

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee – 10 March 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

Thursday 3 March 2022

Latest updates shown in yellow.

Issue/theme/activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
<p>General Overview</p>	<p>ONS data: recent releases by the ONS show that unemployment was at 4.1%, employment was at 75.5% for October to December 2021, however wages are lagging behind inflation despite an increase in basic pay for the same period. Vacancies across most industries rose in January, with the biggest increase UK-wide in the accommodation and food services sector.</p> <p>ONS trade data shows that UK exports of goods to the EU have fallen by £20billion, compared with 2018, the most recent 'stable' period (before COVID and Brexit):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the combined impact of the pandemic and 	<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>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</p>

	<p>Britain's exit from the single market caused a 12% fall in exports between January and December 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imports from non-EU countries remain higher than from EU countries for the 11th consecutive month and continue to be driven by increasing imports of fuels• The Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) reports that 66% of exporters and 79% of importers faced challenges in late December 2021 to early January 2022 with additional paperwork, change in transportation costs and customs duties or levels being the top challenges for traders.• Outbound shipments of clothing and footwear to the EU were both down by almost 60% compared with 2018. Clothing exports have been	<p>considered- some 'pop-up' use by community or charity groups has proved successful.</p>
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affected because a high proportion of garments sold by UK retailers are made in Asia or the US, making them ineligible for the tariffs negotiated in the post-Brexit trade deal.

Latest ONS [economic data](#) and business indicators:

- In the week to 26 February 2022, overall retail footfall in the UK increased by 11% from the previous week, a period affected by adverse weather conditions throughout the UK, and was 83% of the level seen in the equivalent week of 2019; this is 7% higher than two weeks ago (Springboard).
- The seven-day average estimate of UK seated diners increased by 12 percentage points in the week to 28 February 2022, to 131% of the

level in the equivalent week of 2019; this follows a 10-percentage point fall in the previous week (OpenTable).

- Approximately 19% of the workforce were estimated to be using a hybrid model of working, with a further 11% of the workforce estimated to be working from home in mid February 2022; 62% of the workforce were estimated to be working from a designated workplace (not from home).
- The number of people who are wearing face coverings in shops and public transport is decreasing, with a reduction in the number of [people worried about the effect of COVID](#) (43% of adults surveyed, which is lowest proportion since October 2021).

COVID rules change: [as of 24 February, the government lifted](#)

the law requiring anyone who tests positive for COVID to self-isolate, and children and people working in education will no longer be required to test twice a week. The government will continue to recommend that people should stay at home if they test positive but as of 1 April, this will end, and free public testing will also end. A Spring booster will be available to those over 75 and anyone over 12 who is immunosuppressed.

2022 Michelin Guide: eleven Manchester city centre restaurants made the [2022 Michelin Guide](#), with Mana – who received the city's first star in over 40 years in 2019 – retaining its star.

Deloitte Crane Survey:

Deloitte released its annual Crane Survey for the year from 2 January 2021 to 5 January 2022. The report covers the city centre plus the Blackfriars,

Greengate and Chapel St areas of Salford. The key headlines are that Manchester and Salford have been remarkably resilient during 2021 and whilst there has certainly been some rebalancing of market activity over the last 2 years, overall construction levels are well above average for the city.

Completions during 2021:

- 5,549 new homes
- 404,584 sqft of office space
- 466 hotel beds
- 143,848 sqft of retail and leisure space
- 938,876 sqft of education space
- 492 student beds

New leaseholder protections: the [Building Safety Bill](#) will go to the House of Lords on 21 February, featuring amendments including a Government guarantee that no leaseholder living in medium or

high-rise buildings will have to pay a penny for the removal of cladding. Developers and product manufacturers that do not help fix the cladding scandal could be blocked from the housing market; the government will be able to block planning permission and building control sign-off on developments, effectively preventing them from building and selling new homes.

Further details on revamped New Century Hall: the historic music venue has been rebranded [New Century ahead of its opening](#). The building has undergone extensive refurbishment and will host a 'multi-use social hub' as an event space, as well as a diverse food offer New Century Kitchen. In the basement will be the Access Creative College, which provides courses in creative industries. A further

200,000sqft of speculative, net zero carbon office space will be provided.

RIBA NW shortlist revealed: three Manchester buildings have made [RIBA's North West shortlist](#) for the RIBA Regional Awards 2022. The entries include the Anco&Co PRS scheme on Blossom Street, the Special Exhibition Gallery at the Science & Industry Museum, and the Grosvenor East Building for MMU on Oxford Road.

New openings: [The Alan, a new design-led hotel](#) at 18 Princess Street has opened, with 137 rooms provided. Pizza restaurant [Rudy's has lodged an application](#) to convert the former Dawson's music shop on Portland Street into their third store. The new Hello Oriental food hall opened on 12 February in Symphony Park at Circle Square, with an Asian

supermarket, specialist retailers and open kitchens and restaurant and event space. The foodhall features an impressive architecturally designed ceiling. At the Great Northern Warehouse, a [new roller skating experience](#) will open in May, creating 35 jobs. The leisure venue has been development by the founder of Junkyard Gold Club.

Footfall –

Footfall trends- City Centre
(Springboard / CityCo)
Week 8, 20th February – 26th February

	Week on week %	Year on year %	Pre Covid
St Ann's Sq	+17.7%	+169.0%	-24.8%

Exchange Sq	+13.8%	+194.1%	-28.7%
King Street	+21.3%	+264.7%	-33.3%
Market Street	+10.1%	+162.4%	-31.2%
New Cathedral Street	+12.8%	+181.7%	-49.7%

Footfall trends- District Centres (Springboard)
Week 8, 21st February – 27th February

	Week on week %	Year on year %	Pre-Covid
Cheetham Hill	+28.5%	+32.4%	-14.1%

	Chorlton	+24. 6%	+7.3 %	- 34. 4%
	Fallowfield	+33. 8%	+12. 9%	- 2.0 %
	Gorton	+5.5 %	+33. 9%	- 9.9 %
	Harpurhey	+19. 6%	+11. 3%	- 25. 8%
	Levenshulme	+26. 1%	+23. 2%	- 32. 9%
	Northenden	+17. 5%	+51. 9%	- 3.9 %
	Rushholme	+13. 6%	+46. 6%	- 6.1 %

Victoria Avenue	- 8.8%	+17. 6%	- 36. 9%
Withington	+20. 8%	+22. 9%	- 3.9 %

NB – rise in weekly figures due to Spring half-term and severe weather in week 7.

Higher Education Institutions

MMU – 96% teaching is taking place face to face. Students returned 3rd week of January. Backlog of missed graduation ceremonies have now taken place. Covid infection rates down to very low levels.

RNCM - 90% students back, 10% still online due to Covid.

Manchester Metropolitan's brand new £35m School of Digital Art (SODA) is now open

	<p>with the school being well oversubscribed for their first intake of students.</p>	
<p>Aviation</p>	<p>The Prime Minister announced on 5 January that from Friday 7 January, pre-departure tests would no longer be required for travellers from abroad arriving in England. From 10 January, on arrival, lateral flow tests replaced more expensive PCR tests on day 2.</p>	<p>COVID 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the start of restriction-free travel once again, MAG experienced an increase in passenger numbers across all three airports during February. Half term saw the highest levels of passenger demand since before the pandemic. MAG expected to welcome nearly 1.5 million passengers between 11 and 27 February, compared to only 73,000 over the same period in 2021. • The Government announcement that fully vaccinated people would no longer be required to take any tests when travelling from the UK saw a sharp increase in bookings. The total airline seat capacity across MAG's airports is around 20% higher for February and March than January. <p>Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAG continues its recruitment drive at Manchester Airport. There are 500 jobs available at Manchester, directly with MAG, and hundreds more with other businesses operating at the airport. Last month, MAG held a jobs fair at Old Trafford

		<p>cricket ground with close to 500 attendees with some people securing job interviews directly at the jobs fair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following on from this, MAG is hosting a Manchester Airport jobs fair in Wythenshawe at the end of the month and will be advertising shortly for how people sign up.
<p>Culture</p>	<p>Culture Recovery Fund</p> <p>Changes to COVID restrictions from 24/2/22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government has removed remaining domestic restrictions in England. • People are no longer required to wear face coverings. Audiences no longer have to show an NHS COVID Pass at venues and events. 	<p>Response to changes to restrictions</p> <p>Venues are no longer requiring visitors to wear masks but staff members may continue to wear them. Some are continuing running socially distanced events such as HOME's Socially Distanced cinema screenings. Venues continue to ensure processes are in place to maintain cleanliness and aid social/physical distancing.</p> <p>Organisations are ramping up delivery of programmes, productions, events and exhibitions into spring.</p> <p>Music Economy research</p> <p>MCC has commissioned industry consultants Sound Diplomacy to undertake a study of the Manchester Music Economy. The final draft has been received and plans to announce the findings are being prepared for later in March.</p> <p>Cultural Core Funding</p>

		<p>In 2022, multi-year funding programmes for application by cultural organisations are being made available by ACE, GMCA and MCC. All 3 funders extended their current programmes by 1 year to give additional stability to grant recipients during COVID.</p> <p>ACE 2023-26 Investment Programme The application process for companies wishing to secure ACE core NPO (National Portfolio Organisation) funding opened on 28 February 2022, and closes on 18 May. Programme priorities are in line with the ACE 10 year 'Let's Create' strategy.</p> <p>ACE made a priority funding announcement on 23/2 as an addendum to programme guidance. The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport has issued an instruction for ACE align resources with the Government's Levelling Up priorities.</p>
<p>Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Continued development interest in the city for both commercial and residential scheme.</i> • <i>All schemes are back on site, and construction levels increased since the beginning of the pandemic, although with some overall delays to programmes.</i> • <i>Risks around supply chains/access to</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printworks works to start: this month, owners DTZ Investors will start the refurbishment project, approved in 2020, which will feature a 10,000sqft digital ceiling, a large interactive screen, and work to upgrade the 23-screen cinema, and revamp of the façade. • Start on Piccadilly tower: a new residential tower as part of the Portugal Street East has now started. It will be 25-storeys when completed and provide 177 apartments. • ID Manchester moving forward: the legal documentation for the joint venture between Bruntwood SciTech and the University of Manchester has been finalised which means the project can take another step forward. • Work begins on Airport hotel: construction has started on a new £42m 412-bed TRIBE hotel at Airport City Manchester,

materials, with associated increases in costs.

- *Access to finance for hotel and retail schemes likely to be more challenging.*
- *Economic Recovery & Investment Plan identifies key schemes which can drive recovery and create new jobs. Ongoing work to identify funding opportunities for schemes.*
- *Long term impact on office demand being monitored on an ongoing basis, but positive indications from office agents and the Business Sounding Board, with recent reports of increased demand, especially for flexible, high quality office space.*

Emerging Trends in Real Estate Europe 2022: the [annual survey](#)

which will be the first of its kind in the UK. Due to open in summer 2022, it will include a restaurant, bar, and a crew lounge for airport staff.

- **Ancoats Dispensary starts:** work to the historic building is officially underway to create 39 one and two bed apartments available for affordable rent. The work is scheduled to complete in 2023.
- **Office lettings:** streaming provider [Roku has taken 115,000sqft](#) at No.1 Circle Square as its first office in Manchester. The team will now be recruiting for more than 50 engineering roles before the end of 2022. This represented the largest single transaction in terms of square footage across Manchester in 2021. DCMS has chosen [Bloc on Marble Street](#) for a 12,000sqft office. At One Express, on George Leigh Street nearly all the space has been let since it reopened following refurbishment, with a [variety of businesses taking leases](#) including **a number of digital focused**. Deliveroo has opened a new Manchester office growing its headcount to 180 roles in Manchester, making it the largest office for the company outside of London.
- **Sports Direct takes more space:** the retailer has [doubled its footprint in the Arndale](#), taking a new 15-year lease in the former BHS unit. It will host a range of brands under the parent company Frasers Group such as USC, Evans Cycles, and Game. It will also have a Belong esports arena.
- **Piccadilly planning applications submitted:** [two applications have been submitted for Piccadilly Gardens](#). Thackeray has lodged an application to convert unused space on the upper floors of the three-storey building at 7-9 Piccadilly into 43,000sqft of offices, retaining Greggs and Superdrug on the ground floor. Legal & General have also

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.

submitted for a revamp of the pavilion in the Gardens, which would split the retail units by removing the canopy and refurbishing the units, as well as inserting art installations around the remaining section of the wall. (Ref: 132578/FO/2021)

- **Water Street towers approved:** four towers of [39, 48, 55 and 60 storeys](#) have been approved at Planning Committee on 17 February. Known as 'Trinity Island' the towers will deliver 1,950 apartments as well as £10million investment into the open space around the development.
- **Affordable housing scheme approved:** 89 apartments will be built on the corner of Pigeon Street and [Laystall Street](#), which will feature a new build on Pigeon Street, with the historic 32-34 Laystall Street extended to provide 8,000sqft of workspace. The homes available will 10 apartments available for social rent, 34 for affordable rent and 45 for shared ownership.
- **Logistics buildings approved:** a series of three logistics units at the [World Freight Terminal](#) at the Airport have been approved. The application, by Columbia Threadneedle Investments, who is an Airport City partner, will provide 85,000sqft to meet freight storage demand at the Airport.
- **Consultation on Store Street site:** Preston-based hospitality firm A Very Inc are seeking to redevelop the former Presbar Diecasting Foundry on Store Street, creating The Foundry, featuring a large beer hall and brewery, as well as the night market for independent retailers, and a bakery. Diecast Studios would include a gym, tech hub and creative studios. The [consultation is open until 28 February](#) and A Very Inc. are hosting an event on Thursday.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kier purchases Cheetham Hill site: a 4.9-acre brownfield site has been purchased by Kier Property and Investec with a view to creating industrial and trade units on the site. The site is approximately one mile north of the city centre and forms part of the established Cheetham Hill Industrial area. It is also directly opposite Cheetham Retail Park and adjacent to Manchester Fort Shopping Park.
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. 	<p>Current forecasts suggest 562 new affordable homes will be built across Manchester in 2021-22 – 432 of which have already completed. This includes 258 social rent, 165 affordable rent, 99 shared ownership and 40 rent to buy homes.</p> <p>Notable completions this year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Extra Care schemes delivered by Southway at Gorton Mill House (106 homes) and Dahlia House (56 homes). An additional Extra Care Scheme - Oaklands House (36 homes) - is due for completion in March • One Manchester have completed over 170 new affordable homes in 2021-22 including the UK's first zero carbon homes at Blackrock Street • 48 large family homes have been bought & refurbished for homeless families through the Housing Affordability Fund <p>In addition, there are currently c.1,000 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</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing guidance/share good practice for safe operation of sites • Expediting design & planning phases of projects. • Risk of registered providers slowing down or pausing programmes to consolidate finances/liquidity • Ensure Zero Carbon and Fire safety provision are part of the programmes. • Potential flooding of the PRS sector as the short term let market shrinks. 	<p>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>Updates on further key schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction has begun on MCC’s development of 69 older persons social rent homes at Silk St in Miles Platting & Newton Heath • A public consultation on Russell Road LGBT Extra Care Scheme took place in January with a further pre-planning consultation scheduled for February ahead of submitting planning after the local elections • 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 reprovision) and the retrofit of 150 homes over the next 5 years. A Master Plan was approved at the November meeting of the Executive. <p>There is growing evidence – including through feedback from MHPP - that problems with supply chains for products and materials are beginning to impact on delivery timescales and costs.</p>
<p>Transport and</p>	<p>GM Clean Air Plan (CAP) Update</p>	<p>Summary of transport activity for week ending 27 February (GM-wide)</p>

<p>Infrastructure e</p>	<p>Following evidence submitted by the GM Mayor and Leaders, Government has agreed to lift the legal direction requiring the ten GM Local Authorities to implement a Category C Clean Air Zone (CAZ) to deliver compliance with nitrogen dioxide legal limits on the local road network by 2024. The Government has issued a new direction which requires compliance in the shortest possible time and by no later than 2026. The GM CAZ, which had been due to go live on 30 May 2022, will not now go ahead. GM authorities will work with government to deliver, by July 2022. MCC Councillors and officers continue to work with GM colleagues to develop the new plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were an estimated 48m trips made in Greater Manchester – 5% above the previous week. • Compared to the equivalent week in 2020, trip levels were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total trips down 5% • No change in weekday trips • Weekend trips up 20% • Bus down 30% • Metrolink down 36% • Rail down 37% • Cycling down 41% • Walking up 8% • Highways down 3% • Growth in trip numbers last week was driven by increased activity over the weekend. • Improved weather conditions led to a significant rise in footfall and cycling activity. Pedestrian and cyclist movements captured at sensor locations were 61% up compared to the previous weekend (which was impacted by multiple storms). • Regional centre and Manchester: During the week ending 20 February, the Regional Centre saw an estimated 3.3 million total trips. This is 2.4% down on the previous week, and included 2.37 million trips from GM and 0.93 million from outside of GM. • Regional Centre trips were 69% 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 the latest release (January 2021) there were 26,005 claimants of unemployment benefits in Manchester – up 0.2% from the revised December's figure of 25,960 claimants. Unemployment for women is continuing to fall much faster than it is for men (trend across GM). • 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. January's provisional figure shows 75,804 claimants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWP Way to Work offer is taking shape locally with continued engagement of Kickstart employers a key feature. Moseley St Jobcentre and Employer Suite in THX will be key delivery places. Event planned for 31 March • Continue to work with Government Departs looking to increase workforce in the City with sessions taking place in February/March to understand support needed. • Working with Health and Social Care sector to develop provider information sessions in March (internal and external) to improve recruitment outcomes by creating and strengthening relationships with employability organisations. • Working closely with MAG to support their recruitment aspirations. This includes promotion of opportunities through the Airport Academy alongside DWP and Wythenshawe Partners. In addition to planning for a careers events at the Forum on 11th and 24th March. • Working with Virgin Media to recruit to around 60 full and part time roles at their Wythenshawe Offices. Work is underway with partners to deliver pre-employment support to residents ahead of an open day in early March. Further recruitment anticipated in April/May.
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- In January there were 32,705 job vacancies up 9% from the previous month.

Offer 16-19 Year Olds

CCIS Update: January DfE Submission

Known	2.9% (increase from last update - 2.7%)
Unknown	3.0% (decrease from last update - 3.5%)

- Co-location review of Career Connect service has been completed with a report being produced with agreed adjustments. Additional outreach and out of hours activity also commenced.
- Post 16 Sufficiency research (to establish the capacity needed in FE) has been completed and shared with Exec Members and with the Post-16 Reference Group for actioning recommendations.
- Revised P16 Stat Pack has been developed and will be used to form actions via Education Access Board and Internal P16 Steering Group.

Combined	5.8% (decrease from last update - 6.2%)
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Careers Connect update: February 16th

Known	3.18% (increase from last update - 2.72%)
Unknown	2.39% (decrease from last update - 3.46%)
Combined	5.57% (decrease from last update - 6.18%)

- Internal Post-16 Steering Group Terms of Reference established and in-place following scoping activity on the purpose and influence of the group members.
- NEET Prevention Panel pilot launched in March 2022.
- NEET Locality Taskforce pilot to be launched in April 2022.
- NM SV Education Strategy consultation period has now ended. A final version will be completed for April 2022.

Youth unemployment

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 recruit to the final Kickstart roles ahead of March deadline.

National Apprenticeship Week (7th February 2022). We delivered our most extensive campaign yet with case studies, promotion of opportunities, events and videos including the Leader and Cllr White.

	<p>Developing a clear offer to support our graduates</p>	<p>Delivering an apprenticeships/career pathways event 11th March at Wythenshawe Forum as part of National Careers Week. The event is in partnership with Mike Kane's Office, BW3, MAG and schools.</p> <p>Working with MMU to develop activities to support students to gain part time employment and work experience opportunities whilst learning. And the MMU SME support pilot programme to be evaluated and re-launched.</p>
	<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. • CRF and Arcadis funded North Manchester and digital projects – need for the two to complement 	<p>Connect with Us digital roadshow will begin on 4th March with 10 events across North Manchester. Local community venues are being used to speak to residents to offer direct support to help them thrive online.</p> <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>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>each other without duplication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge with a place-based approach – how do we work better and smarter with neighborhoods services and community groups around them to better focus and reach more residents. • Digital Volunteer fatigue and drop off – how to reengage volunteers in 2022 to ensure the service is still effective. 	
	<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>The annual MCC - CLES conference took place on 18 February which, despite Storm Eunice, was well attended (well over 100 had registered beforehand) and initial feedback was very positive. A debrief meeting with CLES will be taking place.</p> <p>The CLES analysis of social value delivered by the council's top 300 suppliers was also published alongside the conference.</p> <p>Trinity Island Local Labour Condition applied on planning approval. The condition will ringfence apprenticeship, employment, and training opportunities for Manchester residents.</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>Business Support, Sustainability and Growth</p> <p>Business Grants</p> <p>Latest spend position:</p> <p>Three New Business Grant programmes</p> <p>Following the announcement of the new grants available to the hospitality sector,</p>	<p>Business Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing date has now passed and currently there are c100 OARG applications to process. • MCC has so far awarded £363,114 leaving a balance of £635,903 plans are being developed to ensure financial spend is achieved by 31/3/22

guidance was released on 30 December.

1. [Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme \(OHLG\)](#) -
2. [The third ARG top-up](#) – **now closed.**
3. [COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund \(CARF\) Business Rates Scheme](#) . **Now Closed**

Current position

Last week BEIS released national statistics for OHLG and ARG grants

schemes reflecting allocations to 30 January.

Nationally Manchester has outperformed other authorities in awarding the highest grant level

SMEs, District Centre and High Street Business support – Roadshows Go Live March 2022

- SME Business Support Roadshow Briefing note shared with Councillor White.
- First event will 'go live' **22 March** at the **Peace Garden, Moston Lane**
- A 12-month plan of locations is being drawn up to include North, South and Central District Centres
- Each Neighbourhood will have 1 planned business support event every quarter

of the 309 authorities; ranking 7th in % of grant allocation terms.

In terms of ARG (including ARG Omicron) the Council has allocated 94.4% of its allocation, the highest across the 8 Core Cities and 3rd across GM.

Payments 14th – 27th Feb = £1.186m:

- OHLG Omicron - £498,015 (125 payments)
- ARG (Omicron) - £194,250 (290 payments)

Growth Hub Monthly Business survey highlights to 31 January

The latest findings from the GC Business Survey indicate **business**

- Production of leaflets will be ready for distribution 1 week prior to each event to undertake initial business engagement
- Led by the W&S team on the ground support and engagement will include - Neighbourhood teams, Business Growth Hub, Enterprising You, Cyber Resilience, Skills for Growth SME, BIPC and colleagues from Enviro Health will support each event on the day.

confidence remains fairly high. Some indicators which suggest economic headwinds lie ahead, in particular

Rising costs and inflation and ongoing supply chain risks.

Cashflow issues remain below early pandemic levels, there are tentative signs that this issue is showing more signs of stress.

These findings are reflected in business support needs, which show that more **businesses are needing support with financial advice,** general business planning, sales and marketing and workforce development.

Uncertainty most acutely felt by

businesses in the **hospitality sector**, these businesses continue to experience **decreased sales and cashflow issues**.

Overall, results indicate that **businesses remain resilient**, with the percentage of businesses reporting increased sales rising on the levels seen last month (mostly due to the Christmas period), and businesses' financial reserves remaining stable, albeit slightly lower than reported previously.

More importantly, **appetite to invest** in different areas has increased significantly, most notably in workforce and skills, and in innovation and digital transformation.

Finally, the **risk of redundancy remains**

very low and the proportion of firms currently hiring has stayed broadly at the same level, following a period of record-breaking vacancy numbers nationally and locally in the run up to the end of December

Inward investment

£5bn Manchester construction pipeline of new commercial development and housing.

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

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 186 in Life Sciences <p>Equalities/ Disadvantaged</p> <p>Ensure that disadvantaged and underrepresented groups are supported by activity included in Workstreams 1-6. This would include Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups, young people, over 50's, homeless, veterans, survivors of DV&A, ESA claimants, and those experiencing family poverty.</p> <p>Covid has worsened the situation for many already experiencing inequality – the challenge is to ensure support is targeted to reach the communities in most need.</p>	<p>Supporting Afghan arrivals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - W&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. - The project will work closely with the homelessness service to support a small group of people, in temporary accommodation. - Caseworkers recruited to provide 1:1 support and will link in with local employment support provision. - The project is due to launch in Feb and will run from 3 to 6 months. <p>Uncertain Futures Employment & Skills Sessions for over 50's women:</p> <p>Uncertain Futures - the Confident Language for Work event took place in the Tea Gallery at Manchester Art Gallery on 16th February. The interactive session was delivered by MAES to 10 participants who all gave very positive feedback. The next session will also be held at the Gallery on 23rd March on the topic of the menopause and work.</p> <p>A policy event is planned for the 24th March to bring forward key findings from the research and present a call for action to policy makers.</p> <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&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>
<p>Funding</p>	<p>No specific known impacts on current external funding bids caused by C19 as yet. Known bids progressing through funding approval processes as expected.</p>	<p>Funding Announcements</p> <p>The levelling up white paper was released on Wednesday 2nd February.</p> <p>Prior to publishing the paper, a DLUHC press release (30 Jan) announced the following:</p> <p>Brownfield Funding Announcement</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, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, Liverpool,</p>

South Yorkshire, North of Tyne, and Tees Valley stand to gain 7,800 homes.

A further £30 million is being awarded to 3 Mayoral Combined Authorities in Greater Manchester, Tees Valley and West Midlands on disused brownfield land.”

Levelling Up Home Building Fund

“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.”

Details have not yet been confirmed however our understanding is that this funding is part of a previous announcement.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund 3 year of funding announced.

Pre-guidance notes were issued alongside the Levelling Up White Paper.

1. £2.6 bn of new funding for local investment by March 2025, as part of a suite of complementary Levelling Up funding.
2. Provide all areas of the UK with an allocation of revenue and capital funding - via a funding formula, not a competition.

3. Taper in from 2022-23, with funding reaching £1.5bn a year by 2025.

2022-3 0.4 billion (revenue)

2023-4 0.8 billion (0.7 revenue, 0.1 capital)

2024-5 1.8 billion (1.5 revenue, 0.3 capital)

4. Empower each place to identify and build on their own strengths and needs at a local level, focused on pride in place.

5. Delegate delivery of the fund to local authorities, supported by local partners. In GM this will be GMCA, who will be funded via funding formula rather than a competition.

6. A full prospectus will be available in “Spring 2022” and GMCA will have to submit an “Investment Plan” for approval by Government in Summer 2022.

7. The fund will be led by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) with support from other government departments.

8. Themes are: Communities and Place (2022-4), Supporting Local Business (2022-4) and People and Skills (2024-5).

Community Ownership Fund – round 2 has been delayed until Spring 2022, when it will be relaunched with a new prospectus and additional support for applicants.

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>Funding Approved</p> <p>Energy Savings Trust's (EST) eCargo Bike Grant Fund, Local Authority Scheme 2021/2022. Scheme was officially launched on 17th January with good press coverage. https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/8931/ebikes_come_to_manchester_as_ambitious_city-wide_scheme_launches</p>
<p>External Lobbying</p>	<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>We have been working with colleagues in GMCA and other organisations to understand the funding landscape with a particular focus on UKSPF, with the aim of making sure that Manchester's priorities are reflected. We are talking to relevant people about levelling up bids as well as our priorities for North Manchester.</p> <p>We have also been talking to DLUHC about an outcomes framework for the levelling up White Paper and feeding in some examples of outcomes, measures and systems that Manchester uses to track progress against our objectives.</p>