

Date: 25th June 2021

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

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 number of claimants decreased by 4.5% to 135,605 between April and May. The fall in GM was lower than that nationally (5.5%). Tameside and Trafford experienced the largest reductions in their numbers of claimants (both over 6%). After rising at an unprecedentedly rapid rate in the early months of the pandemic, the most recent count is the lowest in a year.

2.2 There were 137,200 GM residents on furlough on 30th April 2021. This is a decrease of 31,200 (19%) since 31st March and remains below the 213,300 employments furloughed in July 2020, the earliest data available. Nationally 12% of residents eligible for the scheme were furloughed on 30th April, compared to an 11% take up rate in GM.

2.3 There were 66,400 claims to the fourth round of the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) up to 9th May 2021, currently 17,600 (21%) fewer than were made up to 31st January 2021. However, claims to the fourth round of the SEISS remained open until 1st June and therefore not all claims were captured in the latest data release. Current take up rate for the fourth round is 55% in GM, compared to 50% for the UK.

- 2.4 The number of online job postings increased by 60% to 7,075 in week ending 12th June. This is 137% above the equivalent week a year earlier. Feedback from the Growth Company suggests that businesses are reporting labour shortages in the tourism, hospitality and leisure, manufacturing, construction and health and social care sectors. It is currently unclear whether these are short-term due to uncertainty related to changes in restrictions or a longer-term trend.
- 2.5 Since the easing of lockdown restrictions in early April, there has been a rapid increase in transport activity across Greater Manchester. All modes of transport have seen an increase in usage since 5th April, despite a slight decline in between week commencing 19th and 26th April. TfGM data shows that there were more passenger journeys in week commencing 12th June than in any week since the beginning of the pandemic. Google data on the number of journeys taking place across GM shows a continued recovery in the number of people travelling to retail/leisure locations which has reached pre-Covid levels in some districts (Bury, Rochdale). Travel to workplaces is not recovering in the same way – there are currently a third fewer journeys taking place to workplaces in GM than prior to the pandemic.
- 2.6 The Growth Hub Survey conducted between 29th March and 26th April showed a 5.6% decrease in the number of businesses reporting a 'negative' impact from EU exit with 19.2% of firms reporting a negative impact, 47.1% of firms reported a 'neutral' impact, 27.9% are 'unsure' and 5.8% reported a 'positive' impact. This is a 4.2% increase on the number of businesses reporting a positive impact. There remain a number of issues relating to duties, VAT, haulage costs, labelling and product regulations that are impeding export activity. The lifting of Covid restrictions is also starting to crystallise some of the impacts on export of services. Some businesses are reporting that they do not see the EU as a viable export market because of these issues.
- 2.7 The number of firms that said they were considering making redundancies was 1% in the four weeks to 26th April, down from 2.4% in the four weeks to 29th March. This is the lowest number of firms considering redundancies since the dataset began in September 2020. 4.8% of firms said that they had already made redundancies.

3. RECOMMENDATION

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