

Next steps in the review of the economic impact of Covid-19 on Stevenage

- Revisit issues touched on with the Leader and Cllr Briscoe when they were interviewed in January 2021 - (i) What is the economic position of the Council now (Summer 2021) due to Covid-19? (ii) In terms of those who had been labelled as “low skilled” in academic qualifications but potentially “highly skilled” in other ways, what work has WENTA and the BTC been doing to address this cohort (it was identified that both WENTA and BTC would be addressing this)? (iii) What progress has the Community Reassurance Cell had with drawing up its action plan to address the effects of the pandemic on a number of groups including low socio economic backgrounds, the young, people with disabilities and BAME communities?
- Revisit other evidence gathered back in Dec 2020/Jan 2021 to see what the current position is now including:
 - Business Relationship Manager, Mena Caldbeck – impact on young people – Job Centre plus – YP targeted Kickstart Scheme;
 - Gareth Wall , Corporate policy and Research Officer – Impact on BAME communities;
 - Chris Barnes, Assistant Director Regeneration – Impact on the Town Centre Investment Plan and Stevenage Works;
 - Paul Cheeseman, Community Development Officer – Co-operative Economy Charter; and
 - James Chettleburgh, Principal Planning Officer – Impact on private investment (planning and development activity).
- Identify any key witness who have not yet been interviewed – including the witnesses from the business community that the Business Support Manager had made links with prior to the Select Committee’s stopping to meet formally back in January 2021. Evidence and witnesses yet to meet with Members include:
 - Impact on self-employed – Interviews arranged by Mena Caldbeck
 - Impact on SMEs - Interviews arranged by Mena Caldbeck
 - Impact on larger companies - Interviews arranged by Mena Caldbeck
 - Generation Stevenage / Skills: Adrian Hawkins and Norman Jennings – written input if unable to attend a meeting
 - Job Centre Plus – YP targeted Kickstart Scheme (6 month job placements for 16 – 24 year olds) – Mena to collect data from JCP
 - Impact on Women – Cllr Rosatti/Gareth Wall have provide a link to the Women & Equalities, Parliamentary Select Committee report – Unequal Impact? Coronavirus and the gendered economic impact.