

GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

DATE: Friday, 30th October, 2020

TIME: 10.00 am

VENUE: This meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams and will be live-streamed for public viewing. The link to watch the meeting is available on the meetings page of the GMCA website

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

5. Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees held during October 2020 1 - 14

To note the minutes of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings

- a) Housing, Planning & Environment – 8 October 2020
- b) Economy, Business Skills & Growth – 9 October 2020
- c) Corporate Issues & Reform – 15 October 2020

9. Monthly Economic Recovery Update 15 - 26

Report of Cllr Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for the Economy.

For copies of papers and further information on this meeting please refer to the website www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk.

This agenda was issued on 27 October 2020 on behalf of Julie Connor, Secretary to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU

BOLTON	MANCHESTER	ROCHDALE	STOCKPORT	TRAFFORD
BURY	OLDHAM	SALFORD	TAMESIDE	WIGAN

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**MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
ECONOMY, BUSINESS GROWTH AND SKILLS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER 2020 AT 10.30 AM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS LIVE EVENT**

Present:

Rochdale:	Councillor Michael Holly (in the Chair)
Bolton:	Councillor Samantha Connor Councillor Susan Haworth
Bury:	Councillor Mary Whitby
Manchester:	Councillor Basat Sheikh
Oldham:	Councillor George Hulme Councillor Sam Al-Hamdani (Substitute)
Rochdale	Councillor Daniel Meredith
Salford:	Councillor Jim King
Trafford:	Councillor Barry Brotherton
Wigan:	Councillor Charles Rigby Councillor Michael Winstanley

In attendance:

Stockport:	Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for Economy
The Growth Company:	Mark Hughes, Chief Executive
Marketing Manchester:	Sheona Southern, Managing Director
Midas:	Tim News, Chief Executive
GMCA:	Amy Fooks, Strategy, GMCA Joanne Heron, Statutory Scrutiny Officer Jenny Hollamby, Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer John Wrathmell, Director of Strategy, Research & Economy

E32/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ray Dutton (Substitute Rochdale), Karen Garrido (Salford), Hazel Gloster (Substitute Oldham), Stephen Homer (Tameside), Becky Senior (Stockport), Patricia Sullivan (Substitute Rochdale), Greg Stanton (Manchester) and Kerry Watters (Stockport).

A further apology was received from Simon Nokes (GMCA).

E33/20 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business reported.

E34/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

E35/20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2020 were submitted for approval as a correct record subject to several minor typographical errors being corrected.

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of meeting of the Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 11 September 2020 be approved as a correct record subject to several minor typographical errors being corrected.

The Vice-Chair took over as Chair, whilst the Chair's audio problem was addressed.

It was suggested and Members agreed to rearrange the agenda to allow presenting Officers more time to access the meeting due to technical issues.

**E36/20 GREATER MANCHESTER'S AUTUMN SUBMISSION: COMPREHENSIVE
SPENDING REVIEW AND LOCAL RECOVERY & ENGLISH DEVOLUTION
WHITE PAPER**

The GMCA's Director of Strategy, Research & Economy, presented a report that provided an overview of Greater Manchester's submission to Government for the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and Local Recovery and English Devolution White Paper (Devolution White Paper).

The Chair rejoined the meeting at this point. The Portfolio Lead for Economy, Cllr Elise Wilson, joined the meeting to set the scene and answer Members questions.

The main points referred:

- A Member asked about the timeline for levelling up in Greater Manchester. It was reported that as soon as Government had made a decision, a plan and timeline would be developed. It was envisaged that the spending review would take place in mid-November 2020, which would allow Greater Manchester to respond and set its timeline.
- A discussion took place about research and development and the levelling up agenda. It was explained that Local Government, Government and universities needed to work together to develop ideas and take them to market.
- Another Member asked if Greater Manchester was capitalising on institutions such as the Graphene. Again, this was about working in partnership to create the right conditions to develop ideas and get them to market. This remained a frontier sector and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) was also very keen to see this happen. The Independent Prosperity Review highlighted the importance of this work.

- A question was raised about Manchester Airport and the plans to link up HS2. Could a London style transport system could be delivered without an underground system? It was explained that the Manchester Airport crisis was unique to the moment and whilst aviation would recover in the long term, Government would need to think about support. More confidence was needed around HS2 and when it would happen. An integrated transport system in Greater Manchester was needed urgently to link up to HS2. If and when HS2 was delivered then an underground system would be explored.
- A Member asked if wind energy should be included in the programme Build Back Better. Greater Manchester was ambitious about being greener as it was a frontier sector for the economy and would provide jobs for the future. It was about making Greater Manchester better in terms of people's lives, education, skills options, life-long learning, making sure people were resilient and fundamentally to protect the planet.
- Members discussed small local communities often on the edge of towns with poor bus or rail links. Bus reform was the quickest and most affordable way to deliver better public transport and connectivity between different boroughs. However, more would be needed and this came back to the GMSF and the need to ensure sufficient reach across the City Region. Levelling up and investment would need to reach all corners of Greater Manchester.
- A discussion took place about Greater Manchester having a centre for research and excellence and if this was challenged enough in the submission. A concern was raised about expenditure in research and development being focused in the same regions. Greater Manchester had excellent Universities and research. Further work with businesses would help to develop ideas and take these forward. This would result in Greater Manchester bringing back investment and making the UK a strong international partner. The Chair suggested that tax incentives for companies could be the way forward. Greater Manchester was the only City Region outside the golden triangle that could deliver investment.
- The Chair asked for more detail about the relationship with Government. It was about working in partnership with Government, Local Government, businesses and universities not just in research and development but in creating sustainable quality jobs. There was a responsibility on all politicians to represent the people and find a way to deliver, support and make sure they were set up for success.

RESOLVED/-

That Members noted and commented on (minute E36/20 refers) the report.

E37/20 GROWTH COMPANY BUSINESS SUPPORT ACTIVITY

The Growth Company's Chief Executive supported by Marketing Manchester's Managing Director, presented a report that provided an update on the Growth Company's business support activity in response to Covid-19.

The main points referred:

- A Member referred to the hospitality sector and the rumours that it would be closed down on 19 October 2020 and asked what support would be put in place for the industry. Whilst Government schemes were still available, the Chancellor was currently outlining further furlough type support for those sectors which had been closed down in restricted areas.
- The Member asked a further question around small sports clubs and what support was available in Greater Manchester. It was reported that a direct support package had not been developed, however, owners and managers could access mainstream support and were encouraged to speak to The Growth Company.
- A discussion took place around Greater Manchester's diverse company base and how The Growth Company had organised itself compared to other Cities. Members questioned where Covid-19 had been harder on some sectors, had resources been rearranged to do the extra work or had The Growth Company undergone more extensive change? The main change to the company, had been about understanding what businesses needed and flexing services to their needs. There was a substantial amount of work taking place within Local Authority business support Officers, backfilling capacity. Social media and digital outreach activity and had been massively increased as this was the new way of working.
- A Member enquired about European Regional Development (ERDF) funding and if this would be replaced following Brexit. It was confirmed that funding would end in June 2021 but there was an opportunity to secure a further 24 months of funding beyond that. However, match funding would be required and further discussions were taking place within GMCA. Subsequent to that, the major expectation was around the growth fund announced by Government but as yet, little detail was available. Support in business support was also part of the GMCA's CSR submission. An announcement from Government on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was awaited. This was intended to replace European structural funds and Northern local growth funding and had been included in the submission emphasising its necessity in supporting a wide range of programmes in Greater Manchester and for driving local growth.
- Reference was made to the commercially available business information provided by Redflag/Begbies. The insolvency risk data highlighted that 15% of firms were reported as having one or more red flags and signs of financial stress compared to an average of 13% in the UK and 14% in the North West. Members questioned why the figure was higher in Greater Manchester and were informed that given that the percentages were so close, there was not a specific answer. Considering the interaction of the sectors and the types of businesses that had been adversely affected by Covid-19, it was suggested there was a greater marginal incidence of those in Greater Manchester.
- The Chair provided feedback from the Rochdale Development Agency and Rochdale Council's Economic Directorate about how The Growth Company had been helpful in terms of advising businesses and providing the Council with expert and detailed knowledge and identifying companies to speak to about discretionary expenditure. It was acknowledged that the work with Local Authorities was excellent and the Chair thanked The Growth Company.

- A discussion took place about the long term future of businesses that had been affected by changing consumer preferences and Government decisions. Members questioned if the areas identified for support were the correct ones and if banks were being helpful to the companies experiencing cash flow difficulties? Bank feedback was about bounce bank loans and the larger loan to deal with cash flow problems. There was a lot of investment and it was suggested the North West was getting its share. Banks were very nervous about the exercise even though the loans were backed by Government. Banks were withdrawing from the market and only five remained active in the bounce bank area. Banks had also stopped registering new businesses. The Growth Company offered a service to guide a business through the process. It was suggested that Government should have put more effort into developing more specific schemes that supported the growth agenda and were more compensatory for the activities Government was closing down.
- Start-up companies and the support available was discussed. The GMCA had commissioned additional start-up support and representations were being made to Government. An open letter had been penned as a collective and had been issued to Government setting out key points around the compensatory measures, working from home, Covid-19 secure office environments paying particular attention to the aviation and hospitality sectors. It was agreed that the letter would be shared with the Committee.
- Members referred to banks and their reluctance to lend and the articles in the media relating to fraudulent claims. It was suggested that 25% of claims were fraudulent or not paid back and Government had missed the opportunity earlier in the year to change its approach to try and curtail the extent. The Growth Company, with backing from the GMCA, would soon be able to offer a bounce back loan, specifically targeting businesses who were not able to get a loan from the banks because they were closing down entry to the scheme. The Growth Company had extensive checks and balances and felt they were not experiencing fraudulent attempts or an extensive level of defaults. Robust process and checks to combat fraud could also adversely affect the legitimate claimant.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be received and noted.

E38/20 UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREATER MANCHESTER WOMEN & GIRL'S EQUALITY PANEL

Members considered a report that provided an update on the establishment of Greater Manchester Women and Girls' Equality Panel and provided the findings of research undertaken by ComRes research on the attitudes and experiences of Greater Manchester women during the coronavirus pandemic.

The main points referred:

- A discussion took place about digital exclusion and how that could distort the data. The company used to undertake the research did everything it could to ensure accessibility and that the people interviewed and the information received was balanced and reflective of the community. The survey, under the circumstances, was a fair representation of that moment

in time. Hopefully, a different approach would be used next time. Digital accessibility was raised within the survey results, which would be fed into the wider Greater Manchester approach around digital exclusion. Members suggested alternative options such as telephone calls and post.

- A Member requested that the Committee had site of Quality Impact Assessment and the digital strategy to ensure access was given to all residents.
- It was recognised that Male buy in was also important. A Member welcomed contributory speeches from men on these issues, such as the fact that most care workers were women and access to products women need. Men needed to be on board to achieve ambitions on justice and equality matters. This was about a positive improvement and ensuring all people had an opportunity.
- Regarding wellbeing and mental health services, it was asked if these services were available to young women and girls. It was important for the research to connect with what was already in place and plug into the infrastructure. This included young women and older women as issues occurred. It was important for evidence to influence mainstream thinking.
- The ability to compare the issues with same issues within the general population would have been beneficial. The survey was specifically designed for women and could not be transferred. Members were reassured that the panel would identify gender disparities and address them in the wider context.
- Women in lower paid jobs and levelling up was discussed. It was suggested that this was a reflection of personal and household wealth and not necessarily a gender factor; it was a much wider issue.
- The data sets that sat behind the summary slide deck, particularly around domestic abuse would be shared with the Committee.

Resolved/-

1. That the Committee considered and commented on (minute E38/20 refers) the establishment of early priorities for the Greater Manchester and Women and Girl's Equality Panel.
2. The findings of the research undertaken of the experience of Greater Manchester women during the coronavirus pandemic was received and noted.

E39/20 REGISTER OF KEY DECISIONS

Members considered the register of GMCA Key Decisions for the period 1 September 2020 to 30 November 2020 that was published on 24 September 2020.

RESOLVED/-

That the register of GMCA Key Decisions be noted.

E40/20 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2020/2021

Members considered the draft Committee Work Programme for 2020/21 which set out those topics and items that would provide a focus of the Committee's work for the 2020/2021 municipal year.

The main points referred:

- It was agreed that the culture recovery plan item would be brought forward before it was considered by the GMCA.
- It was suggested that Credit Unions, interest free loans and joint work on welfare were added to the Work Programme. The Statutory Scrutiny Officer would check if this was within the Committee's remit.
- A Member asked if the Good Employer Charter could be considered at a local level rather than a GM level.

RESOLVED/-

That Committee Work Programme and comments made by Members, be actioned and noted.

E41/20 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates of future meetings were presented to Members. It was noted that all meetings would commence at 10.30 am and would be held via Microsoft Teams Live Events unless otherwise stated.

- Friday 13 November 2020
- Friday 4 December 2020
- Friday 15 January 2021
- Friday 5 February 2021
- Friday 12 March 2021

RESOLVED/-

That the dates and times of future meetings be noted.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED
AUTHORITY CORPORATE ISSUES AND REFORM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE, HELD ON TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2020, AS A VIRTUAL MEETING
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Councillor Tom Pickstone	Bury (Chair)
Councillor Akhtar Zaman	Bolton (Substitute)
Councillor Paula Appleby	Manchester
Councillor Sam Al-Hamdani	Oldham (Substitute)
Councillor Colin McLaren	Oldham
Councillor Kallum Nolan	Rochdale
Councillor Tanya Burch	Salford
Councillor Karen Garrido	Salford (Substitute)
Councillor David Jolley	Salford
Councillor Teresa Smith	Tameside (Substitute)
Councillor Sean Anstee	Trafford (Substitute)
Councillor Joanne Marshall	Wigan

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

John Wrathmell	Director Strategy, Research and Economy, GMCA
Joanne Heron	Statutory Scrutiny Officer, GMCA
Matt Berry	Senior Governor & Scrutiny Officer, GMCA
Jenny Hollamby	Senior Governor & Scrutiny Officer, GMCA
Kris Jones	Service Operations Officer, GMCA

CI&R/21/20 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anne Duffield (Trafford), Beverley Fletcher (Bolton), John McGahan (Stockport), Dave Morgan (Trafford) and Dena Ryness (Stockport).

Officers: Alison McKenzie-Folan, Chief Executive, Wigan Council and Steve Wilson, GMCA

CI&R/22/20 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair extended a welcome to those participating on the call.

Members noted that the three Scrutiny Chairs had recently met with the Mayor to discuss future agenda themes. At this meeting, the Mayor also indicated that a review of the current scrutiny arrangements was to take place and that Scrutiny members contributions to this review will be sought in due course.

The Chair also explained that the Mayor will be attending the next meeting of this Committee and thought will be given as to the agenda for that meeting.

CI&R/23/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by any Member of the Committee.

CI&R/24/20 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee, held on 8 September 2020 were submitted.

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 8 September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

CI&R/25/20 COVID-19 GMCA FINANCIAL IMPACT AND RESERVES ANALYSIS

John Wrathmell, Director of Strategy, Research and Economy, GMCA, provided an overview of the Living with Covid Plan, a one year plan that has been developed in response to the changing requirements of the coronavirus pandemic and sought comments from Members to further shape and inform the development and delivery of the Plan as it evolves.

Members noted that the Plan seeks to capture early issues that have been made apparent because of Covid and identifies a response to build the resilience of the city region over the upcoming 12 months. The Plan also provides a link between the current Greater Manchester Strategy, which was due to finish this year, and the next version which will now be updated in June 2021.

Comments from Members were also sought in relation to the proposed mechanisms to drive system wide change to tackle those inequalities that have been highlighted and exacerbated by Covid. Members noted that the successful implementation of this Plan will build resilience to respond to any further outbreaks or emergencies and will provide a foundation for Greater Manchester to build back better.

The following questions and comments were made: -

- A member referred to section 2.1 to the report which identified that the Recovery Coordination Group (RCG) would now be meeting on a quarterly basis and enquired if this will be reviewed given the probability of further Covid restrictions being introduced in Greater Manchester. In response, officers noted that the move to quarterly meetings was done so once the Plan was in place. RCG would oversee the work of the Plan, however, a discussion on whether there is now a need for RCG to meet more frequently is to take place.

- A Member asked if there will be a review of the full fibre broadband contract to allow for digitalisation. In response, officers noted that the roll out of full fibre was agreed before the corona virus hit and any acceleration of the programme would need to identify additional resources. Members noted that work was undertaken to support children during lockdown with the provision of essential equipment and internet access. Work was continuing to this end to ensure that digital exclusion matters are addressed.
- A Member asked if a local approach to support hospitality workers affected by the impact of Covid restrictions is to be developed. In response officers noted that foundational Economy section of the local industrial strategy picks up challenges for the hospitality sector. It was also noted the Good Employer Charter has been developed and has a focus on those Covid associated employment challenges. Work is also taking place in relation to support training and re-training opportunities. An action plan is being developed with Marketing Manchester. Where restrictions are in place support is needed from Central Government.
- A Members sought details on the timeframes for the delivery of the Plan. He highlighted that local conflicting priorities may compromise delivery. In response, officers noted that there is potential risk where local resources are required as the financial impact of the crisis increases.
- A Member highlighted digitalisation issues. The Member also asked if there were details of associated costs, capacity and timescales within the Plan. Officers were also asked if GM has the ability and resilience to react quickly to matters as the arise. In response, officers noted that work is taking place to ensure full-fibre is in place and there is access to relevant technology. In terms of resources to act quickly, it was also noted that the partnership approach to respond can help with resilience.
- A Member asked if any thought had been given that the impact of Covid is greater in GM than elsewhere in the country due to existing inequalities. In response, officers noted that work was continuing to understand how and why the virus spreads greater in some areas when compared to others. Socio-economic factors of housing, health inequality and higher levels of poverty were being explored by the Independent Inequalities Commission. Further details of their work will be brought to a future meeting of the committee.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Living with Covid Plan and observations made by Members be noted and the implementation of the Plan as a system wide driver for change and improvement, be supported.
2. That the proposed approach whereby all GMCA reports include recommendations that assess and identify the impact of the proposal on inequalities, environmental and financial issues in relation to the topic. This would be supported by a commitment to collect, analyse and report on data, including community intelligence, to understand that impact, be noted.

3. That in building on the recommendation (2) above, the development of a mechanism to utilise the established and developing partnership governance for the Age-friendly and Equalities Portfolio to support system wide responses. This would include actions to address equalities issues identified and unresolved through the above assessment process, be noted.
4. That consideration of adopting minimum targets or standards for each locality or neighbourhood would support the effective targeting of resources across all GMCA activity, as set out in the report, be noted and to also note that this will ensure that there is an ongoing recognition that address inequalities in all communities is fundamental to the whole of Greater Manchester being able to achieve its collective ambitions.
5. That the report of the Independent Inequalities Commission be shared with Committee Members.

**CI&R/26/20 GREATER MANCHESTER'S AUTUMN SUBMISSION:
COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW AND LOCAL RECOVERY &
ENGLISH DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER**

John Wrathmell, Director of Strategy, Research and Economy, GMCA introduced a report which provided members with an overview of Greater Manchester's submission to Government for the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and Local Recovery & English Devolution White Paper (Devolution White Paper).

The report explained that the GM submission sets out a series of ambitious proposals to transform our city region. Members noted that these transformation proposals are grouped together under four key themes and include:-

- a. **The Foundation.** Levelling up requires a focus on our people and the services they rely on. COVID-19 has had a drastic financial impact on Greater Manchester Authorities, estimated at c. £754m in 2020/21 alone. Government funding for the various areas of financial pressures has totaled £320m so far, leaving a net impact of £434m. A sustainable financial settlement to support our public services - and by extension, our communities - is therefore essential, and a prerequisite for the other ambitions in our submission.
- b. **A Levelled-up Economy.** A set of proposals to support our economic recovery and renewal following the shock of the pandemic, including:-
 - **Innovation GM;** our plan for achieving a significant uplift in investment in innovation and R&D (especially translational R&D) which would bring Greater Manchester up to the level of the 'golden triangle'.
 - **A GM Learning and Work Budget:** a distinctive new approach to work and skills, which improves value-for-money, aligns disjointed Government initiatives and helps people get into, and on in, work.

- Action to deliver a **Young Person’s Guarantee**, with greater GM oversight of support for young people, so we can give every young person in GM a clear line of sight into local education, training and employment.
 - **Investment in a digitally enabled and empowered GM**, and wider investment in GM’s economic development and competitiveness, funded through a devolved UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- c. **Improved public service outcomes.** A set of proposals to go further and faster on our Unified Model of Public Services and improve outcomes and efficiency, including:-
- Our **‘Living Well at Home’** model for social care reform; which could be the basis of a new national settlement and which delivers true integration with the NHS and a ‘new deal’ for users and staff.
 - **An enhanced ‘Reform and Innovation Partnership’** that brings together local and national investment in public service reform to support innovation in services for children and families, ensures we continue to bear down on rough sleeping, and supports healthy ageing.
- d. **Improved connectivity and low carbon infrastructure.** A set of proposals that align investment with further devolution and place-based appraisal, to deliver substantial improvements in infrastructure and connectivity, including:-
- **Delivering a London-style transport system** in Greater Manchester within this Parliament, including radically improved bus services, investment to support our Clean Air plans, and devolution over key areas of the transport system (inc. local control of rail stations).
 - A **GM Infrastructure Programme (GMIP)** which uses a devolved multi-year infrastructure settlement for GM to deliver an extensive pipeline of transport, housing, digital and low-carbon infrastructure which will create liveable, sustainable and well-connected places.
 - A **GM Smart Energy Transition Region** that takes a systemic approach to achieving net zero by 2038, investing in transport, retrofitting, innovation and skills and retraining.

The following questions and comments were made: -

- A Member sought clarification on timescales associated with the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement. The Member identified the existing significant funding challenges facing local authorities and if the settlement does not meet these challenges the levelling up agenda may be compromised. In terms of Infrastructure and Employment, the Member highlighted the importance of Port Salford and noted the lack of investment for this project. In response, officers explained that given the wider national context the timescales for the settlement response were unclear. It is anticipated that a settlement of kind will be presented in early December to enable

local councils and Government departments set budgets for the upcoming financial year.

Officers noted that GM is in a good position to receive investment. It was suggested that capital investment funding for projects will be for more than one year to allow for delivery.

- In terms of the London style transport system for GM, a Member asked if there is a pipeline of GM transport infrastructure projects, should Government seek to fund schemes quickly. In response, officers noted that there is a pipeline of projects. Transport projects are set out in the Transport Plan 2040. The potential investment for research and development was highlighted. Innovation work undertaken by university partners has developed an integrated group of projects.

RESOLVED/-

That the update on Greater Manchester's autumn submission to Government be received with thanks and noted.

CI&R/27/20 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE 2020/21 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Members considered the committee work programme for 2020/21.

It was noted that the GM Mayor was to be attending the next meeting of the Committee. In light of this, the Chair indicated that he would liaise with Committee Members for their views on how best the committee can scrutinise the work of the Mayor.

RESOLVED/-

That the Committee Work Programme be noted.

CI&R/28/20 GMCA REGISTER OF KEY DECISIONS

RESOLVED/-

That the GMCA Register of Key Decisions be noted.

CI&R/29/20 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

All meetings would be held virtually on:

- 10 November 2020
- 8 December 2020
- 19 January 2021
- 9 February 2021
- 16 March 2021

Date: 30 October 2020

Subject: Greater Manchester Economic Dashboard

Report of: Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for Economy & Business

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide GMCA with the latest version of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard.

RECOMMENDATION:

The GMCA is requested to note and comment on the latest update of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Simon Nokes, Executive Director Policy & Strategy, GMCA
Simon.nokes@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Equalities Implications:

There are no direct equalities impacts arising from this report.

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures:

1. *No direct impacts arising from this report.*

Risk Management:

None

Legal Considerations:

None

Financial Consequences – Revenue:

None

Financial Consequences – Capital:

None

Number of attachments to the report: 1

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

None

TRACKING/PROCESS		[All sections to be completed]
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN		
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?		
GM Transport Committee	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Economic Resilience Dashboard aims to provide up to date intelligence on the conditions in the Greater Manchester economy following the outbreak of Covid-19.

The data is divided into four sections:

- Current Economic Conditions provides leading indicators on the economy and labour market
- Business and Consumer Confidence provides measures of confidence in the economy as illustrated in retail spending and responses to national surveys
- Greater Manchester Business Indicators provides data gathered by GM based organisations on business sentiment and confidence.
- Behavioural Insights provides information on the movement of people across GM

1.2 The available economic data in response to Covid-19 is changing rapidly with frequent new datasets becoming available and others being withdrawn. The dashboard will be updated with the best available data each month.

1.3 The latest version of the dashboard can be viewed live at this link (and is attached at a PDF report):

https://www.gmtableau.nhs.uk/t/GMCA/views/GMEconomicResilienceDashboard/About/jack.james@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/4f3be3e5-759e-47ee-85f9-6c1538fc265c?:display_count=n&:showVizHome=n&:origin=viz_share_link&:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&:embed=y

2. HEADLINE MESSAGES:

2.1 The claimant count for September 2020 shows that after rapid increases in the number of residents seeking unemployment related benefits between April and May 2020, the total number of claimants in Greater Manchester (GM) stabilised in June and has remained steady since then. 143,780 GM residents claimed unemployment related benefits in September, a slight decrease of 0.5% on the previous month and a 92% growth in the claimant count since March. However, this figure is lower than for the UK as a whole, which has seen a 112% rise in the number of claimants across the same period.

2.2 According to the Growth Company's fortnightly business survey, the number of GM firms planning or considering making redundancies was 4.4% in the 8 weeks to 12th October. The number of firms that have already made redundancies was 9.3% for the same period.

- 2.3 Total online job postings in GM remained steady at 5,825 in the week ending the 26th September 2020. In the first week of March, there were around 7,500 postings a week: in other words, vacancies have fallen by around 21%. Vacancies recovered to their pre-crisis levels during the week ending 3rd October but have declined since then. However, vacancies appear to have hit a low in early May 2020 and have made a modest recovery since then.
- 2.4 There were 131,600 employees on furlough in Greater Manchester on 31st August. This represents 10% of the total number of eligible employments. This compares to 11% for the UK as a whole. Around 86,000 GM residents had claimed a second self-employment income support (SEISS) grant by 30th September, equivalent to a 71% of those eligible for the scheme. This compares to a 67% take up across the UK as a whole.
- 2.5 Footfall data for the Manchester Local Authority area has shown that following a recovery to pre-crisis levels in week commencing 27th September, footfall has fallen to -23% in week ending 18th October, its lowest level since 26th July.
- 2.6 Broader measures of business and consumer sentiment show some positive signs for the GM economy. All three sectoral Purchasing Manager's Indices are now above the 50.0 threshold score that indicates growth. Retail sales have also recovered to above their pre-crisis level. However, underlying consumer confidence has consistently remained below its pre-crisis level, currently standing at -25, 18 points below its February 2020 score which suggests that there is still considerable uncertainty about the future.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The GMCA is requested to note and comment on the latest update of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard

Economic Resilience Dashboard



Tracking the Greater Manchester Economy

The Economic Resilience Dashboard aims to provide up to date intelligence on the conditions in the Greater Manchester (GM) economy following the outbreak of Covid-19.

The data is divided into four sections:

- **Current Economic Conditions** provides leading indicators on the economy and labour market
- **Business and Consumer Confidence** provides measures of confidence in the economy as illustrated in retail spending and responses to national surveys
- **Greater Manchester Business Indicators** provides data gathered by GM based organisations on business sentiment and confidence.
- **Behavioural Insights** provides information on the movement of people across GM.

The economic data in response to Covid-19 is changing rapidly with new datasets becoming available and others being withdrawn on a regular basis. The dashboard will be updated with the best available data each month with the resultant analysis described in the Analysis tab.

We would welcome feedback on alternative measures to be included in the dashboard or insights on the data provided. If you have any feedback please email jack.james@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk.

Analysis



86,000

GM residents have made a second claim to the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, 71% of those eligible for the scheme.



143,780

GM residents were in receipt of unemployment benefits in August, a rise of 92% since March.



5,825

online job postings were recorded in the GM economy in w/e 17th October, around 21% fewer than w/e 7 March.

The claimant count for September 2020 shows that after rapid increases in the number of residents seeking unemployment related benefits between April and May 2020, the total number of claimants in Greater Manchester (GM) stabilised in June and has remained steady since then. **143,780 GM residents claimed unemployment related benefits in September**, a slight decrease of 0.5% on the previous month and a **92% growth in the claimant count since March**. However, this figure is lower than for the UK as a whole, which has seen a 112% rise in the number of claimants across the same period.

According to the Growth Company's fortnightly business survey, the number of **GM firms planning or considering making redundancies was 4.4%** in the 8 weeks to 12th October. **The number of firms that have already made redundancies was 9.3%** for the same period.

Total online job postings in GM **remained steady at 5,825** in the week ending the 26th September 2020. In the first week of March, there were around 7,500 postings a week: in other words, **vacancies have fallen by around 21%**. Vacancies recovered to their pre-crisis levels during the week ending 3rd October but have declined since then. However, vacancies appear to have hit a low in early May 2020 and have made a modest recovery since then.

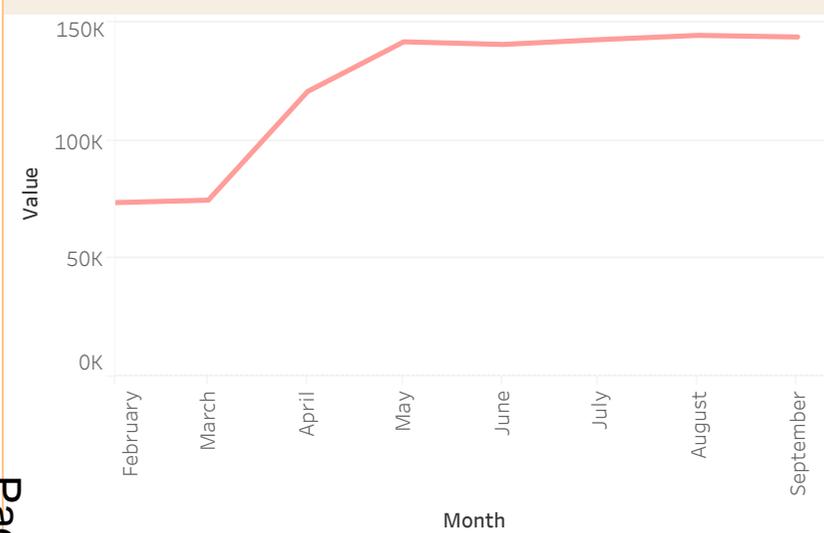
There were 131,600 employees on furlough in Greater Manchester on 31st August. This represents 10% of the total number of eligible employments. This compares to 11% for the UK as a whole. Around **86,000 GM residents** had claimed a second self-employment income support (SEISS) grant by 30th September, equivalent to a 71% of those eligible for the scheme. This compares to a 67% take up across the UK as a whole.

Footfall data for the Manchester Local Authority area has shown that following a recovery to pre-crisis levels in week commencing 27th September, footfall has fallen to -23% in week ending 18th October, its lowest level since 26th July.

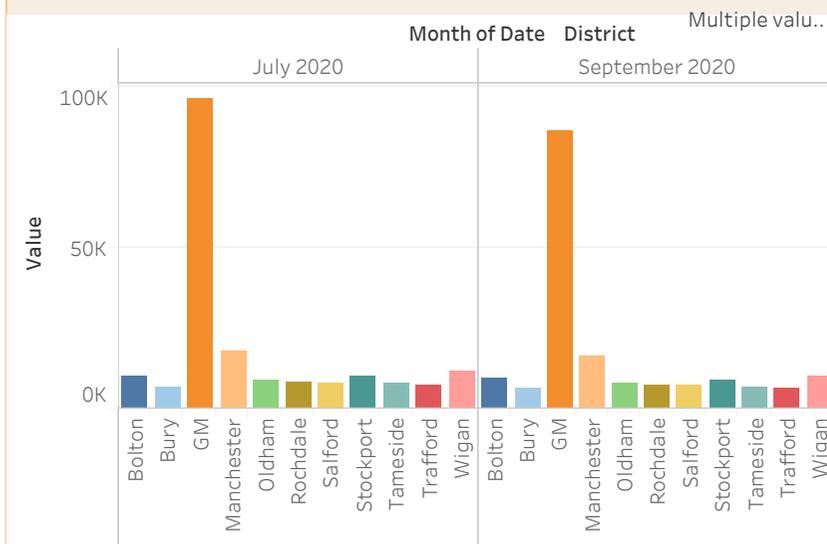
Broader measures of business and consumer sentiment show some positive signs for the GM economy. All three sectoral Purchasing Manager's Indices are now above the 50.0 threshold score that indicates growth. Retail sales have also recovered to above their pre-crisis level. However, underlying **consumer confidence has consistently remained below its pre-crisis level, currently standing at -25, 18 points below its February 2020 score** which suggests that there is still considerable uncertainty about the future.

Current Economic Conditions

Claimant count (Monthly)



No. of claims for first and second SEISS grants



Key Facts

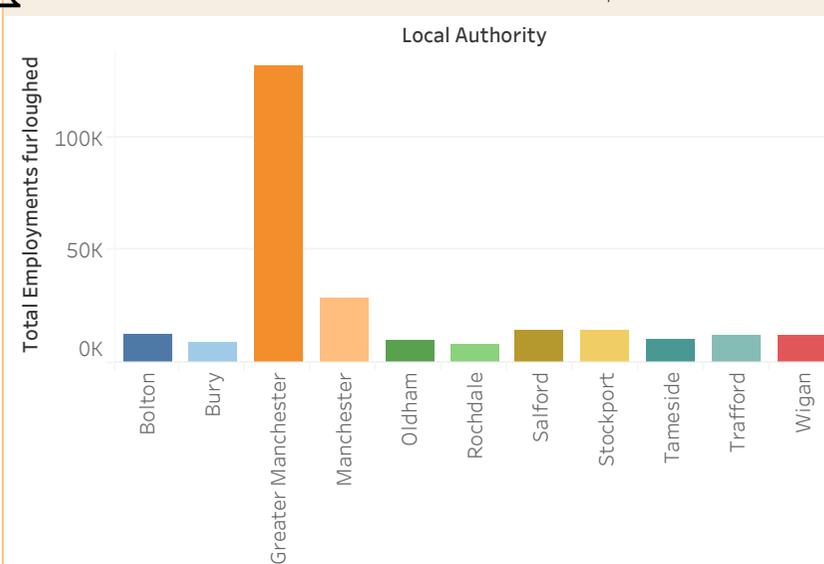
There were **131,600** employees on furlough in Greater Manchester on 31st August. This represents 10% of the total number of eligible employments.

There have been **86,200** claims made to the second round of the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme up to 30th September. Applications remain open until 19th October.

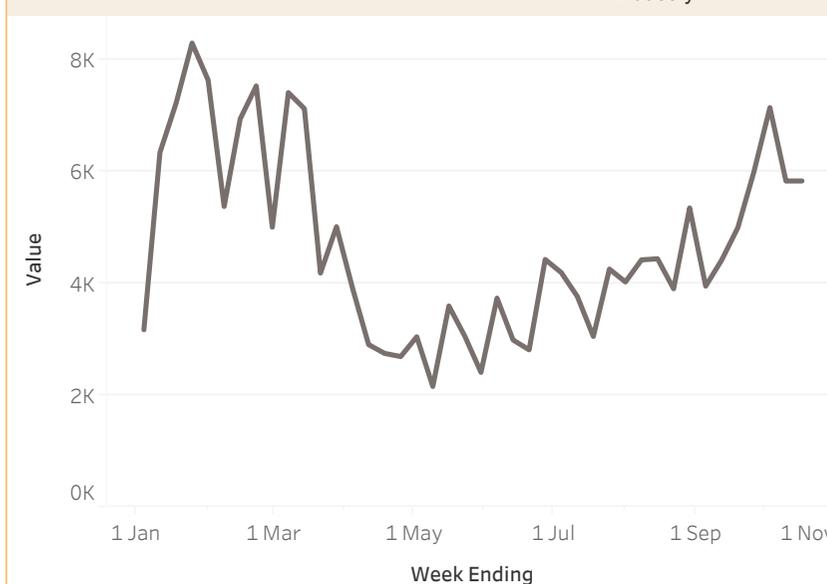
The number of claimants decreased by 0.5% to 143,780 between August and September. GM has seen an 92% rise in the volume of claimants between March and September.

There was no substantial change in total weekly job postings between 10th and 17th October. Weekly job postings have fallen 11% since week 1st - 7th March.

Furlough by LA as at 31st August

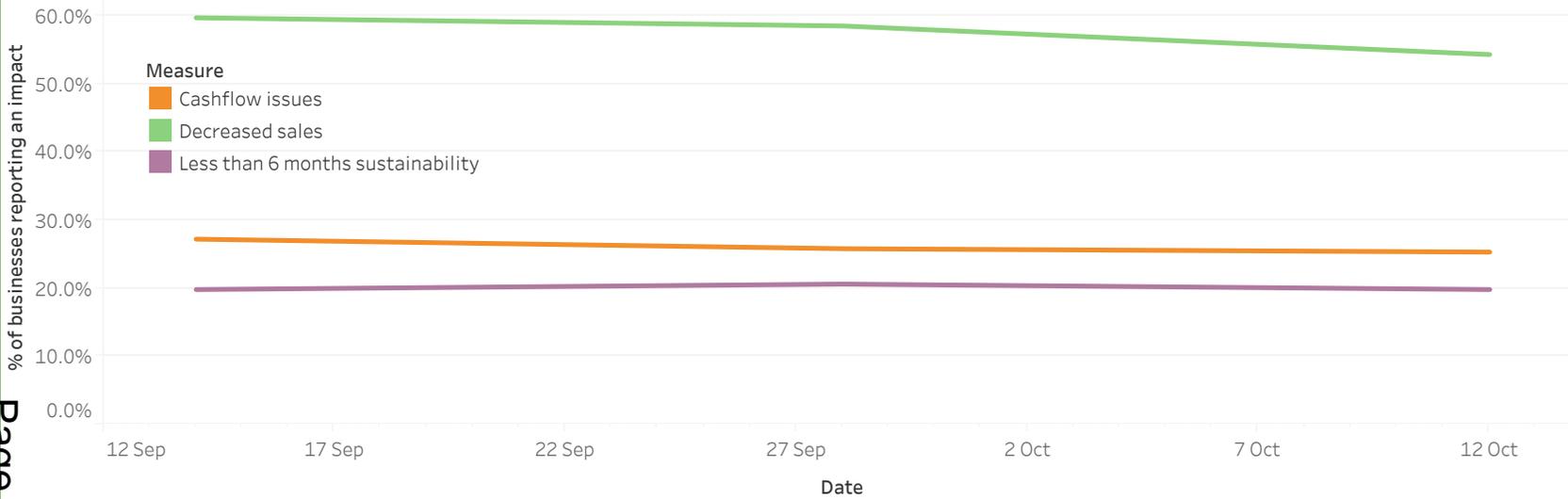


Job postings by industry (Weekly)



Greater Manchester Business Indicators

Business Growth Hub Survey on COVID Impacts (8 week average) Measure Multiple values Sector All Sectors District All of GM



Key Facts

The most widely reported impact from the COVID crisis amongst businesses between 17th August and 12th October was decreased sales. 54.3% of businesses reported decreased sales.

The combined total of firms that are planning or considering making redundancies was 4.4% between 17th August and 12th October. 9.3% of firms said that they had already made redundancies.

Export documents decreased by 11% in August, from 2,546 to 2,278. The total number of export documents is down 20% since February.

Business Growth Hub Survey: Businesses making redundancies (8 week average)

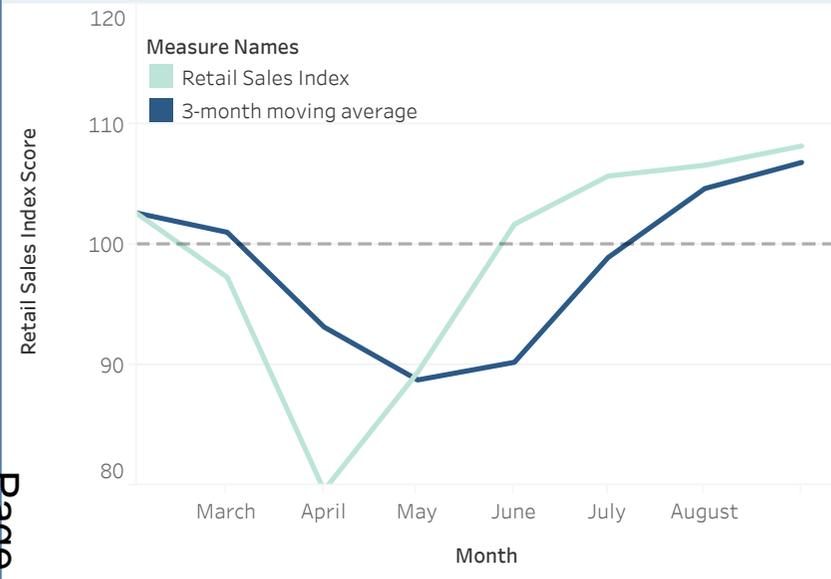


Export Documents (Monthly)

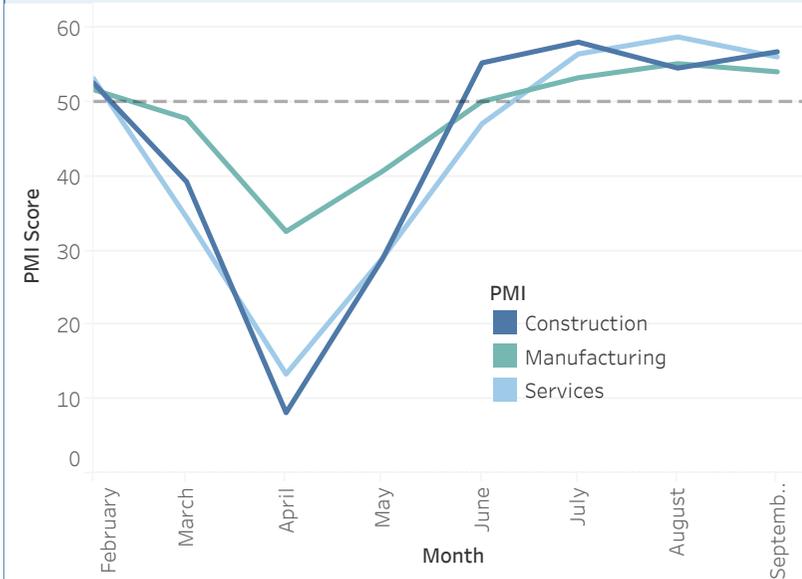


Business and Consumer Confidence

UK retail sales (Monthly)



UK purchasing managers index (Monthly)



UK consumer confidence (Monthly)



GM Index (Quarterly)



Key Facts

The retail sales index increased in September from 106.6 to 108.2. The index is now 6 points higher than it was in February 2020.

Two out of three PMI measures decreased in September. Manufacturing PMI decreased from 55.2 to 54.1, Services PMI decreased from 58.8 to 56.1. Construction PMI increased from 54.6 to 56.8.

The UK Consumer Confidence Index rose to -25 in September 2020. Consumer confidence has fallen 18 points since February 2020.

GM Chamber's GM Index increased from -31.7 in Q2 2020 to -9.2 in Q3 2020.

Behavioural Insights

Footfall in Manchester area (Weekly)

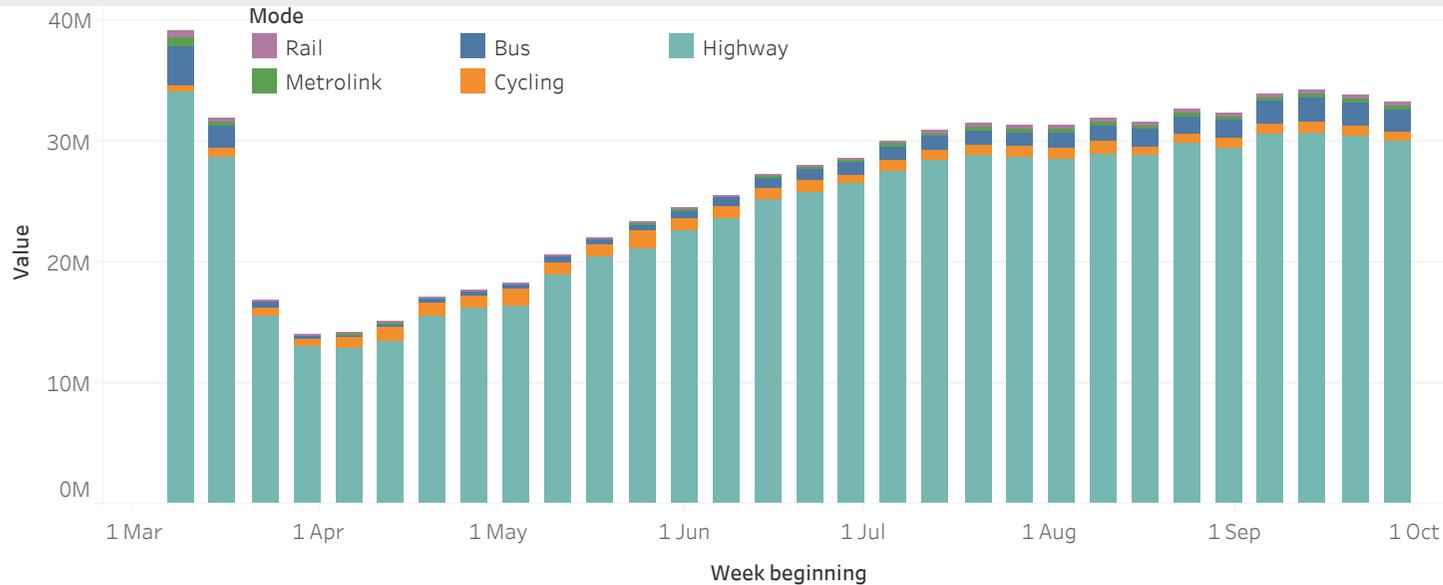


Key Facts

Footfall throughout the Manchester Local Authority area was down -23% year-on-year between 12th and 18th October.

There were 33 million passenger journeys across all modes of transport in Greater Manchester in week commencing 28th September. This represents a 15% decrease compared to the week commencing 9th March.

Greater Manchester Transport Usage by Mode (Weekly)



Definitions

Employees on Furlough in GM - This data is taken from the **monthly statistical release from HMRC** and provides figures for the number of employees who are currently on the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme throughout the UK. Currently the HMRC release only provides cumulative figures for the GM area. The release is classed as experimental statistics because the methodologies used to produce the statistics are still in their development phase. As a result, the figures are subject to revision.

People on Self-Employment Income Support Scheme - This indicator measures the number of claims made to the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) administered by HM Revenue and Customs'. **The data is released on a monthly basis by HMRC.** As this is an experimental dataset, methodologies are still being refined and improved. Therefore, there may be revisions to these statistics.

Claimant Count - This data is taken from a **monthly statistical release by the Office for National Statistics.** Alternative Claimant Count experimental statistics measure the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits by modelling what the count would have been if Universal Credit had been fully rolled out since 2013 (when Universal Credit began) with the broader span of people this covers.

Job Postings - Job postings data is **taken from Burning Glass and updated on a weekly basis.** This measure indicates job vacancies for GM as a whole.

Growth Company Business Survey - Figures relating to the impact of COVID-19 on business are **taken from the Growth Company's weekly business survey.** The survey covers all businesses that are Growth Company Clients, this means that some businesses outside of GM that access Growth Company services may be included in the dataset.

Export Documents - This is a **monthly count of the number of export documents processed for GM businesses,** as reported to GMCA by the **GM Chamber of Commerce.** It gives an indication of the level of international trade happening in GM in the month.

Retail Sales - The Retail Sales Index provides retail sales data for Great Britain in value and volume terms, seasonally and non-seasonally adjusted. **Taken from a monthly statistical release by the Office for National Statistics.** The specific measure we use from the index is shows the volume of retail sales, seasonally adjusted, as a percentage change on the same month a year earlier.

Purchasing Manager's Index - The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing, service and construction sectors. It consists of a diffusion index that summarizes whether market conditions, as viewed by purchasing managers, are expanding, staying the same, or contracting. **The Index is published on a monthly basis by IHS Markit Economics.** The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.

Consumer Confidence - In the United Kingdom, the consumer confidence survey measures the level of optimism that consumers have about the performance of the economy in the next 12 months. **Published on a monthly basis by GfK.** The GfK Consumer Confidence is derived from the survey of about 2,000 consumers which are ask to rate the relative level of past and future economic conditions including personal financial situation, climate for major purchases, overall economic situation and savings level.

GM Index - The Greater Manchester Index is a **quarterly composite indicator taken from seven measures in the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce's Quarterly Economic Survey.** Those seven indicators are Domestic Sales, Advance UK Orders, Export Sales, Advance Overseas Orders, Capacity Utilisation, Turnover Confidence, Profitability Confidence.

Footfall in Manchester - This data is provided to **Manchester City Council by Springboard on a weekly basis.** The data is for the Manchester City Council area only and refers to the year-on-year change in footfall. Year on Year % Change is the % change in footfall for this week compared to the same week in the previous year.

Greater Manchester Transport Usage by Mode - This data is provided by Transport for Greater Manchester and measures the number of passenger journeys on each mode of transport (Car, Bus, Rail, Cycling, Metrolink).

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