

REGIONAL RECOVERY TASKFORCE

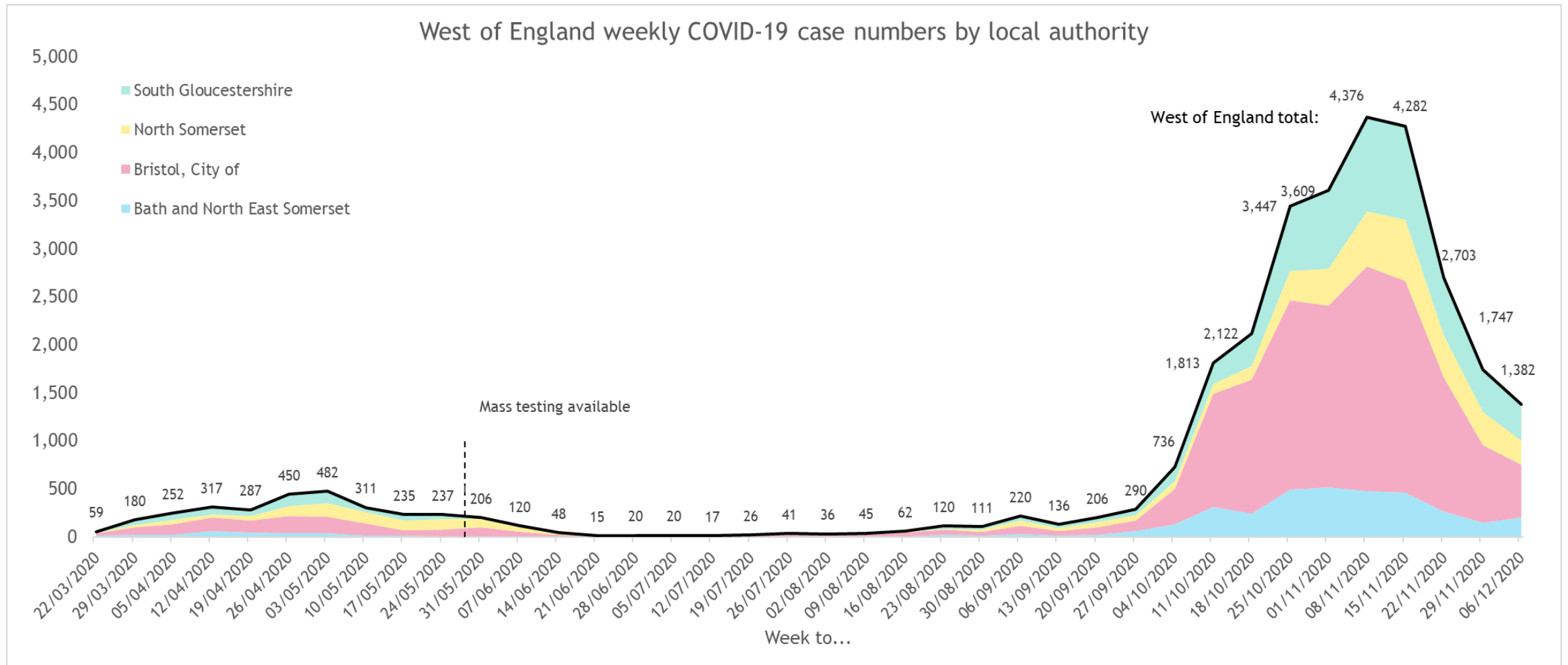
15 DECEMBER 2020
MEETING 8

AGENDA

- Welcome and apologies
- Economic update & impact of restrictions
- Update on regional recovery programme
- Next steps

ECONOMIC UPDATE & IMPACT OF RESTRICTIONS

CASE NUMBERS HAVE FALLEN SINCE THE MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER



Data for recent days may be revised upwards as new test results are processed.

Source: NHS Digital

COVID-19 INDICATORS FOR TIERS

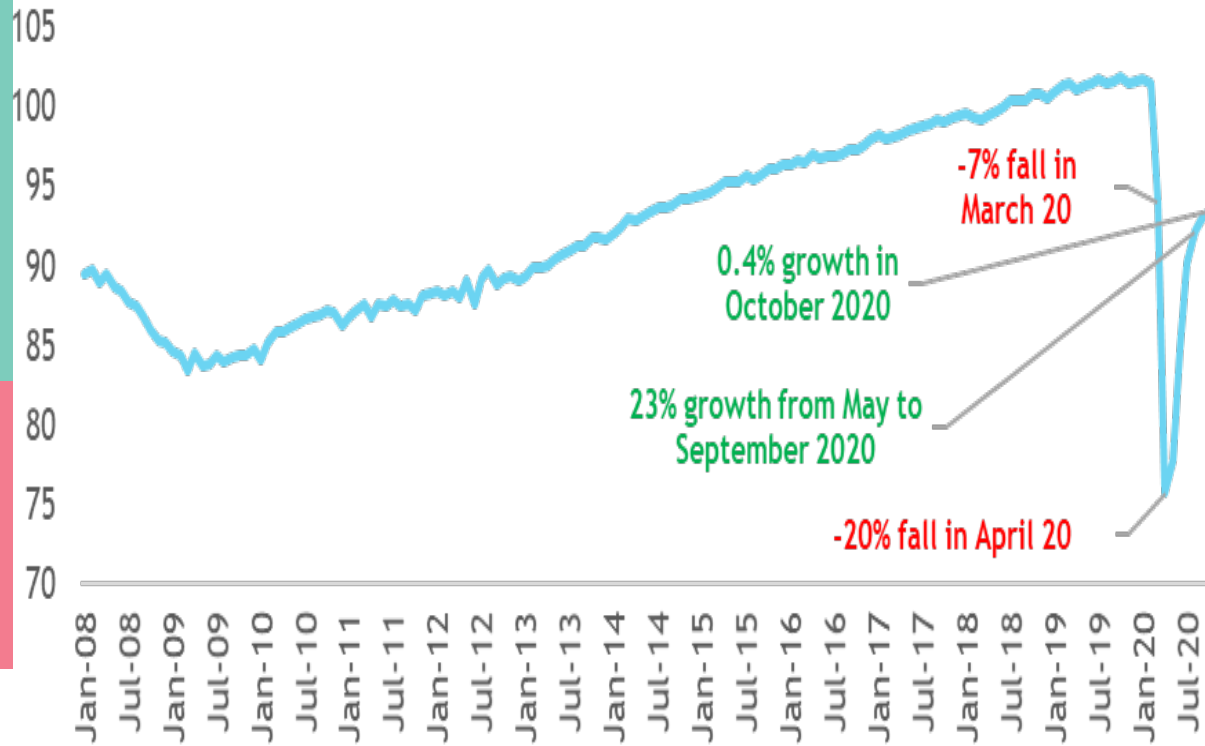
The government has set out five key indicators for determining the level of restrictions necessary:

Week to 6 December	B&NES	Bristol	N Somerset	S Glos	West of England	England
Cases per 100k people	106.6	118.7	117.2	131.2	119.5	154.4
- change from previous week	↑ +26.9	↓ -55.9	↓ -43.7	↓ -22.4	↓ -31.5	↑ +0.8
Cases among over 60s, per 100k people*	94.0 ↑	108.4 ↓	60.4 ↓	78.6 ↓	86.0 ↓	112.3 ↓
% testing positive**						Not available
Hospital admissions per 100k people***	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	20.1 (↓ -2.0)	14.1 ↓ (UK)

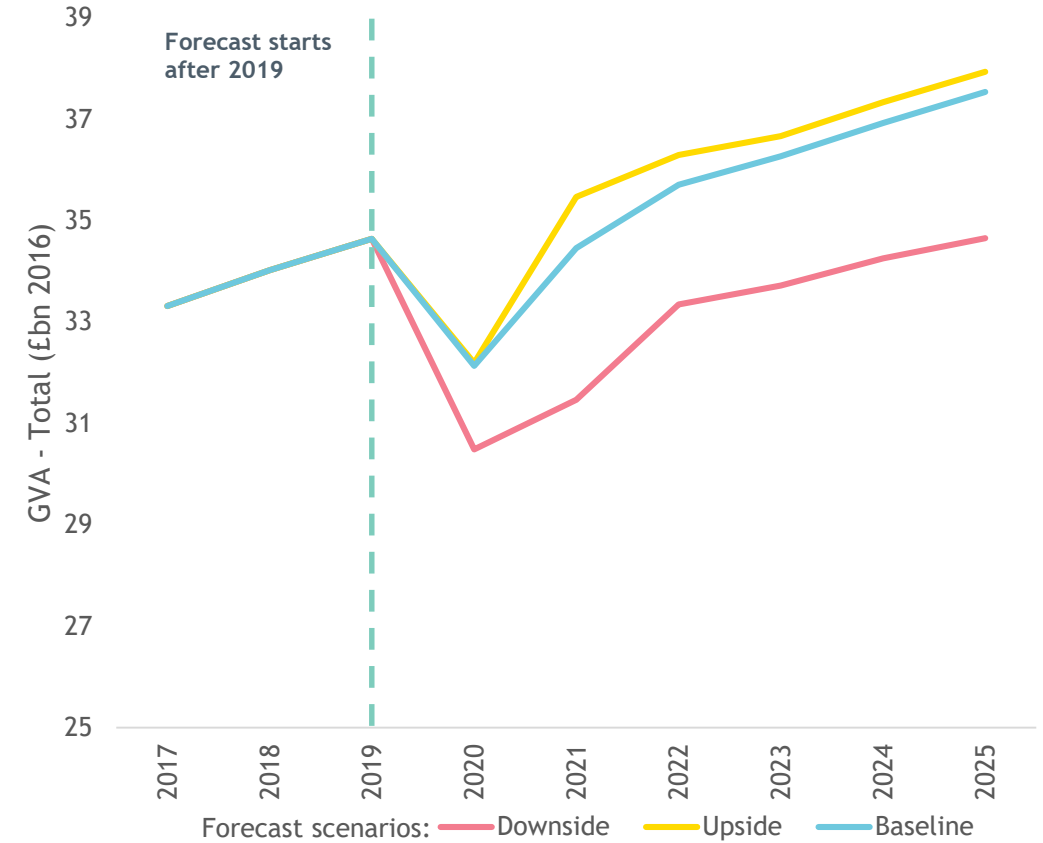
Source: Public Health England *data for week to 4 December **data for week to 1 December ***Hospital admissions included as a proxy for pressure on NHS

6 MONTH OF RECOVERY BUT GROWTH HAS SLOWED IN RECENT MONTHS, AND AN UNCERTAIN FORECAST

UK monthly GDP has returned to growth since May but is 8% smaller than in February



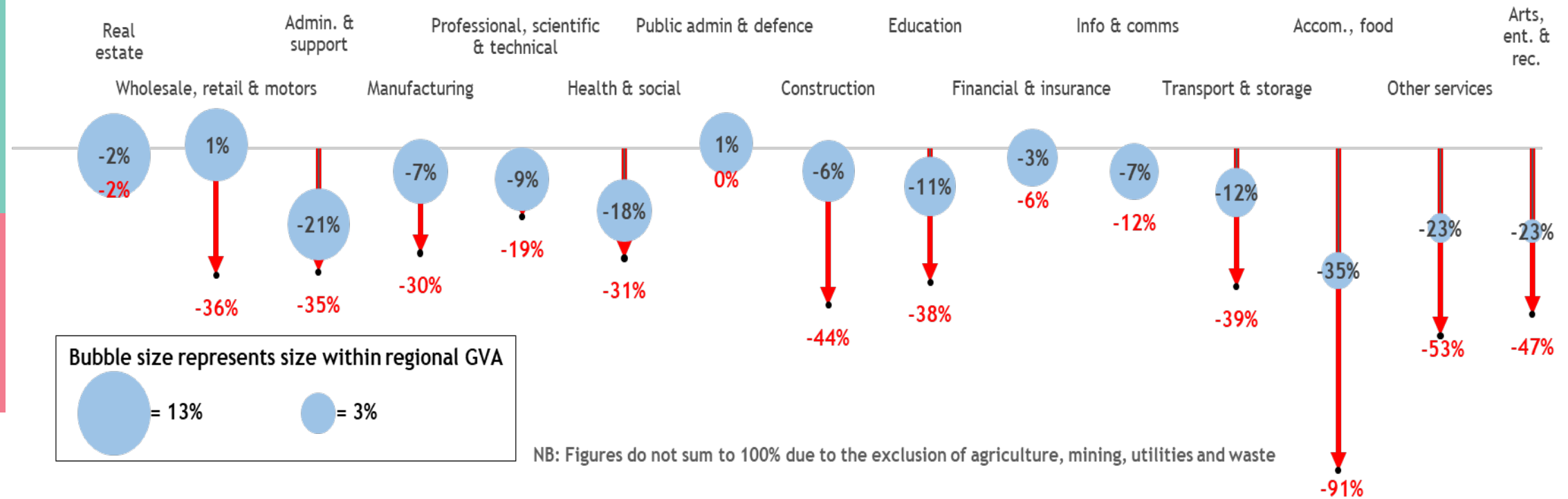
Oxford Economics: There is uncertainty in the recovery of the West of England's economic output



BOTH THE IMPACT AND RECOVERY SO FAR HAVE VARIED BY SECTOR

- Recovery has occurred in all sectors, though output in most remains down on February's level.
- Sectors based on personal contact have dipped again since the summer.

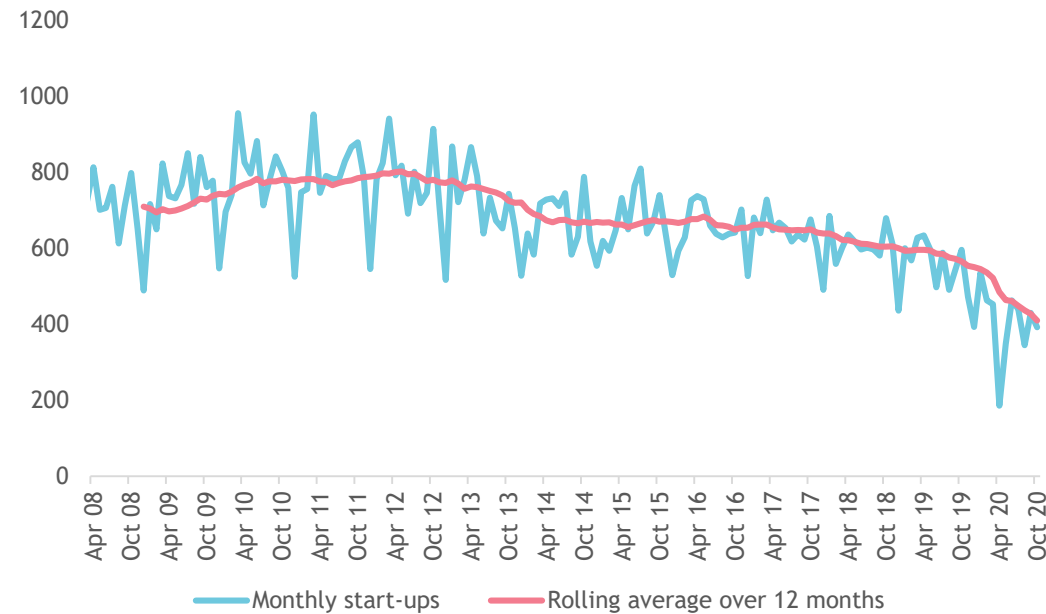
GVA change (%) in UK for various sectors from February to April 2020 and to October 2020



BUSINESS CLOSURES HAVE NOT RISEN TO DATE BUT NEW COMPANY INCORPORATIONS APPEAR WEAK

	16 March -31 November 2020	16 March -31 November 2019
West of England Reported Liquidations	339	385

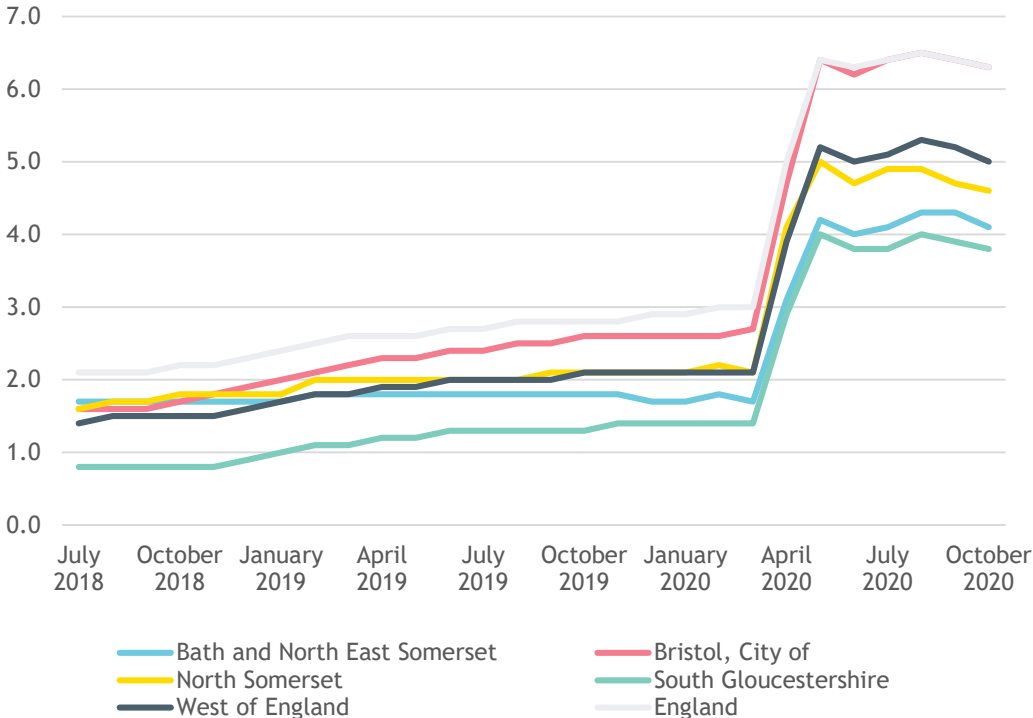
Estimated new business start-ups in the West of England



AFTER A SHARP RISE, UNEMPLOYMENT HAS LEVELLED IN RECENT MONTHS

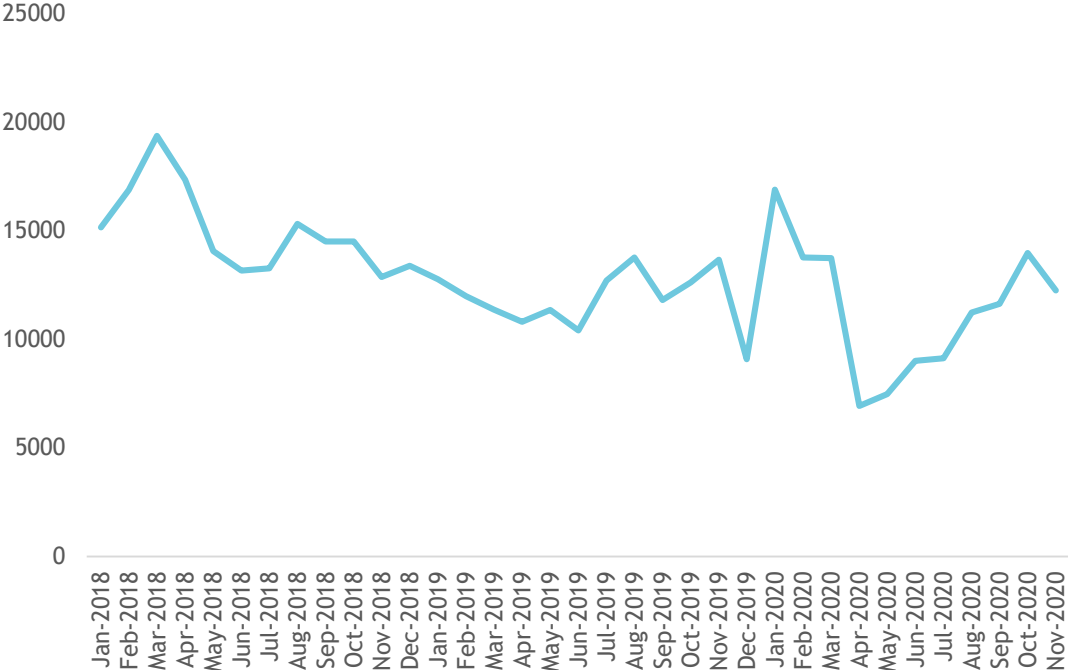
- At the end of September, 39,900 West of England employees remained furloughed, 7% of eligible workers.
- Over the course of the pandemic, 170,900 workers (30%) in the region were furloughed in total.

Percentage of Working Age Residents Claiming Unemployment Related Benefits:



Job advertisements in the West of England:

Total postings



Source: [Nomis Labour Market Profile](#), Labour Insight

WORKPLACE ACTIVITY - A SMALL DROP IN LOCKDOWN 2

Level of workplace mobility
(Google Trends data, weekdays only)



ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF TIER RESTRICTIONS

Type of business	Tier 2: Bath & NE Somerset			Tier 3: Bristol, N Somerset, S Gloucestershire		
	Impact	Businesses	Employment	Impact	Businesses	Employment
Pubs & bars	Closed (unless serving food)	140	2,250	Closed	540	8,250
Accommodation & food	Open but no indoor mixing	370	6,655	Closed	1,455	24,980
Entertainment venues	Open, limited capacity & curfew	240	1,785	Closed	800	8,295
Leisure centres, gyms	Open	95	1,700	Open but no indoor classes	360	6,960
Event Organisers	Events limited	25	90	Closed	105	770
TOTAL		870	12,480		3,260	49,255

UPDATE ON REGIONAL RECOVERY PROGRAMME

RECOVERY PROGRAMME UPDATE:

The following slides provide an update on progress in delivery of our regional recovery programme. Feedback from Taskforce members on the following points will help to shape the next stage of the programme:

- Do we need to prioritise and/or tailor particular interventions given impact of lockdown and the tiers?
- In relation to take-up of existing projects and government support, how can the Taskforce further raise awareness to promote opportunities and access, including for those sectors and cohorts with greatest need?
- Looking ahead to further national policy changes on the horizon, including end of the Furlough scheme - what additional things could we be putting in place to maximise responsiveness?

REGIONAL RECOVERY FUND

Programme Summary:

- *Digital Skills Investment Programme (£2m)*
- *Low Carbon Challenge Fund (£1.8m)*
- *Small Business Resilience Grant Programme (£1m)*
- *Culture & Creative Industry Business Support Programme (£1m)*
- *C-19 Community Recovery Fund (£1.5m)*
- *Talent Retention Scheme (£0.3m)*
- *High Streets renewal - catalyst fund (£1.5m)*
- *Future skills forecasting and planning (£0.2m)*

Background

£9.4m allocation agreed at October's WECA Committee (almost doubling additional allocation)

- Programme leads established to work with WECA and UA 'Design Teams', Taskforce members and sub-groups (e.g. Business Insights and Skills Advisory Panels) as appropriate to shape proposals
- Work underway to align with additional lockdown business support measures to ensure co-ordinated regional approach

Challenges & Opportunities:

- Ensuring business case development and sign-off happens swiftly in order to begin delivering value to the region.
- Collaboration, communication and stakeholder management with key partners and stakeholders
- Alignment with national policy and funding landscape

Progress Update

- Low Carbon Challenge Fund Business Case approved by Business and Skills Directors, now under appraisal
- Talent Retention Platform procurement agreed
- Call for Digital Skills Investment Fund being prepared for December launch
- Small Business Resilience Grant making progress, with issues on grant distribution being worked through
- There has been good engagement across the UA's and notably on the High Streets Renewal project helping to set parameters and expectations
- Budget for the Cultural and Creative Support Programme has been increased to 1m. 0.5m that had been ringfenced to support C&C as part of the Small Business Grant Scheme has been moved between projects to ensure a consistent approach

Key Deliverables and Interventions:

- Date: 31/12/20 Sign-off on 50% of the business cases
- Date: 31/03/20 100% sign off on business cases

REBUILDING BUSINESS

Programme Summary:

- *Growth Hub - Trading Better Online*
- *Business Innovation Fund*
- *Reframe Digital Engineering Technology & Innovation (DETI)*
- *Bristol + Bath Creative*
- *Creative Scale-Up*
- *Review access to capital for growth*
- *Reboot Smart Alliance*
- *Improving Business Leadership*
- *Productivity through People*
- *Universal Business Support*
- *Enhance Business Support Offer*
- *Targeted approach to inward investment & trade*
- *Investment in innovation infrastructure*

- **Trading Better Online** pilot extended to Q4 to support 125 business to Mar 2021
- Improving Business Leadership - **Productivity through People** started 16th Nov with a full cohort and 10 x 75% bursaries
- **Business Advisory Board** project in development to recruit 30 NEDs to build 6 boards, to work with 12 businesses for a year.
- **Rapid Redundancy Response** terms of reference and MOU in place
- **Talent Retention Portal** (B2B platform) funding agreed, provider selected, awarding contract and commencing work.
- **Universal Business Support** (UBS) running across WofE, first returns show 573 light & 235 meaningful interventions; 14 jobs, 10 new business starts (just across B&NES and NSC)
- **SME Grant Fund** - FBC in development, developing approach to managing fund internally. Now a £1m fund across sectors, as £0.5m ring-fenced for C&C is now with the C&C business support programme and will still deliver grant funding.
- **Peer to Peer Networking** set up. 20 businesses signed-up so far, will start delivering activity in December.
- **Business Innovation Fund** at Round 1 assessment phase following 46 full applications submitted.
- **Digital Engineering, Technology & Innovation (DETI)** delivery reframed and delivering new work packages
- Now recruiting Programme Manager Digital Innovation to drive forward **Smart Alliance Reboot**
- **Invest Bristol and Bath (IBB)** campaigns and activity planning on-going
- Funding secured from UKSA to identify opportunities to grow the regions Space opportunities, including in combating climate change.

Key Deliverables and Interventions:

- Q1 2021 - First grant awards from **Business Innovation Fund**
- Nov 2020 - **Productivity through People** starts at Uni of Bath
- Dec 2020 - Additional **EU Transition** business support in place
- Jan 2020 - Initial review of the **Trading Better On-line** pilot outcomes
- Jan 2020 - WECA Business Case: Innovation for Renewal & Opportunity
- Mar 2021 - **Invest Bristol & Bath 2021/22** action plan agreed
- Apr 2021 - **Talent Retention Platform** to go live
- Apr/May 2021 - **SME Grant Fund** to go live

Challenges & Opportunities:

- Regional co-ordination of multiple national, regional and local support packages
- Pace of delivery vs. ensuring support is targeted at greatest need
- Strong data sharing, comms and monitoring arrangements needed
- Establishing inward investment and trade activity in a post EU environment

GET RESIDENTS BACK TO WORK

Programme Summary:

- *Adult Education Budget (AEB)*
- *Expanding Future Bright*
- *Reframe Work Force for the Future*
- *Adapt Careers Hub*
- *Support iSTART*
- *Redundancy Response & Talent Retention Platform*
- *Regional Apprenticeship Support*
- *Expand Sector Based Approaches*
- *Pilot Regional Pooling of Unspent Levy Funds*
- *All Age Access Hub*
- *Package of training and re-training*

- **Adult Education Budget:** additional £600K secured to support to support learners to access jobs - rolling out now
- **Future Bright:** 285 Covid sign-ups now at approx. 35% of all eligible referrals into the programme. Reigniting contact with social housing providers.
- **Workforce for the Future launched** - referrals are steadily flowing in. Most referrals are from SMEs based in Bristol with some in Bath, new comms will encourage SMEs in South Glos and North Somerset to come forward for support.
- **Kickstart:** continuing to liaise closely with DWP and potential 'Gateway' (coordinating) organisations to maximise the number and quality of kickstart placements in the region. No information on numbers of placements yet due to DWP delays in confirming Gateways.
- **Careers Hub** has secured an additional funds to support our most at risk of NEET young people & has partnered with Speakers for Schools (charity) to increase range of Virtual Work Experience events for young people
- Procurement of **Talent Retention Platform** completed, and developer appointed
- Work progressing well on **Community Recovery Fund**, **analysis of the post 16 education estate** and **Digital Skills Investment Programme** with discussions held with LA Skills Officers

Key Deliverables and Interventions:

- Nov 2020 - Redundancy Workshop delivered to 100 (employer commercially in confidence) staff
- Nov 2020 - Talent Retention Platform procured, work starts
- Nov 2020 - Post-16 analysis commissioned
- Jan - Mar 2020 - Workforce for Future Phase 2 call launched
- Jan - Mar 2020 - Digital Skills Investment Fund signed off
- Jan - Mar 2020 - Community Recovery Fund signed off

Challenges & Opportunities:

- Labour market pressures and increasing unemployment requiring scale up of support
- Regional co-ordination of multiple national, regional and local support packages
- Pace of delivery vs. ensuring support is targeted at greatest need
- Support is accompanied by measures to support access to employment and skills provision (digital and other)

STRENGTHENING INCLUSION

Programme Summary:

- *Future Bright plus*
- *Mentoring for Growth*
- *Women in Digital Jobs Education & Training*
- *Thrive West*
- *Get well, get on*
- *Apprentice Hub West*
- *Realising Talent*
- *Stepping Up*
- *West of England Works*
- *Achieving Aspirations*
- *Maximise Realising Talent*
- *Adult Education Budget digital skills*
- *Regional Childcare Response Group*
- *Inclusive Communication model*
- *New models of engagement for skills & business support*
- *Community Grant Scheme*
- *Opportunities for Better Employment*

- Work progressing well to develop the new **Community Grant scheme** to build additional local capacity and resilience in hardest hit communities, with a focus on creating pathways to employment and skills. Business case development for the grant scheme is currently underway.
- In April, we expanded the eligibility criteria for **Future Bright** to help meet the challenges of coronavirus. Over 30% of all new referrals have been linked to the Covid 19 criteria.
- From September 2020, Careers Hub has expanded to include SEND and Alternative Provision education settings.
- Since the launch of the Kickstart Scheme in August, WECA is working with DWP and potential 'Gateway' (coordinating) organisations to maximise the number and quality of kickstart placements in the region.
- First iteration of the All-Age Careers portal now live on the WECA website - this outlines all available provision and will enable stakeholders to signpost appropriately so that no one slips through the net. Next steps will be to develop more interactive version.
- Work to develop a regional **Good Employer Standard** has started with input from WECA, Business West and SWTUC

Key Deliverables and Interventions:

- October 2020 - Workforce for the Future programme launched
- Jan 2021 - AMIF Digital Entrepreneurship & Business Support for Refugees and Migrants to launch through Growth Hub
- Jan - March 2021 - Mid year review of the AEB delivery plan
- Jan - March 2021 - Community Recovery Fund signed off

Challenges & Opportunities:

- Harnessing the growth in volunteering stimulated by pandemic
- Use of VSCE to deliver support to targeted communities, building on their expertise
- Higher levels of entrepreneurship in BAME groups and Migrant communities
- Thrive West will help address the worsening mental health witnessed during lockdown
- Actions in recovery plans will benefit disadvantaged communities that have been hardest hit

GREEN RECOVERY

Programme Summary:

- *Digital Engineering Technology & Innovation Programme*
- *Institute for Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems*
- *Low Carbon Challenge Fund (LCCF)*
- *Energy Strategy & SW Energy Hub*
- *Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy*
- *Bus Strategy*
- *Climate Emergency Action Plan*
- *Local renewable energy projects*
- *Maximise Green Recovery Challenge Fund*
- *Encourage local building retrofit market*
- *Expand LCCF & Green Business Grants*
- *Decarbonise transport*

Set-Up Activities:

- Developing a business case to extend the Low Carbon Challenge Fund (LCCF) & Green Business Grants as part of the Recovery Fund process
- Started a procurement process to appoint a contractor to undertake a green skills analysis of the region, to highlight skills gaps and opportunities within the retrofit and broader green skills sector. This will be used to inform the regional skills offer.
- Following the successful adoption of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, officers are working in partnership with the UAs to co-produce appropriate metrics and methods to monitor impact of actions taken. A further update on this process will be given at the next committee.
- Scoping work for a carbon assessment tool for infrastructure projects has begun as part of the development of the evidence base for the Spatial Development Strategy
- £300k allocated from the IF to develop business cases for Green Infrastructure projects that align to the JGIS and deliver multiple benefits.

Key Deliverables and Interventions:

- October 2020: Climate Emergency Action Plan agreed at Committee
- October 2020: Launch of e-scooter trial as part of the first phase of the Future Transport Zone Funding
- 20th November 2020: Green skills analysis contractor appointed. Initial findings due late 2020.
- December 2020: Business case for extended LCCF programme to the Regional Recovery Fund

Challenges & Opportunities:

- SW Energy Hub are anticipating additional funding for retrofitting buildings as part of the government's Green Homes Grant Programme. BEIS has yet to confirm the amount, but its anticipated to be c.£40m for South West. The funds will need to be spent by March 2021

RENEWING PLACES

Programme Summary:

- *Love our High Streets*
- *Regional Cultural Strategy & Compact*
- *Spatial Development Strategy*
- *Consensual approach to spatial planning*
- *Review workspaces / hubs: Information, Advice, Guidance for green*

reopening

- *Community Recovery Programme within Grant scheme*
- *Investment in infrastructure*
- *Reinvigorating towns & city centres*
- *Cultural, Creative & Digital Development Fund*

Set-Up Activities:

- Placemaking Charter - Predominately new development but principles are applicable to existing 'places', and will be used as starting point for principles of transformation
- Transport and place project flowing from CEAP
- Spatial Development Strategy - using this process to facilitate a joint approach to spatial planning, recognising the challenges we face to renew existing places. Work is underway on:
 - carbon assessment tool for spatial planning
 - transport modelling work
 - Employment Land evidence base
- High Streets renewal - Catalyst Fund. Establishing
- Cultural Strategy Engagement Group reviewing strategy and proposals for compact
- Further development of Land Acquisition Fund and Development Investment Fund to support future development opportunities in the light of need for regeneration
- Review Masterplanning activities and opportunities to support future regeneration

Key Deliverables and Interventions:

25 November 20: Comprehensive Spending Review, update on opportunities for infrastructure investment
 Summer 21: Future Transport Zone Trials Commence
 2022 submitted Sos 2023 adopted - Spatial Development Strategy (SDS)
 2023 - Unitary Authority Local Plans (LPs)

Challenges & Opportunities:

The need to align the timing of the strategic spatial planning policy base delivered by SDS to enable LPs, with both to be delivered by 2023. Managing the public and political desire for a rapid change in renewing places against the complex process in facilitating substantial change. Jointly aligned and prepared plans will take time. A limited number of pilots across the region could identify what can be done rapidly and what would be reliant on statutory policy / change.

NEXT STEPS

REGIONAL RECOVERY CAMPAIGN

WECA is launching a comms and marketing campaign to further promote the support that is available and help to build confidence in the region's future.

The aims are:



To create shared energy and enthusiasm for the region's possibility and eventual recovery



To reassure businesses, residents and stakeholders that WECA and the LEP are leading the regional recovery plan and will work together to overcome these challenges



To increase the awareness of our work that is already underway to support regional recovery



To increase engagement with our services - to ensure more businesses and residents are able to benefit from our work

REGIONAL RECOVERY CAMPAIGN

Launching in January

- **Regional recovery video**, raising awareness of the recovery plan and work
- **Business support pack**, promoted across media, social, web and through partners and stakeholders outlining the regional & national support available to businesses
- **Media coverage across business & skills support & stakeholder amplification**

We are currently developing the creative, and we will be in touch about how we'd like to work with you to amplify the campaign.