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

**Agenda – 21st April 2020**

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| **Date/time** | | Tues 21st April  1400-1500 | **Venue** | Zoom call |
| **Co-chairs** | | Craig Cheney (Deputy Mayor of Bristol) & James Durie (Business West) | | |
| **Actions**  **Sally to share list of key workers for sharing with the board.**  **Anybody interested in production of PPE and manufacturing or refocusing PPE to contact James**  **Business West, One City and BCC to coordinate on a workshop around the Economy Recovery Taskforce** | | | | |
| **Agenda** | | | | |
| 1) | Welcome and Introductions  Welcome to Darren Jones MP and Stephen Bashford from the West of England Combined Authority. | | | |
| 2) | Public Health colleague update (Sally Hogg)  Cases and deaths might be plateauing with the southwest as one of the lowest regions nationally. There is an increasing pressure in the care sector with staff working incredibly hard to manage situation. PHE working closely with Business West and others about local production of PPE. Need to think seriously about an exit strategy. Globally there is a huge amount of work into a vaccine but no real sign that one will be ready for use by the autumn.  BAME communities and workers are disproportionately affected both nationally and locally. Staff testing is being rolled out and all key workers are eligible.  **Sally to share list of key workers for sharing with the board.** | | | |
| 3) | Business West update – James Durie  There is work looking into the production locally of PPE with some local authority budgets. **Anybody interested in production of PPE and manufacturing or refocusing PPE to contact James**  PHE willing to support to ensure businesses can get operating again. Still lots of questions about furlough scheme but government extension is positive (came through business group lobbying including BW). Some industries will need to taper furlough as won’t immediately bounce back. Still a lack of support for co-working businesses - this has been raised with minister for small business. BW survey over last 2 weeks has had 1100 businesses responded. Headlines in paper circulated but aiming for national coverage so please don’t share widely yet. | | | |
| 4) | Discussion of economic recovery paper  Aim to use regular call to focus on recovery having moved from response mode. Paper describes the problem: don’t know the end or what recovery will look like but need to start thinking now. There will be responses from: central government, LEP, WECA, Western Gateway and Core Cities. Proposal is to create an Economic Recovery Task Force (ERTF) from stakeholders in key economic sectors of the city to create an Economic Recovery Plan for Bristol to 1) attract investment 2) support, stimulate and rebuild the economy. Need to involve other sectors, use One City approach and embed the UN Sustainable Development Goals.  **Discussion:**  **Zoe –**MCHLG have done an analysis of sectoral dominance and areas with employment or GVA dominated by particular sectors. Uses unusual central government data sources. Need to use the same language as central government.  **John –**Visit Britain discussing how this is working in other cities. To encourage visitors will we get push back if we try to attract people to Bristol? Is there a safety mark?  **Zara –** Need to ensure equality and equity are included in recovery. Diverse companies receive higher returns – currently not reflected in the paper.  **James –** Wanted to reflect that apologies if the paper didn’t, want to make sure it does.  **Craig –** It would be good to call out the UN SDGs more clearly, and emphasise that more - if everything is based around those then equity and equality will be better represented.  **James –** Planning 90min workshop through with breakout groups to begin work. LEP are having similar conversations.  **Stephen B–**LEP planning swift formation of regional taskforce thinking about medium term and recovery. Key will be providing direction drawing from an evidence base to ensure resilience and adaptability. Need to focus on resident access to labour market, employment and training. Need to ensure aligned and coordinated approach.  **Nick –** Need to keep joined up as residency and work locations aren’t always the same.  **Darren –** Each MP supporting city initiatives: Darren Economic development post recovery. Must not forget local community businesses, the high street and everyday economy. Community institutions are under cash flow stresses without enough support from government. Worth including in the paper. Useful to use the LEP, WECA and western gateway, to get economic development in the budget context.  **Stephen P –** Work ought to inform structures and not the other way around, must remain aligned to government priorities but also characterised by the regional economic specifics of the city. Also must support sectors that treasury analysis doesn’t. The process of developing a plan is as much as important as who owns any document. Core Cities want shovel ready projects to be fed in to government. Need to talk as much as possible with a common script for our part of the country.  **Guy –** Common voice is key and would welcome pooling resources to make that happen particularly important is the emphasis on inclusion and innovation.  **Nigel –**How we move from here to recovery and phased return will be crucial – needs to be safe and need to ensure job retention scheme is flexible for safety. It is not only going to be businesses, the state will have to create projects and businesses that will employ people, a lot is physical infrastructure but need to consider: care sector, voluntary sector and arts & culture, skills training and further education.  **Ben –**What tools are being used for regional data collection – crowd sourcing?  **Stephen B**- Lots of surveys, sharing advice with businesses. It all needs to be pieced together and is ongoing. There is a lag but will have significant data. Still need to connect people who are falling out of work them with training and employment opportunities.  **Marvin –** Whenever we’re producing anything that is a plan we need to write it together, so it is more likely everyone will agree with it. Need to use platforms when they’re most relevant - different projects are suited to different platform  **James** – Will work with Andrea and City Office on format of ERTF including engagement from other boards  **Craig** – Economy Board to circulate paper to multi-board chairs meeting next week | | | |
| 5) | Banks and Business forum update – Stephen Bashford  Working with banks re: finance to business, including British Business Banks and support services on call. Banks are working as fast as possible but money not flowing smoothly from Government. Banks workings to increase capacity quickly particularly working on new scheme around innovation. Businesses are slowing efforts by approaching without being prepared – using Growth Hub to help businesses understand this. WECA are also putting pressure on banks because state data shows % of successful applicants is low. Happy to share notes from this meeting.  **James –** Discussions with banks at CEO level because there is a sense that banks are working from an old script. Also calls for Government to 100% back loans not just 80%. | | | |
| 6) | **Sector specific COVID-19 updates**  Bristol City Council – Michael Pilcher  Business grants - £56.3m has been issued from BCC's system. 6142 applications received, 4404 grants awarded. 1500 yet to apply. This level will slow as more complicated applications are processed. Quadrupled staff to enable these to be processed rapidly. 400 have been rejected, 300 with further investigation.  **James –** CongratulationsBristol is in the top 5/10 nationally. Is there anything the board can do to help with messaging? Any common themes. **Michael –** Suspect not but can look at data.  VCSE – Sandra Meadows update  Funding and finance from big lottery will be the big intervention into VCSE and it is really important that equalities led and focused groups are able to access that. City funds planning to support VCSE sector with resources. VCSE survey on recovery and resiliency to establish data where support is need short, medium and long term. Working with BSWN on regional sector resiliency and a survey is going out this week via the care forum sector. Local access programme are working on a blended finance to respond accurately to changing landscape. | | | |
| 7) | **Webinar information – Andrea Dell**  Thank you for the feedback on the paper that came out last week. Collaborating with WECA who are also doing sector specific webinars. Going to hold One City board webinars focusing on inclusions and equalities groups, working closely with Stephen to run sector specific webinars with appropriate leads. | | | |
| 8) | **Next steps**  **James –** Had a call with Paul Scully and the London Chamber: government programmes have flexibility and have underlined need to work together to bring change. Working with businesses missing out because they don’t pay business rates in the same way. Must keep feeding in information in powerful ways. | | | |
| 9) | **AOB**  Triodos and Babbasa two Bristol based organisations received a Queens awards today. Nice positive to finish on. | | | |