

One City Economy Board COVID-19 response call



	Date/time	Tuesday 28 th July 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 (Cllr Craig Cheney)</u>		
14.05-14.15	2)	<p><u>Public Health Update (Sally Hogg)</u></p> <p>Cases in the South West are still the lowest in the country. The weather is causing quite a lot of interest at the moment because the virus seems to struggle with the climate in the UK during the summer. Research is still being done on this, but it only started in March so we should not have too many expectations of concrete outcomes at this early stage.</p> <p>Last week local authorities were given new powers. We now have the power to close local businesses when necessary to contain an outbreak. There is also a national 'Contain Strategy' that we have been placed in to assist with managing any outbreaks.</p> <p>We have a forensic approach to data we are receiving and this is helping us to tackle any outbreaks which are happening around the city. As announced by the government, face coverings now need to be worn in shops.</p>		
14.15-14.25	3)	<p><u>Local Engagement Board Update (Cllr Asher Craig)</u></p> <p>This board has recently been convened and is being chaired by both the Mayor and Cllr Asher Craig. There is representation from various sectors around the city</p> <p>A campaign was started on Friday afternoon to promote the use of face coverings in shops; this was led by the Mayor, Councillors and council officers. The public are complying with the use of masks and most people were either wearing them in the city centre or had one to hand to put on when they entered a shop.</p> <p>A statement has been released on the Covid-19 outbreak at Balfour Beatty. The company has responded very quickly and is working to conduct contact tracing in partnership with the public health team at BCC and Public Health England. Overall efforts are being handled by Public Health England.</p>		
14.25-14.55	4)	<p><u>Sector Updates</u></p> <p><u>Business West – Nina Skubala</u></p> <p>Business West are currently conducting a business impact survey which is due to close on</p>		

the 4th August (www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8MH4LT/). There have been roughly 400 respondents to the survey so far with 27% of those being based in Bristol. 67% of businesses are depleting their cash reserves. 40% are not recruiting or investing in skills. 40% think it will take longer than a year to recover. More than 50% of companies are not going to be implementing any sustainable transport arrangements, but the companies that are will be using cycling schemes.

Bristol Port Company - John Chaplin

All staff are back at work, there is a big office so we are able to socially distance. Balfour Beatty is located in the port estate and there is no business activity there at the present.

TUC - Nigel Costley

The Cooperative have reported their worst ever numbers of staff reporting abuse due to trying to enforce mask wearing and social distancing rules in stores. The rules around pay for staff who are having to self-isolate have still not been addressed by the government, staff have no recourse to the furlough scheme.

Department for International Trade - Ameeta Virk

We are planning a series of activities to help businesses to gain access to high growth economies.

Bristol 24/7 - Ben Wright

Things are still slow in terms of people wanting to get their messaging out. We are about to publish another issue in October. The community reporter scheme is up and running and there are interesting stories being produced, some of which we would not have heard without trying to reach these communities. We have secured funding for this scheme to continue which is good news. Hoping that there will be an extension of our offer of foreign languages so that we can reach more communities around the city.

University of Bristol - Guy Orpen

University leadership has primarily been thinking about well-being of staff and students who are returning to work and study. We have recently graduated another year of students who took their assessments online for the first time. Still working on understanding how we are going to open our campus back to thousands of students and also how they will be able to enjoy what the city has to offer. We are at least £15 million off from the current financial year and will be waiting to see how things pan out in the coming financial year. Large stocks of face masks and visors have been purchased to provide to staff and students if necessary.

Bevan-Brittan - Marti Burgess

Nightclubs and other venues are still facing an uncertain future. Summer in Bristol is not the best time for this sector and businesses have been hoping to recoup revenue following lockdown, but this is going to happen a lot slower than businesses need it to. There are a lot of restaurants which are in trouble and these are businesses which are well known and have given Bristol a good name, they are not on the periphery of the restaurant scene.

Federation of Small Businesses - Sam Holliday

Businesses are struggling with the social distancing restrictions and the limits this places on their capacity. There is also the issue of people booking tables and then not showing up. A lot of businesses are researching how to make staff redundant. There are some

		<p>businesses which are sceptical about making profits until 2021, but they are staying open so that their customers don't think that they have closed down.</p> <p><u>Visit Bristol - John Hirst</u> Incidents of violence and abuse towards staff are high at the moment. Footfall is 45% down but national figure is 55% down so Bristol seems to be doing well. Gyms are now open again and measures are in place to keep facilities hygienic. Some hotels are running at 15% occupancy, clearly this is not sustainable. We are running a campaign on the Visit Bristol website to ensure that the public feel confident about visiting the city. There is also lobbying being conducted for a big chunk of money to invest in the recovery in the city centre.</p> <p><u>Black South West Network - Sado Jirde</u> There is a similar picture with black led businesses in the South West. We are now in the process of recruiting several black female entrepreneurs for one of our programmes. We have now received some funding following the research undertaken by BSWN which will be discussed in more detail later.</p> <p><u>Bristol Junior Chamber - Alice Peacock</u> Looking for ways of understanding how young people are being affected by redundancies. People are started to get quite nervous about the end of the furlough scheme, concern that there is nowhere to turn to in terms of income and the continuing development of skills. There does not appear to be much in the way of support for young people, most or all of the funding is going directly to businesses.</p> <p><u>Darren Jones MP</u> We are continuing to try to influence the government in terms of increasing policy sophistication and transparency to ensure that workers at risk of losing jobs do not fall through the cracks. There has been a huge growth of the numbers of people claiming welfare and these figures do not include staff who are on furlough.</p> <p><u>Voscur - Sandra Meadows</u> We are hearing about staff across the VCSE sector who are having their hours reduced and there are upcoming redundancies. The VCSE sector has played a key role in ensure that Bristol has been resilient during the outbreak; this will be discussed more in the presentation.</p>
14.55-15.05	5)	<p><u>Economic Recovery Plan – Nuala Gallagher</u> There has been work going on with the One City Office on the recovery plan and have also set up an internal task and finish group which Nuala Gallagher will be chairing. We are looking at people in labour markets and other key areas of impact; young people are being focussed on as well as people with disabilities and older people. There are 14 areas of growth and regeneration. There are a number of pieces of work which are on course to be signed off for the October City Gathering. One thing emerging as a critical item is Brexit as this will need to be engaged with by the Economy Board soon. We are working with WECA and DIT to ensure that our offers and asks of government are clear and coherent.</p>

15.05-15:10	6)	<p><u>Business Survey Results – Anesa Kritah</u></p> <p>There have been a lot of responses to the business survey, almost enough for a representative sample. Majority of respondents (44%) were from micro businesses, with the highest response rate coming from the city centre. 54% of respondents reported that they had temporarily closed their premises. 26% had furloughed their staff, 9% reported that they had not. As for employment implications, 71% of businesses said that they would be able to retain their staff. Respondents which were unable to retain their staff were based in the catering and hospitality sector. Business grants have been paid to 7211 businesses which are rates registered totalling over £91 million.</p>
15.10-15:25		<p><u>VCSE Strategy Update (Sado Jirde, Sandra Meadows)</u></p> <p>The VCSE sector has played a key role in the Covid-19 response and has helped the city to be resilient during the crisis. We are taking the opportunity of this massive change to bring around a real sectoral transformation. A strategy group has been convened and is chaired by Cllr Asher Craig.</p> <p>The group will be focussed on identifying opportunities, enable the sector as well as maximising the potential of partnerships. The strategy group will aim to provide the evidence base to reconfigure the sector according to its strengths. The aims of the research are to review the VCSE sector response to Covid-19, VCSE sector mapping and developing a recovery and strength strategy.</p> <p>Phase one of the research runs up to August and there is hope to have an interim report at that point. Phase two of the report aims to capture the dynamic assets and proven resilience. The third phase is about trying to situate the work being done within the One City plan, a full report will be ready by the end of September.</p>
15.25-15:30	7)	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>No further business.</p>