

	Date/time	Tuesday 18 th August 2020 1400-1530	Venue	Zoom call
	Co-chairs	Craig Cheney (Deputy Mayor of Bristol) & James Durie (Business West)		
	Actions			
Time	Agenda			
14.00-14.05	1)	<u>Welcome (James Durie)</u> Apologies were received by Cllr Cheney. Lucie Martin-Jones from Wessel was introduced, covering for the Advice Partnership.		
14.05-14.15	2)	<u>Public Health Update and latest outbreaks (Sally Hogg)</u> New cases are increasing, 7.8 cases per 100,000 up from 2.6 cases in the previous week but still remain relatively low compared to other areas in the Country. Some of this is as a result of Bristol re-opening. Care Homes can now implement visiting policies and faith groups, schools and businesses have reopened in line with National guidance. A new test centre is opening in Clifton Bristol and is accessible by foot and bike. SH to look into costs associated with procuring a test and criteria for getting tested. Hygiene remains hugely important as younger generations typically have milder and less visible symptoms. Organisations should now consider what has worked well when future planning. Covid19 is less likely to spread in warm and humid weather which has been positive, however as we move towards winter, we anticipate a difficult flu season and people are encouraged to get vaccinated. SH to have 10 min at the next meeting to provide guidance on ‘preparation for winter’, providing an information sheet ahead of the meeting. Children between 2-10 and adults 50+ as well as people with specific illnesses should get vaccinated. There will be teams of people to undertake vaccinations in deprived areas and hard to reach individuals. Should a Covid vaccine be developed, this will be prioritised over the flu vaccine. There is a national ‘contain strategy’ and managing outbreaks is dynamic and LA’s		

		<p>play an important role in data sharing. A national alert system is in place as well as a Local outbreak management plan.</p> <p>Working closely with PH England on the test and trace process in order to understand each individual case. There is a contact tracing team which will enable people with symptoms to quickly alert the team. Re Test and trace, establishments have different methods of tracking customers and participants discussed the value of having a single approach. SH agreed to take this away and come up with some options.</p>
14.15-14.30	3)	<p><u>Winter Contingency Plans (All)</u></p> <p><u>John Hirst, Visit Bristol:</u> From a retail perspective, most businesses have now reopened and hotels are struggling to gain momentum. Some are operating at 25% occupancy but others are doing extremely well at weekends. There is optimism but need to increase business stays during the week. Whilst figures are improving, we are trading at 35% down from last year.</p> <p>Customers report feeling more comfortable when staff wear masks.</p> <p>Summer in the city campaign will run from August to September and promotes Bristol as a destination to visit. This will be worth £300k. For more information on The Bristol Together campaign, the board members should contact JH.</p> <p>People are gaining confidence back so there are concerns over another lockdown. Furlough has been vital and a 'part 2' is required to avoid mass redundancies.</p> <p><u>Marti Burgess, Bevan-Brittan:</u> Eat out to help out has been a big help to restaurants. Night clubs are still closed and bars and restaurants are doing what they can but still only trading at 40%.</p> <p><u>Ben Wright, Bristol 24/7 :</u> The Housing sector is seeing an increase in activity. Cultural venues are also seeing an increase. They will be publishing an October issue.</p> <p><u>Ameeta Virk, Department for International Trade:</u> 'Tech for good' involves a cohort of 50 companies to undertake a virtual trade visits, one to India, Singapore and Malaysia and the other to the US. This will help get tech businesses ready to enter those markets. There will be a focus on commercial development in the early months of 2021.</p> <p>All activities are focused on smaller businesses to help propel them to continue to trade internationally.</p> <p><u>Ben Shorrocks, TechSPARK :</u> Activity has slowed and most business they expected to fail have not, although they are</p>

struggling. Finch tech has seen benefits.
6 months challenges are now on the wider community piece, such as co-working, incubators and accelerators. A lot of those models do not stack up anymore.
Have been focused on trying to understand what can be done in this space as they move into winter.

James Duire, Bristol Chamber of Commerce;

Due to business losing months of trading, they are working flat out and lots of activity is going on during the holiday period.

Matt Griffiths, Bristol Chamber of Commerce:

A survey took place at the end of July. 5 areas of interest to the city are:

1. Negative sentiment on Finance: Financial concerns for the future felt by 75% of respondents. On the other hand this is better than last time.
2. Redundancies and labour market: 1/3rd of respondents have made redundancies. The bulk of them are already in train. Wider labour market implications as those who have made cuts are making additional cuts to working hours and 50% are reducing salaries. This will add pressure to wages and have a knock on effect to local demand for services.
3. Sentiment of recovery: 9% of firms are back to pre-Covid levels and confident but the majority do not feel confident in recovery.
4. Large reported levels of cuts to investment and a big impact to profits and cash reserves. Need to think of which sectors can help.
5. On physical space, death of the office narrative is overdone. 50% of respondents plan no change. 17% may use less space.
On transport, demand changes are driven by technology and home working.
Lower levels of enthusiasm for shifting from car to bike.

MG to send round the links to the complete report.

Main summary of results can be found here:

<https://www.businesswest.co.uk/blog/only-1-10-businesses-see-positive-side-covid-19-pandemic>

Guy Orpen, UoB:

UoB has had good recruitment period.

Challenges working out which students to admit due to exam results and high levels of application.

Both universities are working hard to make campuses safe and to mitigate risks of bringing 30,000 students back to Bristol from around the world.

Zara Nanu, Gapsquare:

Encouraged people to use their tool for providing insight into what companies can do to be better prepared for crisis in the future.

Andrea Dell, One City:

One City held a young people's webinar, hosted by the Youth Mayor. This was prior to the exam news, and many points were raised on the impact of transport changes on young people who do not have access to cars.

They discussed mental health and raised ongoing concern over what's next.

		<p>Targeted racist comments were received against one of the panellist, and there has been an increase of trolling at webinars. Board members should be cautious of trolls when hosting virtual events.</p> <p><u>Diane Bunyan, Council of Europe :</u> DB requested information on the impact on child care. With a rise in unemployment, the sex breakdown shows more women are volunteering for redundancies due to difficulties in finding child care provision for young children. The thoroughness of child care provision was questioned.</p> <p>It was recommended someone from a child care network be invited to the next board meeting to pick this up.</p>
14.30-14.50	4)	<p><u>Update on Strategy Development (James Durie)</u></p> <p>A statement of intent has been produced for the Economy strategy and they have commenced mapping for the strategy using inputs from collective workshops and being mindful of the changing and dynamic environment.</p> <p>They are looking to produce a first chapter of what will be a first iteration of a report by September and to launch the finalised iteration in October.</p> <p>There is a sense that the combined authority are thinking about the medium/longer term.</p> <p>City Gathering in early October will not take place but a specific event which ties together many larger gatherings will be used to launch the strategy. Members were encouraged to join and should contact AD if they want to feed into the meeting. (andrea.dell@bristol.gov.uk)</p>
14.50-15.10	5)	<p><u>Treasury's review (Michael Pilcher)</u></p> <p>Have published next stage of business rates. 1st stage closes on the 18th September and the 2nd on the 31st October. This is a fundamental review of the business rates system. The council will collate a response with WECA and other WECA authorities and MP encouraged members to provide any initial thoughts or feedback to him when they've had a chance to digest the information. (Michael.pilcher@bristol.gov.uk)</p> <p>They will be focused on technical aspects of billing and the appeal process as well as feeding into the economic side of things.</p> <p>There is appetite for change but uncertainty on the scale at this time.</p> <p>MP to share some information with the board.</p> <p>The consultation is being run by experts and is technical. There is a national debate on bigger macro trends in taxation policy and devolved financing that this consultation does not set out to address.</p> <p>If anyone has specific concerns to raise, they should contact Matt Griffiths. (matt.griffith@businesswest.co.uk)</p> <p>Darren Jones MP advised they will be looking at pressures faced by shops on the high street and what that means in terms of governance. A particular issue is the build-up of commercial rent liability that will soon be due. There has been very little insight from treasury yet.</p> <p>State liability and changes in tax income will be key topics in the run up to the budget.</p>

15.25- 15.30	7)	<u>AOB</u> No further business.
-----------------	----	------------------------------------