

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Economy Scrutiny Committee – 10 February 2022

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

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

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**Summary**

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

**Recommendations**

The Committee is requested to note the update.

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**Wards Affected:** All

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

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

Updated 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022: For Economy Scrutiny Committee 10<sup>th</sup> February & Executive 16<sup>th</sup> February

Latest updates shown in yellow.

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
<b>General Overview</b>	<p><b>ONS reports:</b></p> <p>Economic activity and social change, and business insights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the week to 22 January 2022, overall retail footfall in the UK increased by 2% and was 80% of the level seen in the equivalent week of 2019; this was in part driven by a 4% increase in high street footfall from the previous week (Springboard).</li> <li>According to the <a href="#">fortnightly business survey by the ONS</a>, more than a third (34%) of businesses currently</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Powering Recovery: Manchester's Recovery and Investment Plan'</i></b> launched in Nov. Four investment priorities around: innovation; city centre and urban realm; residential retrofit programme; and North Manchester regeneration. Seeking govt funding for over 50 projects of £798.8 m. The plan can be accessed <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b><i>United City</i></b> business-led campaign launched 22/11 and supported by MCC.</p> <p><b>Business Sounding Board</b> and <b>Real Estate subgroup</b> continue to meet regularly to share intel across sectors and to help support MCC lobbying.</p> <p>Weekly MCC <b>newsletter</b> issued to over 10,000 businesses with updates.</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</p>

	<p>trading in the accommodation and food service activities industry had difficulty procuring materials, goods or services from within the UK in the last month, of which 8% were unable to get these supplies and 26% had to change suppliers or find alternative solutions to do so; in December 2021, this industry reported 28% of businesses experiencing these difficulties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For 17-24 January 2022, the seven-day average estimate of seated diners in Manchester was broadly similar to the previous week, at 111% of the level seen in the equivalent week of 2020 (OpenTable data)</li> <li>• Pret a Manger: In the week to 20 January 2022, transactions at all urban locations increased for the third consecutive</li> </ul>	<p>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-up' use by community or charity groups has proved successful.</p>
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week, following declines over the Christmas period.

### **Levelling up white paper**

The levelling up White Paper was released in full on 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Ultimately the white paper is likely to be seen as a disappointment by many, particularly as there appears to be little new money attached to the proposals, however it does provide a framework for how funding already committed by HM Treasury should be spent. The press release from Wednesday morning describes the white paper as starting the firing gun “on decade-long project to level up Britain”, implying the beginning of a process rather than a fully developed strategy.

The stated aims of the white paper are to:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those

places where they are lagging.

- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest.
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost.
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.

The key proposals set out to achieve these aims are to:

1. Enshrine in law twelve national levelling up “missions” which aim to shift government focus and resources to Britain’s forgotten communities throughout 2020s.
2. Begin a shift of power from Whitehall to local leaders, with every part of England able to gain ‘London style’ powers and mayor if they wish to, and

extension to the devolution settlement for Greater Manchester and the West Midlands.

3. Start a decade-long project to level up Britain, supported by a range of new policies.

4. Increase domestic public investment in research & development by at least 40% across the North, Midlands, South West, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

The white paper does not bring forward any significant additional resources or powers for Manchester or other local areas and its impact will likely be limited. To make real progress in this agenda, Government needs to

- Make firm commitments to devolve additional powers and funding so places can bring together resources to deliver key priorities

- Rebalance national public spending decisions of the revenue budgets of key Government departments such that 'levelling up' issues such as poverty and deprivation are weighted much more heavily than at present. This applies to Local Government, NHS, transport, housing, police and other key areas of public spending
- Recognise that competitive pots for largely capital based funding will have limited long-term impact without the revenue funding to function effectively, and that bid-based funding is a highly sub-optimal way for Government to determine allocations to places

The twelve missions proposed generally align well with Manchester's current priorities, particularly in relation to skills



and employment, health and wellbeing. Notably absent are any missions relating to tackling climate change and the environment, and tackling inequalities between communities in areas.

**England back to Plan A:** From Thursday 27 January the PM announced earlier in the month that people will no longer be advised to work from home, face coverings will no longer be mandatory in indoor venues, and organisations will be able to choose whether to require NHS Covid Passes. At the same time, the self-isolation period for people with Covid was reduced to five days. This is dependent on those infected testing negative on days 5 and 6. [The Government is hoping](#) that this will reduce the pressure on supply chains and support services over the winter.

**Inflation rises again:** the Consumer Price Index puts inflation at 5.4% in December, up from 5.1% in November,

driven by the higher cost of clothes, food and footwear. This is the highest level it has been for 30 years.

**HS2 Bill goes before**

**Parliament:** The bill laid on Monday seeks powers to lay new track and build new stations for the phase of the route from Crewe-Manchester, which is expected to open between 2035 and 2040. MCC will be making a response to the consultation on the Environmental Statement which accompanied the Bill, which closes on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

**Economic analysis on**

**Manchester's growth:** two analyses from EY and Avison Young show that Manchester's recovery continues to strengthen in 2022.

**Avison Young assessed** that the city achieved an 8% growth in its economy in 2021, making it the second fastest growth of the 30 major European cities. During 2022, Manchester's economy is predicted to grow by 6.5%, compared to a ten-year pre-

Covid average of 3.4%. This will be driven by a rebound in the sectors which were hardest hit during the pandemic. These include Accommodation and Food Services (29.3%), Arts and Entertainment (16.2%) and Education (9.8%). The city's professional, scientific and technical services will continue to power the economy in the short- to medium-term. **EY paints a similar picture** with Manchester expected to be the North West's fastest growing city between 2022 and 2025 (forecasted to grow 3.2%) driven largely by science, professional and administrative services.

#### **Hotel Performance Monitor**

**December 2021:** the hotel sector was particularly impacted by the Omicron variant on weekend business. The occupancy figures were below 2019 levels at 63% compared to 78% in 2019. Hotels have been reporting increased costs (supplies, staffing and energy) which is impacting on average daily rates.

**Manchester top for young professionals:** [a study by Orega Offices](#) has found that Manchester is the best place to live and work in the UK for young professionals, ahead of many other major cities. The study looked at rental levels, access to parks, pollution levels, top restaurants and availability of co-working space. London came a close second.

**[Manchester Office Agent's Forum](#):** in 2021, over 1million sqft of office space was leased in Manchester, 31% more than the year before. A total of 1,052,746sqft was let, with the biggest deals including 115,000sqft at Circle Square by Roku and 81,130sqft by Cloud Imperium Games at the Manchester Goods Yard. Of the total take-up, inward investment accounted for 33% of the transactions. Outside of the city centre, South Manchester saw an 82% increase in take-up compared to 2020. There are

currently 650,000 sqft of active requirements in the city.

**Daytime TV show comes to Manchester:** the ABC Buildings at Enterprise City will host [Morning Live](#), a daytime BBC [One show](#), first broadcast from the new Manchester location will be on Monday 21 February at 9.15am.

**New city centre openings:** Urban Playground, a new entertainment venue which will host a The Cube Live experience, mini-golf and food, has announced that [The Butcher](#) will operate from the space when it opens this month. This will be The Butcher's first UK restaurant. [Urban Playground](#) is based inside the Arndale, on the upper floor near to the Selfridge's entrance, and will open officially on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

[Great North Pie](#) will open a pie and mash café at Kampus in Spring, and Cloudwater Brewery

	<p>will open a 3,800sqft <a href="#">beer hall at Kampus</a> also.</p> <p>Luxury <a href="#">men's retailer END Clothing</a> will open in the former Paperchase store on St Mary's Gate, which is 22,000sqft; the fit out is in progress, but no word on when it will be open.</p> <p><b>Clayton Hotel opens:</b> the latest hotel to open in the city centre (on Portland Street) has created 87 jobs. The <a href="#">Dalata Hotel Group</a> will open a second city centre hotel, the Maldron on Charles Street, later in February.</p>	
<p><b>GM Tier Meeting</b></p> <p><b>02.02.22</b></p>	<p>Sector Updates</p> <p><b>Manchester Central</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan B restrictions has led to January and February bookings being cancelled.</li> <li>• March looks stronger with the year on year comparison expected to be closer to the pre-covid baseline.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hoteliers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiet January and February. However strong forecast trade from March</li> </ul>	

onwards will help offset the quieter months. The sector is feeling very optimistic about trade in 2022.

- Leisure and business custom is strong but international custom has not yet picked up.

#### **AO Arena**

- International acts are still impacted by covid leading to cancellations of some major events
- Despite this March 22 onwards is looking positive with a full diary through to July.
- 2023 calendar is particularly strong.
- No shows have averaged out at around 8-12% however this is lower in shows with a younger audience and higher at those with an older audience demographic.

#### **Hospitality**

- Issues continue around staffing and delayed

	<p>property costs incurred during the pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>New launches and concepts are happening in Manchester and there is a feeling of optimism amongst the bars and restaurants in the city centre.</li></ul>													
Footfall –	<p><b>Footfall trends- City Centre</b> (Springboard / CityCo)</p> <p><b>Week 4, 23rd January – 29th January</b></p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Week on week %</td><td>Year on year %</td><td>Pre Covid</td></tr><tr><td>St Ann's Sq</td><td>+6.6 %</td><td>+198.9%</td><td>- 39.5 %</td></tr><tr><td>Exchange Sq</td><td>+11.4 %</td><td>+231.7%</td><td>- 43.4 %</td></tr></table>		Week on week %	Year on year %	Pre Covid	St Ann's Sq	+6.6 %	+198.9%	- 39.5 %	Exchange Sq	+11.4 %	+231.7%	- 43.4 %	
	Week on week %	Year on year %	Pre Covid											
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King Street	+14.7 %	+305. 8%	- 36.0 %
Market Street	+5.5 %	+229. 7%	- 31.5 %
New Cathedral St	+16.5 %	+310. 3%	- 36.2 %

**Footfall trends- District Centres (Springboard)**

**Week 4, 23<sup>rd</sup> January – 29<sup>th</sup> January**

	Week on week %	Year on year %	Pre-Covid
Cheetham Hill	- 7.5%	+44. 6%	- 15.5 %
Chorlton	- 1.5%	+44. 0%	- 33.1 %

	<table><tr><td>Fallowfield</td><td>+20.7%</td><td>+69.5%</td><td>-6.9%</td></tr><tr><td>Gorton</td><td>+1.6%</td><td>+53.2%</td><td>-16.3%</td></tr><tr><td>Harpurhey</td><td>-1.7%</td><td>+32.8%</td><td>-15.4%</td></tr><tr><td>Levenshulme</td><td>+0.5%</td><td>+26.8%</td><td>-24.7%</td></tr><tr><td>Northern den</td><td>+2.6%</td><td>+83.1%</td><td>-5.5%</td></tr><tr><td>Rushholme</td><td>+2.2%</td><td>+85.2%</td><td>+12.6%</td></tr><tr><td>Victoria Avenue</td><td>+8.8%</td><td>+75.3%</td><td>-9.3%</td></tr><tr><td>Withington</td><td>+5.8%</td><td>+54.4%</td><td>-11.2%</td></tr></table>	Fallowfield	+20.7%	+69.5%	-6.9%	Gorton	+1.6%	+53.2%	-16.3%	Harpurhey	-1.7%	+32.8%	-15.4%	Levenshulme	+0.5%	+26.8%	-24.7%	Northern den	+2.6%	+83.1%	-5.5%	Rushholme	+2.2%	+85.2%	+12.6%	Victoria Avenue	+8.8%	+75.3%	-9.3%	Withington	+5.8%	+54.4%	-11.2%	
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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"> <li>• Student numbers remain high and are at 46,500 registered with a few still going through registration.</li> </ul> <p>Manchester Metropolitan's brand new £35m School of Digital Art (SODA) is now open with the school being well oversubscribed for their first intake of students.</p>	
<b>Aviation</b>	<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</p>	<p><b>COVID 19</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAG welcomed the removal of travel testing for fully vaccinated people last week, which comes into effect on 11<sup>th</sup> February. Research shows travel restrictions do very little to stop the spread of variants like Omicron but do damage consumer confidence. Removing restrictions will help re-start the recovery of the aviation and tourism sectors.</li> </ul>

	<p>replace more expensive PCR tests on day 2.</p> <p><b>New airport routes:</b> Turkish Airlines has launched its first ever direct flights from Manchester to Antalya and Dalaman. Passengers will be able to travel to the two places <a href="#">from the beginning of April</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior to the emergence of the Omicron variant, passenger numbers at MAG's airports were reaching up to 60% of 2019 levels, but this has dropped to around 30% with the reimposition of testing requirements. It is hoped that this will start to increase again if restriction free travel continues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recruitment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAG is looking to recruit more than 500 staff at Manchester Airport in passenger security roles alone, with other vacancies in areas including customer service, car parks and hospitality. Hundreds of additional jobs are also available with more than a dozen other businesses operating at the airport.</li> <li>• Following on the successful virtual jobs fair held last week, Manchester Airport will be hosting an in-person Jobs Fair to highlight the variety of roles on offer across the airport campus. The event will be held between 10am and 3pm on Thursday 10th February, at Old Trafford cricket ground, and attendees can book a place through the Jobs Fair's <a href="#">Eventbrite</a> page.</li> </ul> <p><b>AeroZone</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February, Manchester Airport will formally open the new, state-of-the-art education facilitate, AeroZone. AeroZone is a free facility for schools and colleges to use and is expected to welcome more than 5,000 children and young people aged between four and 18 every year, with curriculum-linked sessions focused on the wide range of careers available in aviation. For older students, more structured sessions will equip them with the employability and life skills required for jobs related to aviation.</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools across Greater Manchester can book via <a href="#">Education   Manchester Airport</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Culture</b>	<p><b>Culture Recovery Fund</b></p> <p><b>Emergency Support Resource Fund</b>, 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. £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 <b>support freelancers</b> 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: Theatre Artists Fund <b>now closed</b> and Help Musicians, Applications <b>open until 14 February 2022</b></p>	<p><b>Mailouts</b> - the 200 contacts on the Culture Team database have been contacted about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new Omicron Business Grants available via MCC: Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant &amp; COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund</li> <li>The Government’s support for Freelancers via Theatre Artists Fund, Help Musicians and a-n</li> </ul> <p><b>Response to changes to restrictions 27/1/22</b></p> <p>Most venues continue to encourage visitors to wear masks and some are continuing running socially distanced performances and screenings.</p> <p><b>Cultural Impact Survey - 2020/21</b></p> <p>Results are featured in report to CES Scrutiny on 8 Feb.</p> <p>Annual Cultural Impact Survey on the impact of Manchester’s cultural orgs which is compulsory for Council-funded cultural partners. This year’s findings illustrate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>47 companies completed the survey for 2020/21 and 39 of these organisations had also responded in 2019/20, helping to illustrate comparisons with pre-pandemic activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>total combined income</b> of the 47 organisations that completed the 2020/21 survey was £75 million. For the</li> </ul>

	<p>with £200,000 to a-n, the Artists Information Company - <b>Deadline for applications: Thursday 3 February 2022, 12 noon.</b></p> <p><b>Changes to COVID restrictions from 27/1/22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People are no longer required to wear a face covering, but asked to consider wearing one in crowded, enclosed spaces where they may come into contact with people they do not normally meet.</li> <li>• Audiences no longer have to show an NHS COVID Pass at venues and events.</li> </ul> <p><b>Results of Live Events Survey Dec 21</b></p>	<p>repeat cohort of 39, this represents a decrease of 28% compared with 19/20. Whilst <b>public sector income</b> has remained relatively stable, and has included emergency and recovery support grants, the pandemic has had a substantial impact on other income streams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among the repeat cohort - <b>earned income</b> fell by 89%. This is largely due to cultural venues having to close due to the COVID-19 restrictions &amp; many of the regular income streams such as catering, retail and venue hire were unavailable.</li> <li>• <b>Private sector income</b> also decreased, but to a lesser extent at 17%, representing pressures on the wider economy and in securing grants, donations and sponsorship.</li> <li>• <b>Footfall</b> to cultural venues in 2020/21 was 383,160. Of the repeat cohort of organisations, this represents a 94% decrease</li> <li>• There were 1,731 <b>productions and commissions</b> in Manchester during the year – an 84% decrease on pre-pandemic</li> <li>• There were 265,194 people at <b>in-person audiences</b> – a decrease of 95%.</li> </ul>
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	<p>PLASA and the UK #WeMakeEvents campaign carried out a survey to assess how Live Events sector continues to be impacted by Covid-19. (PLASA is an international membership body for suppliers of technologies and services to the event industries). 1,948 respondents from 40 + countries completed the survey between 1 November and 21 December 2021 (so recent impact of the Omicron variant is not accounted for)</p> <p>Report:  <a href="https://www.plasa.org/plasa-wemakeevents-covid-survey-report-2022/">https://www.plasa.org/plasa-wemakeevents-covid-survey-report-2022/</a></p> <p>Headlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Businesses with a turnover of less than £50,000 in 20/21 is 56% higher than in 19/20.</li> <li>• Number of people reporting earnings from the live sector of less than £10,000 in 20/21 compared to 19/20 has increased by 56% and</li> </ul>	
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	<p>those earning above £61,000 has dropped by 78%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 45% of businesses took on debt through a loan during the pandemic.</li><li>• 69% of businesses say they are experiencing a shortage of skilled workers.</li><li>• Next 0-6 months a third of businesses say they will have to delay work + a further third cancel work altogether. In the following 7-18 months - 38% intend to try and hire new workers.</li><li>• Shortages for onsite workers, mainly freelancers - 50% of respondents reported lack of site crew, 47% lack of engineers and technicians &amp; 30% lack of riggers.</li><li>• 36% of businesses were having to retrain or up-skill engineers/technicians</li></ul>	
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	<p>and 30% were doing this for site crew.</p> <p>It is believed that a lot of experienced people have left the industry (some moving from live to broadcast sector or to different careers with normal working hours). And difficulties in the UK because of Brexit - It is felt there is a need to develop less labour intensive practices to help address the skills shortfall.</p>	
<b>Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Continued development interest in the city for both commercial and residential scheme.</i></li> <li>• <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></li> <li>• <i>Risks around supply chains/access to materials, with associated increases in costs.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Canada House sold:</b> the recently refurbished building on Chepstow Street has been sold for £22million to Grosvenor, an investment property group.</li> <li>• <b>Rugby skills and mobility hub planned:</b> the <a href="#">Rugby Football League has submitted an application</a> for a hub for the development of skills and social mobility through sport. It will be called Our League Life Centre. It will offer rugby-based education courses across a complex of a 900-capacity stand, classrooms and seminar rooms, changing facilities and a media room.</li> <li>• <b>Office lettings:</b> Pimberley, a data management company, have taken an additional 5,958 sqft at St James' Tower. The <a href="#">company are planning to double</a> their workforce by recruiting an additional 50 staff over the next year. Bally Interactive, a games developer, has signed a <a href="#">10-year lease at 60 Spring Gardens</a> for over 5,500sqft of office space. They are the first confirmed tenants following the refurbishment of the building.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Access to finance for hotel and retail schemes likely to be more challenging.</i></li> <li>• <i>Economic Recovery &amp; Investment Plan identifies key schemes which can drive recovery and create new jobs. Ongoing work to identify funding opportunities for schemes.</i></li> <li>• <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></li> </ul> <p>Emerging Trends in Real Estate Europe 2022: the <a href="#">annual survey by PwC</a> and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) has seen a significant leap in confidence going into next year. It surveys</p>	<p>At the <a href="#">Bonded Warehouse</a>, DSW Ventures has opened a new Manchester office. Over at NOMA, IBI Group has taken an entire floor at <a href="#">Dantzic on a 10-year lease</a>. Four Recruitment has opened a Manchester office at <a href="#">Arkwright House</a>, on Parsonage Gardens as a second north west base. Octopus Energy Group has taken <a href="#">40,000sqft of office space at Circle Square</a>, as well as a 1,300sqft ground floor retail unit. This comes after the energy provider confirmed its partnership with GMCA last year to trial green tariffs and heat pumps in GM. <a href="#">Absurd</a>, a digital agency, has taken space at 37 King Street after the team doubled to 25 in 2021. <a href="#">MHA Moore and Smalley</a>, an accountancy and business advisory firm, have doubled the size of their team and have taken an additional 2,225sqft at 80 Moseley Street to accommodate its now 80 staff. At <a href="#">Circle Square</a>, <a href="#">Autocab</a> has signed a 10-year lease for 20,000sqft. They are relocating from Cheadle and expect to recruit for 200 jobs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>January Planning Committee:</b> the latest Planning Committee was held on 20 January 2022, with the office refurbishment of Speaker's House and proposals to create 237 homes in a new development at 87 Rochdale Road both approved.</li> <li>• <b>Ducie Street scheme gearing up for start:</b> a contractor is now lined up to build Urbano Property's <a href="#">41-home Manchester development</a>. The project will see the creation of a seven-to-eight-storey building on Ducie Street that is currently a surface car park.</li> <li>• <b>Enabling works at First Street:</b> Developer Downing's construction arm has started enabling works for its £400m mixed-use scheme at <a href="#">First Street South</a>. This is the start of</li> </ul>
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	<p>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 <a href="#">construction costs and resource availability</a>, availability of suitable land/assets and the continually updating sustainability requirements.</p>	<p>works for three buildings, topping out at 45 storeys and creating 2,200 co-living rooms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Manchester Tower on Whitworth Street West is to start soon:</b> <a href="#">Russell WBHO is aiming</a> to start on site in June having been formally appointed by the consortium delivering the 35-storey residential development creating 327 apartments.</li> <li>• <b>North Manchester General Hospital to start:</b> in April, the new health campus at North Manchester General Hospital will get underway with the construction of <a href="#">New Park House</a>, an adult mental health inpatient facility.</li> <li>• <b>Red Bank (Housing Infrastructure Fund):</b> Planning consent for MCC's Enabling Works package, which kick-starts the £51.6m HIF funded programme of infrastructure was obtained on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Works will commence in February 2022. The planning application for the main works is due to be submitted before the end of February 2022 and subject to approval, main works will commence in the summer of 2022.</li> </ul>
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk to developer and investor confidence.</li> <li>• Working with RP's and other developers to understand current impact and forward plans.</li> <li>• Assessing sources and levels of investment, and any obstacles</li> <li>• Investigating grant funding, financial and</li> </ul>	<p>Current forecasts suggest 510 new affordable homes will be built across Manchester in 2021-22 – 380 of which have already completed. This includes 249 social rent, 122 affordable rent, 99 shared ownership and 40 rent to buy homes.</p> <p>In addition, there are currently <b>c.1,000</b> 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 <b>Former Edge Lane Business Centre</b> (216 homes) and the <b>Former Belle Vue Stadium Site</b> (130 affordable homes). There are also currently 3 city centre schemes under construction at <b>Swan Street</b> (19 homes), <b>Addington Street</b> (50 homes) and <b>Islington Wharf</b> (54 affordable homes)</p>

	<p>other support needed to enable early start of key projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding supply chain issues and identifying appropriate support measures.</li> <li>• Developing guidance/share good practice for safe operation of sites</li> <li>• Expediting design &amp; planning phases of projects.</li> <li>• Risk of registered providers slowing down or pausing programmes to consolidate finances/liquidity</li> <li>• Ensure Zero Carbon and Fire safety provision are part of the programmes.</li> <li>• Potential flooding of the PRS sector as the short term let market shrinks.</li> </ul>	<p>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"> <li>• Construction has begun on MCC's development of 69 older persons social rent homes at <b>Silk St</b> in Miles Platting &amp; Newton Heath</li> <li>• A public consultation on <b>Russell Road LGBT Extra Care Scheme</b> took place in January with a further pre-planning consultation scheduled for February ahead of submitting planning after the local elections</li> <li>• A public consultation on the 730-home redevelopment of <b>Jacksons Brickworks</b> is underway. The scheme brought forward by Your Housing Group features a mix of open market sale, shared ownership, social rent &amp; rent to buy</li> <li>• <b>Grey Mare Lane Estate</b> – One Manchester have started construction on the first two phases of the Estate Regeneration programme (Blackrock Street &amp; Windermere Close). 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.</li> </ul>
Transport and	Submission to Transport Select Committee	Summary of transport activity for week ending 30 January (GM-wide)

<p><b>Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>On 1st Feb the Transport Select Committee publicised MCC's written evidence on the Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) Inquiry. MCC welcomed the principle of an IRP, but continue to have concerns that the published IRP falls far short of what we believe should have been included, such as a brand new Transpennine line between Manchester and Bradford; the HS2 Eastern Leg; and reductions to decarbonisation schemes. This appears to be in part due to the funding of the IRP being nearly 50% lower than the full funding cost for all projects set out in the National Infrastructure Commission's Rail Needs Assessment 2020.</p> <p><b>City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement</b></p> <p>On 31 January, following delegated authority granted by the GMCA meeting on 28 January, TfGM on behalf of the 10 GM authorities submitted the draft programme case for the Greater Manchester City Region Sustainable Transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were an estimated 48.5m trips made in Greater Manchester – 3% above the previous week.</li> <li>• There was an increase in both weekday and weekend trips of 3% from the previous week.</li> <li>• Compared to the same period in 2020, trip levels were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total trips down 15%</li> <li>• Bus down 22%</li> <li>• Metrolink down 42%</li> <li>• Rail down 45%</li> <li>• Cycling down 49%</li> <li>• Walking up 17%</li> <li>• Highways down 5%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There is evidence to suggest that the removal of work from home guidance on Thursday 20 January has contributed to the increase in trips last week, with weekday Metrolink contactless journeys and highway trips being above the previous week during the morning peak period (+16% and +2% respectively).</li> <li>• <b>Regional centre and Manchester:</b> During the week ending 23 January, the Regional Centre saw an estimated 3 million total trips. This is 4% up on the previous week, and included 2.12 million trips from GM and 0.8 million from outside of GM.</li> <li>• Regional Centre trips were 66% of the pre-pandemic baseline (November 2019).</li> </ul>
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	<p>Settlement. This followed a letter from the Secretary of State on 22 November 2021 to the GM Mayor to say that GMCA had been awarded an indicative allocation of £1.07 billion of capital funding conditional on the submission of a programme business case by the end of January 2022. Following further review and the announcement of the final award from Government, the final Programme Case will come to GMCA for approval. MCC supported development of the programme case including seeking funds to support delivery of priority local schemes for Manchester.</p>	
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<p><b>Skills, Labour Market and Business Support</b></p>	<p><b>Furlough and Newly Unemployed Headlines include</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the latest release (December 2021) there were 26,470 claimants of unemployment benefits in Manchester – <b>down 3.7%</b> from 27,475 in November. Unemployment for women is continuing to fall much faster than it is for men (trend across GM).</li> <li>• While furlough came to an end in September, there is no evidence that formerly furloughed residents have moved onto UC. The number of claimants has shown a month by month decrease since April 2021 when there were 79,300 claimants. December's provisional figure shows 76,468 claimants.</li> <li>• Manchester currently has 35,801 vacancies up 2.5% on last week with</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to Omicron, jobs fairs and recruitment events moved online, expectation that new events will be held in person in line with changing Covid guidance.</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• SBWA's planned for Jan include roles for bus drivers; care workers and retail workers. Low attendance is still an issue at approx 25% attendance rate. Low attendance from 50+ customers.</li> <li>• Continue to work with Government Departs looking to increase workforce in the City with sessions taking place in February to understand support needed.</li> <li>• Working with Health and Social Care sector to develop more pathways and partnerships to support recruitment.</li> <li>• Working with local JCP to understand <a href="#">new national Way to Work campaign</a> and how it will operationally impact delivery of employment and skills provision in the city.</li> <li>• Working closely with MAG to support their virtual jobs-fair and promote opportunities coming through the Airport Academy alongside DWP and Wythenshawe Partners.</li> </ul>
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	hospitality coming back after Christmas and Omicron restrictions.				
<b>Offer 16-19 Year Olds</b> <b>CCIS Update: January 11<sup>th</sup></b> <table><tr><td><b>Known</b></td><td>2.7% (increase from last update - 2.4%)</td></tr><tr><td><b>Unknown</b></td><td>3.5% (decrease from last update - 4.9%)</td></tr></table>	<b>Known</b>	2.7% (increase from last update - 2.4%)	<b>Unknown</b>	3.5% (decrease from last update - 4.9%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Co-location review of Career Connect service is underway, with a report to be produced upon completion with agreed adjustments.</li><li>Post 16 Sufficiency research (to establish the capacity needed in FE) to be completed imminently, pending final data analysis and recommendations.</li><li>Data dashboard drafted in final amendment stage to begin using widely WC 7<sup>th</sup> February.</li><li>Circle meeting update with key internal partners re: agreed way to align work in Post 16 and social care in development.</li></ul>
<b>Known</b>	2.7% (increase from last update - 2.4%)				
<b>Unknown</b>	3.5% (decrease from last update - 4.9%)				



	<table><tr><td>Combined</td><td>6.2% (decrease from last update - 7.3%)</td></tr></table>  <b>Careers Connect update: January 25<sup>th</sup></b>  <table><tr><td>Known</td><td>2.72% (decrease from last update - 2.75%)</td></tr><tr><td>Unknown</td><td>3.46% (increase from last update - 2.94%)</td></tr><tr><td>Combined</td><td>6.18% (increase from last update - 5.69%)</td></tr></table>	Combined	6.2% (decrease from last update - 7.3%)	Known	2.72% (decrease from last update - 2.75%)	Unknown	3.46% (increase from last update - 2.94%)	Combined	6.18% (increase from last update - 5.69%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NM SV Education Strategy released for consultation prior to submitting for formal approval.</li></ul>
Combined	6.2% (decrease from last update - 7.3%)									
Known	2.72% (decrease from last update - 2.75%)									
Unknown	3.46% (increase from last update - 2.94%)									
Combined	6.18% (increase from last update - 5.69%)									
<b>Youth unemployment</b>  Maximise the opportunities from and work with partners to roll out the Kickstart Scheme.  Supporting youth employment programmes	MCC Kickstart opportunities – working with DWP to deliver the 3 <sup>rd</sup> cohort of 15 Kickstart placements for the Council.  <b>National Apprenticeship Week</b> (7 <sup>th</sup> February 2022). This will be a large campaign in partnership with employers, training providers and support services. This will include video case studies, social media activity, events and promotion of opportunities.  Meeting held with MMU in January to plan activities for 2022. This includes further development of SME support scheme and linking students and graduates to major recruitment campaigns.									

	Developing a clear offer to support our graduates	
	<b>Skills and employment support for adults</b>  Challenges - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to reflect on delivery of the Digital Inclusion Action Plan</li> </ul>	<p>In January MAES completed 3 Sector-based Work Academy Programmes in partnership with DWP – 2 for HMRC who have been recruiting for admin roles (1 in person and 1 online) - 18 participants. - outcomes not known as yet. And one for WGC (hotel group) for housekeeping roles. - 8 participants and 3 secured jobs so far.</p> <p>The Community Renewal Funded Good Things foundation Project will deliver until June 2022, supporting community access to digital inclusion activity.</p> <p>The Digital Inclusion Action Plan for 2022 is developing well setting out strong co-ordination and aims from multiple projects funded from different streams.</p>
	<b>Social Value and Local Benefit</b>  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?   Ensure that MCC's approach to SV reflects current economic	<p>A key focus currently is the annual MCC - CLES conference, being held on 18 February which is taking shape and will include workshops on a number of social value priorities – Our Year, digital exclusion, community cohesion and diversity (co-hosted with Belong), and Living Wage City.</p> <p>The conference will also see updated CLES analysis of social value delivered through MCC's procurement spend and case studies from a CLES analysis of a sample of contracts.</p>

	<p>circumstances and <i>Think</i> recommendations.</p> <p>Coordinate employment and skills related social value “offers” from across MCC’s largest suppliers and capital projects into a pipeline of opportunities that can be promoted to residents and employment/skills/training organisations.</p>	
	<p><b>Business Support, Sustainability and Growth</b></p> <p><b>Business Grants</b></p> <p><b>Three New Business Grant programmes - all now live.</b></p> <p>Following the announcement of the new grants available to the hospitality sector, guidance was released on 30 December.</p> <p>1. <a href="#">Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme, (OHLG)</a> - closes 18.3.2022</p>	<p><b>Business Grants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Grants are fully advertised on our website.</li> <li>• Officers are continuing to meet with GMCA and other LA’s to attempt to understand each other's approach.</li> <li>• Communications push will take place over the next week to increase take up where possible.</li> <li>• Will extend ARG closing date to 21.2.2022 and put messages through businesses including an email-shot.</li> </ul> <p><b>SME, District Centre and High Street support</b></p> <p>Following the success of the Small Business Saturday Tour the next steps are to go out and undertake business engagement across our Neighbourhoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning is underway 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.</li> </ul>

	<p>2. <a href="#">The third ARG top-up</a> – closes 7.2.2022 - will be extended to 21.2.2022 - presently 230 applications in which are being processed.</p> <p>3. <a href="#">COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) Business Rates Scheme .Closes 28.2.2022</a></p> <p><b>Current position</b></p> <p>The current running total of all Grants in our BEIS returns stands at <b>£230,983,511</b> since commencing with the delivery of grants in 2019.</p> <p><b>Payments 24<sup>th</sup> – 31 Jan = £1.186m:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LRSG / Closed business - £8,193 – recovery of grant paid in error</li> <li>• Omicron - £1,086,698 (260 payments)</li> <li>• ARGO - £25,010 (17 payments)</li> <li>• ARG Taxi: £82,796 (237 payments)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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 Small Business Saturday tour and campaign in 2022.</li> <li>- Working with Comms to create marketing material and comms plan.</li> <li>- The first event location has been agreed at North Mcr – venue and detail is being finalised.</li> </ul> <p><b>SME Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Future for SMEs online event took place 27 January and feedback from SMEs keen to engage in person events and find these sessions a useful way to connect and gain advice and support.</li> </ul> <p>Work has re-started with Manchester Airport Group and Virgin Media on recruitment campaigns following easing of restrictions.</p>
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	<p><b>Equalities/ Disadvantaged</b></p> <p>Ensure that disadvantaged and underrepresented groups are supported by activity included in Workstreams 1-6. This would include Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups, young people, over 50's, homeless, veterans, survivors of DV&amp;A, ESA claimants, and those experiencing family poverty.</p> <p>Covid has worsened the situation for many already experiencing inequality – the challenge is to ensure support is targeted to reach the communities in most need.</p>	<p><b>Supporting Afghan arrivals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- W&amp;S supporting DWP Proof of Concept project to explore whether the removal of non-employment barriers to work can help people to move into housing.</li> <li>- The project will work closely with the homelessness service to support a small group of people, in temporary accommodation.</li> <li>- Caseworkers recruited to provide 1:1 support and will link in with local employment support provision.</li> <li>- The project is due to launch in Feb and will run from 3 to 6 months.</li> </ul> <p><b>Uncertain Futures Employment &amp; Skills Sessions for over 50's women:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to the impact of Covid the Digital session planned for January had to be postponed.</li> <li>- Rescheduled to run in May in conjunction with a digital roadshow which is being delivered by the Digital Inclusion team within the Libraries Service.</li> <li>- The next employment session will take place at MAG on 16<sup>th</sup> February, hosted by MAES on the topic of Confident Language at work.</li> </ul> <p><b>Work Club Network Meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On 19<sup>th</sup> Jan W&amp;S hosted the first Citywide Work Club network meeting at which over 20 work clubs leads attended. The next round of commissioning was discussed with a focus on key work and skills priorities.</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p>Planning is underway for a specific over 50's campaign during National Apprenticeship week in February 2022.</p>
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		<p>The W&amp;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>
<b>Funding</b>	<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><b>Funding Announcements</b></p> <p>The levelling up white paper was released on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.</p> <p>Prior to publishing the paper, a DLUHC press release (30 Jan) announced the following:</p> <p><b>Brownfield Funding Announcement</b></p> <p>“A total of £120 million of funding will be given to 7 Mayoral Combined Authorities to transform derelict brownfield sites into vibrant places where people want to live and work. Seven MCAs – West Midlands, <b>Greater Manchester</b>, West Yorkshire, Liverpool, South Yorkshire, North of Tyne, and Tees Valley stand to gain 7,800 homes.</p> <p>A further £30 million is being awarded to 3 Mayoral Combined Authorities in Greater Manchester, Tees Valley and West Midlands on disused brownfield land.”</p> <p><b>Levelling Up Home Building Fund</b></p>

		<p>"1.5 billion Levelling Up Home Building Fund next week, providing loans to small and medium sized builders and developers to deliver 42,000 homes, with the vast majority outside of London and the South East."</p> <p><b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund</b> 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 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>The Levelling Up White Paper indicates that the Shared Prosperity Fund "will be allocated to, and invested by, MCAs (Mayoral Combined Authorities) where they exist."</p> <p><b>Community Ownership Fund</b> – round 2 has been delayed until Spring 2022, when it will be relaunched with a new prospectus and additional support for applicants.</p> <p><b>Funding in Progress</b></p>
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		<p><b>Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund Round 3</b> has been announced – MCC secured c.£19m from <b>round 1</b> 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><b>Funding Approved</b></p> <p><b>Energy Savings Trust's (EST) eCargo Bike Grant Fund, Local Authority Scheme 2021/2022.</b> Scheme was officially launched on 17<sup>th</sup> January with good press coverage.  <a href="https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/8931/ebikes_come_to_manchester_as_ambitious_city-wide_scheme_launches">https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/8931/ebikes_come_to_manchester_as_ambitious_city-wide_scheme_launches</a></p>
<b>External Lobbying</b>	<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>Manchester has contributed to the development of the Convention of the North, organised by the Northern Powerhouse 11. Policy workshops will take place covering Education, Skills &amp; Work, Innovation &amp; Health, Transport, Trade &amp; Investment, Place, Culture &amp; Housing.</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 of health to address inequality, rather than a purely infrastructure and capital spending led approach.</p> <p>Greater Manchester has established a new area steering group (attended by the Strategic Director Growth and Development) to drive forward growth and levelling up in the GM growth locations. Council officers are also attending area groups to focus on growth locations including the Central Area (including the regional centre and North Manchester) and the Airport and South Growth Corridor.</p>



		<p>These groups will develop a strategic narrative for the area and ensure that local implementation plans are in place for sub-areas.</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 <a href="#">Half A Trillion Pound Investment Opportunity for Green Investors - Report   corecities.com</a> 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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