

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee – 9 September 2021

Subject: Update on COVID-19 Activity

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

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.

Wards Affected: All

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

Manchester Strategy Outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
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 02/09/2021 for meeting on 03/09/2021. 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>ONS National Statistics 26th August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 20 August 2021, the total volume of online job adverts was broadly similar to the previous week at 128% of its February 2020 average level (Adzuna). • In the week to 21 August 2021, overall retail footfall in the UK decreased by 2% and was at 80% of the level seen in the equivalent week of 2019 (Springboard). • In the week ending 22 August 2021, the seven-day average number of UK daily flights was 3,256, a 4% increase from the previous week (3,142) (EUROCONTROL). • 90% of adults who left their home reported wearing a face covering in the latest week; this was broadly similar to the previous week (Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, 18 to 22 August 2021). 	<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>Comms update</p> <p>Link to the film: Manchester is back. Stronger than ever. - YouTube</p> <p>The film performed most well on Twitter with over 100k impressions, 13k view of the video and over</p>

Changes to Covid rules (16 August): on Monday, the rules for [self-isolation changed](#) so that anyone who has been in close contact with a person who has the virus will not have to self-isolate if they have been fully vaccinated. The vaccine programme will be extended to all [16- and 17-year olds next week](#).

National Hydrogen Strategy: [the Government has set out what](#) it will do to establish a hydrogen economy. There is currently a near zero market for low carbon hydrogen produced or used in the UK and the strategy is intended as a jumping off point; a roadmap in the strategy outlines how the Gov expects the sector to grow. A number of funds have been introduced for the development of key sectors. Three accompanying consultations have also been released; [Low Carbon Hydrogen Standards Consultation](#), [Net Zero Hydrogen Fund Consultation](#); [Hydrogen Business Model Consultation](#).

Highways England rebrand: the government department responsible for the strategic highway network will [now be](#)

300 likes. Our 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 only delays their

known as 'National Highways' and has appointed a new CEO.

Findings from Gov commercial rent call for evidence (4 August): the Government has published the findings from its call for evidence on the impact of Covid on commercial rents. Following the call, the Government has extended the ban on evictions by commercial landlords from the end of June to 25 March 2022 and announced that legislation will be introduced during this parliamentary session to support the orderly resolution of rental payments accrued by commercial tenants during the pandemic. A full analysis of the results [can be found on the Government's website](#), showing the division between landlords and tenants.

Cyber Runway launched (13 August): a programme of support for cyber businesses across the UK has [been announced by DCMS](#). Expressions of interest are being welcomed from businesses who are interested in supporting the programme as either a mentor, investor or a partner.

Avison Young Big Nine report: the [quarterly report from Avison Young](#) shows that the office market in the city is

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 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 already reported, with many leaving it altogether and there is a real shortage of staff at the minute that is compounding all the aforementioned issues meaning some businesses also have to shut due to staff shortages.

19th July- Several city centre nightclubs did a NYE's style countdown and one venue had a full capacity ticketed queue of 800. Most nightclubs operating a tickets only entry. Of the 650 hospitality venues, almost all will be open by the coming week end (only 6% were not operating in some form). Many night time venues had reinvented themselves during the pandemic to allow trading to continue and are now reverting back or upgrading to previous operating patterns.

Prior to stage 4, additional opening and operating safely guidance has been issued to businesses and

continuing to perform well. Landlords are allowing for shorter leases and grey space (space surplus to requirements to the tenant that can be sublet) is coming back to the market. In Q2 2021, 220,183sq ft was leased in the city centre, 25% below the 10-year average, however a similar level to Q1. The largest deal was at Pacific House, Atlas Business Park in Wythenshawe where 33,567sq ft was leased. In the city centre the largest deal was 58 Mosley Street, taken by Instant Group to provide managed workspace for DWP. The headline rent remains at £38.50 psq ft.

Lloyd's Recovery Tracker: the [August recovery tracker](#) from the bank sets out the economic position of the UK, with the data suggesting that the growth seen earlier in the year is starting to slow down due to increase in operating expenses for businesses (staff and materials shortages and supply chain delays). The technology sector outperformed in economic output compared to the other sectors monitored in the tracker.

Boohoo to expand (12th August): around 5,000 new jobs will be created by the clothing firm, after investment was secured. The jobs will be created across

venues including for nightclubs and for weddings and funerals. Bulletins continue to encourage staff vaccination and regular use of Lateral Flow Tests with comms that protecting staff protects the business. The Licensing and Out of Hours Team is visiting all nightclub premises and engaging re risk assessments and now working until 04.30hrs; officers are also monitoring re noise levels (particularly with current ventilation advice) and waste from external operations. 'Pinging' is having impact on hospitality staff and on waste and cleansing staff availability.

the UK, but the head office will remain in Manchester.

Inward investment - MIDAS

April 2020 - March 2021 Manchester won 29 inward investment projects which will create 1,017 jobs in the following sectors

- 152 jobs in Advanced manufacturing
- 475 in the Creative and Digital sector
- 204 in Finance, Professional and Business Services
- 186 in Life Sciences

Footfall

Footfall trends- City Centre
(Springboard / CityCo)

Week 34 22nd August – 28th August

	Week on week %	Year on year %	Pre Covid
St Ann's Sq	11.4%	+41.4%	23.3%
Exchange Sq	9.0%	+94.0%	44.2%
King Street	7.1%	+3.7%	36.2%

Market Street	12.9%	+7.6%	20.8%
New Cathedral St	4.2%	+18.2%	21.8%

Week 34 23rd August – 29th August

	Week on week %	Year on year %
Cheetham Hill	29.8%	5.2%
Chorlton	7.2%	5.8%
Fallowfield	9.9%	24.1%
Gorton	36.5%	16.4%
Harpurhey	14.8%	10%
Levenshulme	29.9%	4.8%
Northenden	15.9%	21.5%
Rushholme	19.4%	21.3%
Victoria Avenue	11.8%	8.2%
Withington	9.8%	17.8%

Higher Education Institutions

There is some nervousness re student return, particularly regarding cluster outbreaks. A blended working approach will continue for now. Testing will continue to manage potential infections and outbreaks.

	<p>MMU are keen to have staff and students back.</p> <p>UoM have pulled back from public statement re. online learning, however are thinking it through.</p>	
Aviation		<p>Update from MAG:</p> <p>The latest change in traffic light system will allow customers a few more options in the remaining days of the summer season. However, these changes will make little difference in the UK aviation and travel industry recovery, which is already recovering at half the rate of Europe.</p> <p>Europe's stronger recovery has been driven by the removal of testing requirements on vaccinated travellers.</p> <p>Manchester Airport has also been working with the Local Resilience Forum and the Government in facilitating repatriation flights from Afghanistan.</p>
Culture	<p>Roadmap for easing COVID restrictions announced 22 Feb Most venues were able to legally open at stage 3, from 17 May and stage 4 commenced from 19 July.</p>	<p>Culture Reopening Plans</p> <p>Wider reopening plans being implemented by venues from 19 July</p>

National Event pilots & Research So far only findings of Phase 1 have been published. Phase 2 events have completed but not yet published and Phase 3 events are ongoing. It should be noted that the Phase 1 pilot events took place before the infectious delta variant became prevalent.

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.

Culture Recovery Fund

CRF Round 3 announced 25/6 for the cultural, heritage and creative sectors. £218.5 million will be available through the Culture Recovery Fund:

- ACE Emergency Resource Support programme (now live) Application deadline is 14 October & deadline to get permission to apply is 30 September. Limit on the cumulative total of CRF funding that any one organisation can receive this is £4m for non-profit organisations and £1.5m for commercial organisations except in exceptional circumstances.

Cultural organisations are sharing approaches and plans for the next phase of reopening and trying to develop some consistent approaches:

Consistency amongst venues: Masks to be worn by staff; wearing of masks to be encouraged in audience but not mandatory; enhanced cleaning continues with sanitizer; ventilation continues to be an important message, especially moving into the autumn.

Variances between venues:

- Social distancing - some will relax but continue in some capacity, some need to move to full capacity
- Some venues offering mix of standard and socially distanced performances to support returning audiences
- table service in bars and restaurants - some will relax however some will continue
- Refund / exchange policy – different approaches being taken.

Bridgewater Hall – is inviting audiences to show either proof of two vaccines or a negative LFT/PCR within 24 hours – The Hall is returning to normal capacity and has some sold out events in the first

- ACE Continuity Support programme. - Very narrow window for applications likely to have impacted application rates. Opened for applications 16/8 - closed on 27/8.
- minimum amount that could be applied for was £25,000. Max limits relate to org type and amounts successfully applied for in previous rounds of the Culture Recovery Fund (up to £4m)
- The Heritage Stimulus Fund - Historic England is distributing grants via two schemes (now live) a) Grants for Programmes of Major Works and b) Major Repairs for Heritage at Risk.
- Culture Recovery Fund Round 3 Resource Grants - Historic England & National Lottery Heritage Fund are also delivering two further CRF funds (now live) a) Emergency Resource Support aims to provide emergency funding for organisations who are at imminent risk of failure (EOI by 30/9). b) the Continuity Support fund for those that have already received support from the CRF opened for applications 16/8 will close 29/10.

few weeks of September. The requirements are clear on the website and via email to audiences. (NB venues cannot legally refuse entry to anyone unless they have a positive test result or are showing clear symptoms.)

Manchester Pride (27-30 Aug) and Parklife events (11-12 Sept) are also requesting audiences demonstrate their covid status.

CRF Round 3 -

ACE Emergency Resource Support programme - Officers hosted webinar support for applicants 23/7 for companies to apply that have not previously received CRF funding and are now at imminent risk of failure.

ACE Continuity Support programme - Officers hosted webinar support for applicants 20/8 delivered by external fundraising expert

	<p>Live Events Reinsurance Scheme</p> <p>6/8 UK Gvt announced the Government Actuary's Department (GAD)'s new £750m scheme to indemnification insurance scheme to make cover available against the cancellation, postponement or abandonment of events due to new UK Civil Authority legal restrictions in response to Covid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does <u>not</u> cover cancellation as a result of operating restrictions such as social distancing, or self-isolation of staff or performers. (so non appearance is not covered). • The cost of the scheme is a 5% premium, with an excess of 5% or £1,000 per claim, whichever is the greater. • The scheme will run from 1/9 for 12 months as a bolt-on from participating insurers. 	
<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, 	<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. • Victoria North – Housing Infrastructure Fund: The full team of contractors, designers, programme

	<p>although with some overall delays to programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risks around supply chains/access to materials, with associated increases in costs. • Access to finance for hotel and retail schemes likely to be more challenging. • 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>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 planning application for 30 affordable homes and a park for South Collyhurst has been approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trinity Island consultation: Renaker has started a pre-planning consultation on its Trinity Island site at St John's. The proposals are for 2,000 apartments, across four residential towers, ranging in height from 39 to 60 storeys. The consultation ran till 27th August and the proposals can be viewed on the dedicated website. • Renaissance: An application for Premier House, the office building on the complex, has now been submitted. A dedicated website has been developed where updates can be found as plans progress. • Slate Wharf Castlefield plans: the site in Castlefield has recently been acquired by Prestbury Estates. Prestbury have announced that they will soon begin work
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		<p>on starting with site investigation work. The planning permission includes 24 apartments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Northenden development: A planning application has been submitted for the development of 228 homes at the Manchester College's campus in Northenden by Miller Homes. The development includes two- to four-bedroom homes, with 46 homes to be affordable. The campus will close in September 2022.• New office openings: wealth management business, Cazenove Capital, will open a new office in 2 St Peter's Square as a base in the north west. Two businesses are due to move into Hyphen (on Mosley Street): Hunter Education and Carbon Recruitment.• Kampus: The Stack at Kampus has completed, which has seen a 1960s tower converted into 123 apartments and a resident's gym. The conversion of the other buildings in the complex are still ongoing.• Property firm opens Manchester office: Cluttons, a property consultancy and estate agents, has taken space at 76 King Street for the eight employees in the Manchester office but this number is expected to grow.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Committee on 29 July approved the following schemes: • Four planning applications for Back of Ancoats to provide a total of 225 new homes (at Jersey Street, Ancoats Dispensary & Downley Drive) and the Ancoats Mobility Hub. • 34 Great Jackson Street, Manchester - two 56 storey residential buildings, providing 1,037 homes, with ground floor commercial uses and landscaping. • Embassy Village at Egerton Street/Bridgewater Canal, a conversion of 40 shipping containers to provide managed supported housing for homeless people. • Phoenix House, Ellesmere Street Manchester - residential-led mixed use development, providing a mix of 237 apartments and town houses, along with 338 sq. m. of commercial floorspace, new public realm and landscaping.
<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 	<p>Current forecasts suggest 497 new affordable homes will be built across Manchester in 2021-22 – 30 of which have already completed. This includes 278 social rent, 104 affordable rent, 113 shared ownership and 2 rent to buy homes.</p> <p>In addition, there are currently over 1,000 new affordable homes currently under construction</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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>across the city and expected to complete over the next few years. This includes a number of large-scale developments including the Former Belle Vue Stadium Site (130 affordable homes) and Gorton Lane (109 affordable homes) and 2 city centre schemes delivering Affordable Private Rent at Swan Street (19 homes) and Addington Street (50 homes).</p> <p>Updates on further key schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alongside their purchase of the Former Boddingtons Brewery Site, Latimer - the development arm of Clarion – have acquired the final phase at Islington Wharf which will provide 54 shared ownership homes as part of a mixed tenure development • Great Places secured planning consent for 68 new affordable homes at Downley Drive and 39 new affordable homes at Ancoats Dispensary at July Planning Committee. • Grey Mare Lane Estate – One Manchester have started construction on the first two phases of the Estate Regeneration programme (Blackrock Street & Windermere Close). The redevelopment is set to deliver c.290 new affordable homes (incl. 124 of re-provision) and the retrofit of 169 homes over the next 5 years.
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Transport and Infrastructure

Recovery of travel to the Regional Centre

The easing of restrictions through the roadmap has seen an increase in trips to the Regional Centre. Trips of less than 2 miles are now in line with the November 2019 baseline, while trips of over 20 miles have seen the highest rate of growth over this period. For example, data from the week following the move to step 4 (ending 25 July) showed trips outside of GM increased 12% compared to just a 5% increase for those trips wholly within the GM boundary.

The return of trips to the Regional Centre is not even across the week. Friday and Saturday are the days closest to pre-pandemic trips levels for both GM (69%) and outside GM trips (79%) reflecting the importance of leisure and hospitality sectors in attracting visitors and supporting recovery. Trips between Monday and Thursday stand at around 65% of pre-Covid levels, perhaps reflecting different working patterns emerging through the pandemic.

Summary of transport activity for week ending 22 August (GM-wide)

- In total there were around 49m trips made in Greater Manchester last week – with levels around 1.5% below the previous week.
- Trips in GM reduced on both workdays and over the weekend. The summer holidays could have contributed to behaviour change in regular users, reflecting trends in previous years. Public transport trips were in line with the previous week, with highways trips 1% lower and active travel activity 3% lower.
- Larger scale events, such as the first home Manchester City fixture at the Etihad on Saturday, led to increased demand and some traffic congestion around key ingress and egress hotspots.

Transport activity by mode for week ending 22 August (GM-wide)

Bus (patronage): -1.5% on previous week; -36.3% compared to pre-COVID levels. The busiest day was Friday with 328,419 passengers.

Metrolink (patronage): +8.0% on previous week; -51.8% compared to pre-COVID levels. The busiest day was Friday with 56,030 passengers.

Rail (passenger footfall Piccadilly): +14.1% on previous week; -30.4% compared to pre-COVID

In addition to the leisure, hospitality and retail draw of the Regional Centre, the increase in non-GM trips is also likely attributable to travellers using transport hubs to take trips to destinations outside of GM during the school holiday period.

It's Time updates

On 15 August, TfGM launched a new transport recovery campaign, aiming to encourage the public and businesses to challenge their pre-covid norms and travel behaviours and to ultimately increase uptake of public transport and active travel.

Flexible ticketing is being promoted for Metrolink customers, including Clipper, EarlyBird and a 'Bee Flex Daily' tickets enabling passengers to touch in and out using their contactless card or device for every journey over the course of a day and never pay more than they would for a one-day travelcard. Further products are in development to be launched shortly.

levels. The busiest day was Friday with 75,242 passengers.

Highway (private vehicle trips): -1.2% on previous week; -4.9% compared to pre-COVID levels. The busiest day was Friday with 5,151,362 trips.

Cycling (trips): -15.9% on previous week; -16.0% compared to pre-COVID levels. The busiest day was Friday with 125,896 trips.

Walking (pedestrian trips): -1.5% on previous week; +14.1% compared to pre-COVID levels. The busiest day was Monday with 1,733,475 pedestrian trips.

**Skills, Labour
Market and
Business Support**

Headlines include

- In July 2021 there were 33,464 claimants of unemployment benefits in Manchester – down slightly from 32,280 in June.
- The number of furloughed residents has continued to drop sharply as COVID-19 restrictions on the economy have been lifted. 17,900 residents were furloughed in June, down from 22,900 in May. The majority of residents that remain furloughed are employed in accommodation & food services or wholesale & retail. There is no evidence yet that formerly furloughed residents have moved onto UC, where the number of claimants has remained broadly stable at just under 80,000 since the start of the year.

The Furlough scheme will end on 30th September 2021. All claims for September must be submitted by 14th October 2021. Currently the Government will pay 60% of wages up to a maximum cap of £1,875 for the hours the employee is on furlough.

Newly Unemployed Support

MCFC Market place Event final numbers; over 1,600 attendees, 16,000 vacancies and 60+ employers over the 2 days.

Progress 21 – 23 September.

- [Link here](#)

- The Growth Company delivering a large-scale ‘in-person’, one-day conference at Manchester Central.

Hospitality

JCP and MCC are currently supporting hospitality businesses Tokyo Industries, Bar Pop and Cruz 101 with recruitment through a variety of approaches.

	<p>Offer for 16-19 year olds</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>June DfE submission was NEET 4.0% and Unknown is 3.1% which is an improvement on May's submission of a combined NEET /Unknown of 7.3%</p> <p>September guarantee has increased to 79% from 67% at the same time this year – this means recorded on the CCIS system 79% of year 11's has a guaranteed offer of a post 16 destination.</p> <p>Increase in A level Results this year will put an additional pressure on some universities to accommodate all students.</p>	<p>Offer for 16-19 year olds</p> <p>Five High Schools have employed Transition Mentors to work with their high-risk RONI students over the summer and into the autumn term. This will be evaluated in the autumn term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Princes Trust and Growth Company are both providing summer provision targeted at NEET young people. MCC is monitoring impact of improved A level grades on students getting places at University.
	<p>Youth unemployment</p> <p>Maximise the opportunities from and work with partners to roll out the Kickstart Scheme.</p>	<p>MCC Kickstart opportunities – Recruitment continues for the first 7 Kickstart placements. Interviews to taking place w/c 16th August</p>

		Manchester Growth Company and Progress 21, to boost applications.
	<p>Skills and employment support for adults</p> <p>Challenge -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out of phase 2 of the MCC Digital Device Scheme – reaching groups identified as most excluded via the Digital Exclusion Index. • Raising awareness of the digital support. • Ensure that the City's learning provision is responding to new challenges as well as existing challenges. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promotion of digital bootcamp programmes picked up, a number of providers struggling to get sign ups from priority groups. 	<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"> • August bulletin targeted at providers drafted and to be shared wk/c 20th August • Majority of providers quieter of summer holidays. <p><i>Support all residents to access and effectively engage with the internet for both work and life –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCC Digital Device Scheme – 2029 residents supported to become digital citizens • Phase 2 of consultation for branding for digital inclusion campaign.

	<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>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><i>Working with Anchor Institutions to deliver social value</i> – Officers are in the early stages of developing a new Anchors pilot to establish Manchester as a Living Wage City and maximise employment opportunities. Officers are currently engaging partners to be on this pilot, in readiness for a September launch.</p> <p><i>Maximise Social Value opportunities arising from Victoria North and North Manchester General Hospital developments</i> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options appraisal looking at establishing a construction skills hub produced by Think Trinity Ltd leading, was considered at Work and Skills Board and work will continue to be developed. CLES commissioned to review FEC development area business plans from a social value perspective provided with initial learning disseminated into the contractors and social value implementation approach.
	<p>Business Support, Sustainability & Growth</p>	<p>Business Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team are continuing to prioritise ongoing enquiries and complaints and reports and returns in relation to post payment assurance for BEIS.

- Officers in place to reach out and survey some of those businesses who benefitted from a grant .

District Centres Support

The next SME business support webinar is planned for 28 September 2021 and will have 3 areas of focus:

1. Newly unemployed / Furlough scheme coming to the end for any employers using this scheme The Manchester Employment Support partnership will present this session

2. Hospitality Sector Support

3. Kickstart and Apprenticeships including grants.

Partnership work is underway to support Local High Street and District centres.

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

- First Business workshop held on Thursday 6th May – with a Business Resilience workshop and update on Biz Grants.

	<p>Equalities/ Disadvantaged</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&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>'Uncertain Futures ' – women over 50 and work art commission –launch event at MAG on 24 June with a series of interviews. The commission will run until May 2022.</p> <p>W&S team leading on a series of 'Careers Talks/Events to coincide with the art commission from October 21 through to March 22. Topics include: Career Change; Digital upskilling; employment rights; menopause and work; English language and work</p> <p>Citywide Work Club network being developed to encourage sharing resources, best practice and successes. A new online platform has been set up to enable better collaboration – 50 individuals from a number of work club settings have already signed up.</p>
<p>Funding</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>Funding Announcements</p> <p>Proptech Engagement Fund – MHCLG have announced a new fund to pilot new approaches to digital engagement around the planning process. 12 awards up to £100,000 each will be made with EOIs in by 31st August 2021. MCC have made a submission to support engagement around the Local Plan.</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>Funding in Progress</p> <p>Levelling up Fund bids for Withington Village and Culture in the City were submitted ahead of the deadline on Friday 18th 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. No further update at present.</p> <p>Community Renewal Fund – applicants were expected to hear by end of July but this has been delayed. No further update at present.</p> <p>Funding Approved</p> <p>Energy Savings Trust's (EST) eCargo Bike Grant Fund, Local Authority Scheme 2021/2022. . Confirmation of funding received.</p>
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