

APPENDIX 1: COVID-19: SOLIHULL'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN: *“Supporting whilst seizing opportunities from a crisis*

This updated Economic Recovery Plan for Solihull identifies the added value interventions that the Council is taking, working with others, to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local economy. It is a 'whole Borough' Plan to support residents and businesses across all parts of the Borough to recover from the crisis and to return Solihull to growth that is inclusive and supports the Council's Climate Change declaration and commitment to net zero by 2041. The Recovery Plan is key to achieving the Council Plan to 2025 for sustainable inclusive growth in Solihull *“where everyone has an equal chance to be healthier, happier, safer and more prosperous through growth that creates opportunities for all”* - by building a vibrant economy, promoting and delivering social value, enabling communities to thrive, auctioning our climate change declaration and improving skills and access to good work.

The Impact of Covid-19 on Solihull's Economy

Like other parts of the UK, Solihull has and continues to experience significant negative economic impacts as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Borough's principle economic assets – Jaguar Land Rover, the NEC and Birmingham Airport have all been significantly affected, as have their supply chains. Businesses in most sectors have experienced significant disruption and lost sales, and a third of local jobs eligible for the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention scheme have been furloughed, with a particular concentration of furloughed jobs in hospitality; manufacturing; banking, finance and insurance; and construction. As of end July, 34,100 Solihull residents were furloughed and 6,100 were receiving self-employment income support.

The number of residents claiming unemployment benefit more than doubled between April and August (+111%) compared to the six month average preceding lockdown to a rate of 5.9% in August. The rate of increase was much lower in North Solihull than in the rest of the Borough (+55% compared to +171%) although the rate remains much higher in North Solihull at 12.3% compared to 4.5% in the rest of the Borough. Claimant unemployment amongst young people aged 18-24 also more than doubled (+108%) with a much higher rate of increase outside North Solihull (+173% compared to +52% in North Solihull) although the rate in North Solihull is much higher at 19% compared to 8.7% in the rest of the Borough (11.1% for the Borough). Nationally, the 25 to 29 year old age group has been most impacted in terms of claimant unemployment by the pandemic and this is reflected in a +120% increase in claims amongst this age group in Solihull (to July).

More positively, are indicators of Solihull's continued attractiveness for investment with ongoing inward investor enquiries since the pandemic and new investments, including three Foreign Direct Investments between April and June (Q1). Furthermore, a number of Solihull businesses have been quick to adapt their business models during the pandemic and/or to diversify into new markets (e.g. for PPE), and, although demand remains weak, residents are supportive of their local high streets and stakeholders, including the Council, are working well together to support a safe reopening of local high streets. Visitor economy businesses face ongoing challenges, and the Council is working with the West Midlands Growth Company and the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership, to take steps to support businesses and support the sector's reopening as soon as possible.

The Economic Recovery Plan is focused on four priority areas:

1. **PEOPLE** – support for workforce mental and physical health; employment support, particularly via funded programmes targeting young people who are 'Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) (Youth Promise Plus) and those aged 30+ who are furthest from the labour market (Employed for Success) including targeted provision in North Solihull via the Solihull Recruitment & Training Centre in Chelmsley Wood shopping centre; work with schools and colleges to identify and support leavers most at risk of becoming NEET; action to address skills gaps and recruitment barriers and to develop a skilled workforce for the future, including development of school and college careers activities and training provision aligned to 'green jobs';
2. **BUSINESSES & SECTORS** – engage with and support local businesses, particularly those in the most 'at risk' sectors and larger employers, particularly the Borough's major economic assets (Birmingham Airport, the NEC and Jaguar Land Rover) - to identify and respond to their recovery support needs and to identify and bring forward opportunities for inclusive, low carbon growth;
3. **PLACE & INVESTMENT** – develop Active Travel, including cycling and walking; bring forward the HS2 Interchange site including a Health & Innovation Campus, the UKC Infrastructure Programme and development opportunities in Solihull Town Centre, Chelmsley Wood Town Centre and Kinghurst Village Centre; develop and implement town and local centre recovery plans with local centre stakeholders; support for visitor economy businesses and develop and implement plans for the recovery and development of the visitor economy; and
4. **'GREEN' RECOVERY** – minimise the environmental impacts of the pandemic and realise opportunities to 'bounce back better' via added value interventions that are additional to the existing the Climate Change Prospectus actions (including the development of a Town Centre Heat Network, Wildlife Ways, a Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document and a Net Zero Action Plan) and that align to and capture opportunities arising from national and regional plans and investments including the West Midlands' #2041 Environmental Recovery Plan and Sector Recovery Plan for Low Carbon & Environmental Technologies & Services. The 'green recovery' interventions will be refreshed following completion of the Net Zero Action Plan in Spring 2021.

The Economic Recovery Plan has been informed by national, regional and local intelligence and ongoing engagement with local and regional partners and stakeholders, including businesses. An ongoing communications campaign to promote awareness and access amongst residents and businesses to the latest guidance and support offers and to support the economic recovery plan with targeted messaging including around emergency active travel measures, town and local centre reopening and encouraging people to 'Shop Local' is a key strand within the recovery plan.

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1. PEOPLE					
P1: Responsive Employment Support for the newly unemployed, under-employed and those facing redundancy, including disadvantaged groups and communities	<p>The Council launched an employment support offer in April ('Work Now') offering responsive, light touch support to any resident recently made unemployed needing support. 40 enquiries were received and 22 people were offered support with three moving into new work and one returning to work from furlough. Those not furloughed or returning to their original employment have been referred to other support programmes. The service has been discontinued due to low demand following an initial spike when the Council was in a position to promote job vacancies via social media. The freed capacity is being redirected to the Youth Promise Plus project to support young people, including work with schools.</p> <p>The Council has continued to deliver, with partners, its ESF-funded employment support programmes for NEET young people aged 16-29 (Youth Promise Plus) and older people (30+) who are furthest from the labour market (Employed for Success).</p> <p>The Solihull Recruitment and Training Centre in Chelmsley Wood has been closed since March, however the Council is currently completing the rigorous process for re-opening in a safe and managed way to enable a small number of clients to meet advisers face to face.</p> <p>The Council has been working with regional and local partners to articulate a clear local redundancy support offer to employees and businesses via Solihull for Success, and to share intelligence</p>	<p>Borough wide:</p> <p>+111% increase in claimant unemployment April to August compared to 6 months prior to Lockdown to 5.9%</p> <p>391 residents supported (Apr to Jun) to access employment including: 22 new clients supported through the responsive 'Work Now'</p> <p>Disadvantaged groups:</p> <p>230 30+ year olds furthest from the labour market supported via Employed for Success</p> <p>33% of unemployed/inactive residents citing health (incl. Mental Health, Disability and Wellbeing) as a barrier to employment (April to June)</p> <p>No. jobseekers referred by the Council to health services (to be reported quarterly from November).</p> <p>0% unemployed/inactive residents citing disability moving into training or employment (April to June)</p> <p>North Solihull:</p> <p>+55% increase in claimant unemployment in North Solihull to 12.3%</p> <p>175 30+ year old North Solihull residents furthest from the labour market supported via Employed for Success</p> <p>Young People:</p> <p>+108% increase in claimant unemployment amongst 18-24 year</p>	<p>The Council will continue to monitor redundancies, working with local and regional partners to coordinate redundancy support offers.</p> <p>Delivery of ESF-funded employment support programmes by the Council working with other partners will continue for: 630 NEET young people aged 16 to 29 (Youth Promise Plus) and 1,705 older people (30+) who are furthest from the labour market ('Active Inclusion'), including targeted provision in North Solihull via the 'Solihull Recruitment & Training Centre' in Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre (once the centre reopens).</p> <p>There will be a continued focus on helping longer term unemployed clients to find work in a more challenging labour market including by engagement with employers to identify upcoming opportunities and to develop vocational training opportunities through sector-based work academies. For example, the Employment & Skills Team are currently working with Chelmsley Wood Jobcentre and SMBC care jobs to hold an awareness session for jobseekers and to encourage them to sign up to employment support programmes.</p> <p>Lockdown, safety issues and a lack of opportunities has been a barriers to unemployed/inactive residents citing disability moving into training or employment.</p> <p>Develop wider health system referral links for individuals receiving employment support from the Council</p>	Amber	<p>Natalie Goulding</p> <p>Employment & Skills Team (Public Health)</p> <p>European Social Fund (ESF)</p> <p>Adult Education Budget (AEB) (WMCA)</p>

¹ A risk rating has been applied to the next steps interventions with regards to the issues identified using a RAG rating as follows: Red = high risk that the Council will not be able to address the problem with others; Amber = moderate risk of the Council not being able to address the problem with others; Green = low risk of the Council not being able to address the problem with others.

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	<p>and to manage the flow of support. A local Redundancy Tracker has been set up to record known and potential redundancies.</p> <p>The Council has also been working with the West Midlands Combined Authority on identifying flexibilities in use of Adult Education Budget to allow for short term skills interventions to address skills barriers to recruitment where there are gaps in training provision.</p> <p>The Council is to act as job broker for access to HS2 training and employment opportunities with JV partners Balfour and Laing Murphy. A new local authority working group has been set up with Balfour, to understand the pipeline of opportunities and training and skills to allow time to deploy the Adult Education Budge as required to upskill residents if needed.</p>	<p>olds (+52% in North Solihull) to 11.1% (19% in North Solihull)</p> <p>+120% increase in claimant unemployment amongst 20-29 year olds April to July</p> <p>139 NEET young people (16-29) supported by Youth Promise Plus (including 11 newly engaged and 53% from North Solihull)</p>			
<p>Guidance and support for schools and childcare providers to enable safe return to provision to enable parents and carers to return to work</p>	<p>The Council has been supporting schools and childcare providers to safely resume school-based education and childcare e.g. ensuring they have the latest government guidance and local support and advice required to implement social distancing.</p> <p>The Council has developed a risk-based approach for schools, but accepting all settings face different conditions; emphasis on safety of pupils and staff.</p> <p>As at 04/09/20, all primary, secondary, and special schools were open to all pupils (some schools phasing intakes but that largely complete by 07/09/20) except Summerfield PRU because of summer building works needing to be signed off. Attendance is very high – over 95% in the vast majority of schools.</p> <p>For early years providers the situation is 114 providers closed from a total of 333 (34% closed 66% open).</p>	<p>All but one school (a PRU) fully open with attendance over 95% in most schools.</p> <p>66% of early years' providers now open.</p>	<p>Public transport infrastructure remains a key risk – need to monitor situation to assess impact of TfWM mitigation in declaring certain public routes school only.</p> <p>May face increased car congestion around school sites.</p> <p>A bus contractor went into liquidation 2 weeks ago – SMBC has replaced 5 routes – government grant for a half term, but need to assess options for future – significant additional cost if SMBC have to provide</p> <p>Response to local outbreaks critical.</p>	<p>Green</p>	<p>Steve Fenton Children's Services School budgets Home to school transport budget Additional resources for pupil support services (SISS and EPS)</p>

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	Additional contracts and vehicles secured to ensure pupils can be transported to schools safely.				
P2: Support for Young People leaving full-time education with enhanced support for those most at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)	<p>The Council has been working with schools to identify any concerning trends as regards leavers progressing to positive destinations in September so that targeted support can be developed as required, particularly for those most at risk of becoming NEET. Youth Promise Plus officers have been assigned to specific schools to enable prompt referral post- exam results day.</p> <p>51 young people in years 11 to 13 who were shielding were contacted in July to see that they had an offer for September, and if it was still suitable for them. A small number of year 12s were without an offer, and an additional four young people requested support, so this group will be supported through Youth Promise Plus. Fortunately the majority had a placement which they were planning to proceed with.</p> <p>The Risk of NEETs project to provide employability skills and careers support has received ESF funding approval and will work with up to 30 students in each establishment who are identified as being most at risk of becoming NEET when they leave education. Delivery in schools is expected to start after October half term.</p>	<p>51 young people in years 11 to 13 shielding contacted about September offer to identify support needs</p> <p>87% of current year 11 and year 12 students identified as having an offer for September 2020 – a proportion that compares very favourably with last years' figures (destination data unavailable until Nov/Dec)</p> <p>[At risk of NEET data amongst Year 11-13s unavailable until October]</p> <p>27% NEET young people in yrs 12 and 13 stating mental health as a barrier.</p>	<p>As some schools are not offering sixth form places until after exam results are released, there may be a spike in support needs in the second half of August and September.</p> <p>The Council will continue to work with schools, care and the Youth Offending service to identify young people at risk of becoming NEET and to track NEETs ensuring that they are quickly referred to support from the recently approved ESF-funded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Risk of NEETs' project which will provide targeted employability and careers support to those young people identified as most at risk of becoming NEET when they leave education with a target of 1,119 engagements between September 2020 and September 2023 (up to 30 supported per establishment); and - Youth Promise Plus (YEI) ESF-funded employment support programme (extended from October) for NEET young people aged 19-29 in Solihull (see above) <p>Promote national support schemes amongst Solihull employers and young people including the Kickstart scheme, funding for apprenticeships and traineeships, once Government guidance on the scheme has been obtained.</p>	Amber	<p>Natalie Goulding Employment & Skills Team (Public Health) Schools European Social Fund (ESF)</p>
	Contact has been maintained with schools and colleges to discuss careers planning for 2020/21 and they are being supported to adapt their Careers Plans in the light of Covid-19 and to develop	19 out of 24 schools and colleges have met with their Enterprise Co-ordinator to review their careers plans in light of Covid-19	Individual schools will continue to be supported with careers activity based on their needs and those of young people and to support achievement of Gatsby benchmarks for careers guidance and	Green	<p>Natalie Goulding Employment & Skills Team (Public Health) Schools and colleges</p>

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	digital careers resources e.g. online employer encounters, virtual tours, Zoom mock interviews. The Council is also working with its contractors to convert social value offers to schools into online/remote offers.	Social value offers converted into accessible careers offers for schools	the Council will continue to match social value offers to schools that can be delivered within the current Covid-19 guidelines for social distancing (online/remote offers).		Careers Enterprise Company (CEC) CEC Local Choices Transition Fund
	Work is ongoing with employers to support apprenticeships to benefit young employment support clients, with employers linked to the West Midlands Combined Authority Apprenticeship Levy Transfer and GBSLEP Apprenticeship and Employment Triage Service as appropriate.	-72% change in the number of apprenticeships postings in GBSLEP area compared to 6 months prior to Lockdown (June figs) 1 Solihull business referred by the GBSLEP Growth Hub to LEP Apprenticeship and Employment Triage service (latest data: 9 th August)	Engagement with employers to identify and support apprenticeship opportunities that can be accessed by beneficiaries of employment support programmes, including through referral of employers to the LEP Apprenticeship Triage service, will be ongoing. Will form part of a wider offer to Businesses for help to address skills / recruitment and business support Development of apprenticeships will also remain a focus for strategic work via the Employment and Skills Board to address skills gaps and needs.	Amber	Natalie Goulding Employment & Skills Team (Public Health) GBSLEP Employment & Triage Service WMCA Apprenticeship Levy
P3: Support for workforce Health and wellbeing (physical and mental)	The impact of Covid-19 on workforce health and well-being and access to employment has been recognised in the development of an addendum to the Borough's Health and Well-Being Strategy 2019-22, focused on priority two 'Adulthood and Work'. A Bereavement Support 'all age' service is now 'live' across Birmingham and Solihull. Work is being progressed to implement Suicide Prevention with Birmingham Public Health including recruitment of a Suicide Prevention Facilitator and steps to participate in a national pilot for Real Time Surveillance. Work is being undertaken to develop a Mental Health Awareness Plan in partnership Birmingham & Solihull CCG and Birmingham Public Health and opportunities are being explored to 'embed' basic mental health assessments into frontline services.	Updated version of the review document circulated to Health and Wellbeing Board members for further comment with the updated Strategy document to be published in September 2020. 38% increase in the number of people accessing the Bereavement Support 'all age service' since last year, including a 40% increase in the number of people from BAME communities Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health Awareness Plan in development. c.300 people per week calling the Mental Health Helpline helpline for support	There may be an impact on capacity to deliver should resources be redeployed to focus on more immediate COVID response activity.	Green	Rachel Egan Public Health Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) /Council

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	A partnership project including the voluntary and community sector, SCH and Solihull Active is to go live in September to address social isolation and loneliness, mental health, physical activity and digital exclusion.		<p>Development of a Mental Health Awareness Plan for Birmingham & Solihull is ongoing.</p> <p>Partnership project to be launched in September to address social isolation, mental health, physical activity and digital exclusion.</p>		
	<p>Work is being undertaken within the physical activity and sport system to build on and sustain behaviour change and increases in physical activity during the COVID 19 pandemic including ongoing support through Solihull Active including development of 'Solihull on the Move' to have a focus on advice/support to businesses and residents on the role of physical activity to mitigate the mental and physical impacts of lockdown and social distancing.</p> <p>Awareness programmes are being reviewed in light of ongoing guidance and vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Council workforce infographic has been drafted and Thrive at work group are to take this forward.</p> <p>Colleagues in Transport and Highways and Communications have been engaged. This wider work will feed into the new Cycling and Walking Strategy.</p>	Performance indicators are being generated through the project planning.	<p>Complete project plans, funding bids and determine agreements with appropriate external bodies through August & September.</p> <p>Work on the initial phase of communications has commenced to be put in place in September and work on the 2nd phase is being developed.</p> <p>Development of communications plan needs to take account of development of the new corporate website.</p> <p>Complete project plans, funding bids and determine agreements with appropriate external bodies.</p> <p>An issue has been raised regarding the understanding of COVID secure processes and implementation by the sport and physical activity sector in the Borough. This is being addressed through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A COVID policy for delivery of sport and physical activity on Council premises – this has been drafted and is due to be signed off. • COVID guidance and template risk assessment being issued to physical activity providers in the Borough. This has been completed. 	Green	<p>Nick Garnett Public Health/ West Midlands Combined Authority/ Everyone Active/ Think Active/ Sport England</p>
P4: Future workforce development through investment in skills and inspiration activity	Work is ongoing with the WMCA and GBSLEP to influence education and training provision in line current and future employer demand including to identify how Adult Education Budget can be used to support work-based	Skills needs analysis and strategy for Adult Education Budget developed	The Council will continue to work with education institutions, training providers and employers through the Solihull Employment & Skills Board to identify and address current and future skills needs (including those associated with	Amber	<p>Natalie Goulding Employment & Skills Team Growth Strategy & Inclusive Growth</p>

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	academies. This has included a scoping meeting with WMCA, Birmingham and selected providers to discuss the potential and ideas for new learning (up to level 3) related to the green economy and carbon reduction (skills for green jobs). Ongoing engagement with Council suppliers to convert social value offers.		digital and low carbon transition), feeding in to the GBSLEP Employment and Skills Board and working with the WMCA to influence the regional skills agenda. Key to this will be working with local and regional partners, including employers, to understand skills gaps and future skills needs aligned to Solihull's current and future business base, reflecting the Borough's targets for net zero carbon growth.		Adult Education Budget (AEB) Growth Fund
P5: Secure and match Social Value opportunities from public sector contract and wider offers of pro bono/peer support	Work is ongoing with Council contractors to secure and match and convert social value offers secured via Council procurement which are valued at around £2million including offers relating to Jobs, Growth, Social, Environment and Innovation outcomes.	Value of social value offers secured via Council contracts (currently valued at over £2 million). Social value outcomes achieved	The reduced capacity of contractors to deliver social value during the pandemic has delayed the conversion of social value offers but the Council is now starting to reengage with contractors around social value offers.	Amber	Carol Glenn Social Value Manager
2. BUSINESS & SECTORS – Support for most 'at risk' sectors, wider business support, major assets and key sectors					
B1: Local Implementation of National Business Support Measures	The Council has implemented the national business support measures for retail, hospitality, leisure, nursery and small businesses which will come to an end on 28 th August: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 12-month business rates holiday in 2020/21 for all retail, hospitality, leisure and nursery businesses in England (also known as 'extended retail discount' or 'expanded rate relief') - the Retail and Hospitality Grant Scheme - the Small Business Grant - the local Discretionary Business Grants Scheme for businesses not in scope for the small business grant or retail, hospitality and leisure grants 	Revised rates bills issued to all eligible retail, hospitality, leisure and nursery businesses 651 Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grants awarded totalling £13.26m 1,273 Small Business Grants awarded totalling £12.73m 122 discretionary grants awarded totalling £1.14m	The Retail, Hospitality and Small Business Grant schemes will end on 28 th August with a deadline for any outstanding applications for eligible businesses of 14 th August. ERDF-funded Kickstart grants for visitor economy businesses and recovery grants for SMEs in the wider economy were announced by MHCLG in July and will be delivered via the GBSLEP Growth Hub based a notional funding allocation of around £1 million combined and according to agreed eligibility criteria, working with the Council to promote the grants to eligible Solihull businesses (see below).	Green	Jo Robinson Income & Awards, Audit Services, Financial Operations (Resources) and staff redeployed from other directorates
B2 & 3: Business Signposting & Support including for business model adaptation	The Council has undertaken extensive comms activities to communicate the latest guidance to business and to raise awareness of available support to them	S4S business support pages have achieved 3,246 views since launch on 19 th March	The Council will continue to disseminate and promote the most up to date guidance and support offers to local businesses via Solihull for Success,	Amber	Clare Rudge Growth Strategy (E&I)

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including sector targeted support (including retail, visitor economy, care homes)	<p>during the pandemic including to adapt their business models, including to support their adoption of digital technologies.</p> <p>The Solihull for Success website, e-newsletters and social media activity has been a key component of this comms activity. Webpages have been created on the SfS website for 'Regulatory Support', 'Covid-Safe in the Workplace' and 'High Street & Retail'.</p> <p>Targeted signposting to support has also been undertaken for tourism, arts and cultural heritage organisations (see I5), sports and physical activity organisations and care homes.</p> <p>The Council has worked with the GBSLEP to develop and bring forward in Solihull a package of LEP-wide pilot support offers under the 'Step Forward' campaign including digital support, Pivot & Prosper grants, retail recovery planning support and an Apprenticeship & Employment Triage Service. The Council has also been working with the LEP and the West Midlands Growth Company to bring forward in Solihull the ERDF funded Kickstart grants for visitor economy SMEs and recovery grants for SMEs in the wider economy in the LEP area.</p>	<p>No. Twitter impressions and engagements with S4S doubled in Q2 2020 compared to Q1 (+105% for engagements)</p> <p>% increase in number of Solihull business enquiries/referrals to the Growth Hub</p> <p>31 Solihull businesses referred by the Growth Hub to 'Your Step Forward' support programmes including 10 referrals for digital support; 17 referrals for Pivot & Prosper grants; 3 referrals for Retail Recovery Planning support and 1 referral to the Apprenticeship & Employment Triage Service</p> <p>Signposting information for sports and physical activity organisations published on Solihull Active website and in e-news</p>	<p>working with the GBSLEP Growth Hub, including the ERDF-funded 'Kickstarting Tourism' grants for visitor economy SMEs and recovery grants for SMEs in the wider economy (£1,000 to £3,000 or up to £5,000 in exceptional circumstances), and the BEIS-funded Peer to Peer Networks, where Solihull businesses meet the Growth Hub eligibility criteria, all of which are due to become available in September.</p>		<p>Other business facing Council services</p> <p>GBSLEP Growth Hub</p> <p>West Midlands Growth Company</p>
Care Homes	<p>Signposting support for Care Homes forms part of the Borough's Care Home Support Plan whereby providers are contacted regularly to discuss any factors affecting their business and to encourage them to seek support from the Council for any difficulties they face. Homes are being supported to recruit staff from other sectors and to access all possible sources of assistance: grants and loans, deferred payments, sick pay and taxation support.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No of potential care home provider business failures identified and averted. 2. Recruitment campaigns run to support resilience in the social care sector. 	<p>The full impact of covid on care home businesses continues to be assessed with care home providers and support needs identified. Access to government funding has been arranged with full distribution of the allocation. No care homes businesses have failed in Solihull to date. The risk to business stability is monitored weekly.</p> <p>Work is about to restart on building a sustainable and sufficient workforce for the sector, drawing on expertise from</p>	Amber	<p>Karen Murphy</p> <p>Adult Care & Support</p> <p>Employment & Skills Team</p> <p>Growth Strategy</p>

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			across the Council and using contacts with external agencies.		
B4: Enterprise Support for start-ups and young enterprises including social and community enterprise	The ' Enterprise for Success ' support programme for start-ups and young enterprises including social and community enterprises has been adapted to non-face to face delivery during the pandemic and social and community enterprises are being signposted to the free COVID-19 Social Enterprise Helpline developed by iSE. Enquiry levels have been significantly down on pre-pandemic levels. Funding has been identified to run a 'pop up' business school and to increase referrals into Enterprise for Success.	-69% reduction in enquiries Apr to Jun on the same period last year (-15% for the Princes Trust)	Lockdown has had a significant impact on referral levels to E4S – particularly start-up referrals – and it may take some time to return to normal levels of service, although there have been signs of improvement in recent weeks. Proactive marketing via S4S and social media will be ongoing to ensure take-up and Growth Hub start-up referrals.	Amber	Fran Hall Growth Strategy (E&I) Employment & Skills Team (Public Health) European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
B5: Council Supplier Relief Measures	In response to Government guidance, the Council has supported its suppliers by implementing supplier relief measures including reduced supplier invoice payment terms to 'immediate payment' and consideration on a case-by-case basis of revised payment terms for those suppliers whose services have been disrupted or temporarily suspended and for those experiencing cash-flow difficulties.	13 Council suppliers have benefitted from Council supplier relief measures	The Council is now responding to Government guidance on transitioning suppliers to exiting from the relief measures by 31 October.	Green	Dan Rouse Procurement (Resources)
B6: Business Recruitment Support	The Council has an offer of bespoke recruitment support for Solihull employers, focussed on Small & Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and targeted sectors. This includes support for employers in addressing skills gaps e.g. via work-based academies. In addition, the GBSLEP has launched an Apprenticeship & Employment Triage service for employers which is being promoted to Solihull employers although take-up to date has been limited.	Amey was recently supported to recruit to ground worker roles resulting in two job offers and 47 applicants linked to ongoing support	Engagement and support to employers to recruit will be ongoing within current capacity. Additional resources will need to be identified if demand is high. Following the confirmation by the WMCA of Adult Education Budget for targeted skills interventions to address unmet employer needs including work-based skills academies, the Council will continue to work with the WMCA to target this funding to address local employer and workforce skills barriers to recruitment and employment.	Amber	Natalie Goulding Employment & Skills Team (Public Health) Adult Education Budget (skills provision)

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B7: Supply Chain Engagement with Future Opportunities	<p>The Council has been working with HS2 Ltd., the FSB and Chamber to support Solihull suppliers to engage and develop their capacity for upcoming contract opportunities.</p> <p>Specifically the Council worked with HS2 Ltd. to engage Solihull businesses in a supply chain engagement event in May (attended by 30 local businesses), is promoting HS2's weekly supplier engagement webinars to local businesses and is working with the FSB and Chamber to deliver a webinar in September to raise awareness of public sector, particularly Council, opportunities and social value requirements.</p>	30 Solihull businesses engaged in HS2 supplier engagement event	<p>Collaboration with HS2 Ltd., the FSB and Chamber is and will be ongoing to engage Solihull suppliers with upcoming contract opportunities and requirements, including around social value.</p> <p>Engagement of Solihull businesses with supplier engagement activities relating to major events and projects including Coventry City of Culture and Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 will also be a key priority.</p>	Green	<p>Clare Rudge</p> <p>Growth Strategy (E&I)</p> <p>HS2 Ltd.</p> <p>Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)</p> <p>Solihull Chamber of Commerce</p>
B8: Engagement with Major Assets and other businesses	The Council is engaging at the most senior level (Leader, CEx, Director) with strategic businesses and large employers in the Borough, including JLR, Birmingham Airport and the NEC, to understand their current issues and priorities so that the Council can take appropriate follow-up action in support including communicating key messages to inform national and regional recovery planning and action as appropriate.	Meetings held with 10 strategic businesses with appropriate follow-up action.	Ongoing engagement with strategic and major employers in the Borough will be critical to ensure that their recovery needs are fully understood and where Council and wider public sector support is required so that an appropriate response can be made locally, regionally and/or nationally as required. A programme of high level engagements is being maintained on an ongoing basis.	Green	<p>Jon Lander</p> <p>Council leadership (political and executive)</p>
B9: Inward Investment Marketing and Investor Support	Promotion of Solihull as an investment location is ongoing, in partnership with the West Midlands Growth Company and Department for International Trade, as is support for new and existing investors into the Borough. Whilst market conditions are very challenging, investors see the UK as more resilient than continental Europe, and Solihull remains attractive to overseas investors as evidenced by 3 FDI investments being attracted to the Borough in Q1 2020/21 from the US and Netherlands (compared to a quarterly average of 4) and a continued stream of investor enquiries (30 in Q1).	<p>Q1 2020/21</p> <p>3 FDI Investments attracted (2 x US, 1 x Netherlands)</p> <p>190 jobs safeguarded / created via inward investments, including FDI</p> <p>30 inward investment enquiries</p>	Working with the Growth Company and DIT, the Council will continue to identify and respond to changes in investment market trends and investor demands.	Green	<p>Jon Lander</p> <p>Growth Strategy</p> <p>West Midlands Growth Company</p> <p>Department for International Trade (DIT)</p>

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3. INVESTMENT PROJECTS & PLACES – safe and active travel; acceleration of UKC Hub / HS2 Interchange plans and Towns & Local Centres Recovery, Tourism & Visitor Economy					
Ensure safe and active transport access including to employment, schools and high streets including cycling and walking	An Emergency Active Travel Strategy including a programme of cycling and walking measures has been adopted by the Council and the first phase of schemes implemented with DfT funding to aid social distancing and access to local employment, schools and retail facilities. This is complemented by the work of the Sustainable Travel Team to develop and provide advice and support with active travel in response to Covid-19 (see green recovery actions).	Implementation of phase 1 of Emergency Active Travel strategy	The Emergency Active Travel Strategy forms part of a suite of strategy documents required to reset how transport is being managed during the COVID19 recovery phase and beyond. These underpin the services provided to support the Council's new priorities but focused on Economic Recovery and the Growth Agenda, our Climate Change Prospectus and Air Quality Action Plan. These will also lead into further opportunities for Active Travel schemes as and when the Government release details of the £2billion investment programme recently announced.	Green	Paul Tovey Transport & Infrastructure Commissioning Highways Improvement Department for Transport (DfT) Emergency Active Travel Fund (c£200k in first tranche)
I1: Progress Plans for HS2 Interchange Site including development of investment propositions (I2)	<p>Work continues by the Council and the Urban Growth Company, with HS2 Ltd, Arden Cross and the West Midlands Combined Authority to bring forward development opportunity at the HS2 Interchange site.</p> <p>Key aspects are the ongoing development of the Arden Cross Master Plan, accelerating infrastructure schemes, including those within the UKC Infrastructure Programme, and development of an investment proposal for a Health and Innovation Campus.</p> <p>Progression of the UKC Infrastructure Programme has been sustained despite restrictions that have arisen as a result of Covid-19 including development and submission of further business cases for funding.</p> <p>A £95m Government funding ask to accelerated development at the site has been submitted to Government as a key ask within the West Midlands 'Kickstarting the Economy' investment case and a proposal has been</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arden Cross master planning (ongoing) • Health & Innovation Campus investment proposition published • £95m government investment ask submitted as part of the West Midlands' economic recovery investment case to Government • Proposal for a Special Business Zone with retention of business rates growth submitted to Treasury 	<p>Work is ongoing to secure the funding package required to deliver the investments required to maximise the development opportunity at the HS2 Interchange site including as part of the West Midlands investment case to Government and a Government ask for retention of business rates growth and Special Business Zone designation for the Hub. UKC Infrastructure Programme investment schemes will also continue to be positioned strongly for local/regional growth funding opportunities.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to bring forward a Health & Innovation Campus as part of a developing West Midlands Health Technologies Cluster including the forthcoming Birmingham Health & Innovation Campus and Precision Health Technologies Accelerator.</p>	Amber	Perry Wardle Economy & Infrastructure Directorate Urban Growth Company West Midlands Combined Authority

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	submitted to Treasury for a Special Business Zone with retention of business rates growth to support the funding package.				
I4: Towns and Local Centres and High Street Recovery including I3: Solihull Town Centre Recovery	<p>The Council has been working with Solihull BID and stakeholders in the Borough's other towns and local centres (including Shirley traders, Visit Knowle, Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre, and Parish Councils) to develop and implement high street recovery actions using the Towns & Local Centres Recovery Framework developed by the Council to support this and to effectively deploy Solihull's allocation of the national ERDF-funded Reopening High Streets Safely Fund (RHSSF) for comms and business support including recruitment of 2 6-month posts. A Council officer group with representation from Growth Strategy (including business support), Highways, Public Realm, Regulatory Services and comms has been established to coordinate the Council's support for town and local centre recovery.</p> <p>Borough-wide actions to support centre recovery include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of pavement/floor stickers, hand sanitisers and face masks to support social distancing; - Emergency Active Travel measures including for walking and cycling with associated signage; - Coordinated comms campaign around centre reopening including to support Active Travel measures, communicate public health messages and encourage people #SupportLocal campaign, with targeted, branded materials 	<p>Solihull BID estimate that around 80%-85% of town centre businesses have reopened</p> <p>ONS report that for the week 27th July to 2nd August, high street, shopping centre and retail park footfall nationally were at around 55%, 60%, and 85% respectively (over 60% overall) compared to last year with a gradual increase since 15th June when non-essential shops and businesses opened in England (source: ONS)</p>	<p>To implement #SupportLocal comms campaign and wider comms activity for businesses and consumers using Reopening High Streets Safely Fund.</p> <p>To continue to engage businesses in local centres, deploying Reopening High Streets Safely Funded offers to understand and respond to business support needs including via signposting to support via the Growth Hub and work with the LEP to bring forward targeted support interventions where funding allows e.g. Retail Recovery Planning support workshops.</p> <p>Continue to work with the BID and local centre stakeholders to support the ongoing development and/or implementation of centre specific recovery plans, moving centres from the recovery to transformation phase to support their long-term success.</p>	Amber	<p>Clare Rudge Economy & Infrastructure Directorate Corporate Land Council 'Place' Fund GBSLEP Towns & Local Centres Fund Reopening High Streets Safely Fund Active Travel Fund</p> <p>West Midlands Combined Authority (UKC Infrastructure Programme)</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A dedicated support page for high streets on the Solihull for Success website including information and support links for safe reopening, a store reopening tracker and signposting to GBSLEP Growth Hub Retail Recovery Planning and Digital adoption support – with 244 views since June - Following the passing of the Business and Planning Act 2020 which created a temporary regime for the issuing of pavement licences by the Licensing Authority this is designed to be a quicker and more streamlined route for hospitality businesses want to seat and serve customers outdoors, the Council has adopted and published a pavement licensing policy with regards to which businesses can now apply for a license - Ongoing support by the Food Safety teams for businesses – particularly those with a Food Hygiene Rating of 0-2 (poor performers) <p>Solihull Town Centre:</p> <p>The Council is represented on the BID's Leadership Group for Solihull Town Centre Recovery by the Director for Place and on the 7 Plan Ahead Teams that report into the Leadership Group. The Council has supported the successful delivery of the Town Centre Recovery Plan actions which have been focused on safe reopening including comms and marketing to encourage footfall with key message to 'Shop</p>				

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	<p>Local' and focus on the visitor experience; public realm interventions to support social distancing; communication and engagement with businesses; and work with the Police on safety. The Council has also been reviewing Town Centre development scheme and is progressing plans for Westgate development and UKC Infrastructure programme scheme to improve town centre connectivity including development of Solihull Station Integrated Transport Hub.</p> <p>Shirley:</p> <p>The Council has been undertaking targeted engagement with Shirley traders, including via a dedicated newsletter, to understand their support needs and to engage them with the emergency active travel measures and support the safe reopening of the High Street. Having established demand amongst local traders, the Council has been working with the LEP and local traders to implement the LEP funded 'Click & Drop' digital platform in Shirley and to plan a Retail Recovery Planning support workshop for Shirley traders. The Council has commissioned a refresh of the Shirley Economic Plan which has been completed for consultation with Ward Members and Shirley Marketing Group, following which the Council will continue to work with local stakeholders to implement the refreshed Plan.</p> <p>Chelmsley Wood Town Centre:</p> <p>The Council continues to engage with Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre Manager and the Town Council to support the safe reopening of the Town Centre, and continues to progress the Town Centre redevelopment Plans with stakeholders.</p>				

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	<p>Knowle:</p> <p>The Council is continuing to engage with 'Visit Knowle' to support the development and implementation of their recovery plan for Knowle including measures to support social distancing, store re-opening and communications.</p> <p>Balsall Common:</p> <p>The Council is continuing to engage with the Parish Council to support recovery planning and master planning for the Village Centre.</p> <p>Kingshurst Village Centre:</p> <p>The Village Centre redevelopment plans continue to be progressed.</p>				
I5: Tourism/visitor economy recovery and development	<p>The Council has been taking ongoing action to support local tourism businesses and the development of Solihull's visitor economy including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - working with the LEP and the West Midlands Growth Company to bring forward in Solihull the ERDF funded Kickstart grants for visitor economy SMEs - communicating available advice and support to local tourism businesses including the Growth Company's advice page, including an e-newsletter for Solihull Tourism Forum - supporting the work being led by the West Midlands Growth Company to develop a regional sector recovery (Solihull is represented on the regional Tourism Recovery Group by Tom Screen from Birmingham Airport Ltd.) - development of the new 'Visit Solihull' website for launch alongside an 'Open for Business' social media campaign - development of a funding bid to the HS2 Business and Local 	<p>Launch of Tourism promotion campaign, including new website, marketing materials and social media assets – Summer (dependent on Government guidelines for re-opening)</p> <p>Funding secured to support local tourism businesses via bid to HS2 Business and Local Economy Fund – bid development ongoing</p> <p>% WM businesses surveyed closed/ceased trading and/or expecting to open/trade (source: West Midlands Growth Co.)</p>	<p>The impact of the pandemic on the NEC and associated supply chain and wider visitor economy, represents a significant risk for the Solihull economy and workforce. Engagement with the NEC will be ongoing so that the Council can support recovery plans where appropriate. Engagement with tourism and cultural businesses since lockdown has been limited due to furlough for many sector employees. However the Council is and will continue to progress local actions to support recovery; to work with the West Midlands Growth Company and GBSLEP to bring forward regional recovery actions that benefit Solihull; and to engage with Solihull Tourism Forum and to plan Forum activities in preparation for when businesses get ready to re-open and staff are back from furlough.</p>	Red	<p>Clare Rudge</p> <p>Growth Strategy (E&I)</p> <p>Website budget in place</p> <p>Solihull 'Place' Fund</p> <p>HS2 Ltd. Business and Local Economy Fund</p> <p>West Midlands Growth Company</p> <p>GBSLEP Growth Hub</p>

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	<p>Economy Fund to support local tourism businesses during HS2 construction including support for digital skills, marketing and package promotion and local events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tourism map in place at the Core <p>Engagement with tourism and culture businesses has been restricted due to furlough for many.</p>				
I6: The role of housing in economic recovery	Continue to bring forward UKC Infrastructure Programme schemes to accelerate housing delivery.	UKC Infrastructure Programme 'Accelerating Housing Delivery' schemes delivered to programme milestones.	Ongoing delivery of UKCIP 'Accelerating Housing Delivery' schemes	Green	Alan Smith, UKC Programme Manager and Peter Carroll, Head of Strategic Land & Property
4. GREEN RECOVERY					
Management of the Council's energy use and carbon emissions	Our current approach to carbon management includes challenging services to reduce energy use and carbon emissions.	Reduced CO2 emissions (tonnes) from Council operations – leading to net zero by 2030	To develop recovery and reset plans to take carbon and energy into consideration to avoid any 'rebound' and to capitalise on any reductions in emissions as a result of recent changes in service delivery/work practices, and ensure that Directorate Sustainability Plans as they emerge take account of this issue.	Green	Alan Brown Carbon Management Board
Low Carbon Energy Framework	<p>Commissioning of a Borough-wide Net Zero Action Plan as part of the framework which is a key opportunity to consider how best to mitigate potential 'carbon rebound' and how to capitalise on any emission reductions and funding streams as they emerge.</p> <p>Commissioning of a Net Zero Feasibility Study for SCH</p>	Net Zero Action Plan developed and implemented identifying CO2 emissions (tonnes) contributing to WM net zero reductions targets by 2041, the net zero action plan will establish emissions reduction trajectories and achievable interim carbon reduction objectives.	<p>To develop the Net Zero Action Plan including consideration of opportunities for a 'green recovery' and financing options including the proposed WMCA West Midlands Green Financing initiative.</p> <p>To commission a Net Zero Feasibility Study for SCH.</p>	Green (Red in terms of achievement of target)	Ann Marie Attfield UKC Programme Team (Economy & Infrastructure Directorate) UKC Infrastructure Programme (WMCA)
Buildings Retrofit	Engagement with WMCA/Energy Capital Retrofit project to capture opportunities for Solihull	CO2 emissions from commercial/industrial and domestic properties (annual data, 2 year lag) SAP Rating of SCH properties	Ongoing engagement to capture investment for Solihull as part of a regional project.	Green (Red in terms of scale of	Robin Dunlevy Economy & Infrastructure Directorate

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		Fuel poverty in Solihull		investment needed)	
Green Financing	Engagement with WMCA West Midlands Green Financing agenda to realise opportunities for Solihull	WMCA identify financial options for low carbon investment	Ongoing engagement to capture opportunities for Solihull and identify investment priorities for Solihull via Urban Growth Company (for the UKC Hub) and Net Zero Action Plan commission.	Amber	TBC
Clean Air	<p>Development of Solihull's Clean Air Strategy (ongoing)</p> <p>Development of active travel including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation (Phase 1) of an Emergency Active Travel Strategy (see Safe & Active Travel) • Business advice and support with active travel developed in response to Covid-19 including development of a Smarter Working booklet which is being rolled out regionally, and a socially-distanced cycle training package (ongoing) • Development of an emergency active travel support package at a regional level for schools, businesses and the wider community (ongoing) • Work is also ongoing to promote sustainable travel grants to DEFRA businesses and public transport and car sharing will be promoted when Government guidance changes. • Progression of the UKC Infrastructure Programme with a strong focus on encouraging active travel modes (ongoing) • Development of a Solihull Cycling and Walking Strategy to set out a 	<p>Improvement in air quality by 2025</p> <p>Transport emissions per capital (Tonnes of CO₂)</p> <p>Implementation of Emergency Active Travel measures (Phase 1)</p> <p>61 businesses received Smarter Working and Agile Working support²</p> <p>Emergency Active Travel Support package developed</p> <p>As per Programme Board reporting</p>	<p>Deliver Solihull's Clean Air Strategy with mid-term action to understand how we can capitalise on current improvement and awareness. Looking for the opportunities that arise to keep emissions low.</p> <p>Ongoing development and delivery of active travel measures including expansion of active travel element of 'Solihull on the Move'</p> <p>Ongoing delivery of UKC Infrastructure Programme with secured funding and positioning for funding opportunities.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>Amber</p> <p>Green</p> <p>Green</p> <p>Green</p>	<p>Nick Laws Public Health Directorate</p> <p>Paul Tovey Highways Management</p> <p>Tina Wiggins Sustainable Travel Team DEFRA grants</p> <p>Alan Smith UKC Programme (E&I) West Midlands Combined Authority</p>

² other KPIs to be reported on: no. of sustainable travel grants delivered; no. of cycle training and maintenance interventions; no. of sustainable travel incentives issued to businesses; no. of comms to business providing information on guidance on Public Transport and car sharing (when guidance changes).

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	<p>clear vision and objectives to increase the number of cycling and walking journeys in the Borough – adoption is expected late Summer (ongoing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of ‘Solihull on the Move’ 	Implementation of 2 high quality segregated cycle routes across the Borough by 2022	Implementation of Solihull Walking & Cycling Strategy following adoption – expected late summer	Green	<p>Walter Bailey Transport Policy</p> <p>Nick Garnett Public Health</p>
Natural Environment	Engagement via the multi-agency WM Natural Capital Working Group to develop a coherent approach towards natural capital across the WMCA (WMCA Action to establish Natural Capital Working Group)	<p>Wildlife sites, SSSIs and sites in positive management</p> <p>Total area of species-rich grassland</p> <p>Total area of woodland</p> <p>Arden Free Tree Scheme: Number of trees planted.</p>	Develop a Natural Capital Investment Strategy and delivery programme and undertaken ongoing engagement with the WM Natural Capital Working Group to capture opportunities for Solihull.	Green (Red in terms of risks to natural capital)	<p>Mike Eastwood CLAUDE, Economy & Infrastructure Directorate</p>
Green Skills	Initial discussions with WMCA, Birmingham and selected providers to discuss the potential and ideas for new learning (up to level 3) related to the green economy and carbon reduction	<p>WMCA Green Skills study completed</p> <p>Skills initiatives coming through WM LCETS recovery plan benefit Solihull</p>	<p>Engage fully in the proposed WMCA study of Green Skills to be undertaken as part of their ‘5 year plans’ commission</p> <p>Engage with and influence the development and delivery of employment and skills initiatives coming forward via the WM LCETS recovery plan, including supporting engagement of Solihull employers, so that this builds on and strengthens local provision and pathways including work with schools on careers activity.</p>	Amber	<p>Natalie Goulding Employment & Skills Team</p>
Business and Low Carbon & Environmental Technologies & Services (LCETS) Sector	Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group has been operating for a number of years but activity has been limited in recent months due to the pandemic. The group met online on Friday 11 th September with 22 participants including representation from JLR, NEC, BHX, Arup, IM Properties, Tyseley Energy Park, Chamber of Commerce, Npower and Interserve. Opportunities considered included Smart Cities (Blythe Valley Park), WM5G and Low Carbon Future Mobility.	<p>No. businesses actively engaged in Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group</p> <p>Review of opportunities to strengthen Solihull’s investor offer to LCETS investors e.g. Energy Innovation Zone</p> <p>LCETS investor enquiries and projects secured</p>	<p>Continue to engage local businesses with opportunities to develop and adopt sustainable business practices and low carbon technologies via Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group including signposting to support programmes and initiatives such as the proposed WMCA Clean Growth (Recovery) Innovation Challenge</p> <p>Continue to develop and promote Solihull’s potential as an investment location for LCETS.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>Amber</p>	<p>Colin Maltby UKC Programme Team (E&I Directorate)</p> <p>E&I Directorate</p>

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Engagement and Comms	Plans being taken forward to establish an independent Solihull Climate Change Commission	Solihull Climate Change Commission in place and advising on delivery of the climate change prospectus and green recovery actions	<p>Incorporate 'green recovery/bouncing back better' into the remit for Solihull's Climate Change Commission.</p> <p>Consider the impact of Covid-19 on engagement as part of the wider work around branding and communication of climate change activity.</p> <p>Engage with the WMCA and its aim to develop an overarching communications strategy for WM2041 which, in the short term builds on behaviour change adopted during Covid-19.</p>	Green	<p>Dave Biss Economy & Infrastructure Directorate</p> <p>Tom Slater, Comms</p>