

One City Economy Board

Agenda – 16th March 2021



	Date/time	Tues 16 th March 2021 1400-1530	Venue	Zoom call
	Co-chairs	Craig Cheney (Deputy Mayor of Bristol) & James Durie (Business West)		
Time	Agenda			
14:00-14:05	1)	Welcome from Chairs – James Durie /Craig Cheney		
14:05-14:15	2)	Public Health Update – Sally Hogg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R rate per 100,000 down to 50, still high • North Somerset's 39, South Gloucestershire 38 and England is 59, Bristol is doing very well with the vaccination programme. • It's important we get both the national and global vaccinations as high as possible, so that that will open the travel corridors again. • AstraZeneca has been in the news, unclear why the complications have happened but be reassured that in UK we are highly regulated • Peaks in Italy and France, Italy back in lockdown today 		
14:15-14:25	3)	National Budget 2021 update – Darren Jones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget and integrated review, and the defence spending running alongside that, relevant to many major manufacturing employers in the Bristol region. • Strong commitment on defence spending and future fighter strategy for aircraft. • Strong focus on cyber, digital and AI defence capabilities, given our western gateway footprint and our regional connections with GC HQ - opportunity for us re local and regional industrial strategy. • Cyber development - mapping of where deprived hotspots are in western gateway, we need to make sure this is a visible and demonstrate the opportunities for benefiting those communities. • Disappointing budget, albeit the positive news of COVID-19 financial support extension; furlough and three month extension of commercial evictions. • Big issue about commercial rents having to pay back large lump sums to their landowners at end of period, frustrating for smaller businesses and national chains in terms of their high street presence, and the government is in conversations between various parts of that conversation between banks, lenders and pension funds, commercial landlords and tenants are trying to find an answer to that, as it wasn't resolved at the budget. • Issue was the cancellation of the industrial strategy, and announcement of the Plan for Growth, which is missing on the government's view about future economic growth and the role of the state • Lots of questions about what remains from the industrial strategy and how research will be funded in future. • Some broad funding priorities, e.g. net zero. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We're waiting for the building and heating strategy; lots of these initiatives are major employers for potential jobs in the region, but also quite a lot of fiscal stimulus around net zero and decarbonisation, waiting for updates. • Missed out on our free port bid, difficult competition in terms of getting big capital funding from the treasury. • In the context of the levelling up agenda we knew it was going to be difficult because Bristol and the West of England regional economy is seen as successful. • Need to collectively lobby our efforts with industry and business and the different tiers of local and regional government, making for a cross party basis for our region. • Lack of representation for gender and social care. Concerns re white paper - the focus is on NHS and not on social care. Ultimately the more we support people in this industry, the more we're going to support the economy holistically. Only 1% rise for nurses, social, those with carers; in many settings only receiving a 1 penny rise per hour. Action: Invite Karen Smith to discuss government's health and social care reorganisations plans, Darren Jones to send contact • We had a good bid (free port), got through to ministerial decision and then based on the criteria that ministers were looking at, we missed out, for the Southwest it went to Plymouth. We need to learn from this and take positives. • Spending review later in the year. • We're always going to need something evidence based like an industrial strategy or an economic plan to work towards as a region. • In regard to productivity technology for companies we need to ensure that we are not funding software that is infringing on employee rights e.g. employee surveillance. Also large amounts of investment going into the UK and Bristol but only a tiny amount going into women led teams, and diverse teams. • Waiting for announcement of the successor to the green homes grant the 8500 jobs that would've come from this has been dashed • Social infrastructure wasn't raised at all, billions of pounds of cuts to public day's day spending on public services. Doesn't recognise the growth opportunities that come out the back of, you know properly funded public services. Action: Nigel Costley to link board in with his colleague • Be the Business a government funded initiative around productivity and SMEs has helped to grow management schemes as a result from successful trials. Action: Connect Be the Business with the digital scheme. • We need to figure out how to help businesses long term. Many SMEs in the events or hospitality or culture sectors need help to invest for future challenges alongside COVID-19 debts and how to structure the repayments.
14:25-14:35	5) 5-7 mins	<p>Workforce for the future; business and skills support programme -Alison Eldam (WECA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets and benefits are being monitored throughout programme • Issued 1 funding call, concluded and have set up a core service 9 partners – Bath College, COB college, SGS, Weston College, UWE, Business West, Adviza brighter futures, Western Training Provider network, WECA - 54 SMEs supported; (slide 6) • By end of this year we want to see 200 businesses that we have supported, and we want to see that businesses are upskilling <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would be helpful for businesses to have access to support and advice, would be good to have something on a regional basis. Alison – there will be a brochure circulated once completed in regard to the ask and offer of SMEs, hopefully help to clarify confusion out there.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WECA – employability and skills hub which lists what is out there, support projects. Growth hub is first port of call for support, have enterprise advisers there – someone on the end of the phone • The growth hub has joined up comms with other companies and make sure weekly that all comms team are up to date. Bristol should be seen as a one front door region for finding support.
14:35-14:45	6) 5-7 mins	<p>Bristol Living wage city – Claire Herbert-Golden How to Support this Successful One City Economy Board initiative (presentation will be circulated)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bristol Living Wage City has had a successful first year, exceeding one of three key targets. • In 2021 we are celebrating this success and 20 years of the UK real Living Wage. • To achieve all the Economy Board targets for this initiative we need to attract a further 150 employers, of all sizes including SMEs and major companies, to pay the real Living Wage. • Your support in promoting the initiative, introducing your networks or becoming a Living Wage Employer yourself would be invaluable. • Please contact claire.herbert-golden@bristol.gov.uk for further information prior to the next Economy Board meeting. <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many organisations on leaders board are not on living wage. BCC singed unison ethical 15th march. • WECA has a board on health and social care, only employers and wondered if we could involve them on living wage board? Action: to explore at next board • Action: Claire has a meeting with NHS trust and will update accordingly • Action: Sophie and Claire to link up re carer's association
14:45-14:55	4) 5-7 mins	<p>City Office Update – Andrea Dell/Annabel Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City gathering had 400 participants to come together to look back at 2020, collectively, but also importantly to look forward as we recover from the pandemic with a range of speakers. If you were unable to attend please find the recording via this YouTube link https://youtu.be/jNGfYAnxvFo. • During this event, we launched the next iteration of the One City Plan and the City Office Annual Report 2020. • As well as this, the final report of the Mayoral Commission on Domestic Abuse was launched and the recommendations from Bristol's first ever Citizen Assembly were also shared. • Bristol One City March 2021 Newsletter March 2021 Newsletter - Bristol One City - Full information on priority goals on newsletter • The youth council choose the first priority goal for the year, followed by an attendee vote for the next two. • We are going to be forming a new digital steering group in the coming weeks and months to lead on digital work, in consultation with the economy board in the children and young people's board. <p><i>In 2021, the three key priorities for Economy and Skills are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Develop in partnership a regional redundancy support programme particularly for affected sectors to recover (e.g. tourism, hospitality and culture), provide retraining to support growing sectors (e.g. healthcare and the green economy) and support entrepreneurship.</i> <i>2. Improve provision of local digital skills training and support, particularly for employees</i>

		<p><i>in sectors affected by technological changes.</i></p> <p><i>3. Promote the city as a safe destination for overseas education, tourism and investment, and diversify local centres and high streets, by creating new functions such as small flexible-workspaces, local leisure options and cultural and night-time activities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Digi briefing will be circulated from City Office as we need to ramp up support (BW) • Trade unions congress - redundancy support group, what we are seeing from previous downturns and crisis, in this case a lot of small firms, self employed and zero-hour contract employees are out of work. Changing dynamic. Action: DWP for next agenda - link in with combined authorities on how to align a strategy and networks. Team up with business in the community to make the connections between what works and task certain offers. • Action: Invite reps from each board
14:55-15:15	7)	<p>Sector Updates – All</p> <p><i>-Annabel Smith, Operations & Stakeholder Engagement Manager for the City Office leaving mid April 2021</i></p> <p><i>-John Hirst, Chief Executive of Destination Bristol leaving at the end of March 2021</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the education budget is around basic digital skills and digital access. • In the process of awarding funding for digital skills and the investment programmes partner recovery fund. • WECA - Starting to think strategically on an original approach to digital transformation, highlighted at the Recovery Task Force and someone joining us in the next couple of weeks to take forward that work and would like them to link in with this board on that just to make sure things, make sure work and opportunities are aligned across the region for our strategy. Action: contact to be sent to board • Board will all be focussing on redundancy programmes and providing support for younger and older people back into work and setting up businesses. • As a board we need to roadmap where we need to be putting our energy and efforts, and how the board members can make sure we feed into that. • Update on this regions Hoteliers Association - We've heard nothing negative from the hotelier's association which suggests they feel that all the things they were looking for have been provided. Echoed on the retail side of things too, the grants are coming through in a good way. There will always be some challenges from different people, but the majority were saying that they've feel well supported. Fears with many businesses shut now. • With many on furlough, and many of them staying afloat and cautious, businesses need to see some activity, they need people coming back in through their doors which will hopefully happen with the roadmap and we can then move forward positively in the future. • Domestically, there's no international visitors this year of significance. We're working on that for next year, but domestically this year, and then domestically and internationally next year.
15:15-15:30	8)	<p>AOB –</p> <p>Action: Rapid Assessment of BEIS Energy White Papers - to put on next agenda</p> <p><i>Next board meeting 18th May 2021</i></p>