**One City Economy Board COVID-19 response call**

**Agenda – 7th April 2020**

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| **Date/time** | | Tues 7th April  1400-1500 | **Venue** | Zoom call |
| **Co-chairs** | | Craig Cheney (Deputy Mayor of Bristol) & James Durie (Business West) | | |
| **Actions**   * James to send note about business on health service, blue light and other services * Representatives to share Local fundraising to support our VCSE – link in text * Sado to speak to Michael about how to access grant funding better * Representatives to share information and encourage businesses to check accounts and get in touch if relief is relevant * Bristol City Council comms team to share wording on business rate relief * Representatives to share information about and participate in the Thursday Webinar across networks * Members to collect stories to use retrospectively – send to Ben Wright | | | | |
| **Agenda** | | | | |
| 1) | **Welcome and Introductions**  **Welcome -** Sandra Meadows – Chief exec of VOSCUR & Darren Jones – MP | | | |
| 2) | **Public Health Colleague update (Sally Hogg)**  Southwest isn’t peaking in the same way as other parts of the country. Upward but at a slower pace than others meaning likely later peak middle/late May. Good for the NHS in the region. Might not be as good for the economy. Likely lots in the community will have had it so potentially some immunity in population.  **James** – call for PPE, clarification in the last few days, **James to send a note to private sector for health service, blue light and other services** | | | |
| 3) | **Business West update – James Durie**  Main portal is [trading through COVID hub](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.businesswest.co.uk_trading-2Dthrough-2Dcoronavirus&d=DwMFAg&c=1vnCWTgU_iH2bgveKnHUZ8hJXVq2EkkiN8FwZDwwznM&r=ejBy-_J5TuWAtZ3bOG1RRCmGrwKCicEjuIQjS5j-Nbw&m=NVq0MzuhYGBMNHUCs7lq7Mwou0aXw_1PZHq31KexfFA&s=boFn-ich-5Df7P6u_CntjVLAnsa4jIeZX6TRhDwebJA&e=) (5k hits). Trying to collect timely content, particularly around furloughs. Lots of questions about furlough, expecting more. Need to identify other gaps and where to escalate them to collaborating on surveys to do this (e.g WECA, BCC, national government). Working with banks so they deliver business needs | | | |
| 4) | **Sector specific COVID-19 updates**  Department for International Trade – Ameeta Virk  Aligned Business West work, specific problems around access to support if operating overseas and supply chains issues increasing around timely shipping.  Tourism/Retail - Destination Bristol – John Hirst  Most is completely closed, lots have closed doors till at least july. Working with City council to ensure spare beds are used for homeless. Furloughed most of their teams but the BIDs are still operational. Liaising with visit Britain, all cities similar.  Trade Unions – Nigel Costley  Lots of questions about furlough process. Lots feel not in safe working environments - lack of PPE and don’t know what to do. Had meeting with CBI about essential work. Redeployment scheme might not work as some employers are asking furloughed staff to not take on other work while furloughed  Junior Chamber – Alice Peacock  Reaching out to members to offer support. People want connection and network, but lots don’t know what will happen to them yet. Lots of early careers, juniors with little clarity on business survival – strong Mental health impact. Events and production has stopped even work for autumn and next year.  VOSCUR – Sandra Meadows  Top of list is funding and support for sector before full crisis across sector. Cabinet secretary convening a meeting with national body amid lobbying of government for VCSE package. Groups are starting to go under – so Arms around Bristol campaign launched and raised £400,000. Team working on what recovery looks like. Reduced confidence in social enterprise model. If grant funded can’t be furloughed but looking to arrange redeployment for voluntary sector workforce. Local fundraising to support our VCSE orgs - no national package in place as yet. **Economy board members to** **please share VCSE fundraising** <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/BristolCoronavirusFund>  Black South West Network – Sado Jirde  Survey out to understand impact on community organisations. Progress report shared with board. Community, heritage and arts, and business organisation have all held meetings - facing funding issues. BME organisations are hard hit. Self-employed (taxi drivers and creatives) also hard hit - not able to apply until June and support based on profit. Many creatives self-employed and part time. Small businesses struggling need support and finance. Business grant needs greater awareness. **Sado to speak to Michael about how to access grants better**  Bristol@Night Panel - Marti Burges  Lack of understanding about grants available and how to apply. Many grassroots venue a very worried about going under.  Bristol City Council – Michael Pilcher  Have processed £20mill about 20%, total allocation is about £88million. Team that normally processes has quadrupled to 24. Increase in applications to change eligibility of valuation (retrospective). Challenges on property valuation parked to allow eligible to receive money - will respond to later to ensure due diligence.  **Economy board representatives to share information and encouraging people to check accounts/get in touch if relevant**  5000 applications in, expecting 8,000 premises - simple message, put out through social media/newsletters etc. and reassurance to businesses that in next couple weeks money will be coming.  **Bristol City Council comms team to share wording on business rate grants**  Bristol 24/7 – Ben Wright  Disseminating info through new business newsletter. Skeleton team focusing on how to keep people connected (people who’ve lost networks, businesses, changing offers).  Bottleyard Studios – Fiona Francombe  Survey results show many organisation losing vast amounts per week. Cumulative loss of 1.5million visitors. Big areas of focus: freelancers (across all cultural), co-working space (business west support gratefully received). Freelancers can now be furloughed (Feb 28 for film industry). Events and arts area doesn’t have that yet.  Bristol Port – John Chaplin  Still handling a lot of traffic through Bristol port with those who can work  Bristol Airport – James Durie  Running down since last week, huge numbers of people furloughed. Runway open but terminal closed. Odd flight a day. Call to national government for extra support for regional airports – vital piece of national infrastructure.  University of Bristol – Guy Orpen  Supporting NHS and public services through graduating class staying in halls of residence now working in NHS. The High Value Manufacturing Catapult looking to support engineering businesses in need of help in and after the covid /economic crisis, local NCC contact is Katy Riddington - [Katy.Riddington@nccuk.com](mailto:Katy.Riddington@nccuk.com). Looking at which capital projects can help get things back off the ground. UWE established a 300 bed nightingale hospital at Frenchay site. Still many students on site with duty of care for.  Skills Future bright - Jane Taylor  Those at risk of redundancy – now Future bright list. Entitled to direct 1-1 careers coaching for redundancy, at risk of, reduced hours, furloughed. More info [future bright](https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/future-bright/).  Legal Sector – Nick Lee  Courts adapting, prioritising types of hearing, accommodating electronic filing etc. Contentious business busy, non-contentious basically paused. Those struggling to access pro-bono and legal support contact Nick volunteering and legal support capacity.  Digital and tech – Ben Shorrock  Accurate data on investors into start-ups difficult but currently: 98% drop in investment, 89% against march last year. It can take up to 6months so in 6-9months a lot of the start-ups will struggle to survive in the next 6-9months. | | | |
| 5) | **Wider region working**  WECA have been invited to join calls and we will work closely with them going forward. | | | |
| 6) | **Future calls and webinars schedule**  Mayor’s daily video and mayoral blogs 3 times a week. Monday and Wednesday citizen email 60,000 citizens. 76% opening rate (usually 20-30% opening for council emails). City leaders call Wednesdays with key individuals running institutions and sectors. Provides public health updates and a space to hear & share information. Weekly media briefing, facebook live Mayoral Q&A. Thursday business and VCSE webinar – wider audience than the economy board. Theming these webinars with relevant speakers from the economy board. **Economy board to share and participate in network** | | | |
| 7) | **Next steps**  Haven’t rushed into subgroups yet want to start to think medium and longer term. Two weeks to come back with plan of approaches. Trying to work with different groups and layers. Want to make sure we are speaking from same page though. Discussions with the open society foundation and UN. Want to protect space to think about 12/24/60months time. Manchester released ‘We’ll rise again’ – to show others to do business with them. Working with global networks of cities - recovery will be global - resilience built together. Looking to use the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework for future.  **Thursday afternoon briefing will be a really useful way to discuss issues with a much wider audience. 1600-1730** | | | |
| 8) | AOB  Ben Wright – Trying to document stories about what’s happening how we are responding. Keen to report back retrospectively. Recording through social media channels **Contact Ben Wright with positive stories** | | | |