compliant. However the impact does continue to be significant for them. The delayed lifting to 19 July delays their recovery and makes for continued higher operational costs. More widely than that, because as a sector they are required to record customer contacts in a way that other sectors are not required to (retail/transport for example), they are harder hit when an individual tests

unfairly burdens high street retailers and helps online rivals.

**Rishi Sunak to announce £15bn green finance plan.** Chancellor launched green savings bond for UK consumers to help fund green jobs. The chancellor used his first speech to City financiers at the annual Mansion House address to announce details of a £15bn UK programme of government bond issuance, with the proceeds being spent on environmentally friendly projects. Aiming to turn Britain into a world leader for low-carbon financial services, Sunak also launched a separate green savings bond for UK consumers, which is to be used to help fund infrastructure schemes and create more green jobs across the UK.

**Flexible working bill brought to parliament.** Tulip Siddiq, a Labour MP, has read a Flexible Working Bill in the House of Commons which would allow all staff to be entitled to flexible working from day one in a job. Employers would be expected to offer flexible working arrangements in employment contracts and advertise the available types of such flexibility in vacancies.

positive – and isolations/temporary closures are required that are not mirrored in the retail sector.

There has been a shift in employment within the sector as previously reported, with many leaving it altogether and there is a real shortage of staff that is compounding all the aforementioned issues, meaning some businesses also have to shut due to staff shortages.

**19 July is expected for final restrictions to be lifted** (5 July): the [final group of businesses will be allowed to reopen](#) and customers will no longer have to check in, distancing measures will be removed and masks will no longer be compulsory. Guidance for workers to [work from home where possible](#) will end and Council's powers to enforce rules will expire also. The under-40s vaccination programme will be accelerated so that every adult will have had their two doses by mid-September. However, the announcement was caveated by the warning that the Government could "reimpose economic and social restrictions at a local, regional or national level", if the data warranted it, further down the line.

**OBR fiscal risk report (6 July):** the Office for Budget Responsibility has published its [fiscal risk report](#), which outlines the three main risks it believes is facing public finances; the pandemic, climate change and public debt. The OBR forecast assumes the UK economy will return to its pre-pandemic levels by mid-2022 (compared to the four and a half years it took after the 2008 crash) and that the Government could face £10billion of spending pressures over the next three

years on three key sectors; healthcare; education; transport.

The **CBI** now expects UK GDP to rise by just over 8% this year, and 6% in 2022 (up from 6% and 5.2% previously). This means that the economy is expected to recover all its COVID-related losses by the end of 2021 – a year earlier than previously expected.

#### **MIDAS Update June 2021**

- Air Lingus are creating 120 mixed roles in Manchester, the first wave of these roles will be for cabin crew. This expansion is attributable to four new routes Air Lingus has launched from Manchester mainly to the US and Caribbean.
- The two main commercial trends currently are:
- High demand for serviced offices with large corporates currently seeking serviced space. Many companies have international / national frameworks with companies like WeWork and Regis and are utilising this relationship to move into serviced spaces.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing demand for BREEAM “Excellent” commercial space. Corporates are pressuring to take the most sustainable spaces possible over the past 6 – 8 months.</li> <li>• Cost does remain a key sensitivity particularly when companies are looking at other northern bases such as Leeds, Sheffield etc.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>BSB Real Estate Sub Group</b></p> <p><b>6.7.21</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted that transport operators were experiencing challenges with staff isolation due to exposure and this was impacting on operations. This had also been felt highly in the F&amp;B sector.</li> <li>• There had been a significant push across a number of wards where vaccination uptake had been low. The outcome was positive, with more people taking up vaccines when options were closer to home/community based.</li> <li>• It was felt that larger organisations that had more bureaucratic reporting structures would delay the return to the office till the</li> </ul>	

autumn. These businesses potentially have the greatest impact on footfall and vibrancy of the city centre.

- Feedback from the agents was that businesses are re-thinking space and their operational footprint as well as cost savings, and that there would remain a fluid approach whilst each individual organisation established what worked best for them.
- It was reported that city centre residential schemes are seeing increased uptake, with some reporting near full occupation. It was felt lifestyle played a large role in this with people attracted back to the city now retail and leisure were reopening.

**Footfall**

**Footfall trends- City Centre**  
(Springboard / CityCo)

Week 26– Sun 27 June to Sat 3 July			
	Week on	Year on year %	Pre Covid

	week %		
St Ann's Sq	+1.6%	+86.7%	43.6 %
Exchange Sq	-3.2%	+89.6%	55.5 %
King Street	+3.9%	+154.7 %	53.4 %
Market Street	+1.8%	+49.3%	21.2 %
New Cathedral St	+3.8%	+99.3%	37.5 %

The busiest day was Saturday with a footfall number of 105,152, a 16% decrease on the previous week. Footfall overall for the week was +1.9% on the previous week.

**Mon 28 June to Sun 4 July  
District Centres**

	Week on week %	Year on year %
Cheetham Hill	-0.6%	+14.2%

Chorlton	-2.2%	+5%
Fallowfield	-18.6%	+104.6%
Gorton	+5.5%	+44%
Harpurhey	+1.9%	+29.1%
Levenshulme	+2.8%	+22.2%
Northenden	-0.6%	+36%
Rushholme	-4.1%	+42.3%
Victoria Avenue	-2.5%	+43.6%
Withington	+1.1%	+51.1%

The overall percentage decrease for district centres on the previous week was 2.6%, whereas the UK figure was -0.8%. The biggest decrease was in Fallowfield, an area with a high student population, many of whom may have returned home as the academic year comes to an end.

**Higher Education Institutions**

From 17th May all remaining university students eligible to return to in-person teaching.

**UoM to keep lectures online:** the University of Manchester has revealed plans to keep lectures online and only provide face-to-face engagement during

	<p>seminars, labs or interactive sessions, going forward. The University has faced backlash for the <a href="#">announcement after confirming</a> that fees will remain at the same level.</p>	
<p><b>Aviation</b></p>	<p>The government added new destinations to the green list. These include:</p> <p>Europe: The Balearic Islands (which include Ibiza, Menorca, Majorca and Formentera), Malta and Madeira</p> <p>Caribbean: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands</p> <p>Other British Overseas Territories: Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory and Pitcairn</p> <p>Six destinations were added to the government's red list on 30 June. They are the Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Haiti, Mongolia, Tunisia and Uganda</p> <p>From 4am 8<sup>th</sup> June, Portugal is on the Amber list. This is the Government's first update to the traffic light list for international travel.</p>	<p>MAG are waiting for Government updates on green list countries and an anticipated announcement on double-vaccinated passengers no longer having to self-isolate on return from amber list countries.</p> <p>Passengers at Manchester Airport have increased slightly following the addition of Malta and the Balearics to the green/green watch lists.</p>

	<p>Government has confirmed that foreign travel can resume from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May under a traffic light system, with countries ranked green, amber or red.</p> <p>Travelers from an amber list country will need 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><b>Culture</b></p>	<p><b>Roadmap for easing COVID restrictions announced 22 Feb</b> Most venues were able to legally open at stage 3, from 17 May.</p> <p>National <u>Event pilots</u> that tested reopening strategies concluded on 15/5. <b>25/6 the government published the report setting out the findings of the first phase of the Events Research Programme. The study having gathered significant data on behaviour, movement, ventilation and testing and showed that with mitigating factors, such as social distancing at pinch</b></p>	<p><b>Reopening Plans</b></p> <p>It had been anticipated the country would be able to progress from stage 3 to stage 4 of the government's Road Map on the 21 June <b>(now planned for 19 July - detailed guidance pending)</b>. Companies had plans in place to maintain step 3 protocols if needed or to move to step 4 protocols if changes to restrictions allowed. For example, MIF ensured provisions were in place for the festival to be delivered to audiences and participants within step 3 protocols as required.</p> <p>However, not being able to open up events to larger audiences continues to have a damaging impact on earned</p>

points, face coverings and staggered entry and exit times, events could be conducted more safely at increased capacities while maintaining a low risk of transmission. However, it suggests that events with higher crowd density and proximity could potentially pose a greater transmission risk. Therefore, additional pilots are to be held to further examine transmission data and build on existing evidence base. These events include Latitude and the Grange Opera Festival. While these additional events continue to gather further evidence, no decisions have been taken on the full reopening of mass events. The government is expected to set out its position on this ahead of Step 4 in the roadmap.

### **Spring Budget announcements 3 March**

#### **Culture Recovery Fund investment**

Previous round of culture recovery funding awards was designed to support companies in need until 30 June 21. **CRF Round 3 announced** 25/6 the third round of funding to support the cultural, heritage and creative sectors was announced.

income levels and the viability of events. It also extends the burden incumbent on venues to maintain guests in household / support bubble groups or with restricted group sizes. Companies are also reporting some customers wishing to cancel ticket based on GM status as a COVID-19 Enhanced Response Area.

Companies have reported the **impact on the freelance supply chain** with difficulties recruiting people to work on events. The sector has lost sections of the workforce to other temporary or permanent forms of employment whilst the period of uncertainty continues for the sector.

**Notable reopening events** included MIF21 which started on 1/7 launch with Sea Change, a socially distanced participatory dance work along Deansgate by choreographer Boris Charmatz – and featuring more than 150 residents among the cast.

Officers are reviewing guidance and the opportunity to apply for ACE's **Cultural Development Fund** with a view of applying for a project aligned with the Culture Recovery Plan.

**CRF Round 3** - Officers planning webinar support for applicants.

£218.5 million will be available through the Culture Recovery Fund:

- Emergency Resource Support programme
- Continuity Support programme.
- The Heritage Stimulus Fund

Further information pending on all 3 stands:

**Emergency Resource Support programme** - funding to organisations that have not previously received CRF funding and are now at imminent risk of failure.

**Continuity Support programme** for organisations that have already received CRF grants to prepare to reopen & return to full capacity, while providing support through to the end of the year.

**Heritage Stimulus Fund** is to be boosted by £35 million to provide grants for work and repair programmes for at risk heritage sites. In addition, a £20 million Cultural Asset Fund will support the

**CRF Award announced 3/7** the Science Museum Group (inc Science & Industry Museum) would receive £6,171,000 of a £60 million fund that the government had awarded to nationally important museum collections and heritage assets to help maintenance projects that were stalled due to the Covid-19 pandemic reach completion.

**Public Accounts Committee report published 23/6** - calls on the Government to support festivals which face a survival threat if they do not receive a government backed insurance indemnity against the risk of cancellation - & raises concerns about whether freelancers and supply chains essential to the culture sector have been able to access support.

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/127/public-accounts-committee/news/156054/survival-threat-to-festivals-and-across-creative-and-culture-sector/>

	<p>National Heritage Memorial Fund's (NHMF) COVID-19 Response Fund, creating a total of £40 million to save heritage assets at risk of loss.</p>	
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued development interest in the city for both commercial and residential scheme.</li> <li>All schemes are back on site, and construction levels increased since the beginning of the pandemic, although with some overall delays to programmes.</li> <li>Risks around supply chains/access to materials, with associated increases in costs.</li> <li>Access to finance for hotel and retail schemes likely to be more challenging.</li> <li>Economic Recovery &amp; Investment Plan identifies key schemes which can drive recovery and create new jobs. Ongoing work to identify funding opportunities for schemes.</li> <li>Long term impact on office demand being monitored on an ongoing basis, but positive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Brownfield Housing Fund</b> - Officers continue to work with GMCA on grant agreements for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round and additional 10% schemes, which need to be in place by end of July 2021.</li> <li><b>Victoria North – Housing Infrastructure Fund:</b> The full team of contractors, designers, programme management, technical advisors and planning consultants required to deliver the £51.6m of infrastructure works that will unlock development opportunities in the Lower Irk Valley has now been appointed and design works, planning applications, public consultations will commence in order to deliver works and expenditure by March 2024. The infrastructure team will comprise of BAM Nuttal, Arup, Volkerstevin, Planit-IE, Turner and Townsend, Pell Ftischmann, Avison Young. The works undertaken by the team will include preparatory works to the brownfield land, connecting services, upgrading and expanding the highways network and flood defence systems.</li> <li><b>Store Street residential scheme planned:</b> a new 15-storey (named M1 Piccadilly), incorporating 54</li> </ul>

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.

**Building Safety Bill published (5 July):** [changes to the way residential buildings will be designed](#) and built have been introduced, with a new Building Safety Regulator formed to oversee the new regime and ensure its implementation. The regulator will be able to remove products from the market if they don't meet safety requirements and give residents in high-rise buildings more routes to raise concerns about safety, amongst other measures.

high-end apartments, is being planned for Store Street by developer LW Group. The project has a GDV of £17m and a planning application is expected to be submitted in the coming weeks. The developer have launched a consultation website for the scheme.

- **New homes planned for Rochdale Road:** [Mulbury is seeking to build 237](#) homes in New Cross, consisting of apartments and townhouses, behind the Marble Arch pub. A planning application will be submitted in the summer.
- **New tenants at Spring Gardens:** Workspace Design & Build and estate agency, Settio have both taken space at [Northspring Spring Gardens](#). There is now only one office remaining in the building.
- **Old Royal Mail hub sold:** the distribution centre off Oldham Road has been sold to a private investor for £45million, reflecting a net initial yield of 2.75%, which is a [record low for the North West](#).
- Following schemes approved at **Planning & Highways Committee on 01/07/21:**
- **Student Castle Scheme at Great Marlborough Street** Car Park - mixed-use building comprising 853 Purpose Built Student Accommodation units, amenity space and support facilities, 786sqm SME incubator workspace, and public realm improvements. (Approval subject to section 106 agreement).
- Demolition of **42, 44 and 46 Thomas Street** (including 41, 43 and 45 Back Turner Street) to facilitate redevelopment of the wider site, providing 20 new homes and active ground floor uses.

		<p>(Approval subject to agreement of Secretary of State).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New JV investing in NW:</b> CityBee, the name for the JV between Europi Property Group and Trinova Real Estate, is looking to invest £200million into a number of large UK cities, including Manchester. They have already acquired Windmill Green <u>and according to reports</u>, are seeking to expand their portfolio.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Affordable Housing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk to developer and investor confidence.</li> <li>• Working with RP's and other developers to understand current impact and forward plans.</li> <li>• Assessing sources and levels of investment, and any obstacles</li> <li>• Investigating grant funding, financial and other support needed to enable early start of key projects</li> <li>• Understanding supply chain issues and identifying appropriate support measures.</li> <li>• Developing guidance/share good practice for safe operation of sites</li> <li>• Expediting design &amp; planning phases of projects.</li> <li>• Risk of registered providers slowing down or pausing programmes to consolidate finances/liquidity</li> </ul>	<p>Current forecasts suggest 484 new affordable homes will be built across Manchester in 2021-22 – 14 of which have already completed. This includes 289 social rent, 115 affordable rent, 79 shared ownership and 2 rent to buy homes.</p> <p>In addition, there are currently 830 new affordable homes currently under construction across the city and expected to complete over the next few years. This includes a number of large-scale developments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Belle Vue Stadium Site</b> – Countryside and Great Places have begun work on the redevelopment of the mixed tenure scheme which includes 130 new affordable homes</li> <li>• <b>Grey Mare Lane Estate</b> – One Manchester have started construction on the first two phases of the Estate Regeneration programme (Blackrock Street &amp; Windermere Close) which are expected completed in 2021-22. The redevelopment is set to deliver c.290 new affordable homes (incl. 124 of reprovision) and the retrofit of 169 homes over the next 5 years. A</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Zero Carbon and Fire safety provision are part of the programmes.</li> <li>• Potential flooding of the PRS sector as the short term let market shrinks.</li> </ul>	<p>Master Plan will be submitted to MCC Executive in <b>the summer of 2021</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gorton Lane</b> – One Manchester have also begun construction on the scheme delivering 109 homes (18 for shared ownership &amp; 91 for rent-to-buy) – expected to complete in 2022-23</li> </ul> <p>Updates on further key schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mosscafe St Vincents</b> are set to acquire the <b>Boundary Lodge</b> student accommodation block in <b>Hulme</b> and redevelop it into a supported living scheme for up to 30 young people to add to their existing accommodation on <b>Booth St West</b></li> <li>• <b>Latimer</b> – the development arm of <b>Clarion</b> – have purchased part of the <b>Former Boddingtons Brewery Site</b>. They have provided an overview for a mixed use scheme including 266 affordable homes (131 shared ownership / 120 social rent / 15 affordable rent).</li> <li>• <b>Great Places</b> have submitted plans for <b>Ancoats Dispensary</b> which is set to go to Planning Committee at the end of July</li> <li>• <b>Great Places</b> has also acquired land from MCC at the <b>Former British Legion Site (Victoria Avenue)</b> which will deliver 25 affordable homes (11 social rent and 14 affordable rent).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transport and Infrastructure</b></p>	<p><b>Transport funding settlement</b></p> <p>At the 2021 Budget the Government committed to the Intra-city Transport Fund – £4.2bn spread across 8 city-</p>	<p><b>Summary of transport activity for week ending 27 June (GM-wide)</b></p>

regions. The Spending Review in 2020 confirmed an initial £2.5bn for the eight city-regions in England from 2022-23 for a 3-year period. GM will receive a portion of this fund, under a negotiated settlement.

### Active Travel Fund

Government has written to local transport authorities outlining their process for bids for capital funding for 2021/22. The total amount of ATF funding being made available by government in 2021/22 is £239m. No specific allocations for local transport authorities have been identified.

### Bike library

On 29 June, TfGM launched a new Greater Manchester bike library scheme. The scheme aims to support communities across GM to set up their own sustainable bike libraries, allowing people to borrow a bike for free. The libraries will allow people to try cycling for free, with the aim of encouraging people to take advantage of new cycling routes being delivered across GM.

- In total there were around 49.7m trips made in Greater Manchester last week – with levels 1% below the previous week.
- This reflects the recent trend of demand flattening over June, with estimated trips at around 50 million for the past 4 weeks.
- This decline was mainly driven by a fall in highway (-0.6%) and cycling (-5.9%) trips – the latter could be due to cooler weather conditions compared to previous weeks.
- On public transport, bus trips were down -2.1%, with activity on Metrolink and rail broadly consistent with the previous week.

### Transport activity by mode for week ending 27 June (GM-wide)

**Bus (patronage):** -2.1% on previous week; -31.4% compared to pre-COVID levels. The busiest day was Tuesday with 353,381 passengers.

**Metrolink (patronage):** +0.2% on previous week; -52.4% compared to pre-COVID levels. The busiest day was Friday with 64,850 passengers.

**Rail (passenger footfall Piccadilly):** no change on previous week; -43.3% compared to pre-COVID levels. The busiest day was Saturday with 68,011 passengers.

Organisations based or working in GM can bid to TfGM for a grant of up to £5,000 to help set up a community bike library.

### **Rebuilding Confidence and Sustainable Transport for Recovery**

Following announcement of the intention to move to stage 4 of the roadmap, TfGM and GM transport operators have been focusing on measures to rebuild confidence in public transport and to ensure sustainable travel – both active travel and public transport – play a full part in Greater Manchester’s social and economic recovery. This includes a new multi modal communications campaign - It’s Time – to promote sustainable travel as an attractive option to the car. It’s Time builds on the current Keep Doing your Bit campaign and will start from mid-July, with the first phase focusing on safety and reassurance to build confidence and continue encouraging mode shift. Key measures would include flexible fares and ticketing, safety and planning, and supporting mode shift, as well as guidance for employers about how sustainable travel can support the future of the workplace and grants for

**Highway (private vehicle trips): -0.6%** on previous week; -4.2% compared to pre-COVID levels. The busiest day was Friday with 5,234,831 trips.

**Cycling (trips): -5.9%** on previous week; +14.2% compared to pre-COVID levels. The busiest day was Tuesday with 160,524 trips.

**Walking (pedestrian trips): -0.7%** on previous week; +13.7% compared to pre-COVID levels. The busiest day was Sunday with 1,748,773 pedestrian trips.

### **Development of GM transport funding bid to Government**

- The Intra-city Transport Fund settlement will be negotiated with Government, with TfGM leading those negotiations.
- TfGM and local authorities are developing a pipeline of priorities to bid to government. MCC officers are working to ensure Manchester priorities are appropriately resourced in the funding bid.
- Formal negotiations with Government are expected to take place in the second half of 2021/22, and the 2021 Spending Review is likely to be a key milestone within this process.

### **Active travel funding bid**

- MCC officers are continuing to develop proposals for the Government’s 2021/22 Active Travel Fund, as part of a

	<p>businesses to support active travel facilities.</p> <p><b>Disability standards for EV charging points</b></p> <p>On 30 June, the DfT announced that in partnership with national disability charity Motability it had commissioned the British Standards Institution to develop accessibility standards for electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints. These standards will provide industry with guidance and drivers with a new clear definition of 'fully accessible', 'partially accessible' and 'not accessible' public EV chargepoints.</p>	<p>GM-wide bid being coordinated by TfGM. The GM submission is expected to be made in early August in line with DfT timeframes for the funding.</p> <p><b>Accessibility to EV chargepoints</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As part of strategic work on EV charging infrastructure for GM, design guidance is being developed to standardise publicly funded EV charging bay markings and signage across GM and ensure that the infrastructure is accessible to all included disabled EV users.</li></ul>
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<p><b>Skills, Labour Market and Business Support</b></p>	<p><b>Furlough and newly unemployed</b></p> <p><b>Headlines include</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In May 2021 there were 34,195 claimants of unemployment benefits in Manchester – down slightly from 35,560 in April.</li> <li>• The latest claimant count data highlights that unemployment in Manchester has fallen slight across all age groups under 65 over the past 3 months with the biggest falls in under 35s.</li> <li>• Just under 80,000 people are currently claiming Universal Credit in Manchester (May 2021) – an increase of 90% in 12 months since the pandemic began.</li> </ul> <p><b>Furlough</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The (provisional) May data for Manchester shows a <b>very significant drop</b> off in furloughed residents from 31,000 in April to 22,600 May. And has halved since the peak in July 2020 of 45,900 Manchester residents</li> </ul>	<p><b>Newly Unemployed Support</b></p> <p>MCFC Market place Event <b><u>30 &amp; 31 July</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 80 employers and <b>9,000 vacancies</b> across a range of sectors have now been secured over 2 days</li> <li>• MCFC and MCC will begin to push messages out as it is a ticketed event</li> <li>• Event will be ‘more than just a jobs fair’, with plenty of job opportunities and training opportunities, alongside a range of support services - debt advice. See <a href="#">attached the brochure</a> MCC is working hard to promote</li> </ul> <p><b>Progress 21 – 23 September.</b></p> <p>- <a href="#">Link here</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ The Growth Company are delivering a large-scale ‘in-person’, one-day conference at Manchester Central</li> <li>▫ One day – 3 events, centred:</li> <li>▫ <b>Careers:-Jobs and careers fair</b> matching employers, employees and support organisations getting people into jobs</li> <li>▫ <b>Business:-</b>offering insight and support on key issues including generating sales, managing cash-flow and raising finance, as we move towards recovery and growth</li> <li>▫ <b>Global:-(Midas)</b> showcasing the city-region on a global stage, and attracting investors and visitors</li> </ul> <p>The phone survey of the 98 residents who have taken up support on the Help to Get work scheme continues. The offer</p>
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- External labour market intelligence from Adzuna is reporting Greater Manchester vacancies at 48,000 (level has remained consistent over the last 2 months)

could include careers advice, welfare advice and support with training.

Redundancies and HR1s remain at a low level in terms of number and volumes of staff impacted, the Newly unemployed partnership continues to respond once notified.

**MMU:** have a voluntary severance scheme in place. Updated meetings with MMU will take place in coming weeks as they choose and match a bespoke offer against their workforce needs.

### **Hospitality**

The partnership continues to co-ordinate a response to hospitality with updated bespoke coms going to

- Businesses (bulletin setting out activity and actions that businesses can take)
- Residents and Partners (bulletin setting out opportunities, how to apply, training)

The sector has established new coms methods such as new dedicated social media accounts.

The Newly Unemployed partnership is monitoring the impact of the coms and wider activity and working on enhancing take up of the JCP offer for the sector. 4 SBWAs are running to support hospitality currently with enhanced coms to be provided to business to increase use.

The partnership has also supported marketing the MCFC hospitality opportunities on the 7-9<sup>th</sup> and 14-16<sup>th</sup> July held at the stadium.

The Partnership is working with culture leads to prepare an offer to support the culture sectors recovery with many similarities to hospitality in relation to underlying causes.

### Offer for 16-19 year olds

The May submission to the DfE shows a slight increase in unknown from 3.7% to 4.1% and a .1% decrease in NEET to 3.6%, a combined figure of 7.7% which is an increase of 0.5% from this time last year.

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.

September guarantee has increased to 79% from 67% at the same time last year – this means recorded on the CCIS system 79% of year 11's has a guaranteed offer of a post 16 destination.

Unknown numbers for May submission have risen to 4.1% from 3.7% in April. This is the first time the unknown has been higher than the NEET figures.

The latest rise in transmission rates has impacted on the transition activities planned by many high schools.

### Offer for 16-19 year olds

A deep dive in the rise of Unknown is underway which includes speaking to other LA's with lower UK rates. More resource to be allocated to reducing the number from now until August.

Letter sent to year 11 students with information about post 16 offer and support.

Letter sent to parents of year 11's with information regarding all the pathways.

Additional funding for RONI students from DfE and HAF available. Working with providers to develop summer provision.

	<p><b>Youth unemployment</b></p> <p>Maximise the opportunities from and work with partners to roll out the Kickstart Scheme.</p>	<p><b>Youth unemployment</b></p> <p>Candidate referrals are now coming in for our first cohort of 7 Kickstart opportunities. We continue to work closely with DWP to increase referrals and support our young people to apply for these roles.</p> <p><b>Kickstart in the park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- first Kickstart event engagement event was held 25<sup>th</sup> June at Wythenshawe Park.</li><li>- Despite the rain, was attended by 25 employers and 5 Gateway Organisations. With a total of 265 Kickstart opportunities available on the day.</li><li>- 107 young people attended the event.</li><li>- So far 85 young people have been referred on to job roles.</li></ul> <p><b>Youth Hub</b></p> <p>Meetings held with DWP with the aim of progressing Youth Hub bids for both Wythenshawe and Manchester Youth Zone. We are working closely with DWP to submit final funding bids.</p> <p><b>SME Grad support scheme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manchester will be launching a pilot SME Graduate support scheme with MMU to support up to 30 grads into employment with SME's.</li></ul>
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<p>Developing a clear offer to support our graduates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working in close partnership with MMU Careers staff to improve employment outcomes for Graduates with ongoing engagement with UoM and UCEN.</li> <li>• MCC working group developing this approach incl. Targeting offer to priority groups and working with HR to consider talent attraction opportunities to MCC.</li> <li>• Data sharing agreement between MCC/ MMU supporting Labour Market Intel needs and intelligence of skills pipeline.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skills and employment support for adults</b></p> <p>Challenge -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll out of phase 2 of the MCC Digital Device Scheme – reaching groups identified as most excluded via the Digital Exclusion Index.</li> <li>• Raising awareness of the digital support.</li> <li>• Ensure that the City's learning provision is responding to new challenges as well as existing challenges.</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Further develop a comms campaign and events to raise the profile of adult learning and the ambition of MAESP -</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Manchester Adult Education and Skills Awards</u></b> was a very successful event. The work of lots of providers and learners was celebrated with winners and nominees generating lots of good examples for future profile raising. Press release about the event <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• First provider newsletter to include – an invitation to the MAESP Awards, opportunities from providers, quarterly LMI update, policy review paper, GMCA funding round up review, Digital inclusion progress and 2021 plans, an invite to MAESP webinars, HOLEX (skills for life) skills and post 16 education bill explanatory notes and the MCFC event.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social Value and Local Benefit</b></p>	<p><b><i>Working with Anchor Institutions to deliver social value</i></b>  – Officers are in the early stages of developing a new</p>

	<p>Challenge: Many residents are not connecting to opportunities created in the city – how can we use social value internally to maximise creation of employment/skills/training opportunities targeted at our residents and use our influence to do the same with organisations externally?</p> <p>Ensure that MCC’s approach to SV reflects current economic circumstances and <i>Think</i> recommendations.</p> <p>Coordinate employment and skills related social value “offers” from across MCC’s largest suppliers and capital projects into a pipeline of opportunities that can be promoted to residents and employment/skills/training organisations.</p>	<p><b>Anchors pilot to establish Manchester as a Living Wage City and maximise employment opportunities.</b></p>
	<p><b>Business Support, Sustainability &amp; Growth</b></p> <p><b>LRSB, ARG and Closed business lockdown grant allocations to 4 July 2021 has been £0.876m last week. £112.614m allocated in total - (£111.468m since the last update).</b></p>	<p><b>Business support, sustainability and growth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discretionary ARG Restart</b> - Top Up ARG funding of <b>£4.311m</b> is expected on 16 July 2021. Officer will work with Rates to establish outstanding grants and develop proposals.</li> <li>• City Centre Growth and Infrastructure and W&amp;S Staff continue to process applications to make payments to businesses quickly</li> </ul>

**Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Economic Survey (headlines).**

- Domestic sales have increased significantly in all 3 sectors groups with construction showing the largest uptick in activity.
- Consumer spending has gone up and there has been an increase in advance orders
- Prospects for bringing more staff out of furlough and additional employment has improved.
- International trade has picked up and showing a positive position for the first time since April 2020.
- More businesses are getting accustomed for the new international trade requirements – but Brexit challenges remain for trade with the EU.

**Business Growth Hub Survey (1.7.2020 mthly)**

- A major concern reported by firms surveyed is the **rising cost of raw materials**, especially acute for

**District Centres Support**

Following the success of the last webinar- the next event is planned for 22 July and will focus on recruitment support and training opportunities available for businesses with a particular focus on Hospitality.

Supporting Local High Street and District centres - reps from Biz Growth Hub, GC, Neighbourhoods and W&S to support the work around comms, safe re-opening.

Initiatives are being developed to support footfall across High Streets and DCs.

- First Business workshop held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Will ensure businesses are directed to support the testing of staff.

firms importing raw materials from the EU.

- Inflationary pressures reported is now at the highest level since the survey began, close to 20% of all firms.
- This data corroborates closely with external UK Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) data reporting record levels of input price inflation amongst firms in the UK across manufacturing, service and construction industry.
- In terms of capital expenditure, around 40% of firms expect to increase their allocations in the year ahead compared with the previous year's budget. Firms are keen to continue investing in and increase investment allocations more towards workforce development, innovation activities and digital transformation in the year ahead.
- 69% of firms (up from 55%) expect profits to increase, while 2% (down from 4%) expect profits to decrease - manufacturing and digital/technology sectors are most likely to report an increase in profit.

Response to recruitment challenges particularly in the in Hospitality sector is in workstream 1

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31% of firms in the last month reported that they experienced an increase in sales (up from 18%), and the sectors most likely to report an increase in sales over the last 8 weeks are manufacturing and health &amp; social care.</li> <li>• 35% of firms are currently recruiting new staff (this has increased significantly in the last month). However, 43% of all respondents think that their workforce skills are only 'partly' at the correct level to meet their business plan objectives for the year ahead, a significant increase from the previous month.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Equalities/ Disadvantaged</b></p> <p>Ensure that disadvantaged and underrepresented groups are supported by activity included in Workstreams 1-6. This would include Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups, young people, over 50's, homeless, veterans, survivors of DV&amp;A, ESA claimants, and those experiencing family poverty.</p> <p>Covid has worsened the situation for many already experiencing inequality –</p>	<p><b>Equalities/ Disadvantaged</b></p> <p>'Uncertain Futures' – women over 50 and work art commission – launch event at MAG on 24 June with a series of interviews. Alongside this a MICRA policy event will be held in November hosted by researchers from the University of Manchester and MMU and include solution focussed conversations with policy makers on the topic of 'what needs to happen for women over 50 regarding work and why?'. The commission will run until May 2022. W&amp;S team leading on a series of 'Careers Talks/Events to coincide with the art commission from October 21 through to March 22.</p>

	<p>the challenge is to ensure support is targeted to reach the communities in most need.</p>	<p>'Sustainable Work' workstream of the Family Poverty Group connecting with health colleagues around inclusion and removing barriers to engagement for the Caribbean community.</p> <p>Linking with WS4 priority to ensure adult learners across curriculum are representative of our communities - primary research on community-based learning and pathways to positive life outcomes being undertaken to focus on high priority areas linked to the Digital Exclusion index</p>
<p><b>Funding</b></p>	<p>No specific known impacts on current external funding bids caused by C19 as yet. Known bids progressing through funding approval processes as expected.</p> <p>Team in City Policy developing a funding action plan based on C19 recovery and Corporate priorities</p> <p>Working with City Centre Growth to map funding opportunities through the 2020 Spending Review</p>	<p>Current funding bids and opportunities:</p> <p><b>1. The Levelling up Fund bids</b> for Withington Village and Culture in the City were submitted ahead of the deadline on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June. We have received an automatic confirmation of receipt. It is anticipated the announcement on the outcome of the bids will be in the autumn.</p> <p><b>2. Energy Savings Trust's (EST) eCargo Bike Grant Fund, Local Authority Scheme 2021/2022.</b> A bid was submitted on 2<sup>nd</sup> July seeking £183k to purchase 28 eCargo bikes, 6 eCargo trailers and 8 eCargo boxes (see Appendix 1) for use by various MCC teams and 6 city partners. The objective is to reduce the carbon emissions associated with the delivery of goods and services. This is a resubmission following extension of the scheme. Confirmation of funding expected during July.</p> <p><b>3. Community Renewal Fund</b> bids that have been approved via GMCA have now been submitted to the CRF</p>

		<p>nationally. Confirmation of successful bids expected by end of July.</p> <p>4. Officers are reviewing guidance and the opportunity to apply for ACE's <b>Cultural Development Fund</b> with a view of applying for a project aligned with the Culture Recovery Plan. The Manchester submission is to be focused on Z-Arts in Hulme and will we can bid for up to £5m with submission on 23rd July 2021. Bid content and final amount will be determined over the next 2 weeks.</p> <p>5. The <b>Community Ownership Fund</b> prospectus is overdue (was planned for June). We are expecting this imminently. The UK government has launched a new £150 million Community Ownership Fund to help ensure that communities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can support and continue benefiting from the local facilities, community assets and amenities most important to them.</p> <p>Community groups will be able to bid for up to £250,000 matched-funding to help them buy or take over local community assets at risk of being lost, to run as community-owned businesses. We will provide a fuller briefing when the prospectus is finally issued</p>
<p><b>External Influencing &amp; Lobbying</b></p>	<p>The Government's economic response to C19 has been fast moving and feeding in Manchester's priorities has required a coordinated approach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UK Core Cities are developing a proposal for the Spending Review which will focus on increased housing numbers, sustainability and quality. This builds on the work to develop a 'carbon neutral homes' offer as part of COP26.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The proposal will set out enhanced housing delivery numbers based on aggregate figures across cities, alongside the resources, tools and policy changes needed to deliver, including an assessment of what will unlock brownfield and viability.</li><li>• Manchester's submission to the Spending Review will be developed over the summer and the current proposal is to develop two distinct products: the first being our overall narrative, high level asks, detailed financial asks and other key asks e.g. on climate change/COP26; and the second being focused on North Manchester covering physical regeneration and infrastructure, economic and people based elements.</li></ul>
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