

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee – 13 January 2022

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 06/01/2021. Latest updates shown in yellow.

Issue/theme/activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
General Overview	<p>Economic commentary for Quarter 3 2021 from the ONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK economy expanded by 1.1% in Q3 (July to September) • There were further increases in employment & job vacancies, while the end of the furlough scheme has not been followed by a large rise in redundancies or unemployment so far • The annual rate of consumer price inflation has risen sharply. • There was a sharp recovery in household consumption in Q3 2021, of 2.7%, particularly in restaurants and transport, following lifting of restrictions • Revised estimates show that the UK economy contracted by 9.4% in 2020. 	<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 10,000 businesses with updates.</p> <p>Comms update</p> <p>Link to the film: Manchester is back. Stronger than ever. - YouTube</p>

	<p>Economic Activity from the ONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 7-day average estimate of restaurant diners fell by 14% in week to 20 December 2021, which is the lowest figure since week ending 17 May 2021 (data from OpenTable). In Manchester, despite an eight-point drop on the week, the number of diners stood at 104% of the level in the run-up to Christmas 2019. • In the week to 18 December, overall national retail footfall was at 81% of the level of the same week in 2019 • Data from Pret A Manger saw a 17% fall in transactions in Manchester in week ending 16 December compared to the week before <p>The Chancellor has announced that the Spring 2022 forecast will take place on Wednesday 23 March.</p> <p>Testing changes: It was announced on 5 January that follow-up PCR tests are to be temporarily suspended for asymptomatic people who have obtained a positive lateral flow test, taking effect</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> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Re-opening update</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<p>from 11 January. The change will only apply to people in England taking routine lateral flow tests and with no symptoms, and self-isolation for 7 days will still be required.</p> <p>New Treasury help for businesses during Omicron: Businesses in the hospitality and leisure sectors in England will be eligible for one-off grants of up to £6,000 per premises, plus more than £100 million discretionary funding will be made available for local authorities to support other businesses through Additional Restrictions Grant funding. Government will also cover the cost of Statutory Sick Pay for Covid-related absences for small and medium-sized employers across the UK. £30 million further funding will be made available through the Culture Recovery Fund, enabling more cultural organisations in England to apply for support during the winter. More information will be released in due course.</p> <p>Interest rates rise: the Bank of England has increased interest rates for the first time in three years to 0.25% from 0.1%. The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) (a monitor of economic trends and health in the service and manufacturing sectors) showed that economic growth will weaken</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Prior to stage 4, additional opening and operating safely guidance has been issued to businesses and</p>
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	<p>into 2022, but that the supply chain issues were starting to stabilise and backlogs cleared. The PMI for the services sector fell sharply to 53.2 in December from 58.5 in November, reaching its lowest level since February.</p> <p>National Footfall - Public concerns about the Omicron variant saw a reduction in the numbers of visitors to key retail locations in the last weekend before Christmas, according to data from Springboard, the number of overall visits was 18.1% lower across all retail sites on Saturday 18 December (compared with pre-pandemic levels in 2019) while for shopping centres they plummeted by 25.2%. Sunday's visits saw shopper numbers drop even further; with footfall down by 25.2% and 32.9%, respectively. However, Springboard further reported that high street footfall increased on New Year's Eve by 5.2% across the UK compared to the week before. For the supermarkets, the number of in-person shoppers was at its highest levels since March 2020, according to Kantar.</p> <p>NW business confidence down: Grant Thornton UK LLP's Business Outlook Tracker surveyed about 600 mid-market businesses every other month during a</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
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	<p>year that began in full lockdown. The biggest dent in confidence was recorded in the final survey, conducted in late November and early December. Some 19 per cent of businesses in the region described themselves as "pessimistic" about the future of UK economy following announcements of Plan B measures.</p> <p>Markets and outdoor marquees allowed permanently: following consultation earlier in the year, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities have announced that changed to permitted development rights have been made permanent and now pubs, cafes and restaurants will be able to put up gazebos on their land without planning permission and street markets will be able to be held without planning permission also. More information can be found on the Government website.</p> <p>Construction output drops: Construction output fell 1.8% in October representing the largest monthly decline since April 2020. Anecdotal evidence suggests that product shortages caused by supply chain issues leading to subsequent price rises in raw materials such as steel, concrete,</p>	<p>neighbouring businesses together with the city's overall objective to increase space available to pedestrians.</p> <p>12th November – Manchester's Christmas Markets opened including the new Winter Garden on Piccadilly Gardens which includes a large decked area with seating and tables, a stage and music and a fully accessible toilet facility with provision for adult changing. The opening weekend saw city centre footfall increase by 16% on the previous week. City Centre congestion was up 33% between 1600 and 1900 on the Saturday.</p> <p>NTE sales are strong, up 6% on the same week in 2019.</p> <p>October 2021 saw an increase in city centre footfall with Halloween week end the busiest since pre-pandemic.</p> <p>Business support and engagement; the various networks are beginning to function again in person post-pandemic. In addition, interest is being assessed amongst stakeholders in some new place specific groups such as St Ann's Square and King Street. Options to address the challenge of empty premises are to be further considered- some 'pop-</p>
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	<p>timber and glass, were an important reason for the decline.</p> <p>Inward investment: MIDAS reports that there were 5,080 new jobs created in Greater Manchester during 2021, 41% up from 2019. The professional services, creative and digital sectors contributed in particular, to this rise in jobs. Manufacturing generated the most amount of deals. Notable announcements for MIDAS in 2021 were PwC's tech hub in Spinningfields (1,000 jobs over three years), Cloud Imperium Games at Enterprise City (c. 700 jobs) and Schmitz Cargobull, a German trailer manufacturer, in Wythenshawe which produced 50 jobs.</p> <p>In the year to date in 2021/22, MCC has 20 projects secured creating 3325 jobs and 38 jobs safeguarded. In comparison in the full year 2020/21 there were 1017 jobs were created, showing a significant increase this year.</p>	up' use by community or charity groups has proved successful.
Footfall –	Footfall trends- City Centre (Springboard / CityCo)	

Week 52 26th December – 1st January

	Week on week %	Year on year %	Pre Covid
St Ann's Sq	-37.6%	50.4%	41.6%
Exchange Sq	-19.7%	60.2%	21.1%
King Street	-51.6%	44.9%	40.5%
Market Street	-3.3%	44.8%	33.7%
New Cathedral St	-30.5%	53.3%	22.5%

Footfall trends- District Centres
(Springboard)**Week 52 26th December – 1st January**

	Week on week %	Year on year %	Pre- Covid
Cheetham Hill	0.2%	46.6%	5.7%

	<table><tr><td>Chorlton</td><td>-</td><td>18.1%</td><td>9.9%</td><td>-</td><td>35.5%</td></tr><tr><td>Fallowfield</td><td></td><td>19.7%</td><td>61.3%</td><td>-</td><td>15.5%</td></tr><tr><td>Gorton</td><td>-</td><td>11.6%</td><td>23.2%</td><td>-</td><td>14.7%</td></tr><tr><td>Harpurhey</td><td>-</td><td>13.0%</td><td>20.8%</td><td>-</td><td>-4.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Levenshulme</td><td></td><td>5.0%</td><td>21.3%</td><td>-</td><td>24.9%</td></tr><tr><td>Northenden</td><td></td><td>0.9%</td><td>43.9%</td><td>-</td><td>18.2%</td></tr><tr><td>Rushholme</td><td></td><td>38.5%</td><td>92.4%</td><td></td><td>7.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Victoria Avenue</td><td>-</td><td>19.3%</td><td>9.1%</td><td>-</td><td>20.4%</td></tr><tr><td>Withington</td><td></td><td>21.9%</td><td>8.7%</td><td>-</td><td>33.3%</td></tr></table>	Chorlton	-	18.1%	9.9%	-	35.5%	Fallowfield		19.7%	61.3%	-	15.5%	Gorton	-	11.6%	23.2%	-	14.7%	Harpurhey	-	13.0%	20.8%	-	-4.8%	Levenshulme		5.0%	21.3%	-	24.9%	Northenden		0.9%	43.9%	-	18.2%	Rushholme		38.5%	92.4%		7.8%	Victoria Avenue	-	19.3%	9.1%	-	20.4%	Withington		21.9%	8.7%	-	33.3%	
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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.</p> <p>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>The Prime Minister announced on 5 January that from Friday 7 January, pre-departure tests will no longer be required for travellers from abroad arriving in England. From 10 January, on arrival, lateral flow tests will replace more expensive PCR tests on day 2.</p>	<p>Response from Manchester Airports Group (MAG): The removal of the temporary measures put in response to the Omicron variant, is important recognition that travel restrictions should not remain in place if they no longer help prevent the spread of the virus. By removing barriers to travel in what is a critical period for forward-booking, passengers, airports, airlines and business across the UK can now plan ahead with confidence.</p> <p>As the increased testing requirements to deal with Omicron were introduced, Manchester Airports Group saw passenger numbers across their three airports reduce by an average of 13% week-on-week. While some of these requirements have been removed, the restrictions have a real impact on an already struggling travel sector, which has had knock on effects for tourism.</p> <p>MAG look forward to working with the Government in their January review to develop a roadmap for the removal of all remaining restrictions.</p>
Culture	Culture Recovery Fund	Additional Restrictions Grant

	<p>Further to the announcements of DCMS Culture Recovery Fund grant support in December featured in the last Sit Rep - the Emergency Support Resource Fund, which is designed to support cultural organisations that are at imminent risk of financial failure. remains open for a second round. Organisations have until 18 January to submit their “Permission to Apply” forms.</p> <p>£30m CRF funding was announced on 21/12 by Rishi Sunak.</p> <p>Government funding via Arts Council England will also provide an immediate £1.5 million to support freelancers affected by the pandemic, alongside a further £1.35 million contribution from the theatre sector. This will provide grants of £650,000 each directly to the Theatre Artists Fund, Help Musicians, and £200,000 to a-n, the Artists Information Company, a charity for visual artists which will distribute cash to freelancers over the coming weeks.</p> <p>Current Plan B restrictions</p>	<p>The Culture Team in the Council made awards from the remaining Additional Restrictions Grant funding available from the Government to Mcr businesses.</p> <p>A tranche of funding was awarded to a targeted group of cultural venues with grant payments made in late December.</p> <p>59 ‘Cultural Facilities’ received awards</p> <p>Live music - 36</p> <p>Theatre and performance - 10</p> <p>Live entertainment - 6</p> <p>Combined Arts - 5</p> <p>Live comedy - 2</p>
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	<p>From 15/12 the NHS Covid Pass on the NHS App will be mandatory for entry into nightclubs and settings where large crowds gather:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unseated indoor events with 500 or more attendees • unseated outdoor events with 4,000 or more attendees • any event with 10,000 or more attendees. <p>People will be able to demonstrate proof of two vaccine doses via the app. Proof of a negative lateral flow test will also be accepted.</p> <p>With the emergence of the new variant Omicron, there is an expectation that visitor attractions and public venues will be hit with loss of visitors, ticket sales and secondary earned income. Live music in particular is extremely reliant on drinks sales so even if audiences are not requiring ticket refunds, no-shows will have a major impact on music venues and promoters.</p> <p>Feedback on the sector's challenges as reported to the Cultural Leaders Group 22/12</p>	<p>Sector Survey</p> <p>The Director of Culture has emailed members of the Culture Leaders Group (4/1) for an update to assess the current impact on the sector across:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-plan B trading • Post-plan B trading up to Christmas • Christmas to New Year • Prospects through to the end of March.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing staffing recruitment shortages • Issues with staff off sick and isolating with COVID • Performances being cancelled because of COVID rates amongst technicians, cast and staff • Collapse of corporate bookings for events and hires. • Return in some venues to socially distanced performances. 	
Development	<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</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January start for St Michael's: contractor Bowmer + Kirkland will begin the first phase of the development with the commercial spaces at the former police HQ and public realm. The whole project should complete in 2024. • First look at Alberton House: Bruntwood have revealed images of how The Alberton (at St Mary's Parsonage) could look once works have completed. The building will come under Bruntwood's Pioneer programme (which provides flexible, refurbished workspace, focusing on design, embedded technology, sustainability & well-being) and will be functionally net zero. They are consulting on the proposals until 23 January 2022 and the proposals can be viewed here.

	<p><i>jobs. Ongoing work to identify funding opportunities for schemes.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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.</i> <p>Emerging Trends in Real Estate Europe 2022: the annual survey by PwC and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) has seen a significant leap in confidence going into next year. It surveys property professionals, and the results reveal that the sector is recording the highest levels of business confidence since 2014. However, the areas the industry are most concerned about are construction costs and resource availability, availability of suitable land/assets and the continually updating sustainability requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clayton hotel on Portland Street has been completed and has been handed over to Dalata Hotel Group and opened in January 2022. NatWest buys office building: just before Christmas, it was reported that NatWest had bought One Hardman Boulevard for £392m, which is the largest transaction outside of London for the year and one of Manchester's largest asset sales. The bank already occupies the building. High Street plot sold: 20-36 High Street has been bought by McAleer & Rushe. The price paid is unknown. Trinity Islands: Renaker have submitted plans for four residential towers reaching up to 60 storeys, across two parcels of land, bounded by the River Irwell, Liverpool Road, Water Street and Regent Street. The development value is calculated at £741million and will deliver nearly 2,000 homes. Store Street application submitted: developer M1 Piccadilly has submitted a planning application for a 13-storey tower with a gold façade. If approved, it will feature 54 apartments and private amenity space for tenants. Select submits application: a planning application for a corner plot on Great Ancoats Street and Port Street has been
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		<p>submitted, as part of the Piccadilly Basin area, which would see 485 apartments built across a 34 and 11 storey scheme. The GDV is estimated at £154million.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Bank (Housing Infrastructure Fund): Planning consent for MCC's Enabling Works package, which kick-starts the £51.6m HIF funded programme of infrastructure was obtained on 23rd December. Works will commence in the next few weeks.
Affordable Housing	<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 	<p>Current forecasts suggest 586 new affordable homes will be built across Manchester in 2021-22 – 280 of which have already completed. This includes 288 social rent, 114 affordable rent, 144 shared ownership and 40 rent to buy homes.</p> <p>In addition, there are currently over 1,070 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 Edge Lane Business Centre (216 homes) and the Former Belle Vue Stadium Site (130 affordable homes). There are also currently 3 city centre schemes under construction at Swan Street (19 homes), Addington Street (50 homes) and Islington Wharf (54 affordable 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>programmes to consolidate finances/liquidity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>Updates on further key schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownfield Land Funding on Silk St (69 homes) agreed & Affordable Housing Programme grant to be submitted December 21 with Start on Site due for January '22. • A public consultation on the 730-home redevelopment of Jacksons Brickworks is underway. The scheme brought forward by Your Housing Group features a mix of open market sale, shared ownership, social rent & rent to buy. • 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 reprovion) and the retrofit of 150 homes over the next 5 years. A Master Plan was approved at the November meeting of the Executive.
Transport and Infrastructure	<p>Active Travel & Cycle Parking Grants</p> <p>In late December Transport for Greater Manchester opened a further round of applications for two Active Travel grants as part of an £800,000 funding package to help head-off a car-led recovery and build back better from the pandemic:</p>	<p>Summary of transport activity for week ending 2 January (GM-wide)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were an estimated 34.9m trips made in Greater Manchester – 11% below the previous week. • Overall there was a decrease in weekday trips of 20% and an increase in weekend trips of 34% from the previous week.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Support Grant for Active Travel Facilities - grants of up to £10,000 for businesses and employers who want to embed sustainable travel behaviours amongst their employees. • Cycle Parking Grant - different grant sizes up to £10,000 for NHS, education, housing and small organisations, in GM areas with greatest potential for increasing walking and cycling, for organisations to install publicly available cycle parking. <p>Grant applications are due by 31 January 2022. Council officers are supporting promotion of the grant opportunities to Manchester businesses and other organisations to encourage local uptake.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compared to the same period in 2019, trip levels were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Total trips down 15% ◦ Weekday trips down 20% ◦ Weekend trips up 34% ◦ Bus down 57% ◦ Metrolink down 47% ◦ Rail down 51% ◦ Cycling down 16% ◦ Walking down 2% ◦ Highways down 12% • Limited Bus and no Metrolink or Rail services on Christmas day, and no Rail services on Boxing Day helped contribute to the increase in weekend trips by car. • Regional centre and Manchester: The Regional Centre saw an estimated 2.4 million total trips. This is 10% up on the previous week, and included 1.7 million trips from GM and 0.7 million from outside of GM. • Regional Centre trips were 51% of the pre-pandemic baseline (November 2019).
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<p>Skills, Labour Market and Business Support</p>	<p>Furlough and Newly Unemployed Headlines include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November 2021 there were 27,475 claimants of unemployment benefits in Manchester – down from 27,780 in October. Unemployment for women is continuing to fall much faster than it is for men across (trend across GM). • The number of furloughed residents has continued to drop as COVID-19 restrictions on the economy have been lifted. 10,800 residents were furloughed on 30th September, down from 12,800 in August. While furlough came to an end in September, currently there is no evidence 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 a record high of 1.2m with 13 of the 18 industry sectors showing record highs, the largest quarterly increase was seen in Human health and social work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Mosely Street Jobcentre is holding regular mini job fairs for kickstart vacancies, most recently 30+ employers presented vacancies to 119 residents. 3 Jobs fairs planned in early 2022 (13 Jan, 10 Feb, 22 Feb). • Employment partnership has offered support to a financial company to make redundancies with a potential pathway to BNY Mellon who are recruiting. • DWP are running Sector Based Work Academies in IT, Airport, Hospitality, Admin, Security and Construction with additional planned in the new year focusing on health and social care. SBWAs planned for January include roles for bus drivers, care workers and retail workers. Low attendance is still an issue, at approximately 25% attendance rate. Low attendance from 50+ customers • Specific Work and Skills Culture Bulletin to be sent out in December and again in January to support Culture Recovery Plan.
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Offer 16-19 Year Olds

Current Figures reported by CCIS – 7 December: NEET

Known	2.4%
Unknown	4.9%
Combined	7.3%

Current Figures reported by CCIS – 7 December: EET

Post-16 Education	87.8%
Employment	3.5%
Training	1.3%

- The NEET unknown figure is now lower than last year which was submitted at 649 (5.5%).
- Although increased since October, NEET Known is lower than last year where it was submitted at 434 (3.6%) last November.
- NEET Combined is lower than last year which was submitted at 1083 (9.2%).
- The numbers of young people meeting the duty to participate has significantly increased compared to last month, going from 79.4% in October to 91.5% in November.

- Career Connect have been commissioned to deliver locality-based outreach events in December to supplement ongoing methods of tracking.
- Longer-term planning re: Post-16 census and sufficiency, linking with Our Year plans and RONI – released, updating characteristics and consultation with Post-16 re: Yr 12 process and promotion of T-Level offer.
- Agreement for Anthony Turner & C.Connect to attend monthly social care meetings to share locality NEET information and establish pathways for intervention.
- Data dashboard in development with CCIS to provide further analysis of NEET in relation to the city and vulnerable categories.

This is higher than last year which was submitted at 90.2%.

Careers Connect update – December 2021 (not yet submitted to DfE)

Known	2.75%
Unknown	2.94%
Combined	5.69%

Youth unemployment

Maximise the opportunities from and work with partners to roll out the Kickstart Scheme.

Supporting youth employment programmes

Developing a clear offer to support our graduates

MCC Kickstart opportunities – 8 Kickstart roles now filled. Working with DWP to hold regular interviews at Moseley St JCP to fill remaining vacancies.

Kickstart job fairs held throughout November and December across the city to fill remaining opportunities before Christmas and ahead of March programme end

BW3 employers have indicated an appetite to support enhancing traineeships in the city post Kickstart. Working with the network to plan a specific programme for 2022.

Planning underway for National Apprenticeship Week (February 2022). This will include events, videos and social media activity.

		Work ongoing with MMU and UA92 to extend SME support programme and link to further opportunities with key employers such as PWC and THG.
	<p>Skills and employment support for adults</p> <p>Challenges -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to reflect on delivery of the Digital Inclusion Action Plan programme so far. The landscape looks very different to what it was 12 months ago. A number of review workshops and 1-1 conversations with funders to shape objectives and outputs for the new year. 	<p>MAES recruited 84.23% of their target for term 1 (5373/6379 learners) although they did see growth on Digital and Vocational courses and ESOL outperformed its target.</p> <p>The service anticipates 2046 new enrolments for this term but continues to be concerned about the impact Covid will have on recruitment, attendance, retention, and achievement.</p> <p>MAES will deliver 4th- 7th Jan online so that there is additional time to implement any necessary Covid measures ahead of returning to centres on the 10th.</p> <p>Cross-sector, in person Digital Inclusion Action Plan review took place w/c 6th December. Workshop with 14 people, findings to inform the next phase of the action plan.</p> <p>Digital inclusion roadshows being delivered throughout 2022. Events will be delivered through programmes such as Good Things Foundation CRF, Arcadis and the NMH development and Uncertain Futures. Others will be thematic such as food poverty, fuel and debt. First events are being delivered from March 2022 and a calendar will be circulated in coming weeks.</p> <p>Digital Inclusion Team being offered help from the Directorate Support Team. Member of the team will be supporting the development of an external</p>

		Advisory Group, comms plan and the developing with PRI of a performance management tool.
	<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>Social Value Monitoring</p> <p>CLES have commenced work, on behalf of MCC to review social value delivered in a sample of MCC contracts and develop corresponding case studies.</p> <p>Additionally, the annual MCC – CLES Social Value Event will be held on 18 February 2022, focused on the role of social value in ‘Building Back Fairer’. As with previous years, CLES will be undertaking a survey of top 300 suppliers to MCC to understand the social value they are delivering. Invites to the event will be going out shortly, including to Scrutiny members. We are monitoring the Covid situation and are developing back-up plans in case of a physical event not being possible.</p> <p>Social Value KPI's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Commissioning and Procurement have completed a draft SV KPI sheet for stakeholders, contract managers and suppliers. - Will be tested prior to a roll-out. - team reviewing current SV Questionnaire issued with tenders and consideration of

		<p>proposed draft of new questionnaire that links to the SV KPI sheet and scoring of Living Wage and other non scored items.</p> <p>Integrated Commissioning and Procurement are exploring how we can further promote social value opportunities for Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities, consistent with the council's social value policy (also linking into Workstream 7). The team will be engaging with relevant organisations over the coming weeks. It is also working internally to review the equality and diversity content of the council's tender documents.</p>
	<p>Business Support, Sustainability and Growth</p> <p>New Business Grant programme</p> <p>Following the announcement of the new grants available to the hospitality sector, guidance was released on 30 December. The guidance relates to the Omicron Hospitality & Leisure grant (OHLG) and third ARG top up payment (set out in the General Overview section).</p> <p>COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) Business Rates Scheme</p>	<p>SME, District Centre and High Street support</p> <p>Following the success of the Small Business Saturday Tour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planning to take our business support service/offer out across our Neighbourhoods including District Centres and High Streets with a focus on engagement with SMEs across the City. - Will be delivered by a small team who supported the SBS tour who will tour the city on a monthly basis (to include North, Central and South Neighbourhood teams) who will jointly identify a key location each month to reach those SMEs and engage with businesses in those areas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding of £23.993m is available for the development of the COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund scheme providing rates relief to reduce chargeable amounts for the 2021/22 financial year to businesses in the city. - This scheme will be developed using government funding that will be fully reimbursed using discretionary relief powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. - The Council is required to adopt a local scheme and determine each individual case having regard to the government guidance and their own local scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A 12 month plan is being drawn up to reach as many businesses during the 12 months (April 2022-Mar 2023) and support the build up to the next SBS tour and campaign in 2022. <p>SME Support</p> <p>We are continuing to support SME events with the next one planned for January 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Future for SMEs – Eventbrite link sent out • https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/digital-futures-for-smes-business-and-networking-event-tickets-204499342037
	<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>The 3rd Uncertain Futures Employment & Skills webinar was held on 9th December. GM Hazards presented an interactive session on Employment Rights for women in the workplace. The next session in January will take the form of a drop in event in Central Library Performance Space to support people with digital skills and access.</p> <p>Planning is underway for a specific over 50's campaign during National Apprenticeship week in February 2022.</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>21 work clubs have been part-funded by W&S this year. The 6 monthly activity monitoring report tells us that over 2,400 residents across the city were engaged and accessed specialist employability support. Of these 294 (12.5%) went into full or part time employment; 172 took up volunteer opportunities and 209 went on to further learning. Further details on employment destinations will be sought for the end of grant report.</p> <p>The W&S Race Equity group have reviewed objectives for 2022 to continue along the themes of (1) Supporting the wider team with peer support and training (2) Better understanding the make-up of our communities to deliver targeted support (3) Supporting structural change</p>
Funding	<p>No specific known impacts on current external funding bids caused by C19 as yet. Known bids progressing through funding approval processes as expected.</p>	<p>Funding Announcements</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 improve their</p>

		<p>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.</p> <p>Funding in Progress 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 has been submitted.</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> <p>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. We have now received details on the monitoring and evaluation framework for this bid.</p> <p>Community Renewal Fund - The Government announced successful bids on the 3 November 2021, with 8 coming from GM worth £4.36m. There are 2 bids exclusive to Manchester and 6 cover the</p>
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External Lobbying	<p>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>	<p>The long-awaited Levelling Up White Paper has been delayed until early 2022 (now expected towards the end of January) but there has been speculation that it will include a 'mission approach' to a number of key areas with a deadline of 2030 for evidenced improvement. It is also expected to signal a shift to single tier local government alongside a potential expansion of some combined authority areas, further devolution to devolved city regions, and the introduction of devolution deals and a 'Governor Model' in counties where the role of Mayor is deemed unsuitable.</p> <p>Manchester (and other cities) is continuing to lobby government on a range of issues including the need for levelling up to focus on the social determinants</p>

		<p>of health to address inequality, rather than a purely infrastructure and capital spending led approach.</p> <p>The UK Cities Climate Investment final report has been published which sets out the opportunity for half a trillion investment in Core Cities and London Councils Half A Trillion Pound Investment Opportunity for Green Investors - Report corecities.com The next phase of the project is to work up projects in more detail and is dependent on confirmation of £1.5 million of funding from BEIS.</p>
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