

For publication

Covid 19 – Chesterfield Economic Recovery Plan

Meeting: Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee

Date: 14 July 2020

Cabinet portfolio: Economic Growth

Report by: Assistant Director Economic Growth

For Publication

1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The COVID-19 crisis has had a significant impact across the borough and the focus to date has been on the immediate coordinated response to support the borough and its communities during the lockdown period and preparations to manage the phased opening up of the borough and the town centre.
- 1.2 This report focusses on the Council's planning for the borough's economic recovery and recommends that Cabinet consider and approve the Chesterfield Economic Recovery Plan as identified in section 7. The Economic Recovery Plan has been developed by officers as part of the Council's Covid-19 Recovery Economic Task and Finish Group and takes into account the Council's Economic Growth Strategy, Corporate priorities and the economic impact and scenario.
- 1.3 This report and the Economic Recovery Plan set out the key activities that need to be progressed in order for Chesterfield

and the Council to prepare as effectively as possible for the economic recovery from COVID-19 by mitigating the negative impact and harnessing the opportunities that this unprecedented situation has unveiled.

- 1.4 The Economic Recovery Plan is in response to the impact anticipated at this point in time which is influenced by the Government support provided so far and is likely to change in the next few months. The Plan needs to be a flexible document to allow for future changes.
- 1.5 The plan proposes approximately £500,000 of activities through realignment of already approved budgets as well as Government grants to support the reopening of town centres.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To consider and approve the Chesterfield Economic Recovery Plan.
- 2.2 To approve the allocation of additional funding for the activities set out in Section 9 of the report and in the Chesterfield Economic Recovery Plan.
- 2.3 To approve the establishment of two new posts of Town Centre Engagement Officer and Skills Apprentice.
- 2.4 To delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Economic Growth in consultation with the Cabinet member for Economic Growth to develop detailed proposals for administration of the new Entrepreneurial and Business Start-up Programme.

3.0 Background

National Context:

- 3.1 The Covid-19 pandemic represents an unprecedented risk to economies at the local, national and international scale. At national level, the Bank of England (BoE) Covid scenario predicts an annualised GDP decline of 14% in 2020, with a fall of 25% in Q2 (April-June) and then a period of recovery in the second half of 2020 and the first half of 2021. However, there remains a great deal of uncertainty about the 'shape' of this recovery, whether there is an immediate bounce back and return to the previous growth trajectory (a V-shaped recovery), or whether there is a prolonged period of little / no growth before the economy eventually recovers (a U-shaped recovery).
- 3.2 Nationally, it is forecast that unemployment could rise to 10%, with over 2 million people added to the claimant count. There has already been a significant increase, with the claimant count rising from 3.1% to 6.5% between March and May 2020. However, the scale of any future increase will largely depend on the success of the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) which has seen more than 9.3m employees (representing 26% of total UK employment) placed on furlough.
- 3.3 The Government has published a Covid-19 Recovery Strategy which sets out a timeframe for the easing of lockdown restrictions and restarting the economy. This will see a 3-step process, with progression through each stage dependent on successfully controlling the further spread of the virus. The first step was taken on the 13th May with business sectors such as construction and manufacturing actively encouraged to return to work. The second step, applying from the 1st June, saw the reopening of outdoor markets and car showrooms, whilst other non-essential retail was permitted to reopen from the 15th June (subject to putting in place appropriate social distancing measures). The third step, applying from the 4th July, saw the opening of some businesses in sectors such as hospitality (accommodation, food and drink), personal services (for example hairdressers) and leisure (for example cinemas). However, other activities such as indoor gyms, swimming pools,

beauty salons and nightclubs remain closed for the foreseeable future

Strategic Context:

- 3.4 Officers and Members are working closely with key partners in D2N2, SCR and with the national Government as part of a strategic approach to economic recovery which will influence and be influenced by the recovery work in Chesterfield. We are also working closely with Derbyshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) partners to develop a regional Economic Recovery Plan. This is being developed around a number of shared outcomes to ensure that a joined-up approach to planning and delivery is in place. The work to support Chesterfield's recovery will also be impacted by the emerging 'Vision Derbyshire' initiative.

4.0 Chesterfield's recovery efforts so far

- 4.1 Over the last month, officers have been working hard to ensure measures are in place in response to the Government announcements and guidelines. Activities undertaken so far in supporting businesses and economic recovery include:

- 661 businesses have received £18million business rates relief for 2020/21
- £25.070 million has been paid out in small business grants to 2147 businesses
- The Council is currently processing discretionary grant fund payments to 178 businesses
- Rental payments were deferred for three months for the most vulnerable commercial tenants
- Normal payment terms have been suspended; payments have been made on receipt of invoices from local businesses
- Through intensive communications and regular updates we have ensured businesses are kept aware of all the support made available to them and we have responded to over 300 direct enquiries from businesses seeking advice and support

- Continuing to provide one to one business support through the Innovation Support project
- Working with Job Centre Plus to undertake weekly reviews of redundancies made locally to ensure a proactive response
- Working with Destination Chesterfield to support the delivery of a range of business seminars and sector groups including construction, retail, skills etc
- Maintaining progress on Chesterfield's key economic growth projects

4.2 With regards to the safe re-opening of the town centre, activities include:

- Active engagement with Derbyshire County Council in implementing changes to the current highway arrangements to improve pedestrian flow and safety;
- Re-opening of the outdoor market on 1st June 2020 with appropriate changes to ensure public safety and enable social distancing;
- Working collaboratively with Destination Chesterfield for communications around the Town Centre re-opening;
- Town Centre Ambassadors, using staff redeployed from other teams across the Council to provide advice and reassurance to those using the Town Centre;
- Safety barriers have been placed and new signage has been installed to ensure that pedestrian flow and queues can be managed effectively;
- Ongoing engagement with town centre retailers and other town centre operators to ensure a shared understanding and operation of the Town Centre.

5.0 Chesterfield Recovery Scenario

5.1 Taking the Government's roadmap as a starting point, a recovery scenario for Chesterfield's economy has been prepared (attached as Appendix 1). This considers the relative resilience of the local economy to the impact of Covid-19 and

sets out how key business sectors might emerge from lockdown. A summary of some of the key points from this scenario is set out below.

- 5.2 The structure of Chesterfield's economy has been assessed as having a higher degree of economic resilience to the impact of Covid-19, relative to the national average. This primarily reflects a high level of public sector employment in the health sector and a lower level of employment in sectors such as hospitality and leisure, which have been particularly impacted by the Government's lockdown measures.
- 5.3 Following implementation of step 3 of the Government's recovery road map, almost all (98% plus) of Chesterfield's employment sectors could now be considered (at least theoretically) to be open for business. Whilst having almost all sectors open for business increases the potential for recovery, it will still take time for business activity to return towards previous levels (or whatever the new normal looks like), particularly given the level of temporary business closures and the number of employees on furlough.
- 5.4 Based on the local application of national survey data (most recent survey data applies to the period 1st-14th June), it is estimated that approximately 570 businesses (out of 4,130 local business units) in the borough were temporarily closed at the time of survey, with the hospitality and leisure / recreation sectors accounting for over 50% of these closures.
- 5.5 It has been further estimated that just under 10,000 employees of Chesterfield businesses are currently on furlough, equating to 19% of the workforce. This is below the national average of 26%, highlighting a higher degree of employment resilience in the local economy.
- 5.6 The recovery prospects for individual sectors could best be described as mixed. Higher-value business-facing sectors such

as ICT and professional services appear to be weathering the Covid-19 storm reasonably well, helped by a high proportion of remote working. Lower-value consumer-facing sectors which until 4 July have been under lockdown are likely to see a significant impact from Covid-19.

6.0 Chesterfield Economic Recovery Plan

6.1 Considering Chesterfield's economic scenario the key objectives or outcomes of the Economic Recovery Plan are identified as:

- Minimise the negative impact of Covid-19 in terms of business closures and jobs lost by ensuring that businesses are able to continue to open and operate in the short term.
- Create conditions for entrepreneurial activities to support start-ups and retention of businesses in a more resilient economy.
- Support the reskilling of our residents to be home grown talent and to be able to compete in the changed economy.
- Town Centre is enabled to progress through recovery phases and is able to thrive, maintaining high level of occupancy.
- Support the Council's Climate Change programme and the continuing modal shift to cycling and walking (active travel) and public transport
- Continue to deliver against agreed programmes for key economic growth projects.

6.2 A draft Chesterfield Economic Recovery Plan (attached as Appendix 2) has been prepared based on the strategic framework provided by the Economic Programme in the Council's Growth Strategy.

6.3 The Growth Strategy (and Economic Programme) adopted by the Council in 2019 sets out the role of the Council in

supporting the growth and regeneration of Chesterfield borough. Underpinned by an economic assessment, the Strategy seeks to address the key challenges of building a more resilient economy that can create and sustain high quality job opportunities; and ensuring that local people have the right mix of skills to access the jobs which are created.

- 6.4 This (evidence-based) focus means that the Council is already doing many of the right things to support the growth of the economy, whether this is in response to addressing the longer-term decline of its traditional industrial base or the potential economic impact of Covid-19.
- 6.5 The starting point in the preparation of the Recovery Plan, therefore, has been a review of all activities in the Economic Programme to identify how these can contribute towards a Covid-19 action response. This review has highlighted that almost all activities in the current programme can positively support (either directly or in-directly) a Covid-19 response. For example, the Economic Development Team (EDT) currently provides a Land and Property Information Service to help individuals and businesses find commercial premises in the borough and typically deal with 500+ enquiries a year. There will be a continuing demand for this service (either down-sizing or expansion) as businesses seek to best meet their property requirements in response to changes in market demand.
- 6.6 Following this initial review, a further question was then asked about what additional value-adding activities could be undertaken to support the Council's response to Covid-19? Where additional activities have been identified, these have been prioritised and the resource implications categorised in terms of whether the activity can be delivered with existing resources, reallocated resources, or whether additional funding is required. For example, the Council could potentially provide more pro-active engagement with 'at-risk' business tenants from within its existing staffing resource. However, if it chose to

provide more in-depth one-to-one support for businesses, then this would require an increase in the staffing resource.

7.0 Areas of new activity

In addition to the already approved Growth Strategy Economic Programme, it is proposed undertake the following additional activities in order to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 on Chesterfield's economy.

7.1 Increase business start-ups and support business base expansion

- **Issue:** As a response to job losses as a result of Covid-19, we may see an increase in people wanting to start their own business. Whilst they may have technical know-how and experience, they may not have the skills to create and run a business. Chesterfield's rate of business creation is already lower than both the UK and East Midlands region average and the under representation of higher-value service-based activities is a key issue. The traditional employment sectors in Chesterfield have provided an employment model and path in which creating one's own business is of less interest and visible.
- **Proposal:** It is proposed to develop an Entrepreneurial and business start-up programme, including start-up and business growth grants, business mentoring support via Destination Chesterfield and providing incubator provision in the Council's Innovation Centre network. The programme would both encourage the creation of new businesses and address the survivability of existing young businesses and their long-term contribution to the local economy as job providers in their own right. There would be a grants element to support businesses to:
 - Establish, grow and improve productivity
 - Diversify
 - Attract new investment

- Become more carbon efficient

The programme has the potential to be developed with the University of Derby and discussions have identified how it would be developed. The programme would support early stage businesses including signposting to other support mechanisms and managing and delivering the grants element

- The programme would include the provision of entrepreneurship engagement to develop skills for pupils in Chesterfield's schools.
- Having a multiple entry-point Entrepreneurship programme will support people's ability to achieve self-employment and their capacity to create and maintain their own livelihoods. This would support the development of a creative and innovative town.

7.2 Strengthening town and district centre vitality and viability

- **Issue:** Already challenged by changes to consumer behaviour, town centres will be impacted further by the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a key role to play in ensuring that our town and district centres are safe and accessible to the all those visiting, working and living there.
- **Proposal:** Additional activities will need to be brought forward to ensure the longer- term viability of the Town Centre and to support Town Centre businesses. Communications will be aligned to encouraging visitors to come back to the Town Centre, whilst still reinforcing safety messaging. It is proposed that a Town Centre Engagement Officer is recruited to work alongside existing Council operational teams and other key Town Centre stakeholders (such as Vicar Lane, Markets Consultative Committee). The role would ensure that traders and retailers have access to the support they need and that they are signposted to

other projects/schemes and initiatives; develop events and ideas to bring vitality and add value to the existing activity delivered in the Town Centre; awareness raising and liaising with retailers and other Town Centre users.

- Key regeneration schemes such as Northern Gateway and Revitalising the Heart of Chesterfield will be in progress and COVID Recovery should be well embedded. Transformational activities such as integrating SMART technologies should be explored. This will help ensure that the Town Centre is more resilient to future economic shocks and more able to respond to changes in consumer behaviours.
- Further, in May 2020, the Government announced the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund. This fund is providing £50 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to councils across England to support the safe reopening of high streets and other commercial areas. Chesterfield Borough Council has been allocated £92,638 for the current financial year. The funding will be used for four key strands:
 1. Support to develop an action plan for how the local authority may begin to safely reopen their local economies
 2. Communications and public information activity to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely
 3. Business-facing awareness raising activities to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely
 4. Temporary public realm changes to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely

7.3 Enhancing skills to support inclusive business growth

- **Issue:** The percentage of people in Chesterfield with higher level qualifications has increased from 26% to 28% of the working age population. However, this continues to be lower than regional and national averages at 34% and 40% respectively. Anecdotal evidence suggests that workers with higher level skills in transferable disciplines such as digital, enterprise, leadership and management are more resilient and better able to adapt to challenging labour market conditions.
- It is estimated that 14% of Chesterfield's businesses have temporarily closed and 19% of the workforce have been furloughed. Education and training activities have also been severely disrupted by closures removing the prospect of young people engaging with training providers and employers by traditional means. An estimated 25% of apprentices in Chesterfield having been furloughed and significant drops in apprenticeship starts are being reported compared to the same period last year (national estimates - 72%).
- **Proposal:** The challenge for the recovery phase will be how to respond to the anticipated surge in unemployment and in particular rises in youth unemployment whilst still ensuring that any employment training and supply chain opportunities are maximised. It is proposed through strategic partnerships with our Higher Education partners, to expand careers activity to highlight and increase access to future growth opportunities and increase resource to deliver targeted upskilling campaigns. This will be achieved through commissioning a joined-up feasibility study to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with our Higher Education partners.

- It is proposed to increase marketing resource to extend the reach of existing initiatives including Apprentice Town and MADE In Chesterfield as well as delivering new campaigns for 'upskilling for a resilient workforce' and 'developing an entrepreneurial mindset.'
- Chesterfield Borough Council are continuing to actively progress development schemes. There is opportunity to further promote local labour and supply chain activity. It is proposed that an Apprentice resource within the Economic Development Team is recruited to support the delivery of the Skills Action Plan and strengthen local labour and supply chain activity. This additional resource will assist the Skills Delivery Officer in the monitoring and evaluation of skills development programmes and support extended delivery of local labour and supply chain activity. Importantly, this activity will enable a new entry level opportunity in a climate where there will be significantly fewer employment and apprenticeship opportunities available.
- The establishment of an Education and Training Provider Network is proposed to provide a forum from which to deliver this synchronised approach to redundancy, employment support and re-skilling and will also support the development of the virtual skills and careers platform. The virtual platform will be accessible 'to all' potentially for unlimited periods, ensuring support and progression routes remain open to individuals and businesses by having access to the widest range of employment support, skills and education programmes under one 'virtual roof'.
- It is proposed to make provision for an 'operational funding pot' to support the delivery of Skills Action Plan workstreams and provide a means of match funding to lever externally funded projects with LEP, education and other strategic partners. It is proposed that as part of COVID-19 recovery activity, that this additional resource be used to lever

funding and support for the development of a range of employment support and 'youth resilience activities', including a youth enterprise programme that feeds into the CBC start-up activity outlined under priority 1 of the economic recovery plan.

7.4 Staveley Town Deal to deliver infrastructure that enables growth

- **Opportunity:** Since the Growth Strategy was adopted, the Government announced that certain towns across England would be eligible for Town Deal status. Staveley was identified as an eligible town and since this time, Chesterfield Borough Council has been working with key partners to form a Staveley Town Deal Board and to develop activity to support the development of an Investment Plan. Staveley, is an area of the borough that has been impacted considerably by previous economic restructuring and it is likely that its economy will be impacted further by COVID-19.
- **Proposal:** It is proposed that the Town Investment Plan that will be used to broker a Town Deal for Staveley will need to take account of the impacts of COVID-19 on the local economy. No additional resource is required for this activity as the Government has provided the Council with £146k enabling funding which will be used to fund the Staveley Town Deal Manager role (now in post) and any costs associated with developing the Investment Plan.

7.5 Supporting Climate Change Programme

- **Opportunity:** With regards to promoting a sustainable economic recovery, the COVID-19 lockdown period has undoubtedly led to an unprecedented reduction in CO2 emissions and a huge improvement in air quality. The challenge for the recovery phase is how to urgently restart the borough's economy to protect the income and livelihoods of people whilst striving to capitalise on some of

the positive environmental benefits enjoyed during the COVID-19 lockdown period and enable positive behaviour change that endures for the long term.

- **Proposal:** Indicative activities under this theme include working with Derbyshire County Council and partners to develop an Integrated Transport Plan, which was an activity in our Climate Change Plan, the provision of cycle infrastructure and signposting businesses to low carbon business support activities being delivered by partners. Derbyshire County Council's Active Travel funding will be accessed to help fund this activity.

8.0 Outcomes

Given the high level of uncertainty about the future scale of impact of Covid-19, it is difficult to define specific outcome and output measures for the Recovery Plan at this point in time. For example, there has already been a significant month on month increase in the local level of claimant count unemployed (+1,750 claimants between March and May 2020), however with an estimated 10,000 employees of Chesterfield businesses currently on furlough, it is not possible to predict how much further this might rise in future. As such, any consideration of what a successful outcome might look like, will primarily be concerned with minimising the negative impact of Covid-19 on Chesterfield's economy, particularly in terms of the number of business closures and jobs lost.

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 The recommended activities set out in this report and the proposed Economic Recovery Plan will support Chesterfield's recovery from the economic impacts of Covid-19. Some of the new activities identified can be delivered within already agreed programmes of work and budgets. However, some will require a budget to be identified. The table below details the indicative

costs in delivering those new activities and the proposed funding sources.

New activity	Description	Indicative cost per annum	Total cost	Funding source
Increase business start-ups and support business base expansion	Business support Incubator Space Grants	110,000	220,000	Business Rates Retention
Strengthening town and district centre vitality and viability	Engagement Officer	36,000	72,000	Business Rates Retention
	Reopening the High Street (plan)	92,000	92,000	Reopening High Streets Safely Fund
Enhancing skills to support inclusive business growth	Virtual skills and careers platform	79,000	100,000	Business Rates retention
	Marketing budget to support reach of Apprentice Town, MADE in Chesterfield			
	Operational funding/match funding pot			
	Apprentice Skills Support role	21,000		

Supporting Climate Change Programme	Integrated Travel Plan	30,000	30,000	Climate Change Plan
Total			£514,000	

9.2 In order to fund these additional costs, it is proposed that the costs are met through a combination of income from retained Markham Vale Enterprise Zone (MVEZ) business rates alongside funding received from Government to support re-opening the High Street. In December 2019 the Council gave approval as part of a report on Business Rates policy for Markham Vale Enterprise Zone for three key programme areas for investment: key projects delivery, economic growth activities and skills activities; and that the funding should be particularly targeted at unlocking and accelerating key developments and sites and delivering better outcomes for local communities. The report allocated £200,000 per annum for a targeted programme of support for local businesses e.g. business grants or loans targeted at job creation and climate change adaptation measures, and for initiatives and activities to achieve a vibrant town centre and visitor economy, and support economic growth across the borough. In addition, resources of £100,000 per annum to support the delivery of the Council’s skills action plan, including extending the reach of the ‘Made in Chesterfield’, ‘HS2 and You’ and Apprentice town initiatives were approved. These two allocations would be used to support the delivery of the Economic Recovery Plan.

10.0 Human Resources

10.1 The proposals set out within this paper will include the need to recruit additional staffing resource. There are two new posts suggested as part of the actions highlighted in the Recovery

Plan, these would be based in the Economic Development Unit.
These are:

- Town Centre Engagement Officer Scale 9
- Skills Apprentice

10.2 A copy of the job descriptions is included as Appendix 4. It is proposed that the Town Centre Engagement Officer is recruited on a fixed term basis for 2 years. This period will allow the new activities to become embedded but also ensure that the role fits well within the organisation post COVID. The Skills Apprentice will be recruited in line with standard apprenticeship recruitment to ensure that the apprentice is able to complete their apprenticeship successfully and progress.

10.3 The posts need to progress through the job evaluation process. For the purposes of budgetary planning, similar posts already employed by the Council have been used as a means of comparison. It is therefore suggested that the posts be approved in principle, subject to job evaluation being completed.

11.0 Communications

11.1 The Economic Development Team is working closely with Communications to ensure up to date and consistent messaging is provided to Chesterfield businesses and residents around support available to them in response to COVID 19. The Council's website is updated on a daily basis and information is shared with Destination Chesterfield to ensure messaging reaches a wider business audience.

11.2 There will be an ongoing requirement for support around communications. This is particularly relevant to Town Centre

as we seek to re-open and progress through recovery phases. The Council's Communications team has developed a communications plan with Destination Chesterfield to ensure that adequate resource is available to deliver clear messaging. It is proposed that £30,000 of the £93,000 funding provided by Government to support the re-opening of the High Street is used to support pro-active campaigns around the Town Centre.

12.0 Risk Management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
The scale of the economic downturn linked to Covid-19 is unprecedented and it is only realistic to assume there will be a number of business failures and a large increase in unemployment.	H	H	The Recovery Plan, based on the existing Growth Strategy, provides a significant programme of Council activity in response to Covid-19.	H	M/H
Risk of un-coordinated approach across Council in response to Covid-19	L	M	The Recovery Plan provides a framework to ensure strategic co-ordination of economy related activity across the Council	L	L
Risk that the Council will be criticised for not doing enough to	L	M	The Recovery Plan clearly sets out the extensive	L	L

address the local economic impact of Covid-19			role of the Council in supporting the response to the economic impact of Covid-19		
Risk that funding is not available to deliver the required additional activities	L	H	The proposals set out in the report seek to use existing resources differently or to utilise funding allocated for business rates retention funding that is ring fenced for economic development activity or where available, funding allocated by Government in response to COVID.	L	L

Equalities Impact Assessment

13.1 A preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for the draft Economic Recovery Plan (attached as Appendix 3). It is considered that the Recovery Plan will not have a disproportionate impact on the groups listed and will have a potentially positive impact on particular groups such as younger workers who are more likely to be employed in those business sectors most at risk from the impact of Covid-19.

13.2 The Recovery Plan is based on the existing Economic Programme in the Council's Growth Strategy. As such, it reflects the overall aim of the Growth Strategy which is to accelerate economic growth, creating more and better jobs that are accessible to local people. Improving work readiness and skills are key to this approach, ensuring all local people can participate and benefit from the jobs which are created.

14.0 Environmental sustainability considerations

14.1 The COVID 19 lockdown has involved a significant short-term reduction in CO2 emissions due to reductions in travel and energy use, but this has been at the expense of the economy. The Recovery Plan will take learning from this period about what elements can be sustained to support the Council's Climate Change Action Plan, through a lower carbon approach to economic growth going forward. Examples of this approach include:

- Working more closely with Derbyshire County Council and other partners to ensure Active Travel is a key component of the Recovery Plan including the preparation of an integrated travel plan
- Targeting the provision of business support and advice (to either new or existing businesses) to include the pro-active advice and signposting to low carbon business support and advice.
- Activities undertaken to deliver physical regeneration across our key sites will include measures to enhance sustainability as part of the design process.

15.0 Alternative Options Considered

15.1 The alternative option is for the Council not to prepare an Economic Recovery Plan and to continue with the delivery of activities in its existing Growth Strategy. However, whilst this provides an appropriate response to supporting the longer-

term growth of the borough's economy, it does not provide the most effective short term response to the economic impact of Covid-19. There is a requirement to re-focus existing activity towards best meeting this objective and to give consideration to deploying additional resources to help address the likely scale of impact on local businesses and communities.

16.0 Recommendations

- 16.1 To consider and approve the Chesterfield Economic Recovery Plan.
- 16.2 To approve the allocation of additional funding for the activities set out in Section 9 of the report and in the Chesterfield Economic Recovery Plan.
- 16.3 To approve the establishment of two new posts of Town Centre Engagement Officer and Skills Apprentice.
- 16.4 To delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Economic Growth in consultation with the Cabinet member for Economic Growth to develop detailed proposals for administration of the new Entrepreneurial and Business Start-up Programme.

17.0 Reason for Recommendation

- 17.1 To drive the economic recovery phase of Chesterfield's response to Covid-19 and to support Chesterfield's residents, economies and businesses.

Decision information

Key decision number	962
Wards affected	All
Links to Council Plan priorities	Making Chesterfield a thriving borough

	Improving the quality of life for local people
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Appendices to the report	
Appendix 1	Chesterfield Recovery Scenario
Appendix 2	Chesterfield Economic Recovery Plan
Appendix 3	Equalities Impact Assessment
Appendix 4	Draft Job Descriptions