

Appendix A - Covid Recovery Working Party - Key themes to progress
Updated following Covid Recovery Working Party on 23.7.20

1. Theme: Business Communities, Sector and Innovation			
Actions to take	Comments from Cllr Chapman following 2.7.20 Covid Recovery Working Party	Officer comments for Covid Recovery Working Party on 23.7.20	Comments from Members at Covid Recovery Working Party on 23.7.20
1.1 The Council needs to understand the impact on Arun businesses, possibly through our Arun Business Partnership, as a start. Arun Business Partnership - % of the total in ADC?	See Gov't publication on High St Taskforce's COVID-19 Recovery Framework. Funds available to local authorities.	We will investigate the (approx) 3,500 contacts in relation to the recent Government Business Grants with the Arun Business Partnership membership to correlate the number of business that have been in contact with us. That will provide a sound business directory for future contact and advice.	Members expressed their desire that the resources available to the ABP should be sufficient to ensure that it was fit for purpose so that ABP could play an effective role in assisting the economic recovery of the District. It was generally felt that this could form the nucleus of the first recommendation to Cabinet. It was agreed that this point of discussion had been wide enough to absorb items 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.6
1.2 Businesses need to provide as much help and advice online as possible.	Does this need a dedicated portal?	As above in 1.1	
1.3 How can we encourage start-ups/new ventures?	Government scheme to be advised See also Arun Business Partnership July Newsletter		
1.4 Some businesses can't get loans	Under current review by Gov't & LGA Mostly	As above in 1.1	
1.5 Horticultural sector important	No current guidance on the Horticultural sector		Members noted that the Horticultural Sector which was a significant employer within the District. Members were disappointed to note that there had, so far, been no specific proposals from Central Government on support measures for this important sector of our local economy.
1.6 SME's key		As above in 1.1	See comments 1.1-1.4 above
1.7 Hospitality Sector important – "staycations" will be important	Sector now reopening what is the detail in Arun	"Hospitality" theme in section 3	Members noted that this would be discussed under section 3 of the Appendix.

1.8 Culture sector – broadband important – City Fibre update?	Gov't support for Arts & Culture £1.57bn		Members noted the recent Government announcement of a support package amounting to £1.57bn.
1.9 Green business and making businesses more aware of green issues	See under green issues/sustainability	As above in 1.1	Members noted the recent announcements of Central Government regarding the injection of funds to reduce the carbon impact of insulation and heating in homes, commercial premises and public buildings.
1.10 Buying local – encourage large supermarkets to buy local	Might not square with all supermarket chains seeking 10% reduction in contract prices Do we have the right contacts to do this?		Members noted that whilst here had been encouraging developments in this activity during “lockdown” the real issue was the extent that this would be continued given the current pressure for large Supermarket chains for suppliers to cut contract prices by 10%.
1.11 Out of town retail going out of business – do we have accommodation/space in the Civic Centre?			
1.12 SME's toughest point in six months time a. January – resilience and support b. Help existing businesses by online support	See Gov't business support scheme Now has £10 million to stimulate start ups in tourism sector		
1.13 We have more knowledge of our businesses now than before Covid 19	What are the figures?	As above in 1.1	
1.14 Give Denise's team more support- can we hire people for her team with knowledge of specific industries	Suggest Cabinet ensures sufficient resource is available to the Economic Development Team so that effective integration with local and national commerce/industry bodies can be built and maintained.		

1.15 Hire more parking enforcement officers as they make more money than they cost.			
2. Theme: Labour Markets, Unemployment and Skills			
Actions to take	Comments from Cllr Chapman following 2.7.20 Covid Recovery Working Party	Officer comments for Covid Recovery Working Party on 23.7.20	Comments from Members at Covid Recovery Working Party on 23.7.20
General comments			<p>General comments from 23.7.20:</p> <p>A Member raised the issue of Arun offering apprenticeship opportunities to young people. After discussion this was widened to include “internships” and might form the basis for a recommendation to Cabinet.</p> <p>It was noted that significant local employment opportunities could follow the rollout of the Government scheme on “green” insulation and heating for homes, business premises and public buildings. It was noted that Arun had only recently upgraded gas heating in its properties and scope for “greening” our housing stock was, therefore, potentially limited. Nonetheless this might form the basis for a recommendation to Cabinet.</p>
<p>2.1 Training for different occupations as we come out of the Coronavirus pandemic?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Further Education/Higher Education • Provide courses that match skills shortage 	See kickstart scheme above plus latest announcement today on job retention scheme	Many young people are experiencing mental and emotional health issues, including low mood, anxiety and stress and isolation. This can lead to anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and criminality. Lockdown has led to reduced sleep quality, increased screen	

<p>and added value – not low wages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey on missing skills? 		<p>time, obesity and weight gain, and reduced levels of physical activity. Many of the support structures that young people rely on have been removed.</p> <p>There needs to be a large scale increase in the quality and quantity of mental health services for children and young people. Any approach to emotional and mental health services should be supplemented by a locally-led, integrated youth services offer</p> <p>The solution to this is a coherent national strategy for 16-25 year olds, based around the concept of a local authority led integrated youth offer, with professional youth work at its core.</p> <p>There is a need for structured diversionary activities, particularly over the summer months. Some young people are isolated and lonely, whilst others will find risky ways to meet with their friends. The solution to this is a properly funded programme of diversionary activities, locally delivered as part of the integrated youth service offer.</p>	
<p>2.2 How do we promote opportunities to graduates?</p> <p>a) Northbrook College</p> <p>b) University of Chichester</p>	<p>See latest announcements from Gov't on Skills Academies & funding</p>	<p>Significant numbers of young people between the age of 18 and 24 will be leaving full time education this summer. This age group is disadvantaged in the labour market and the Covid 19 crisis will exacerbate that. The</p>	<p>Items 2.3 and 2.4 were previously under Theme 1 but Members agreed on 23.7.20 to move these two points to Theme 2. Members discussed ways in which liaison with providers of Higher and Further Education in the District</p>

		<p>national claimant rate for young people has more than doubled since February.</p> <p>In FE and HE, there is a concern that young people, who may not have sat exams this year, will not be able to evidence their achievements, and may be deterred from enrolling.</p>	<p>could be strengthened. One potential opportunity was to conduct a “skills shortage survey” across employers using the ABP in order to establish how the recently announced extra funding for Skills Academies and the “Kickstart Scheme” might be used most effectively. This might form the basis for a recommendation to Cabinet.</p>
2.3 No employment opportunities for young people	£2bn Gov’t kickstart scheme for 18/24 yr olds	Nationally, CEO’s support an approach to tackle unemployment amongst young people, which is multi agency and commissioned and delivered locally. This should include independent advice and guidance.	
3. Theme: Hospitality/Visitor Economy and Rural Areas			
Actions to take	Comments from Cllr Chapman following 2.7.20 Covid Recovery Working Party	Officer comments for Covid Recovery Working Party on 23.7.20	Comments from Members at Covid Recovery Working Party on 23.7.20
General	Incorporate latest announcements from Chancellor on reduction of VAT from 20% to 5% and eat out vouchers	<p>General comment on the topic; Officers will provide members with an update on the activity of Experience West Sussex during the pandemic and proposed activity over the forthcoming months.</p> <p>Officers will also provide updates on the outcome of the review of tourism taking place shortly by consultants Blue Sale</p>	<p>Members noted the recent announcement by the Chancellor that VAT would be temporarily reduced from 20% to 5% and the introduction of “eat out” vouchers.</p> <p>On the strengthening of the hospitality sector and the visitor economy Members discussed the possibility of promoting the construction of more self-catering units for individuals and families. After discussion it was agreed that this would form the basis for a recommendation to Cabinet.</p>
3.1 Strengthen accommodation sector through either use of branded hotels (Premier Inn etc) or the construction of more self-catering units	Recommend that Cabinet commissions a report on the practicalities of these options		

	for individuals families. Either by Arun ourselves or by Developers/Businesses.			
3.2	Students from disadvantaged backgrounds – give them the IT to progress	Lobby local MPs particularly Nick Gibb given his role in education		Students from disadvantaged backgrounds had suggested that the local Education Authority (WSCC) should be approached as to the plans to continue with the supply of IT equipment to qualifying students. After further discussion the working party agreed that this might form the basis for a recommendation to Cabinet.
3.3	Package bundles and work more regionally (itinerary) to make Arun more attractive to come to	A dependency here is to encourage co-operative arrangements among businesses with sheared/complementary interests.	This work is already taking place through Experience West Sussex.	On “package bundles” to make Arun more attractive to visit it was noted that this work was already in train through Experience West Sussex.
3.4	Transport links important/discounted public transport important			Members felt that there should be a recommendation to Cabinet to “engage” with WSCC so that rural isolation issues could be better addressed for the economic and social benefit of disadvantaged and vulnerable elderly residents.
3.5	Sussex by the Sea – sell off to travel agency (privatise the brand)			Members agreed to move this to Theme 3 from Theme 4. The Chief Executive briefed on the meeting on the background to “Sussex by the Sea.” After discussion it was agreed that this would form the basis for a recommendation to Cabinet.
3.6	‘ArunBnB’ a more specialised and localised AirBnB or companion to AirBnv, with local	Are there any local/national/regional bodies that are able to take this forward?		The Working Party discussed the possibility of promoting a more localised form of AirBnB. It was agreed that further work was needed on this and it might form

knowledge and Tourist Information			the basis for a recommendation to Cabinet.
4. Theme: Place Making, High Streets			
Actions to take	Comments from Cllr Chapman following 2.7.20 Covid Recovery Working Party	Officer comments for Covid Recovery Working Party on 23.7.20	Comments from Members at Covid Recovery Working Party on 23.7.20
General		General comment on the topic; Officers provide regular updates (through the weekly Cllr Briefings) on the activity in relation to the High Street recovery funds.	
4.1 Drop 'City' from title		The theme is copied from the Government's Recovery targets; hence the reference to "City" ('City Centre' now removed from title)	Members noted that there was nothing to add at this time
4.2 Retail/online change likely to continue more. Wi-fi a must for the High Street. More hospitality likely to encourage overnight stays.			Members noted that there was nothing to add at this time
4.3 Belgium model – inner circle discussed			Members thought that this might form the basis for a recommendation to Cabinet and see also 4.4 below
4.4 Think radically <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is happening elsewhere? • Towns next to coast USP • Seaside towns and towns by the sea • Encourage beach to town spend • Have more restaurants that are sea-facing, take advantage of our location? 	Arun has already produced outline plans for improving the economic development of Littlehampton & Bognor Regis by zoning the sea fronts. The group could have a presentation from Denise on these plans?		An addition was introduced so that it included "having more restaurants that are sea facing in order to take advantage of our location". It was also noted that the District had carried out considerable work on the potential "Zoning" of the sea fronts at Bognor Regis and Littlehampton and the Working Party expressed interest in gaining a better understanding of the potential benefits arising from the work. It was agreed that Denise Vine would be asked to circulate a briefing note to Members.

4.5	Build property in town centres and convert others to include accommodation Need to move to a Post Retail High Street- can we look at entertainment options e.g. Trampoline parks and game centres.	Look at conversion of retail units into commerce/business?	A study was carried out in Bognor Regis a few years ago about the availability of accommodation above shops in the High Street (London Road). A similar study could be commissioned for Bognor Regis, Littlehampton, Arundel and Rustington with a view to creating a Planning policy around this topic.	Karl Roberts provided an update on current proposals from Central Government to ease or abolish planning restrictions/procedures. Future progress might be directed to consideration of these issues by the Planning Policy Sub Committee via a recommendation to Cabinet.
4.6	Food festivals and events positive (Taste of Sussex)			
4.7	Changes to planning roles – announcement – KR to circulate		Karl Roberts has circulated the document to the Working party.	See comments in item 4.5 above
4.8	Link to Experience West Sussex – brief update provided by NL		Experience west Sussex activity will be circulated to the Working party	Links to Experience West Sussex details of which had been circulated to the Working Party.
4.9	Make Our High Streets Community Hubs- Set up some kind of personal shopper/concierge system so elderly/vulnerable residents can go somewhere and relax/have a coffee while someone goes and does their shopping for them.	Build on the successes of Community Hubs by ensuring that all our high streets have them. Work with Parish and Town Councils on possibly a personal shopper system with existing community halls.		The salient issue that emerged was the need to maintain a “community hub” facility and in villages to explore, with Parish Councils, the possibility of maintaining hubs based around Village halls. One of the critical success factors would be the use of electronic media for inbound/outbound communication and one Member expressed reservations about local abilities to do this given that not all villages had access to “silver surfers.” The Chairman undertook to look further into this and report to her outside the meeting.
4.10	Speaker system in high streets- could create atmosphere with music and could be for advertising and announcements	Recommend that Cabinet should discuss with respective Town/Parish Councils to see if this is something they want/support.		
4.11	Provide better sheltering for Rainy days- more modern shelters and provide Umbrellas in high streets?			On the need to provide shelter for rainy days when queuing was necessary one Member expressed her absolute opposition to the provision of “poncho’s.”

5. Theme: Green/Sustainable Recovery			
Actions to take	Comments from Cllr Chapman following 2.7.20 Covid Recovery Working Party	Officer comments for Covid Recovery Working Party on 23.7.20	Comments from Members at Covid Recovery Working Party on 23.7.20
General	Green Jobs Guarantee from Gov't plus LGA inform for data note also grants for conversion of Social Housing & homeowners for better insulation and carbon neutral heating		
5.1 Solar panels on properties more, link to good weather (plus batteries).			It was noted that the Government proposal also now covered the provision of carbon neutral insulation and heating to social housing. The recent upgrade to gas heating in the District's housing stock meant that this would require detailed consideration.
5.2 Electrical vehicle strategy agreed – how do we speed this up?	Do we have any businesses engaged in research/development/manufacture in this area plus hydrogen fuel cells	When the Sustainability Manager is appointed, an action plan will be created, which will probably include the procurement of electric vehicles within the Council fleet.	Members noted the recent decision of Cabinet to commit to the WSCC Strategy on provision of charging points for electrically propelled vehicles. It was also noted that when the Sustainability Manager was in place an action plan would be created to speed up the delivery of a green, carbon neutral, plan for the District including the provision of electric vehicles within the Arun fleet. This might also feature in a recommendation to Cabinet.
5.3 New house building – sustainability built in – eg. Air source, heat pumps	See above for social housing and grants for retrofit to existing properties. Karl might know more about likely amendments to building regs.		Members expressed the need to design new build to cater for a “design for life” so that as the population aged people to retain mobility and utility in their homes without the need for major alteration. More work was needed on this.

5.4	Encourage biodiversity groups to help us. Bring the energy of disparate environment groups together – events and information for public. Climate action groups – Haslemere a good example		<p>The Council is aware of a number of biodiversity groups within the District – see list below:</p> <p>Aldwick Green Conservation Society Arun Biodiversity Forum Arundel Community Orchard Group Arundel Gardens Association Beach Town Action Group Bognor Community Gardeners Bluebell Wood Conservation Society East Beach Residents Association Friends of Aldwick Parks Friends of Bersted Brooks Friends of Langmeads Field Friends of Mewsbrook Park Friends of Old Rectory Gardens Friends of Rock Gardens Friends of West Beach Greener Bognor Network Hotham Park Heritage Trust Littlehampton Community Gardeners Maltravers Community Orchard Group Snooks Corner Community Group</p>	
5.5	Share with the community	Publish a deliverable “statement of intent”?		
5.6	Regular cash flow for this group?	To get a good bang for our bucks we need to get disparate groups to work together so as not to fragment our efforts	Cash flow is not currently an issue for the Council. Alan Peach will provide Cabinet with an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy in September 2020	Cash flow should not impede our ability to encourage close working between these groups (item 5.4 above)