

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee – 11 November 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 28/10/2021 for meeting on 29/10/2021. 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 Indicators 21st October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total volume of online job adverts on 15 October 2021 grew by 2% from the previous week, to 143% of its February 2020 average level; the "transport, logistics and warehouse" category is now more than four times as high as its February 2020 average level (Adzuna). • Transactions at Pret A Manger stores increased in all regions and transport locations except Manchester and Scotland in the week to 14 October 2021 (Pret A Manger). • The system average price (SAP) of gas decreased by 6% in the week to 17 October 2021; this was the first weekly fall in 13 weeks (National Grid). • Almost one in six businesses (16%) intend to use increased homeworking as a permanent business model going forward, with the main reasons for this being improved staff well-being, reduced overheads and increased productivity (Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS)). The surveyed businesses ranged from SME to larger businesses and was a representative sample. 	<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 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.</p>

- The seven-day average estimate of UK seated diners in the week to 18 October 2021 was 119% of the level in the equivalent week of 2019; the corresponding figure for Manchester and London were 121% and 86%, respectively (OpenTable).
- The seven-day average number of UK daily flights was 3,625 in the week ending 17 October 2021, this was 59% of the level seen in the equivalent week of 2019; the highest this figure has been since the first UK wide lockdown (EUROCONTROL).

Government unveils net zero plan (19 October): the Government has published its long-awaited [Net Zero Strategy](#), alongside the [Heat and Buildings Strategy](#), with its commitment to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030, decarbonising the electricity supply, investment in hydrogen production, aim to have 10% sustainable aviation fuel by 2030, £2bn investment to help half of journeys in towns and cities to be cycled or walked by 2030, and grants for upgrade gas boilers to heat pumps.

Roadmap for green financial systems (18 October): the Chancellor has unveiled a roadmap for the Government's ambitions to green the financial system. It introduced Sustainability Disclosure Requirements which would mean that every investment product would have to set out the environmental impact of the activities it finances and justify clearly any sustainability claims it

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 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.

makes. The [Greening Finance: A Roadmap to Sustainable Investing](#) is available to read.

Inflation dips slightly: latest ONS data has shown that inflation was at 3.1% for September, down on 3.2% in August. The ONS said that this was because prices in restaurants rose less in August than last year when the Eat Out to Help Out scheme was operating. Industry is expecting further price increases due to rising energy costs, supply chain disruption and the withdrawal of VAT reductions for the hospitality industry.

Consumer confidence down: the GfK Consumer Confidence survey has put consumer confidence in the UK at -17 for October, down four points on September. The survey found that households were less optimistic about their personal finances over the next year and were less likely to make any big purchases.

Impact of VAT rise: a VAT Survey undertaken by the Tourism Alliance, UK Hospitality, BBPA and Alva, shows that the current temporary reduced rate of VAT of 12.5% is a lifeline to many tourism and hospitality businesses, with funding being spent on keeping businesses afloat, complying with Covid requirements, and paying staff and suppliers. The findings show that reverting the VAT level to 20% could have serious consequences for businesses, with 4 in 10 saying it would likely lead to cutbacks and job losses

Manchester office deals continue: the Manchester Office Agents Forum report that Q3 figures are significantly better for 2021 than they were for the same period in 2020. A total of 257,164sqft was transacted from July to September 2021, which is also 17% more than the

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 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.

14 September – temporary licences enabling use of outside space by hospitality will not be renewed in most cases over the winter. This will give the opportunity to look long term at use of space. Where licences are part of already approved schemes, these will continue. Comms going out this week.

24 September – Christmas markets will return to the city centre for 2021. Piccadilly Gardens will be the site for an expanded 'winter gardens' featuring market stalls, lighting, food and drink, seating areas and entertainment space.

12th October – security measures around the temporary outside space for hospitality will be removed 18/19th October. Consideration is being given to longer term options taking into account needs of all parties including residents and neighbouring businesses together with the city's overall objective to increase space available to pedestrians.

	<p>deals done in Q2. The MOAF expects to see demand continue on this trajectory and for at least 1million sqft transacted overall in 2021. Significant transactions include 87,130sqft taken by games developer Cloud Imperium Games at the Manchester Goods Yard, Accenture taking 25,000sqft at Circle Square and Deliveroo taking 10,000sqft at 5 New York Street</p>	
<p>Comprehensive Spending Review 27.10.21</p>	<p>Economic overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In September, inflation was at 3.1% and predicted to rise to 4% over the next year • The OBR predicts that growth will be at 6.5% for this year and they then expect the economy to grow by 6% in 2022 • The OBR predicted that unemployment would hit 12% but they have revised this to 5.2% • Wages have risen, compared to February 2020, in real terms by 3.5% • Borrowing as a percentage of GDP is expected to be 7.9% this year and then drop to 3.3% in 2022 and then 2.4% in 2023 <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £11.5billion for up to 180,000 affordable homes, targeted on brownfield sites • Residential Property Developers Tax, which I can confirm will be levied on developers with profits over £25m at a rate of 4% (which will fund removal of cladding from high-risk buildings) <p>Levelling Up</p>	

- First allocation for the Levelling Up Fund (winning projects have been announced)
- First allocation for the Community Ownership Fund (none in Manchester)
- £5.7billion for English city regions over five years for upgrades to transport networks to create London-style integrated settlements
- £850million for museums, galleries, libraries, and local cultural venues
- £2.6billion for UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Transport, energy & environment

- £6.1 billion to back the Transport Decarbonisation Plan
- Confirmed £1billion funding for Net Zero Innovation Portfolio
- £625 million for the Nature for Climate Fund
- £385 million Advanced Nuclear Fund

Businesses

- 25% increase investment into R&D to £20million by 2024-2
- Temporary increase to the headline rates of tax relief for theatres, museums, orchestras and galleries to March 2024
- Alcohol duty rates simplified and a new Small Producer Relief and Draught Relief which will cut duty by 5%
- New 50% business rates discount for businesses in the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors in England

- From 2023, businesses will be able to make property improvements and not pay extra business rates for 12 months
- 25% increase investment into R&D to £20million by 2024-2 and changes to R&D tax relief

Skills

- Increase in skills spending by 42%
- Launching UK-wide numeracy programme for adults called Multiply

Footfall

Footfall trends- City Centre (Springboard / CityCo)

Week 42 17th - 23rd October

	Week on week %	Year on year %	Pre Covid
St Ann's Sq	-3.7%	52.5%	-35.6%
Exchange Sq	7.4%	43.7%	-24.1%
King Street	5.2%	25.0%	-42.2%
Market Street	-5.3%	50.2%	-28.6%
New Cathedral St	-8.9%	64.7%	-26.3%

Footfall trends- District Centres (Springboard)

Week 42 18th -24th October

	Week on week %	Year on year %

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Cheetham Hill</td> <td>-9.4%</td> <td>3.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chorlton</td> <td>-5.1%</td> <td>11.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fallowfield</td> <td>-11.5%</td> <td>27.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gorton</td> <td>-13.6%</td> <td>14.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harpurhey</td> <td>-11.6%</td> <td>4.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Levenshulme</td> <td>-10.7%</td> <td>6.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northenden</td> <td>-10.0%</td> <td>21.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rushholme</td> <td>-27.4%</td> <td>9.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Victoria Avenue</td> <td>-8.3%</td> <td>13.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Withington</td> <td>-0.5%</td> <td>14.2%</td> </tr> </table>	Cheetham Hill	-9.4%	3.5%	Chorlton	-5.1%	11.1%	Fallowfield	-11.5%	27.9%	Gorton	-13.6%	14.4%	Harpurhey	-11.6%	4.9%	Levenshulme	-10.7%	6.2%	Northenden	-10.0%	21.8%	Rushholme	-27.4%	9.1%	Victoria Avenue	-8.3%	13.2%	Withington	-0.5%	14.2%	
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Higher Education Institutions	<p>MMU - Teaching on campus commenced, testing and vacs taking place on campus.</p> <p>RNCM - 90% students back, 10% still online due to Covid.</p> <p>UoM - have 2k more students in the first year intake than in previous years, but had anticipated and planned for this. MECD and the Royce Institute opened this Sept.</p> <p>UoM reported at BSB that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student numbers remain high and are at 46,500 registered with a few still going through registration. 																															
Aviation	<p>From 4am Monday 4 October 2021, the rules for international travel to England will change from the red, amber, green traffic light system to a single red list of countries and simplified travel measures for arrivals from the rest of the world. The rules for travel from countries and territories not on the red list will depend on your vaccination status.</p>	<p>The 23/24 Oct weekend, the beginning of half term in many places, was Manchester's busiest weekend since March 2020, and we have seen an unprecedented increase in bookings for half term. This has been helped by the relaxed testing rules that came into effect from 24 October meaning fully vaccinated arrivals into the UK can avoid PCR tests and instead have a cheaper rapid lateral flow test on day 2.</p>																														

	<p>If you are fully vaccinated you will have to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • book and pay for a day 2 COVID-19 test – to be taken after arrival in England • complete your passenger locator form – any time in the 48 hours before you arrive in England • take a COVID-19 test on or before day 2 after you arrive in England <p>Under the new rules, you will not need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take a pre-departure test • take a day 8 COVID-19 test • quarantine at home or in the place you are staying for 10 days after you arrive in England <p>If you are not fully vaccinated from 4am Monday 4 October, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take a pre-departure COVID-19 test – to be taken in the 3 days before you travel to England • book and pay for day 2 and day 8 COVID-19 tests – to be taken after arrival in England • complete your passenger locator form – any time in the 48 hours before you arrive in England <p>After you arrive in England you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quarantine at home or in the place you are staying for 10 days • take a COVID-19 test on or before day 2 and on or after day 8 	<p>Nonetheless, there is still very significant nervousness towards international travel among customers, meaning passenger demand remains fragile. This is driven by a mixture of costs of travel, risk of rules being changed at short notice, and underlying fear of the personal risk of travel during the pandemic. Any negative announcements about travel policy / the safety of travel, and the continued lack of a roadmap for removing restrictions altogether, has the potential to weaken passenger demand recovery considerably.</p> <p>Recruitment lead times mean we are having to begin volume recruitment now to make sure we have enough staff to manage demand we hope to see next summer. We also know our on-airport partners (e.g. retail) are facing increased staffing costs because of wider pressures in the employment market.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may be able to end quarantine early if you pay for a private COVID-19 test through the Test to Release scheme. 	
<p>Culture</p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>ACE Emergency Resource Support</u> programme (now live) Application deadline is 14 October & deadline to get permission to apply is 30 September. <u>Culture Recovery Fund Round 3 Resource Grants</u> - 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. Other CRF Funds now closed. <p>The outcomes of applications to the fund are expected to be published by Friday, 29/10.</p> <p>ACE Capital Investment Fund £20m grants pot for England.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressions of Interest by 26/10 	<p>Culture re-openings and key events</p> <p>Corridor of Light</p> <p>This major light-based festival took place 21-23/10 along the Oxford Road Corridor, under the name <i>"BRIGHT LIGHTS - Celebrating new ideas, innovation and creativity"</i></p> <p>Artworks includes a neon work atop Booth Street East Bridge, a projected poem travelling around different corridor sites, 'Stories under our Feet' projected text spilling out under benches around Central Library and an immersive sound and light installation at the Holy Name Church. Venues involved included Circle Square, Manchester Central, RNCM, HOME, The Whitworth, Bridgewater Hall, Manchester Poetry Library and SODA. The programme is accompanied by talks & a wider hospitality offer across the area including at Hatch.</p> <p>Manchester Literature Festival took place live 9-17/10 and will run digitally 1-14 November.</p> <p>Contact</p> <p>Contact reopened fully to the public on 20/9 following its refurbishment and extension. Works completed early in the pandemic and first national lockdown and the venue has been open for participatory activities and talent development as restrictions have allowed.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full applications can be submitted from 10/11 to 13/12. • The grant range is between £100,000 to £750,000. 5% match is required for grants up to £250,000 and 10% for grants above that. 50% of match must be cash. This capital scheme is the only one planned for 2021-24. • <p>Officers are working with potential applicants to review the scheme and support applications</p> <p>Staffing</p> <p>Cultural partners are consistently reporting difficulties in recruiting staff especially in the hospitality related roles.</p>	<p>Music</p> <p>Classical music season opened last weekend: Halle Orchestra and BBC Philharmonic at BWH, Psappha at Halle St Michael's and Manchester Collective at Halle St Peter's. Chet's/Stoller Hall held their Medieval weekend.</p> <p>HOME</p> <p>HOME's new theatre production War of the World opened last week 22 September (first HOME production since lockdown).</p> <p>Manchester Museum - building closed</p> <p>Construction of the new and South Asia Gallery and Exhibition Hall has been completed, and the Museum is now closed until late 2022 to allow for completion of redevelopment works.</p>
<p>Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Continued development interest in the city for both commercial and residential scheme.</i> • <i>All schemes are back on site, and construction levels increased since the beginning of the pandemic, although with some overall delays to programmes.</i> • <i>Risks around supply chains/access to materials, with associated increases in costs.</i> • <i>Access to finance for hotel and retail schemes likely to be more challenging.</i> • <i>Economic Recovery & Investment Plan identifies key schemes which can drive recovery and create new jobs. Ongoing</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hana opens in Landmark: Hana by Industrious St Peter's Square has opened its second space in Manchester, bringing 32,000 sqft of flexible workspace to the market. • Great Ancoats Street Residential Proposal: developer Select Property Group is consulting on proposals for a 31 storey, 449-apartment development on the corner of Great Ancoats Street and Port Street. It is part of the Piccadilly Basin SRF area. The consultation closes on 27 October. The scheme will be BTR and operated/managed by Affinity Living, a wholly owned subsidier of Select Property Group. • Funding agreed for Whitworth St tower: Manchester Tower, next to the City Road Inn pub, will be a 327-apartment scheme over 35 floors. Planning permission for the scheme was originally given in 2015. It is for

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, with recent reports of increased demand, especially for flexible, high quality office space.

completion in 2025. The scheme is a joint venture between Featherfoot Whitworth Street and Altrincham-based EGCC Group after it was acquired from Guernsey-based Brigantes.

- **New flexible salon space opens:** Phenix Salon Suites have opened their first UK studio in Manchester, offering hair and beauty salon space, after taking 6,000 sqft of space in 1 Deansgate. 29 studios will be available to rent, with half said to be leased already.
- **First at Mayfield:** the development is the first in the city to use 'concretene', a mix of concrete and graphene (which reduces the carbon footprint), for a mezzanine floor at Escape to Freight Island.
- **Tower of Light switched on:** the architecturally designed tower, which is part of the Civic Quarter Heat Network, has been switched on. The network will go live in 2022.
- The following schemes were approved at the **Planning & Highways Committee on 21st October:**
- 155-bed hotel and 88-bed aparthotel on currently vacant land bound by Cornbrook Road, Chester Road and the Metrolink line.
- Creation of a 31-bed homeless accommodation centre on the corner of Lord Street and Stocks Street (Cheetham). The centre will be managed by an experienced service provider.
- Hawkins Brown have been selected as the architects for the Council's affordable housing scheme at Postal Street.
- **Office lettings:** at Bauhaus on Quay Street, software company Connex One has taken 17,800sqft and flexible office firm NewFlex has taken 13,730sqft to offer workspace under its Bold brand. Charity Freedom From Torture has taken 5,000sqft at Chichester House on Moss Lane East. Real estate firm Pitalia Real Estate will move operations from Bolton to Manchester after acquiring the freehold of 24 Oxford Court.
- **Airport warehouses planned:** three new units within the World Freight Terminal is being planned by Threadneedle

		<p>Curtis who own a five-acre site previously occupied by SkyChefs. The proposals would see the current site cleared and a total of 85,000sqft across the three units built on the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIS tower rebranded: the 1960s office tower will be rebranded as 'Society' once a multimillion-pound refurbishment scheme is completed. The tower will be split into three areas; Tower, Podium and Street, offering office workspace, and leisure and retail units on the street level.
<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. • 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>Current forecasts suggest 497 new affordable homes will be built across Manchester in 2021-22 – 153 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 900 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 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>Feedback from MHPP Growth is suggesting that problems with supply chains for products and materials are beginning to impact on delivery timescales and costs</p> <p>Updates on further key schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning has been approved for MCC's development of 69 social rent homes at Silk Street • Enabling works to facilitate the delivery of 130 new MCC social rent homes in Collyhurst are ongoing. • 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

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 150 homes over the next 5 years. A Master Plan will be submitted to the November meeting of the Executive.
<p>Transport and Infrastructure</p>	<p>City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement</p> <p>The Government's budget has included £1.07bn in capital funding for transport infrastructure in Greater Manchester. This is the largest amount secured by any city-region and is the outcome of Greater Manchester's City Region Sustainable Transport Fund (CRSTS) bid, submitted to Government in September, equating to around 90% of our full proposal.</p> <p>The funding secured by Greater Manchester is for the five-year period 2022-23 to 2026-27 and will support the delivery the GM Five Year Transport Delivery Plan (2021-2026). This includes key investments for buses, trams, cycling and walking in the integrated Bee Network, and Greater Manchester's vision for a fully integrated 'London-style' public transport network. MCC officers will continue developing priority schemes in Manchester to ensure funds are able to be accessed and delivered when the funding period commences next year.</p>	<p>Summary of transport activity for week ending 17 October (GM-wide)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were an estimated 51.6m trips made in Greater Manchester last week. This is consistent with the previous week and in line with the pre-pandemic average. • While weekday trips increased by 1%, weekend trips fell by 2% - as a result of fewer large-scale events than there were during the previous week. • Public transport trips followed a similar pattern: while they were 3% below the previous week overall, weekday demand was 1% above the previous week and weekend demand 11% lower. • Overall highway volumes remained consistent with the previous week. • Cycling volumes were 4% lower than the previous week, with a significant decrease in demand on Sunday. Workday trips were more consistent, increasing by 4% compared to the previous week. • Regional centre: During the week ending 17 October, the Regional Centre saw 2% fewer trips from the previous reporting week. This includes 2.8 million trips from GM and 1.0 million from outside of GM.

UK Net Zero strategy

On 19 October the government released its Net Zero Strategy, setting out more information about the UK's pathway to delivering on its commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050. The Strategy set out transport commitments including further funding to support the electrification of vehicles, such as targeted grants for charging infrastructure. EV charging infrastructure is continuing to be rolled out in Greater Manchester through the GM EVCI Strategy adopted in September 2021, and MCC officers are actively feeding in TfGM-led programmes to deliver infrastructure where it is needed and aligning with our wider economic, environmental and social objectives for the city.

- Trips from within GM (84%) to the Regional Centre continue to remain closer to pre-pandemic levels than trips from outside of GM (74%).

Transport activity by mode (GM-wide)

Bus (patronage): -1% on previous week; -8% on pre-Covid levels. The busiest day was Thursday with 470,751 passengers.

Metrolink (patronage): -9.6% on previous week; -34% on pre-Covid levels. The busiest day was Wednesday with 103,541 passengers.

Rail (passenger footfall Piccadilly): -8% on previous week; -26% on pre-Covid levels. The busiest day was Saturday with 106,038 passengers.

Highway (private vehicle trips): no change on previous week; -1% on pre-Covid levels. The busiest day was Friday with 5,364,708 trips.

Cycling (trips): -4% on previous week; -12% on pre-Covid (2019). The busiest day was Tuesday with 141,941 trips.

Walking (pedestrian footfall in Regional Centre): -9% on previous week; -5% on pre-Covid levels. The busiest day was Sunday with 1,613,190 pedestrian trips.

Skills, Labour Market and Business Support	<p>Headlines include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In September 2021 there were 29,205 claimants of unemployment benefits in Manchester – down from 30,500 in August. Unemployment for women is falling much faster than it is for men across (trend across GM). JCP continue to report that they have not seen a significant uptake in claims in October. The number of furloughed residents has continued to drop as COVID-19 restrictions on the economy have been lifted. 12,600 residents were furloughed on 31st August, down from 14,900 in June. The majority of residents that remain furloughed are employed in accommodation & food services or wholesale & retail. Final furlough figures available 4th November. 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. New national data shows that vacancies are at their highest point since the pandemic at 1.1m driven across all sectors with highest increases in hospitality. 	<p>Newly Unemployed Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Mosely Street Jobcentre is now open supporting clients aged 24+ from Cheetham Hill, Rusholme, Newton Heath (these Jobcentres are focusing on 18-24 year olds). Employment partnership focus is on re-training and job matching as no significant increase in redundancy notices has taken place. Continue to work with several live and in development recruitment opportunities with business including Getir, BNY Mellon, Biffa, PWC, Boohoo. Progress continues to be made on Skills development and bounce back of the Cultural Sector with partners co-ordinating a response led by The Factory. Expected relaunch of Factory Consortium in the new year.
	<p>Offer for 16-19 year olds</p> <p>October DfE submission – (as at August):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the level of unknown has increased from 408 (3.4%) in July to 429 (3.6%) in August. NEET level has remained the same, at 4.0% the combined NEET and Unknown figures have slightly increased compared to the 	<p>Offer for 16-19 year olds</p> <p>Workshop held with the Digital Skills Network on the 20th October to review the offer for school, 16-19, and 19+ around digital in the City. Well attended face to face event showing continued strength of the Digital Skills Network in building pathways for young people in this sector.</p>

	<p>previous month. This has increased from 892 (7.4%) in July to 909 (7.6%) in August. This is lower than last year at 987 (8.7%).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There has been an increase in the numbers of young people in employment, going from 499 (4.1%) in July to 521 (4.3%) in August. <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>Youth unemployment</p> <p>Maximise the opportunities from and work with partners to roll out the Kickstart Scheme.</p> <p>Supporting youth employment programmes</p> <p>Developing a clear offer to support our graduates</p>	<p>MCC Kickstart opportunities – working with DWP to deliver an open day on 28th Oct at the new JCP office on Moseley Street.</p> <p>Supported DWP to deliver a 'Jobs Fest' event at Wythenshawe Forum on 22nd October.</p> <p>Connected PWC to Reform Radio. PWC are keen to provide work placements to young people through the Manchester Futures project.</p> <p>We have connected with University Academy 92. Exploring ways we can support their activities.</p>
	<p>Skills and employment support for adults</p> <p>Challenges -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out of phase 2 of the MCC Digital Device Scheme – reaching groups 	<p>Get online week</p> <p>MAES, Libraries, the MCC Digital Inclusion Team and the Intranet Team collaborated in Get Online Week to deliver a series of activities for both MCC staff and residents. There were four staff events throughout the week, in which colleagues were supported</p>

	<p>identified as most excluded via the Digital Exclusion Index.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the City's learning provision is responding to new challenges as well as existing challenges. • Launching Let Get Digital work though Get Online week 	<p>with their 365 queries, and there were 5 outreach events for residents. Events lasted for two hours and the numbers who engaged varied a great deal (2 to 20). The team encountered some real resistance to engaging in digital at several of the events but were able to have some interesting conversations and challenge the perspectives of some residents.</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>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>Maximise Social Value opportunities arising from Victoria North and North Manchester General Hospital developments</p> <p>–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCC and partners held a successful workshop with Victoria North, North Manchester General Hospital and New Park House contractors on 22 October to explore social value opportunities particularly in relation to digital exclusion and the zero carbon agenda. • Further work is taking place this month with ANTZ on more detailed scoping of how the ANTZ platform could be taken forward. A successful scoping workshop with ANTZ and FEC was held 25 October. Plans to progress a free pilot are being reviewed by the North Manchester Regeneration Economic Benefit Steering Group.

	<p>Business Support, Sustainability & Growth Business Grants</p> <p>LRSB, ARG are now closed,</p> <p>Growth</p>	<p>Business Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EBSG is utilising the remaining £1.2M of the funding provided by Central Government • The Emergency Business grant scheme for businesses with last remaining ARG grant successfully went live on the 18th October to support businesses with ongoing fixed property and employee costs. • Business survey for non-R/V recipients of grants went live on 14th October. Feedback is still being received and collated <p>Small Business Saturday Tour</p> <p>The Small Business Saturday team are touring the UK with (24 stops across the UK) Manchester being one of the chosen locations:</p> <p>Date: 11 November 10-2pm</p> <p>Location: Wellington, Piccadilly</p> <p>SME and District Centres Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning the next SME business support webinar (date tbc). • The Manchester Business Support group has grown in membership to help support SMEs / District Centres / High Streets.
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	<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>The 2nd Uncertain Futures Employment & Skills webinar will be held on 16th November. National Careers Service will deliver the session on changing careers and labour market intelligence for women over 50 years.</p> <p>The Growth Company as part of the Our Manchester Disability Equality and Inclusion Partnership are delivering a series of workshops for employers to encourage and support them to attract more disabled people. The next online event will be held on 5th November.</p> <p>The W&S team will be reviewing the use of language in relation to race and will incorporate this into the activity around the refresh of the W&S strategy currently taking place.</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>Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator launched 9th September, closing date 18th November. DCMS will allocate up to £4 million of funding to pilots “which support the implementation of digital asset management solutions to open up public assets for the rollout of wireless communication networks.” GMCA are putting a bid together.</p> <p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund 3 year of funding announced.</p> <p>2022-3 0.4 billion 2023-4 0.8 billion (0.7 revenue, 0.1 capital) 2024-5 1.8 billion (1.5 revenue, 0.3 capital)</p> <p>As expected, this shows a “ramping up” to European levels of funding by year 3.</p> <p>Supporting local priorities, the UKSPF will include a new initiative ('Multiply') to help hundreds of thousands of adults across the UK</p>

improve their numeracy skills. All areas will receive access to a learning platform and funding to improve adult skills. £560 million is being allocated to this scheme as part of the SPF.

Funding in Progress

Community Renewal Fund – LGA has raised the delays in announcement with govt:

A spokesperson for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities said: “Bids are currently being assessed, and the outcomes will be announced in due course” which was helpful.

Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund Round 3 has been announced – MCC secured c.£19m from **round 1** of the fund and delivery of that programme is our priority. A bid for £4.5 million to the latest round will be submitted this week.

Funding Approved

Energy Savings Trust’s (EST) eCargo Bike Grant Fund, Local Authority Scheme 2021/2022. . Confirmation of funding received.

Levelling Up Fund Funding approved for Culture in the City Application (HOMEArches & Campfield) in Budget & Spending Review on 27th October. 105 projects funded across the UK, £1.7 billion in total, inc. In Manchester, Tameside, Salford, Bury (x2), and Bolton. Culture in the City will receive £19.8 million.

External Lobbying	Parliament returns from summer recess on 6 September 2021 with an announcement on the date of the 2021 Spending Review expected soon after. There is currently uncertainty surrounding the 2021 Spending Review period in relation to a 1 or 3 year settlement for local government. Direct lobbying of Government is needed as well as working via Greater Manchester and networks such as Core Cities UK, Convention of the North and the LGA.	<p>Follow up meetings with government officials are continuing following the submission of Manchester's Spending Review proposals. This includes a planned meeting with the Department for Levelling Up Communities and Housing, Department for Transport and Office for Low Emission Vehicles to discuss the hydrogen fleet project.</p> <p>The UK Cities Climate Investment Commission is holding events at COP26 on 3 and 11 November with attendees from HSBC, OECD and the UK Infrastructure Bank.</p>
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