

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

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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data in response to Covid-19 is changing rapidly with frequent new datasets becoming available and others being withdrawn.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