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

**Agenda – 28th April 2020**

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| **Date/time** | Tues 28th April 1400-1500 | **Venue** | Zoom call |
| **Co-chairs** | Craig Cheney (Deputy Mayor of Bristol) & James Durie (Business West) |
| **Actions****Allan to invite Lynn Stanley to next week’s Economy board call** **Invitation to Mark Kelly to join the board****Dates for economy board workshops - Allan to share** |
| **Agenda** |
| 1) | Welcome and Introductions  |
| 2) | Public Health colleague update (Sally Hogg) * Public Health Bristol

Expected rise in deaths this week. Testing increases are allowing key workers to return work if they don’t have COVID-19. Discussions about moving into next suppression phase measures through testing regime and personal tracking apps. New [government guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reporting-fraud-about-a-company-to-companies-house/how-to-protect-your-company-from-fraud) on protecting businesses from fraud and cybervirus crime. * Mental Health (MH) in the workplace

MH has become a top priority for employers and the workplace. MH challenges are significant and are going to increase. A mental health and wellbeing cell is being set up. Thriving at work, mind, BW, WECA, coordinated all age response to mental health issues arising from COVID. **Lynn Stanley to join call next week**. Group reporting to BNSSG silver command so things that arise are being dealt with. More detail next week.  |
| 3)  | **Business West update – James Durie**Mostly working through the trading through coronavirus platform. Furlough application process has opened up and payment has begun to move through. Challenge to make sure staff feel valued while they are furloughed. Businesses want to get back to work but it needs to be in a safe way. Working with First Busto help those using public transport to return. Many small businesses missing out on support because they pay business rates through indirect charge. Could we redeploy underspend of the business rate relief to these organisations? Likely substantial reductions in AIRBUS because order books have dropped. There will be a big impact on Bristol.  |
| 4)  | **Brief Sector specific COVID-19 updates****Craig Cheney –** **Business rate relief –**Paid out 68.3million. About 1000 businesses that haven’t applied about £20million in the pot with about 300 left to assess. If you know of anyone to apply please encourage them to do so.**John Hirst – Destination Bristol** - MD at ashton gate Mark Kelly keen to be involved helping recovery and boosting economy. **Allan to** **Invite Mark to next meeting**. **Darren Jones – MP -**  Treasury bounce back loans providing new support. Chief medical officer Chris Whitty -we would lift measures evenly, no differential across regions. Tracing app ready in the next two to three weeks, will only be deployed if decided it is useful. Testing availability is key and still aren’t sure on the degree of protection if you’ve had it. Balance between public health and economic concerns. **Fiona Francombe – Bottleyard -** Film industry very tactile industry, challenge to get people back to work, unions are considering how that could look. More enquiries for filming than normal because the south west is perceived as a safer place to film at the moment but can’t easily accept because of social distancing. Filming will look very different to pre covid 19. **Nigel Costly – Trade Unions** Government announced 7 sector groups nationally which have all now met. There are four unions on each of them. Involved with treasury and cabinet office with job retention scheme going forward. Pressing for short time scheme with halftime offers and the other half offering furlough. One option is reducing the three week minimum period to one week so companies could come back on a sequencing with different shifts coming in. Need to improve job retention scheme for people looking after those who are ill or looking after vulnerable people. Still struggling with PPE and complaints from shopworkers union of need to keep up discipline in shops. Unionlearning at home project has had lots of interest: <https://www.unionlearn.org.uk/learning-home> **John Chaplin – Port of Bristol** – Reduced number of ships coming into the port. **Ben Shorrock – Techspark** - Future fund announced last week but concerns about increasing current inequalities and issues around fine print. Roughly 150 businesses who might be eligible and want to iron out how useful a fund it is. **Sado Jirde – BSWN -** Concerns about business grants but picking up tomorrow. **Jane Ginever –** Final session with Economy board. Sue Cohen from women’s commission replacing. Webinar for businesses and business leaders how can we rebuild in a fair and inclusive way particularly about how we can involve lots of people in the conversations. **Guy Orpen – University of Bristol -** Sector awaits deal but moving on with online learning with students back and this has gone surprisingly smoothly. Announcing in next 24hrs with scheme for internships for students with local organisations offer employability experience and support for organisations (140/150 students earning a proper wage). Aren’t yet sure whether we will be doing face to face in September yet. The nature of the experience will be very different – very uncertain. **Sandra Meadows – Voscur –** Lobbying for more government funding ongoing. Working with big lottery so hopefully will see criteria and guidance for organisations to take advantage. Quartet scheme beginning to identify areas not making many applications. Organisations in Avonmouth, Shirehampton and South Bristol dearth of applications for emergency funding. Will feed recovery conversations from sector into the group. Concerns for lower end (resource) and upper end (with lack of trading etc). Pushing treasury to allow furloughed staff to volunteer within organisation - not happening yet. **Sam Holliday – FSB –**Self-employed who can’t get business support. Businesses who are entitled to the business rates they feel hard done by, but any spare money would be good to do that. Small loans are good news won’t be for everyone but for those that it can help will be good news. **Marty Burges – Night time economy –** Bounce back loans look more attractive to sector. Many businesses won’t survive drawn out social distancing. Looking at France and Italy its likely the Night time economy will be last to open up. Considering a virtual festival, working with those who are still trading and providing a route to market during this time. **Andy Street – City Funds** – Aligning funding to support recovery. First investment came in very recently, hopefully more in the next few weeks. Setting up a unitary grants channel. Hopefully will attract further investment into the city.  |
| 5)  | **Banks and Business forum update – Stephen Bashford**Businesses feel the situation is mixed - some doing better than others. More consumer based struggling with many worried about length of social distancing - next three months crucial. Real concerns about what next across businesses. Banking sector building capacity with increasing number of loans. Pushing British business bank for regional breakdown of loans. £2.8billion going out in a week with 6 national case studies including a couple Bristol ones. Working to recognising gaps and developing new offering with more creative ways of supporting businesses. Need to appropriate direct business to loans, grants or business rate relief. Bounce back loan big development- hopefully it will lead to a bigger flow of cash into businesses. Still residual of £78million across WoE about 8000 eligible for grants but not applied. Need analysis of where businesses that aren’t applying are. Could publish list of businesses eligible who haven’t claimed yet. No news on whether government will take back residual. Means to calculate was relatively crude so there will likely be a conversation about recall. James – small business grants daily calls with finance leads from four authorities great work to get that out, change from getting out is no small task, now working through accountants to reach smaller businesses. Potential other route to see about unlocking.  |
| 6) | **Economic recovery paper questions and approach - James and Nina** Agreed last week to write an economic recovery plan. Proposing to run two workshops with a timescale of the next 2/3 weeks. Focus on local with view to subnational and national. Need to consider local sectors as well as national sectors. Start to do early work to talk to sectors and tease out opportunities and issues. One City Boards happy for economy to take lead with contributions from others as we might need help. Will ensure overarching one city vision remains at the heart of recovery -sustainability and inclusion. Virtual city gathering on 22nd of May. Big part of the gathering will be focusing on recovery. Currently, processing sectors where Bristol is the main player. Want to make it so contributions can happen inside and outside workshops. Economy board will likely form a significant middle pillar of recovery document. Stephen B - Taskforce needs to avoid duplication but also piece together regional picture. Next week more detail about how we work with this group to build local picture into regional pictureStephen P – need to ensure we don’t end up with three different asks going from different levels and need to ensure what we produce is real to average person. Each of those layers have their own roles to play in the strategy. |
| 7) | **Next steps** Intention is have a couple workshops to look at economic recovery plan. Date by the end of this week. Dates coming soon. Allan to share.  |
| 8)  | **AOB** Nigel Costly – trade union regional secretaries seem to think that most regional work on recovery has been patchy and disjointed across the country at best. Guy Orpen - paper by LSE economists and Gus O’Donnell Minouche: assesses the costs and benefits of the lockdown from a well-being perspective should end on June 1http://cep.lse.ac.uk/pubs/download/occasional/op049.pdf |