

Date: 29th January 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

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data in response to Covid-19 is changing rapidly with frequent new datasets becoming available and others being withdrawn.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

2.1 141,250 GM residents claimed unemployment related benefits in November, a slight increase of 1% on the previous month and an 89% growth in the claimant count since March. This is less than the 106% growth in claimants across the UK as a whole. After rapid increases in the number of residents seeking unemployment related benefits between April and May 2020, the total number of claimants in GM stabilised in June and has remained steady since then.

2.2 The latest Growth Hub Survey conducted between 18th December and 18th January includes some responses from businesses surveyed since the end of the Brexit transition period. The survey showed a large increase of businesses reporting a 'negative' impact from EU exit with 25.3% of firms reporting a negative impact, an increase of 18% from the previous report, which is most likely the result of the new trading relationship between the UK and the EU initiated on 31st December.

- 2.3 This is reflected by GM Chamber of Commerce, who are reporting a dramatic increase in the number of Brexit and trade deal related enquiries. Whilst issues being raised are often very specific to individual firms, the two most common topics are VAT and documentation. Firms are reporting that the changes to the forms they use for transporting goods are resulting in some shipments being rejected or being unable to be certified. Firms are also reporting that information available on [Gov.UK](https://www.gov.uk) is too generic to be useful. As yet however, there have been relatively few enquiries about the points based immigration system.
- 2.4 The number of firms that said they were considering making redundancies was 3.6% between 4th and 21st January. 18.1% of firms said that they had already made redundancies.
- 2.5 The number of online job postings decreased to 4,703 in week ending 16th January. Weekly job postings have fallen 36% since week 1st - 7th March. 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.
- 2.6 £780m in Coronavirus Business Interruption Loans and £1.95bn in Bounce Back Loans had been offered to businesses in GM at 11th January. An average of £264,000 per applicant from CBILS and £30,700 per applicant from BBLS has been paid to firms in GM, compared to £257,000 per applicant from CBILS and £30,400 per applicant from BBLS across the UK as a whole.
- 2.7 Google Mobility data for GM shows that there were fewer people moving through all location types on 17th January except in residential areas, which was 10% above the baseline. The number of people in workplaces was -28% below the baseline on 17th January, up from -85% at the beginning of April.

3. RECOMMENDATION

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