

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Resolution**

**Report to:** Executive - 3 July 2020

**Subject:** COVID-19 Update Addendum - Manchester COVID-19  
Economic Recovery: Shovel Ready Projects

**Report of:** The Chief Executive

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COVID-19 has, and will continue to have, an acute impact on the global economy across almost all sectors. The city's economy has demonstrated its resilience to previous economic shocks and has the strategic vision and track record of delivery to overcome this challenge with targeted fiscal support. In response to the current threat, it is essential that the city responds decisively to meet this challenge head on by working collaboratively with Government, sub regional partners, private sector partners and the range of stakeholders who operate across the city.

This strong, coordinated and collaborative response has informed the development of a set of interventions during summer 2020, which is aimed at safeguarding jobs, generating new employment opportunities and driving the recovery across the city and supporting the levelling up agenda in the North of England. The challenges are significant, but by building on Manchester's strengths and moving at pace, there are opportunities to ensure that Manchester continues to successfully and sustainably grow as a leading international city, and also address long standing socio-economic and environmental challenges.

On 30 June, the Prime Minister announced a £900m fund for 'shovel ready' local growth projects in England, which could include regeneration, investment in transport, digital connectivity or technology centres to build on local advantage. There is expected to be a further budget statement from the Chancellor on 8 July.

The proposals set out in the attached list (see appendix 1) represent Manchester's priority shovel ready projects, which together can ensure that the city plays its full part in the national economic recovery, by continuing its development as a forward thinking global city which is able to reach its full economic potential. This includes continuing to attract inward investment and exports, attracting international students, visitor economy, culture and sporting events. The projects build on the [Our Manchester Industrial Strategy](#), which was approved in September 2019, following a large scale consultation with the city's businesses and organisations, workers and residents. It has also been informed by economic intelligence from locally commissioned surveys and a business sounding board.

[The shovel ready projects list](#) collates the range of projects, which can be delivered in the short-term, to collectively support the post Covid-19 economic recovery, and we would like to work with Government to facilitate their delivery. Whilst not an exhaustive list, the shovel ready projects identified are our top priority schemes for the city over the next 5 years, in terms of their ability to contribute significantly to the city region's recovery through GVA and job creation: together they hold the capacity

to create almost 65,000 new jobs in the city (in return for an overall investment request of around £1.5bn). These projects will also support the city's growing population base, with the delivery of a significant phased pipeline of new homes of varying types and tenure, and key national and local recovery priorities of stimulating environmental change, skills development, digital growth and innovation.

Continued focus on growth and development will play a fundamental part in the city's post-COVID-19 economic recovery. The shovel ready list captures the range of projects which will be critical to ensuring that the city continues to attract inward investment from the UK and overseas; and remains an attractive place for organisations to locate, which will in turn guarantee a range of employment opportunities for residents. The project pipeline will also ensure that the city has an attractive residential offer, to satisfy the demands of those seeking to live in proximity to the city centre's employment opportunities and cultural, leisure and retail amenities.

The overarching recovery strategy for Manchester remains focused on the city's key growth sectors. These sectors were identified as strategically important to the city long before the existence of Covid-19 and represent the priority areas of economic activity for Manchester to ensure its continued growth as a leading international city. They form a key thread of many of the projects set out within the appended shovel ready spreadsheet. These sectors are:

- Health Innovation, Life sciences, Biotechnology
- eCommerce and Tech
- Research and Higher Education
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Culture and Creative Industries

Many of the schemes provide the opportunity to accelerate delivery, and in turn can drive an immediate boost to the local, regional and national economy, additionally supporting a range of industries, not least the UK construction industry and the associated supply chain. For these reasons, we believe there is a compelling case for significant public investment to be directed to the city, in order to lever in private investment and deliver lasting benefit for Manchester and the UK.

[Link to download the Excel Spreadsheet with the list of projects](#)