

Date: 18th December 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:

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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

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

The author of the report must include list of those documents on the subject matter which:

- Disclose any facts or matter on which the report or an important part of the report is based;
- Which have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report

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?		Please state the reason the report is exempt from call-in
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data in response to Covid-19 is changing rapidly with frequent new datasets becoming available and others being withdrawn.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 as 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 October 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. 140,335 GM residents claimed unemployment related benefits in October, a slight decrease of 2% on the previous month and an 88% growth in the claimant count since March. This is less than the 105% growth in claimants across the UK as a whole.

2.2 According to the Growth Company's fortnightly business survey, the number of GM firms planning to make redundancies was 12.2% in the 2 weeks to 7th December. The number of firms that have already made redundancies was 15% for the same period.

2.3 Total online job postings in GM fell slightly to 5,798 in the week ending the 28th November 2020. In the first week of March, there were around 7,500 postings a week: in other words, vacancies have fallen by around 22%. 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 103,500 employees on furlough in Greater Manchester on 30th September, 28,000 fewer than at 31st August. This represents 8% of the total number of eligible employments. This compares to 8% for the UK as a whole. Around 89,100 GM residents had claimed a second self-employment income support (SEISS) grant by 31st October, equivalent to a 73% of those eligible for the scheme. This compares to a 67% take up across the UK as a whole.
- 2.5 £560m in Coronavirus Business Interruption Loans and £1.68bn in Bounce Back Loans had been offered to businesses in Greater Manchester at 5th October. An average of £253,000 per applicant from CBILS and £30,600 per applicant from BBLS has been paid to firms in GM, compared to £247,000 per applicant from CBILS and £30,200 per applicant from BBLS across the UK as a whole.
- 2.6 Google Mobility data for GM shows that there were fewer people moving through all location types on 29th November except in residential areas, which was 9% above the baseline. The number of people in workplaces was -24% below the baseline on 29th November, up from -85% at the beginning of April.
- 2.7 Broader measures of business and consumer sentiment show some mixed signs for the GM economy. Two out of three sectoral Purchasing Manager's Indices are now above the 50.0 threshold score that indicates growth, however Services PMI fell below the growth threshold in November. Underlying consumer confidence has consistently remained below its pre-crisis level, currently standing at -33, 26 points below its February 2020 score which suggests that there is still considerable uncertainty about the future. Despite this, retail sales have recovered to above their pre-crisis level, largely driven by online shopping.
- 2.8 The average price of a residential property in GM was £184,873 in September, an increase of 1.5% month-on-month and 5% higher than in February 2020.

3. RECOMMENDATION

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