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

**Agenda – 26th May 2020**

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|  | **Date/time** | | Tues 26th May  1400-1500 | **Venue** | Zoom call |
|  | **Co-chairs** | | Craig Cheney (Deputy Mayor of Bristol) & James Durie (Business West) | | |
|  | **Actions**  **Contact Sally to feed into Bristol’s localised plans.**  **Contact Andrea and team if interested in being involved in Back to work campaign.**  **Andrea and team to share link with board – board to share with networks.**  **Any comments on statement of intent to be shared with Andrea & Allan by Thursday.**  **Contact Diana Finch if interesting in working with Bristol pay around use of token and digital currency to improve wellbeing and sustainability of Bristol.** | | | | |
| **Time** | **Agenda** | | | | |
| 14.00-14.05 | 1) | Welcome and Introductions (James Durie)  Welcome to Luke Townley who is going to supporting with the admin going forward.  Martin Smith – Head of Revenues at Bristol City Council | | | |
| 14.05-14.10 | 2) | Public Health colleague update (Sally Hogg)  Good news, but lots of work to be done. Local cases remain low in general population, but still concern in hospitals and care settings generally. Outbreak at Weston-super-mare hospital but there is really robust coronavirus testing programmes in place for patients and staff. Unlikely to be a vaccine in the short to medium, next year at the earliest. Local authorities given responsibilities for managing local outbreaks as the new normal. BNSSG will be working closely to ensure similar work overlaps. Lots of national & regional expertise to draw upon to develop a localised plan for Bristol, including the test, track, trace program.  **Ask** – if anyone has thoughts/considerations for how we can develop this plan - you know businesses better than PHE. Particular focus on businesses that will struggle to socially isolate and work safely. **Contact Sally to feed into Bristol’s localised plans.** COVID-19 has not gone away.  **James:** Thank you very much for work of your teams and Christina Grey. Can we encapsulate your question in one short question that can be shared?  Where are the businesses/industries that will need support looking forward and managing the new norm for the city?  **John:** Following on from COVID-19 has not gone away, can we have some advice –lots of people out over the weekend how do we tackle that?  **Sally:** We’re starting to be out but we need to be very careful, somehow we need to get that message across. People don’t want to be contained but we’ve got to carry on this message, COVID is there and its not going to go away anytime soon.  **Nigel:** Confused about test track trace, will it mean that anyone who feels poorly can immediately access a test, or will be certain groups?  **Sally:** It will require about 60% of people to download but need to test everyone who thinks they’ve got coronavirus and then can follow up the people who’ve been in contact with cases of coronavirus - reliant at a national level to get it working effectively locally. It is still evolving, will share what I know. | | | |
| 14.10-14.15 | 3) | Business West update (James Durie)  Lots of engagement and activity in trading through coronavirus. Some organisations are finding ways to open and operate, but growing concerns about whether they will reopen at all, lots of not sure what to do/where to turn.  BW have played an active part in lobbying government for relaxation around grant funding use.  Bristol going back to work safely approach/campaign - raised last week from a business community and economy board perspective, want to ensure businesses and organisations can open doors safely and apply new behaviours in businesses. Will be determined by guidelines government, but how can the city come and get itself back to work? How can we humanise getting people back to work, not just factual functional campaign, but make it something tapping into the zeigist?  **Andrea:** City Office are acting as convenors for campaign and actively looking for people with creative side. This will go beyond what the council has to do. Beyond managing the public realm and public safety. Asking networks if interested in being part of it, with reach to creative thinkers but also need delivery support. Will need to sit within parameters of government guidance.  **Contact Andrea and team if interested in being involved.** | | | |
| 14.15-14.25 | 4) | Discretionary funds (Martin Smith)  Grant funding issued £83million to 6,500 businesses – 95% out of the door Brisotl will be allocated £4.7million to plug gaps with discretionary fund. Pulling together policy with neighbouring local authorities. Looking at businesses in shared flexible workspaces, market traders, bed and breakfasts, charities already getting relief but also potentially providing top up. Worried it won’t be enough as expecting a lot of interest. Need to demonstrate: a significant fall in income since COVID, trading on 11th of March, less than 49 employees, cannot be able to apply if receiving other funding but criteria it is changing regularly. Martin’s team to oversee and give out payment, but looking at providing a list to a panel of which members, Councillor Cheney will be involved and then can look at distributing £4.7million, anticipate potentially additional funding. Application deadline June 8th, 12th June - final decision 15th- payment  Ben: Having worked with 400 odd organisations based in shared working spaces, great to share link with people who signed campaign for this fund. In terms of size in Bristol 90% who signed the campaign are in the 0-9 employees (£2.5k rather than £5k).  Sam: Great job Maritn.  Andrea: can make sure a quick email goes to the economy board with the link.  **Andrea and team to share link with board – board to share with networks** | | | |
| 14.25-14.30 | 5) | WECA Economic Recovery (Stephen Bashford)  Tim Bowles has been asked by the government to lead economic recovery for west of England, WECA and LEP, with Steve West as co-chair. Taskforce will ensure consistent and powerful messages back to government clearly articulating what is needed for recovery. Short term opportunities with people focus looking to help with employment skills and retraining, especially with significant labour market shift. Recovery will build on the local industrial strategy, particularly through clean and inclusive growth. Taskforce members and sectors are shared on the website, looking to reach out into sectors to build up the comprehensive information for the region, and bring together range of people speaking for many. Sector groups convened discussions between meetings. 16th June taskforce meeting to look at common issues. 6month process, plan driven by action as plan develops because of the need to intervene in the short term and the medium term, but will provide clear voice back to government to unlock more resources.  **James:** Do you think that the work we’ve done from a Bristol approach will fit in?  **Stephen**: Want to work together and although the regional economy holds together across the wider area we recognise the layers of distinction below that and need to be reflected. Drivers around clean growth and environmental growth will mean this holds well together, but some people, groups, geographies and sectors have been affected differently so need to make sure it’s recognises nuances - so any action is focused on areas of greatest need. Outputs of workshops and these meetings show strong synergies.  **John**: Will there be short term solutions for companies that might go under before long term begins to deliver?  **Stephen**: Financial resources are fairly limited, so far either through LAs or banks, no direct additional money for combined authorities. Existing programmes have been reframed to drive the response with an investment fund looking at existing commitments and investments etc, but will never meet the scale of the challenge that is faced. Keen to continue to put pressure on. Earlier in the year in the budget national skills fund and shared prosperity fund might be useable as funding to accelerate, but WECA doesn’t have the fire power to prop up businesses. | | | |
| 14.30-14.35 | 6) | One City statement of intent (Andrea Dell)  Working closely with WECA to produce Bristol’s position, circulated Bristol’s draft statement of intent, still finalising if anyone has any further comments please let Andrea or Allan know. Sign off with economy board to then engage swiftly with other boards, as well as Climate advisory committee, and SDG Alliance to produce into a whole One City Piece. City Gathering date will be Friday 26th June. All board members invited.  Three key sections 1) Recognition of loss through COVID 2) Best practice case studies and offers & asks of community, 3) Recovery, what does recovery look like for the city? Will be continuing on with the Webinar programme. Working with sectors for more engagement Annabel Smith leading on that. **Any comments on statement by Thursday.**  **Sue:** Health and social care, one of the only sectors predicted to grow - employs 13% of Bristol, enormous amount can be done in that area: skills training, terrible conditions currently, sometimes forgotten as a growth area. | | | |
| 14.35-14.55 | 7) | Brief Sector specific COVID-19 updates (James Durie)  **Fiona Francombe- Bottleyard**  Hoping to start getting filming back at the studios in the next three weeks. Hoping dramas will come back into the city. Expect hotels and supply chains will start to see the effects of that soon. Film industry has had some very strong guidelines which has really helped.  **James:** Fiona taking job as Bristol Old Vic CEO in August/September. Thank you!  **John Hirst – Destination Bristol**  Ironically English tourism week next week, we have a great industry here and hopefully we can develop it maybe not this year but hopefully in the future.  **Diana - Bristol Pay**  Not just focused on local independent businesses, want a payment platform for the city which generates money for the city. Can carry tokens as well as real money and provides opportunity to enhance build community capacity around Bristol communities. Keen to work with anyone who might want to think about using tokens to reduce resource waste or pressures on adult social care etc.  **Martin Boddy – University of West England**  The region’s four universities are all planning to be bringing universities back around September/October time, about 60,000 students coming to spend students loans with local businesses. All the UWE accommodation, city centre and campus is spoken for. Potential real economic boost to the city.  **Guy Orpen – University of Bristol**  University of Bristol will be bringing research economy back in, to do jobs and research but that is step one of a sequence of events where workforces feel confident to come back. Need to be confidence that Bristol is safe and welcoming place to live work and study.  **James**: Headmaster of Clifton college there is an issue of confidence we are all beholden to give confidence that we are taking this seriously but we also want to open back up. Job to do to get the perception right.  Ben Wright Bristol 24/7  No print publication this month and won’t print next month, focus on keeping the city connected and informed. Looking to reach into communities that are more disengaged. Recruiting for hyperlocal reporters looking to support those less involved in the communities to be more included. | | | |
| 14.55-15.00 | 8) | Next steps & AOB (James Durie) | | | |