

## Report of the Chief Executive

**ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN**1. Purpose of report

The report informs Councillors of the steps the council has taken to support the business community during the Covid 19 pandemic and proposes some actions to support the economy to recover.

2. Background

Appendix 1 sets out the Council's support to the business community including details of the government-funded grants and reliefs that have been distributed by the Council to Broxtowe's businesses.

Appendix 2 sets out some high level national and county level data on the impact of the pandemic on businesses and employment.

Appendix 3 contains details of the Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum recovery aim and objectives with which the Borough Council's approach should aim to be consistent.

Appendix 4 contains details of the Government's "re-opening the high street fund".

An initial data gathering exercise from local businesses is being undertaken by members of the economic development team and the results will be reported at the meeting. A further more detailed exercise is planned and more details of this are given in a separate report on the agenda. This will provide evidence to feed both the "re-opening the high streets" approach as well as medium and longer term actions to feed into an economic recovery plan.

Appendix 5 sets out short, medium and longer term recommendations for consideration.

**Recommendation**

**The committee is asked to CONSIDER and RESOLVE the short, medium and longer term recommendations set out in appendix 5.**

Background papers

Nil

## APPENDIX 1

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT MEASURES FOR BUSINESS**

Retail Discount & Expanded Retail Discount - Government approved to be 100% for all retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in the borough for rateable value under £51k.

541 properties receiving £16,867,429 relief.

Nursery relief - 22 properties receiving £203,992 relief.

Grants

Small Business Grants - approved to award £10k to those receiving Small Business Rates Relief. Guidance expected on Monday 23 March 2020 with government funding expected 1 April 2020.

1,114 properties grant total £11.15m

Rural Rate Grants - these are approved and will be the same as Small Business Grants.

3 properties grant total of £30,000

Retail Grant - approved to award two retail grants based upon rateable value of the property of either £10k or £25k to those in retail, leisure and hospitality where their rateable value is between £15 to £51k.

Rateable Value 1 to 15,000  
200 properties grant total £2.05m

Rateable Value 15,001 to 51,000  
180 properties grant total £4.5m

Business GrantsBusinesses Paid

Total eligible businesses	£1,491
Total grants paid	£1,381
Percentage paid	92.7%

Grant Value

Total Eligible	£17,450,000
Total Paid	£16,395,000
Percentage paid	91.6%

NNDR Collection

As far as collection of NNDR is concerned last year £27m was collected, and this year the collectable amount will be reduced to £11m.

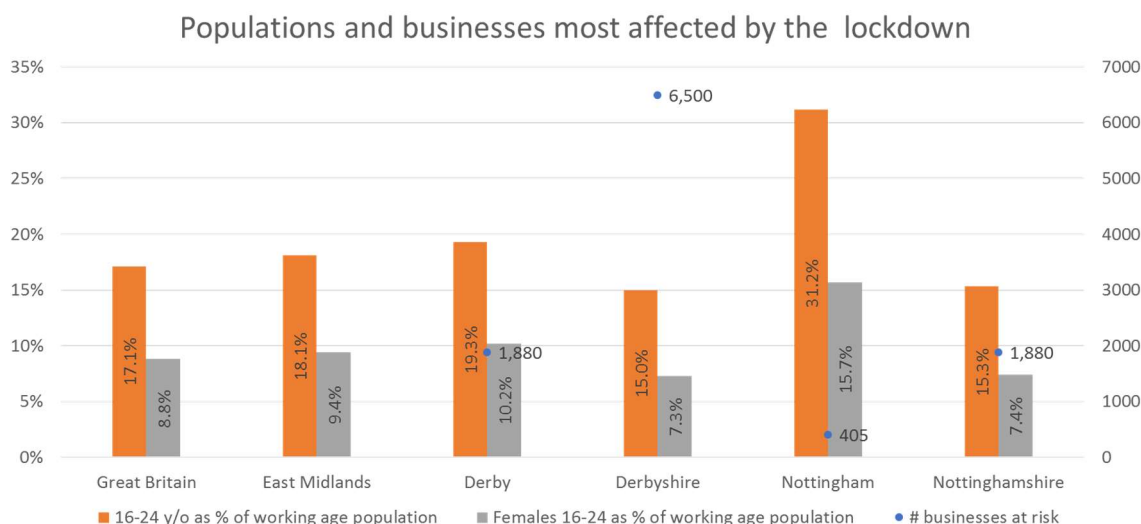
In addition to the distribution of grants and reliefs, the economic development team produced a list of Broxtowe's businesses which were/are "open for business" in terms of providing home deliveries, takeaway services for residents and made that available on the council's website.

## APPENDIX 2

## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID 19

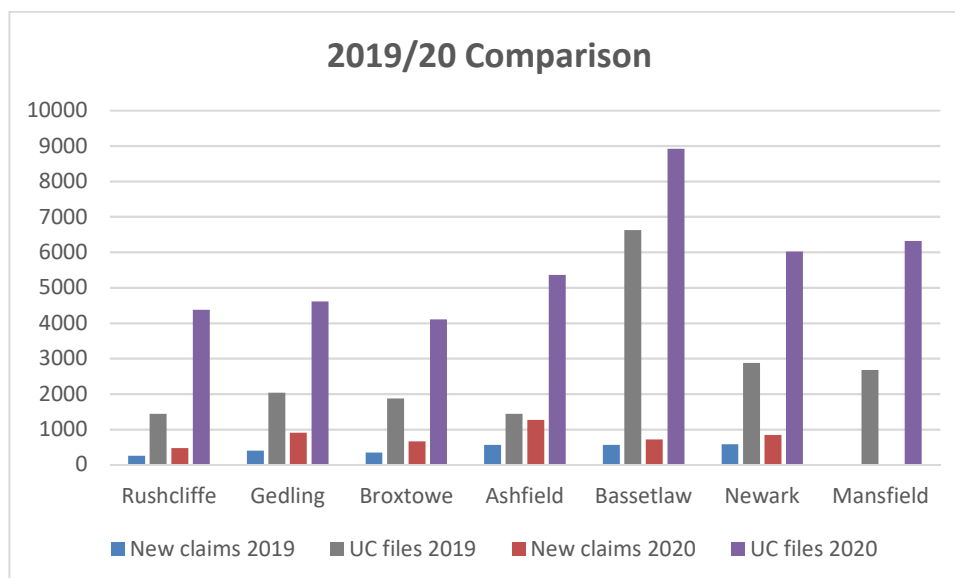
The office for Budgetary Responsibility have produced assumptions based on UK unemployment increasing by 2.1 million to around 3.4 million by the end of June 2020. If unemployment increases by the same rate across the country, Nottingham's unemployment could increase from 11,000 to more than 27,000 (nearly 12% of the working age population) and Greater Nottingham's figure could reach 40,000 people (9%). Figures from IFS data via the Midlands Engine from the chart below illustrate this trend.

The impact of Covid 19 on the businesses within Broxtowe has been no different, and as we slowly emerge from this pandemic, we need to decide how best the Council can support our existing businesses and adopt a "build back better" approach for the economy going forward.



*From IFS data via Midlands Engine*

The data below is the latest comparative information on the rise in claims for Universal credit in Broxtowe for 11 weeks (March to end May)



## APPENDIX 3

**Nottinghamshire Recovery strategic aim and objectives**

The Council is working in partnership with the City Council, the County Council and other districts within the Local Resilience Forum to ensure the approach to recovery is consistent and co-ordinated across our area. A Recovery group has been formed and has developed some overarching aims and objectives. The strategic aim and objectives of the Nottinghamshire approach is set out below

**Strategic Aim**

To support the whole of Nottinghamshire, including its communities, businesses and public services, to recover following COVID-19.

As well as addressing adverse impacts, this will involve striving to build back better by collaborating to advance opportunities for better physical and mental health, tackling climate change, better health outcomes and a sustainable fast growing local economy.

**Strategic Objectives**

1. Co-design the recovery with **communities, businesses and the voluntary sector**, having grown up conversations with the public about the challenges ahead and ensuring that people are put first and that those most affected are not left behind.
2. Undertake an **Impact and Opportunity Assessment** which takes into account the implications that could occur should multiple waves of the pandemic be experienced (including the cumulative impact and sequencing of 'response' versus 'recovery' activities).
3. Develop a **Recovery Action Plan** to address all impacts set out within the Impact and Opportunity Assessment, including impacts on people, the economy, infrastructure and the environment. This will include considering:
  1. where Nottingham and Nottinghamshire level support will add value,
  2. where action should be led at a locality level,
  3. where consistency of approach will be important across all localities,
  4. where business as usual arrangements will provide an effective means of meeting needs,
  5. where business as usual arrangements may need to be adapted or improved,
  6. where transformational change may be required,
  7. where new inequalities are identified or existing inequalities worsened by the pandemic.
4. Help to shape the future vision for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, including by identifying opportunities to **'build back better' and to enhance resilience for communities**.
5. Identify potential **funding sources** to support recovery and ensure communities and businesses can access the support that is available. This will need to cover not only revenue funding but also long-term, flexible and locally controlled capital funds.
6. Establish close **links with central government** and maintain these throughout the recovery process.
7. Ensure **effective communications**, building confidence and trust in recovery plans with stakeholders and N2 residents, utilizing collective channels and resources.

8. Ensure effective protocols for **political involvement and liaison** (Borough and Parliamentary).
9. Develop an **exit strategy** to ensure that recovery efforts can effectively become part of mainstream delivery.
10. Identify **best practice and lessons learned** in order to support recovery and reduce the impact of similar incident scenarios occurring again where possible. This will involve engaging with academia, other stakeholders and cities, nationally and internationally.

**APPENDIX 4****Reopening High Streets Safely Fund: Immediate action**

The Council has been awarded a notional allocation of £101,458 under the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund. The money will be claimed in retrospect provided the money is spent on eligible expenditure. The fund have to be spent within a year.

The Fund will help councils in England introduce a range of safety measures to kick-start local economies, get people back to work and customers back to the shops. It will also support a range of practical safety measures including new signs, street markings and temporary barriers. Councils will also be able to use this money to develop local marketing campaigns to explain the changes to the public and reassure them that their high streets and other commercial areas are safe.

An action plan is required; which officers are working on immediately as the money will become available provided our requirements meet the government guidance. A separate report on the agenda contains more details on initial proposals.

In partnership with the County Council's highways provider, Via, all the Town centres have been walked thorough and plans devised for safe shop opening, queueing, cleaning of high intensity use areas, and advice to retailers on how to operate safely within government guidelines.

**Recommendations for action**

**SHORT TERM: Rebuild confidence; develop an initial action plan to support re-opening town centres; complete growth projects already under way and gather new data**

1. Develop a “Re-opening the Town centres” recovery action plan to support safe and useful ways of supporting town centres to re-start after the pandemic (appendix 4)
2. Gather data on local economic needs and views of the local business community to feed into future activity and strategy. (Initial feedback will be available at the meeting and for a more detailed exercise proposal please see separate committee report)
3. Develop plans, work in partnership and lobby for funding for Stapleford Towns Fund, ensuring the Towns Fund bid proposals are linked to economic recovery.
4. Continue and ensure the success and contribution to economic recovery of existing council-led initiatives to boost economic growth
  - Stapleford business hub
  - Beeston Regeneration phase 2

**MEDIUM TERM: Add to the Recovery action plan ideas gleaned from consultation; Develop a new Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy; Start already funded projects and ensure all committees contribute to economic recovery through their existing plans.**

5. Take on board the results of consultation with the business community and feed new actions in to the economic recovery action plan
6. Continue and ensure the success and contribution to economic recovery of existing council-led initiatives to boost economic growth
  - Mushroom farm new industrial units
7. Update local economic and industrial strategies for the new context (in outline to September Jobs and Economy committee)
8. Ensure decisions about future Leisure provision feed and support the economic recovery through delivering jobs and apprenticeships (Leisure and Health Committee); that investment made by the Council through the green futures programme are linked to the recovery (Environment and Health Committee) and ensure the council’s Housebuilding programme feeds and support the economic recovery through delivering jobs and apprenticeships (Housing Committee)

**LONGER TERM:**

9. Develop a scheme or schemes for potential D2N2 funding in Eastwood and Kimberley.
10. Develop plans, work in partnership and promote long term economic benefit to the whole Borough of the Toton innovation campus through the emerging Development Corporation, ensuring links to economic recovery.