

**STOKE ON TRENT & STAFFORDSHIRE
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP
COMPANY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
17 SEPTEMBER 2020
LEP Delivery – Delivery Plan**

1. Background

- 1.1 As part of the national assurance monitoring process, each LEP is required to publish an annual report and delivery plan. The delivery plan and annual report should set out a well-developed understanding of the local economic evidence base to identify opportunities and obstacles to inclusive growth, prosperity and improved productivity. Government will work with LEPs to develop measures to report against in the plan and report. These will be considered as part of the annual assurance process. Delivery plans and annual reports should be published at the beginning of each financial year.
[Paragraph 163 of the National Local Growth Assurance Framework.](#)
- 1.2 The Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLGU) wrote to the LEP Secretariat in July 2020 to advise that they understand that due to the impact of Covid- 19, the ability of LEPs to progress business as usual activities has been reduced. As part of a national consideration in-conjunction with the LEP Network, Ministers have agreed certain exemptions and extensions to the conditions of the National Local Growth Assurance Framework. A table produced by Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) that sets out 12 aspects of exemption is provided below.
- 1.3 The table sets out provision for Delivery Plan that states *“Strengthening LEPs introduced delivery plans (inaugural plans were submitted last year) and year end reports, which were due to assess LEPs’ achievements against their delivery plans. LEPs’ resources may be better utilised in the current climate. We, therefore, propose to postpone the submission and publication of the documents to align with the Q1 data submission scheduled for August 2020”*.
- 1.4 The [LEP Delivery Plan for 2019/20](#) was published in May in 2019 and comprises a brochure type document.

2. Key Matters

- 2.1 Through discussions with CLGU, the LEP Secretariat proposed that a tabular form of the Delivery Plan is produced, and an external facing brochure is produced for the Annual Conference in Autumn 2020. The tabular form (see below) of the Delivery Plan captures the activity of the LEP Partners complied from previously agreed information updated by project leads and Assurance Framework requirements. Please note that the appendices to the tabular form of the Delivery Plan will be reviewed by the Audit and Finance Committee for finalising and publishing.

Next Steps: An external facing brochure style Delivery Plan for 2020/21 will be produced in-conjunction with partners for the Autumn Conference. It will provide an update of the data in the 2019/20 version. If there are substantial editorial changes made, it will be brought back to the Executive Board or circulated amongst partners and project sponsors for approvals as appropriate.

Note Prepared by:

Mark Parkinson, Chief Executive

Enc:

MHCLG: Exemptions to the National Local Growth Assurance Framework due to CV-19

SSLEP: Tabular form of LEP Delivery Plan 2020/21

Annex 1: Exemptions to the National Local Growth Assurance Framework due to Covid-19

Provision in the NLGAF	NLGAF Reference	Exemption
1. Publication of Accounts and Financial Information	“As a minimum, the LEP should publish on the website.... an annual financial statement...” Paragraph 70.	Where the LEP is reliant on Local Authorities for the data in order to publish an annual financial statement and the time frame for LAs has been extended until November 30 2020, the LEP should publish the annual financial statement by the end of December 2020, if they have not already done so.
2. Appointment Process for Board Members and Chairs	“The LEP should outline, or refer to, its appointment process for Board Members (public and private sector), Chairs and Deputy Chairs within the Local Assurance Framework. As part of this they should ensure that they advertise opportunities for private sector leaders to become a LEP Chair or private sector Board Member when vacancies emerge. They should advertise openly, on a variety of platforms to ensure that people across the business community have an opportunity to apply and consider the diversity requirements outlined in this Framework...” Paragraph 75-77	Due to the current circumstances it is agreed that the board may need to extend or temporary appoint board members/chairs without needing to proceed to a full recruitment on the basis a full and open recruitment is conducted after these exceptional circumstances cease. This should be recorded in the LEPs board minutes and an email sent to the Area Lead, copying localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk so that the Unit has a record. We therefore propose to review extensions to term limits or temporary appointments in October 2020.
3. Publication of Meeting and Agenda Items	“Each LEP must explain on an easily accessible part of their website the documentation they will routinely publish ...meeting agendas and papers to be published 5 clear working days before the meeting takes place; and minutes of board meetings to be published within 10 clear working days of the meeting taking place”. Paragraph 103	The timeframes set out in paragraph 103 should still be adhered to where possible; however it is appreciated that during this unprecedented time there may be exceptional circumstances, such as staff illness, where it is not possible to adhere to the timeframes. We propose to review this in October 2020.

Annex 1: Exemptions to the National Local Growth Assurance Framework due to Covid-19

4. Link to Accountable Body accounts	“The LEP should provide a link to the Accountable Body accounts on their website. For LEPs limited by guarantee, a link to the accounts of the LEP for the financial year on the Companies House website should also be included in the financial statement and published on the website”. Paragraph 109	We recognise that Local Authorities have been given an extension until November 30 2020 as to when financial audits are to be undertaken and that this may have a knock on effect to such provisions for LEPs. The link referred to in paragraph 109, should be updated once the Accountable Body has published its accounts and by end of December 2020
5. LEP Board composition – RBS Group employees	“The LEP Board must contain representatives from different parts of the community. In addition, at least two-thirds of the Board must be representatives from the private sector as defined by the National Accounts Sector Classification”. Paragraph 125	Reliance on private/public sector definition as set by the National Accounts Sector Classification. There is a caveat already in place for HE/FE stating that they are classified as private sector. We propose extending this caveat to RBS group employees.
6. LEP Board composition – private sector	“The LEP Board must contain representatives from different parts of the community. In addition, at least two-thirds of the Board must be representatives from the private sector as defined by the National Accounts Sector Classification”. Paragraph 125	2/3rd target: where due to the current circumstances a decision is made at board level not to hold open recruitment for private sector replacement board members, those board appointments can be recorded as vacant private sector positions and this will not affect the board representation statistics. The Board must, once this period of exceptional circumstances has passed, move to an open recruitment as soon as reasonably practicable. We propose to review this position on LEP Board composition in October 2020.
7. LEP Board composition – SME and Diversity champions	“At least one member of the main LEP Board must be designated as a Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Champion for the LEP. They should be clearly named on the LEP website. Their role is to champion SME businesses and their interests within the LEP and local community”. Paragraph 127	Wherever possible roles such as SME Champions and Diversity Champions should be maintained. However, it is appreciated in the current circumstances where a board member may resign it may not be possible to reappoint these immediately and therefore there may be a delay until the post is filled. We propose to review this position on LEP Board composition in October 2020.



Annex 1: Exemptions to the National Local Growth Assurance Framework due to Covid-19

8. LEP Board composition – co-optees	“LEPs should have a Board which is a maximum of 20 people, with the option to co-opt an additional five Board members with specialist knowledge on a one year basis, unless there are exceptional circumstances”. Paragraph 128	With board approval, co-optees can have a short extended term of longer than the one year stipulated. We propose to review this position on LEP Board composition in October 2020.
9. LEP Board composition – Chair’s term	“To support the Chair in their role, all LEPs should appoint a Deputy Chair. The LEP should have a defined term limit of three years for the Chair and Deputy Chair, with an optional extension of three years. There is an option to extend for a further three years in exceptional circumstances if approved by the Board”. Paragraph 133	We hold that the current circumstances are exceptional. Where the board wished to extend the term for Chairs and Deputy Chairs beyond nine years maximum individual LEPs should email localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk copying the Area Lead, for Unit to consent to the extend period. We propose to review this position on LEP Chair and Deputy Chair terms in October 2020.
10. Scrutiny/Audit Arrangements	Full details in Paragraphs 152 – 159	Depending on the Scrutiny/Audit timetable for each LEP these activities may be postponed due to the exceptional circumstances. Transparency, appropriate audit trails and scrutiny/audit are still important and the normal course should be followed where practicable to do so. We propose to review this position in October 2020.
11. Annual General Meetings	“As part of their openness to the communities they serve, each LEP should openly advertise and hold an Annual General Meeting that is open to the public.” Paragraph 74	Given that the SoS has announced that councils can hold public meetings remotely whilst maintaining access to the public, we recommend that LEPs follow suit for their AGMs and adhering to government’s instructions regarding public distancing until and if they change.

Annex 1: Exemptions to the National Local Growth Assurance Framework due to Covid-19

<p>12. Delivery plans / Year end reports</p>	<p>“As part of the assurance monitoring process, each LEP is required to publish an annual report and delivery plan. The delivery plan and annual report should set out a well-developed understanding of the local economic evidence base to identify opportunities and obstacles to inclusive growth, prosperity and improved productivity. Government will work with LEPs to develop measures to report against in the plan and report. These will be considered as part of the annual assurance process. Delivery plans and annual reports should be published at the beginning of each financial year.” Paragraph 163</p>	<p><i>Strengthening LEPs</i> introduced delivery plans (inaugural plans were submitted last year) and year end reports, which were due to assess LEPs’ achievements against their delivery plans. LEPs’ resources may be better utilised in the current climate. We, therefore, propose to postpone the submission and publication of the documents to align with the Q1 data submission scheduled for August 2020.</p>
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Updated 20 August 2020

Summary of Delivery Plan Ambitions in 2020/21

The 2020/21 Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP Delivery Plan can be found at:			
	Section	Description	Actions to Complete and Progress
1.0	Introduction		
		This Delivery Plan sets out what Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Ltd intends to deliver in the 2020/21 financial year. It is a dynamic document and thus may be subject to change, as the LEP seizes significant opportunities or responds to key challenges that might impact on the national and local economy. Where that is the case and it results in a material change to any of the data, timelines or objectives shown in the Delivery Plan, this will be reflected in an updated version posted on the LEP's web site and shared with government as soon as is practicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain up to date Delivery Plan through formal quarterly reviews and approval through the Executive Board at July (Q1) and October (Q2) and January (Q3).
2.0	Summary and Strategic Objectives		
2.1	Key Actions for 2020/2021	The LEP's Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) was published in February 2020 and complements the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) published in April 2018. An Implementation Plan to drive forward the ambitions of the SEP, LIS, recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and preparations for exiting the European Union will be co-produced by partners through the LEP delivery architecture and published in Autumn 2020 to coincide with the UK Government's Local Recovery and Devolution White Paper and Autumn Budget. The Implementation Plan will be a living document and updated alongside key UK Government policy that includes a refresh of the national Industrial Strategy and Export Strategy anticipated to be published in Autumn 2020. See Appendix 1 for a summary of the Strategic Objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a sub-regional Integrated Implementation Plan in Q1-Q3 to complement the LEP membership organisations local strategy/policy/delivery plans, regional plans (e.g. Midlands Engine) and national plans published by UK Government. Publish the Implementation Plan in Q3. Review and update the Implementation Plan throughout 2021/22 Establish LEP Covid-19 Recovery Task & Finish Group to assist in the direction and maintaining resilience within business support operations/services and share intelligence with partners, linking into the Local Reliance Forum / Staffordshire Prepared Recovery Co-ordinating Group (RCG).
2.2	KPIs	To understand our impact on the local and sub-regional economy, in 2020/21 the LEP will develop and monitor a suite of Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). This will enable informed decisions to be made in relation to the projects/programmes and activity which will help our aspirations in driving economic growth across the region. See	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refresh the performance dashboard by end of Q3. URL here in due course. Forward Plan to set out indicative schedule for Subgroups to update the LEP Executive Board.

		Appendix 2 for emerging KPI Dashboard (will evolve through iterative design throughout year).		
3.0	Governance			
3.1	Overview of LEP Governance	On the 1 April 2019 the LEP amended its governance structures to reflect the requirement by Government to become a legal entity. The LEP now operates as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) (Company No 11918616) and the LEP Board is the LEP's ultimate decision-making authority from henceforward. Its Board is comprising of 18 directors: 12 are private sector, six are public sector. The LEP Articles of Association for the new company and its latest Accountability and Assurance Framework was published in April 2020 (v7.0).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain an up to date Assurance Framework through bi-annual reviews reported to Executive Board around the Summer / Winter months starting in Winter 2020. • Maintain 12 private sector board members through proactive recruitment. • Two new Board members to be recruited in May /June 2020 and attend the LEP Executive Board in September 2020 following an induction.
3.2	Scrutiny	The LEP has agreed with the two strategic tier local authorities that it will attend their relevant scrutiny panels twice a year from Autumn 2020. Going forward, the LEP will be asked to report to each Local Authority/Scrutiny Panel in September/October on progress made in delivering outputs and targets in the first 6 months of that year and highlight future developments for the LEP. This will be followed up in each Spring with reports on progress made in delivering its previous year's annual delivery plan and report on development plans and investments for the following year.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the Strategic Tier Authorities to invite the LEP to attend scrutiny panels in Autumn 2020 and Spring 2021.
3.3	Accounts	Staffordshire County Council as the accountable body for the LEP will produce a statement of accounts for 2019/20 which will be reviewed by the LEP Executive Board at their July 2020 meeting and then made accessible via the LEP website.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019/20 statement of accounts to be agreed and published by August 2020.
3.4	First Annual General Meeting	The LEP will schedule a date for its first AGM for September 2020 and promote the meeting to stakeholders.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGM to take place September 2020.
3.5	Annual Conference (inc. Annual Report & Delivery Plan)	Due to the CV-19 Pandemic, the LEP will separate the conference from the AGM and schedule a date for late Autumn 2020.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report to be approved by Executive Board in July 2020 and published in August 2020 and promoted at Conference in Autumn 2020. • Delivery Plan (tabular form) to be approved by Executive Board in September 2020 and published within a week thereafter. A public facing document will be published and promoted at the Autumn Conference.
3.6	Resourcing the LEP Secretariat	A new LEP Secretariat structure was designed around the move to become a legal entity and Assurance Framework		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting to the post of LEP Chief Executive by Q4 2020.

		obligations. ICT requirements to support this separation from the Accountable Body need to be put in place.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete ICT Service Level Agreement to provide LEP email domain name and MS Teams integration with partners.
3.7	Driving up Performance	The National Assurance Framework guides the local Assurance Framework and local partners contribute their expertise to good practise.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEP Secretariat to establish a formal working group to continually assess adherence with the Assurance Framework, prepare for Mid-Year Reviews and Annual Performance Reviews and drive through new policies and procedures identified by the LEP Secretariat and LEP SubGroups via the Executive Board
4.0	Delivery			
4.1	Skills			
4.1.1	Skills Advisory Panel (SAP)	Skills Advisory Panels (SAP) aim to bring together local employers and skills providers to pool knowledge on skills and labour market needs, and to work together to understand and address local key challenges. This includes both immediate needs and challenges and looking at what is required to help local areas adapt to future labour market changes and to grasp future opportunities. To help colleges, universities and private training providers deliver the skills required by employers, now and in the future, the LEP has secured funding to increase its analytical capability. This will enable the SAP to use an evidence-based approach to define, develop and deliver local post-16 skills provision to better meet labour market needs. The LEP will continue working with the Skills Advisory Programme Team, led by the Department for Education (DfE), to develop an analytical toolkit that will underpin the work of the SAP. We will build on our work with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to support the development of a new digital skills toolkit and increase our understanding of digital skills trends in line with the priorities outlined in our SEP and LIS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A SAP project group, data working group and board is in place. A SAP evidence base has been established and supplementary sector and thematic reports are completed and published on the LEP website. The SAP evidence base has consulted with partners An employer skills survey of 1500 employers completed and published. Draft skills priorities shared with SAP board and other partners A £75k grant has been secured from the SAP programme team to support the SAP development programme of works including the production of a Local Skills Report. Spend to date of the SAP grant includes £15k match funding for the Economic & Skills Analyst post and £5k match funding for the purchase of EMSI data analysis licences. Economic & Skills Analyst has provided data and support to the LEP Covid Task Force and LIS implementation groups.
4.1.2	Institute of Technology (IoT)	An IoT Wave 2 Competition c/o DfE will commence in Summer 2020. <i>[The LEP is aware of 2 EOIs submitted. Newcastle & Stafford College and Keele University proposal for a hub & spoke in Stafford & Keele and a Staffs University & Burton, Leek and South Staffs colleges project. Applications may still be made for the competition if an EOI has not previously been submitted DfE has issued draft eligibility and guidance docs to</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulate interest and support a Wave 2 bid through partners and the Integrated Implementation Plan Innovation Subgroup.

		<i>the EOIs in advance of the full competition, dates of the competition to be announced]</i>		
4.1.3	The Careers and Enterprise Company	<p>The Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/ is a national network set up to inspire and prepare young people for the world of work. It aims to connect schools and colleges, employers and careers programme providers to create high-impact careers opportunities for young people across England. We will continue to support our three Enterprise Coordinators in their work with schools and colleges in each of our local authority areas to build connections to businesses and high-impact careers activities. In 2020/21 we will engage with more than 117 schools and colleges across the LEP area including 65 in the Wave 3 Hub.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the SAP to access further funding to deliver service. • Progress across all 8 Gatsby Benchmarks with each school engaged. • SSLEP area = working with 73 of 76 schools. • Stoke Opportunity Area = 25 schools (4 of these are also Hub schools). • Careers Hub = 20 schools in the Careers & Enterprise Company hub (4 OA, 16 Staffs). • Work to continue with schools using virtual platforms. • Toolbox Talks to be delivered, these are 'bite-sized' information sessions for Careers Leaders designed to share information relevant to Careers & Enterprise provision. Also deliver virtual CPD for teaching staff. • A Wave 3 Careers Hub has been secured via a successful bid that will yield additional funding through to August 2021 and allow us to include 85 of the 117 schools. The plan is to create a hub and spoke model where 4 geographical sub-hubs will report into the main Careers Hub.
4.1.4	European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF)	<p>The SSLEP ESIF Programme consists of predominantly European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund monies. The ESIF funding programme, which runs between 2017 and 2023 totals £155.2M supports Innovation, ICT & Broadband, Business Support, Low Carbon, Flood Risk, and Environment, offering up to 60% of eligible project costs. Progress in allocating the LEP's ESIF funds has been good, a cumulative total of circa £116.25m in ERDF and ESF funding has been committed to approved projects, the vast majority of which are currently in their delivery phase. A number of projects have recently undergone an extension taking their delivery up towards the end of the programme..</p> <p>Although grant commitments are comparatively high, actual spend claimed is the critical factor. As at August 2020, of the £85,603,924 ERDF committed to projects, £85,016,063 has been claimed (99.31%). Continued monitoring and management by the LEP ESIF Committee will be necessary to ensure contracted schemes/projects and programmes remain on schedule. Following the COVID pandemic MHCLG decided</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESF funded Skills Programmes commissioned through three opt in organisations (the National Lottery Community Fund NLCF and Education Skills Funding Agency ESFA) and DWP as part of a package of contracted programmes totalling £58m, support residents who are furthest from the job market with multiple barriers to those who are currently in employment but may need to develop higher level skills to progress further within their employment. To date the programmes have supported 22,482 learners with over 9000 progressing to positive destinations. This work, through the establishment of a County wide redundancy Task Force, has recently turned its attention of Covid related impacts and the need to get individuals made redundant back into work.

		not to progress with future planned calls and will instead make awards to LEP's for specific Covid related activity.		
4.1.5	Redundancy & Recruitment Triage Service	SSLEP to establish a Redundancy and Recruitment Triage Service for businesses and employees experiencing redundancies as a result of Covid-19, delivered by the National Careers Service West Midlands including Staffordshire.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSLEP working with partners created a triage service to help those who have lost their jobs as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak, back into employment. The Redundancy and Recruitment Triage service matches those recently made redundant with new work in the sectors currently experiencing growth. The service will also engage with employers facing redundancies to ensure a smooth transition for employees into new work.
4.1.6	Countywide Redundancy Task Group	SSLEP to establish a Countywide Redundancy Task Group to be the vehicle to support the DWP Jobcentre Plus Rapid Response Service that provides advice and support through a network of partners. It will help to focus and co-ordinate the various key partners and establish action plans to address the effects of job losses on individuals by helping people move rapidly into alternative employment.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all relevant partner agencies collaborate to deliver appropriate support where redundancies are notified. The Countywide Redundancy Task Group brings together partners that include the County Council, City Council, DWP Jobcentre Plus, other national agencies and local partners and all Districts/Borough Councils. The collaborative partnership working ensures appropriate and timely support is put in place. Provides an oversight of delivery of agreed services and monitoring the use of resources through ensuring the various services are aligned and complementary. Promotes partnership working and aligns the operational delivery priorities. Reviews labour market intelligence and identifies and targets growth sectors and redeployment opportunities.
4.2.	Infrastructure			
4.2.1	Strategic Transport Corridors	Prioritised Road Investment Programme		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Midlands Engine / Midlands Connect through the rail and Major Road Network and Strategic Road Network investment strategies.
4.2.2	Network Readiness and Reliance (inc. Autonomous and Ultra-low Emission Vehicles)	Considerable work is being carried out at a national and international level into the future for completely autonomous vehicles and ultra-low emission vehicles – both for private and commercial use. Adept continue to review this emerging demand, including work with key stakeholders around future opportunities under the 'LiveLab' project.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Local Highway Authorities through LEP Membership with ADEPT and its 'LiveLab' project. Local Highway Authority partners to maintain up to date Integrated Transport Strategies (ITS), Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) to help deliver their Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS).
4.2.3	Energy	In 2018/19 the LEP produced an Energy Strategy. This strategy identifies key constraints such as areas where our existing energy infrastructure is already, but also highlights areas of		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners to provide additional 1FTE post of specialist technical resource to Local Authority partners via Midlands Engine / Energy Hub initiative to identify any renewable energy opportunities and support post pandemic response

		strength and opportunities. Key City Deal Projects (District Heat Network and Keele University Smart Energy Network Demonstrator) have strategic fit with energy strategy and LA Partners are producing a Climate Change study in 2020/21 to support their local plan evidence base. Key elements of the Energy Strategy and subsequent studies to be reflected in the Local Industrial Strategy and emerging Implementation Plan (see 2.1).		<p>with a 'green recovery'. LAs to liaise with the local electricity network operators (DNOs) to understand constraints and planned work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA partners to produce a Climate Change study as evidence base for their spatial local plans that will consider renewable energy opportunities and other interventions around green recovery. • LA partners to build strategic relationships with Western Power Distribution to forward plan investment around any strategic infrastructure constraints. • Local Industrial Strategy Implementation Plan to reflect energy theme and pandemic 'green recovery' policies.
4.2.4	Digital Connectivity (5G/Broadband)	<p>LA Partners have ongoing delivery programmes through BDUK to improve connectivity to the 'final 4%'.</p> <p>SSLEP partners are considering the feasibility of a complementary 5G network c/o Staffordshire University as lead partner.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEP Partners to shape digital connectivity proposition led by Staffordshire University. LEP Secretariat and Chairman to facilitate discussions with Whitehall departments as business case develops.
4.2.5	Continuing Engagement with Midlands Connect	Local Highway Authorities and LEP are partners with Midlands Engine and Midlands Connects to consider long term (25 year horizon) road and rail investment strategies/plans.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Highway Authorities (engaging with Local Planning Authorities) partners and LEP Chairman to support Midlands Connects through their governance and strategy engagement architecture as appropriate.
4.2.6	Review MoU for Constellation Partnership	DfT HS2 Phase 2a Command Paper published in Autumn 2015 identified North Staffordshire and South Cheshire LA and LEPs to collaborate in making preparations for HS2 services at Crewe, Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review MoU if LEP budget is required to maintain any Constellation activity. • Provide biannual updates to SPMG and Executive Board as appropriate, including progress on Stafford Borough Meecebrook Garden Settlement proposition, Stoke-on-Trent Transforming Cities Fund and Stafford Rail Station Area 'Gateway Project' regeneration.
4.3	Growing Places Fund	<p>To continue to support businesses in the SSLEP area with an ambition for growth, with interest-free loans.</p> <p>To support the LEP ambitions as highlighted in the LIS.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To contract projects currently in the pipeline and approved within 3 months of approval • To launch Call 15 by end of September 2020 • To ensure any default repayments are recovered within 6 months of default • To ensure default interest charges are invoiced within 1 month of date of default
4.4	Ceramic Valley Enterprise Zone	Ceramic Valley Enterprise Zone continues to be a flagship project for the LEP transforming the North Staffordshire property market. To date 875 new jobs have been created, with over £90M of private sector investment being made within the zone and the pipeline of investor interest remains extremely strong. CVEZ will again be a focal point at the next		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a 5 year evaluation of the Enterprise Zone along with a celebration event. • Secure a further 200 jobs by the end of the year. • Work with the LEP Network in pursuing an expansion of CVEZ, particularly in light of the positive impact it can have in light of Covid.

		MIPIM and at the forefront of the LEP's investment offer. Currently SSLEP are working with the LEP Network who turn are seeking an extension/expansion of the Enterprise Zone.	
4.5	i54 Strategic Employment Site	A highly successful example of partnership working by SSLEP, Black Country LEP, Staffordshire County Council, Wolverhampton City Council and South Staffordshire Council. More than 2,700 people are already employed by multi-national companies JLR, Moog, ISP, Eurofins, ERA and Tentec at this 239-acre business park adjacent to the M54.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA partners to seek extension to the West of this successful strategic scale employment site of significant sub-regional and regional importance.
4.6	Growth Hub	Delivery of business support information, advice and support through website, Staffordshire Business Support Helpline and physical hubs in partnership with local authorities and Chambers of Commerce. It is anticipated that the national (c/o BEIS) Peer Networks Programme may mobilise late Q2/early Q3 2020/21 for local delivery. See Appendix 3 for outputs, operational capacity and other metrics. Growth Hub has steering group established within the LEP Delivery Architecture and reporting mechanism with CLGU as key funding partner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to grow the number of businesses supported in Staffordshire through the Staffordshire Business Helpline and team of Sfedi qualified Business Advisors. Develop the Advisors specialisms to provide sector support in more areas e.g. hospitality and tourism. Implement the Aspiring to Growth high growth strategy for the LEP area utilising GROWTH Mapper and the High Growth Advisors to work intensively with growth businesses and those showing the potential or aspiration for it. Develop a wide range of webinars, workshops and seminars for businesses keen to adopt new ways of working and streamlining or diversifying their business. Work with partners to include subject areas relating to innovation and digital technology. Undertake operational commissioning of Peer Network Programme in Q3 (delivery to be complete by end of Q4). Produce monitoring returns to CLGU. Support Growth Hub steering group, reporting to Executive Board as appropriate (see 2.2).
4.7	European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) Move to 4.1.4 above	<p>The LEP, with the support of the partnerships European Regional Development Fund and European Structural Fund Technical Assistance Officers, will continue to maximise the drawdown and impact of ESIF funds during 2020/2021. This will be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to National Reserve Fund calls and allocations for ERDF and ESF Supporting the development of robust and well considered applications Promoting funds and highlighting successful projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Via the ESIF Committee, continue to promote and maximise available ESIF resources and manage performance of the ESIF programme (up to December 2023) in terms of spend and output profiles Respond to Written Procedures for remaining approvals and Project Change Requests (PCRs)/extensions to pipeline and existing contracted projects and programmes, providing advice on local strategic fit to MHCLG, DWP and DEFRA. Respond and develop pipeline of activity for to National Reserve Fund calls and LEP area allocations for ERDF and ESF that support SSLEP objectives and priorities and help deliver against COVID-19 Economic Recovery priorities. This includes the already announced Reopening the High Streets Safely Fund

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting contract holders and providers to maximise their performance and to align with other business support, innovation and skills programmes Continue discussions in order to develop plans for the commitment and use of any remaining allocations. 		(ERDF), SME Recovery & Restart and Kickstarting Tourism Fund (ERDF) and future plans for SME Internationalisation support ERDF) and Skills/Employment programmes (ESF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare for exit from ESIF programme and develop pipeline /engage/overlap with planned UKSPF and other post UK COVID-19 Economic Recovery funding opportunities
4.8	Monitoring and Evaluation	Each Funding/Growth Programme has developed its own monitoring and evaluation processes, helping to record specific activities and successes as well as identifying potential risks and any lessons learnt.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary tables/dashboard will be produced through year/ via Subgroup's as appropriate.
5.0	City Deal			
5.1.	City Deal projects	Flagship City Deal projects includes the Stoke-on-Trent District Heat Network (DHN) and Keele University Smart Energy Network Demonstrator (SEND). The SEND project funding ends this financial year.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Sponsors for DHN and SEND to update Executive Board. Appendix 3 provides an overview of these projects and associated metrics.
6.0	Local Growth Fund			
6.1	Projects	A table of Projects outlining contractual commitments for 2020/21 is presented as Appendix 4. The value of projects within the Appendix table(s) total £###. Plans for unallocated funding will be drawn up and considered by SPMG, A&F committee and Executive Board as appropriate.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific Schemes see Appendix 4. Projects to be approved by Strategic Programme Management Board Audit & Finance committee provide scrutiny Robust plans for unallocated funds to be established.
6.2	Monitoring and Evaluation	The LEP has an Audit & Finance Committee. This committee works with our project sponsors to ensure compliance with the conditions of Grant, whilst also identifying any risks, thus enabling us to work with our Project Promoters to find solutions.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit & Finance committee to meet in line with the Assurance Framework and report to the Executive Board at least once a quarter. Monitoring & Evaluation plan to be implemented and shared with CLGU as part of Mid-Year Reviews / Annual Performance Reviews.
6.3	Outputs to be Delivered in 2020/21	See 6.1. Actuals and Forecasts will be provide din Appendix 4.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlights from Appendix 4 will be inserted here.
6.4	Project Pipeline and Development Funding Pot	Develop and continually review a project pipeline to ensure SSLEP is in a position to respond quickly to any opportunities for bids for resources that may become available.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project pipeline has been updated as part of the Get Building Fund

7.0	Getting Building Fund		
7.1	Projects	A UK Government pandemic recovery intervention c/o MHCLG provided LEPs with formula-based funding in June 2020 to provide grant support to shovel ready projects. A table of Projects outlining contractual commitments for 2020/21 is presented as Appendix 5. The value of projects within the Appendix table(s) total £23.7 million and has good strategic fit with the Local Industrial Strategy and Strategic Economic Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEP Executive to provide strategic fit direction to SPMG to assess Call for Ideas submission in June 2020. • SPMG to oversee prioritisation of project submissions using specialist technical advice secured under contact by the LEP Secretariat in July 2020. • SPMG to approve Business Cases from September 2020 to allocate funding to projects.
7.2	Monitoring and Evaluation	The LEP has an Audit & Finance Committee. This committee works with our project sponsors to ensure compliance with the conditions of Grant, whilst also identifying any risks, thus enabling us to work with our Project Promoters to find solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit & Finance committee to meet in line with the Assurance Framework and report to the Executive Board at least once a quarter.
7.3	Outputs to be Delivered in 2020/21	To be confirmed following business case approval process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPMG to consider business cases in Autumn 2020.
7.	Project Pipeline and Development Funding Pot	Financial revenue support for project development and feasibility studies supported from LEP reserves following Board approval.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No LEP revenue funding will be available for 2020/21 but is to be kept under review in case of funding opportunities.
8.0	Strategic Activity		
8.1	Partnership Development	Our engagement with regional and sub-regional partners will continue in 2020/21. This includes formal MoU with surrounding LEPs. We will look for opportunities to support and collaborate with Midlands Engine partners on these areas of shared interest and managing the relationship with Northern Powerhouse through the MoU with the Cheshire & Warrington LEP and Constellation Partnership MoU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue positive engagement with Midlands Engine • Review MoU for the Constellation Partnership following outcome of the 'Oakervee Review' and HS2 Places Group c/o MHCLG. • Consider a refresh of the MoUs with surrounding LEPs following the Local Recovery and Devolution White Paper in Autumn 2020 •
8.2	Pandemic recovery and renewal	The pandemic will require our Industrial Strategy, International Trade to provide added focus and emphasis to the short-term recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene Covid-19 recovery Task-Force with partners to assist in co-ordinate activity / sharing intelligence on interventions. • Support the multi-agency Recovery Co-ordinating Group c/o Staffordshire Civil Contingencies Unit and Staffordshire Local Resilience Forum.
8.3	Business and Community Consultation	Engage local businesses in Ministerial Roundtable events and engage with MPs to shape and influence government policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage Ministerial Roundtable events where opportunities present.

8.4	Marketing and Communications	Produce an updated communications plan/strategy for 2020/21 by the end of 2020. This will continue to build and consolidate the local, national and international profile of the LEP area, and its priorities as outlined in its Integrated Implementation Plan and this delivery plan. As well as ongoing updating of the website and an increasing social media presence, the LEP produces a weekly advocacy brief. These communication channels will enable the promotion of key messages in 2020/21.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a Service Level Agreement with the Accountable Body for communication support until Winter 2020. • Procure external marketing and communications support through a medium-term call off framework contract via a procurement exercise for tender award and mobilisation in Q4 2020/21. • Produce weekly advocacy briefs for LEP partners. • Annual Conference in Autumn 2020 • Support fiscal events e.g. Summer Statements, etc through to business plan and grant funding award stage. • Provide monthly milestone updates to CLGU to help with local and central government communications around LEP activity.
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Appendices

Appendix 1: Local Industrial Strategy Summary of the Strategic Objectives

Appendix 2: KPI Dashboard (Economic Bulletin)

Appendix 3: City Deal project updates and associated metrics

Appendix 4: Local Growth Fund project status and associated metrics

Appendix 5: Getting Building Fund projects status and associated metrics

Updated 20 August 2020

Appendix 1: Local Industrial Strategy Summary of the Strategic Objectives

Appendix 1: Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) Summary of the Strategic Objectives

The purpose of the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) is to support businesses to grow and develop, to increase productivity through innovation and higher-level skills and to benefit the people and businesses of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire.

Our LIS is SSLEP's strategy for investment and will focus on opportunities for boosting productivity, economic renewal and growth, whilst tackling local challenges to help to level up our towns, cities and rural areas.

Following a thorough examination of socio-economic and labour market intelligence, we developed our LIS in close collaboration with our businesses, HE/FE, public sector leaders and other stakeholders throughout 2019. Following a period of public consultation, we agreed a final draft in early 2020, which was updated during March and April to reflect the current economic circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can read the full strategy document here: [LIS Final](#) Or the Executive Summary: [You can read it here.](#)

During the Summer of 2020, we worked with our businesses and partners on four broad themes:

- **Future Workforce** – providing satisfactory work for all with a pipeline of opportunities for progression, ensuring our businesses have access to the skills and talent they need to grow.
- **Growing Business** – accelerating business evolution for start-ups and growing companies and creating a place of choice for inward investment.
- **Innovation** – developing world class innovation and increasing demand and capacity for innovation across our whole business base.
- **Place** – place-making and promoting the area as the best place to live, learn, work and do business.

In the Autumn, we will set out our plans for the main areas of investment that will be working on with government, followed by more detailed project proposals later this year.

If you would like any further information please contact: samantha.hicks@staffordshire.gov.uk

End.

Appendix 2: KPIs (Economic Bulletin)

Staffordshire

Means**Back to Business**

Economic Bulletin - Issue 2 – August 2020

Welcome to the second edition of the new Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Economic Bulletin produced by our Economy, Skills and Insight Teams, which provides the timeliest secondary data available on what is happening with the local economy. However, this clearly only provides part of the picture and over the coming months we intend to build up our softer intelligence to provide a better indication of what is happening on the ground, including the local response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Alongside information on the Claimant Count and Job Vacancies that will be a part of every Bulletin, we again look at the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) Furloughed Workers and Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) to assess how these schemes are being used in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent. This month's issue also provides ward level analysis of the claimant count helping to identify areas which have been impacted the hardest across Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent and where there may be a greater need for support. We also provide analysis of how local businesses are making use of the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) and the Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLs).

We hope you find the Bulletin useful and welcome your comments and suggestions on further information you would like to see included in future editions. If you do have any feedback please send your comments to Darren Farmer, Economy & Skills Analyst at darren.farmer@staffordshire.gov.uk.

Stay Safe,

Darryl Evers

Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills, Staffordshire County Council



Key Messages

- The number of people on some form of government economic support scheme is currently largely on a par with the rest of the country (36%).
- The claimant count in Staffordshire saw a slight rise of 705 between June 2020 and July 2020 to a total of 26,465 claimants and a rate change from 4.8% to 4.9% of the working age population - however, not all will be out of work. Whilst there has been some announcements of potential redundancies, due to the move to Universal Credit claimant count figures now also include those that have had a lower income through COVID-19, including furloughed staff and part time employees, short-term layoffs and the self-employed who have paused or ceased operating.
- The claimant count rate is still relatively low in Staffordshire (4.9%) compared to regionally (7.3%) and nationally (6.5%). However, it is young people, the lowest paid (including those in manual occupations, more routine or less skilled jobs) and part-time workers who continue to feel the impact of the economic shock the most. It remains vital that these groups are supported to help prevent them becoming long-term unemployed.
- Although unemployment and those claiming benefits has not surged further over more recent months this is largely due to the considerable number of workers which remain on the Government-backed furlough scheme. However, there is concern that over coming months as the furlough scheme winds down and already announced potential job cuts become a reality there are likely to be more people that find themselves out of work.
- The latest Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) figures for July show that there was an increase of 6,900 furloughed workers in Staffordshire compared to June and a 2,000 increase in Stoke-on-Trent, although the pace of increases appears to be slowing. SEISS claims increased by 500 in Staffordshire between June 2020 and July 2020 and by 100 in Stoke-on-Trent, again far smaller increases than those experienced between May and June although this is likely to be due to the design of the scheme with the second tranche only opening on 17th August.

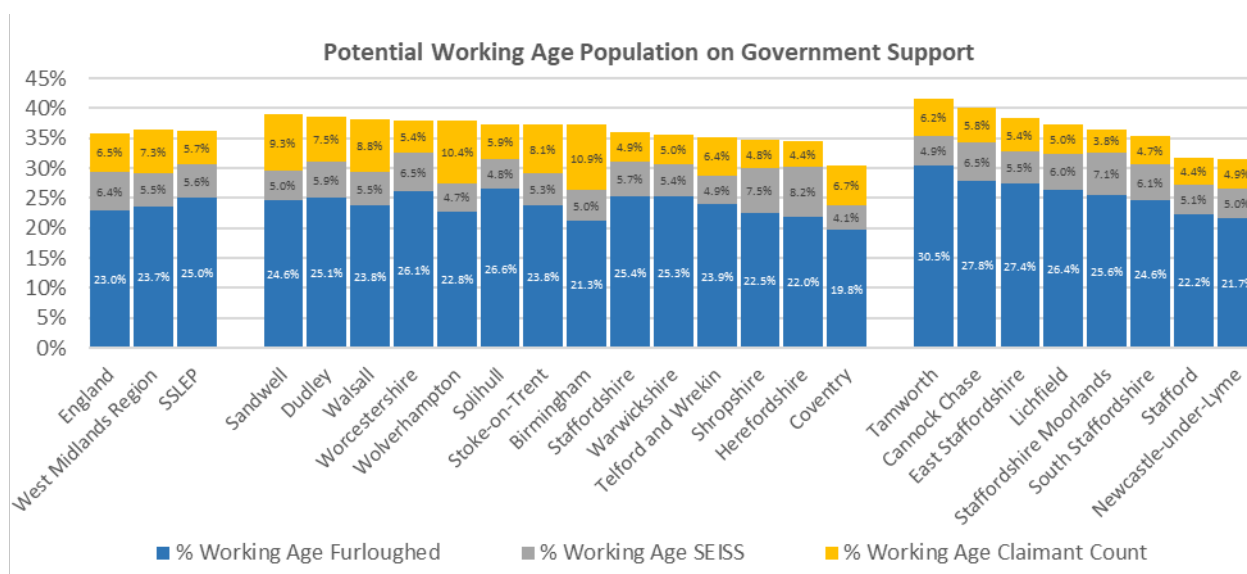
- Across the country the number of job vacancies has also decreased since the crisis began and still remain well below levels seen a year earlier, although there are signs that the job market is starting to pick back up. We continue to see demand for roles in health, social care and distribution with clear emerging opportunities for job creation in digital, construction and the green economy.
- In conclusion, it is apparent that as we move out of lockdown and Government support is wound down there are more businesses finding the need to restructure their operations and unfortunately in some cases this means making staff redundant. However, it is also clear that as we continue to work together to drive local economic recovery more jobs are being saved in high-risk sectors and there are new opportunities being created in new roles and new sectors of the economy.
- Our main focus now continues to be on working together to ensure that as many people as possible currently on furlough return to work and for those residents unfortunate enough to have lost their jobs support them back into work as we build a stronger local economy.
- Fundamental to this is the work of the Countywide Redundancy Task Group where more than 20 local partners are working together to support businesses and employees with potential redundancies. Alongside this the Redundancy and Recruitment Triage Service will have an important role in helping residents gain new skills and employment.
- Alongside this important work the County Council and our local partners have made numerous interventions over the last few months to support our residents and businesses including:
 - South Staffordshire Council have taken a proactive approach to business engagement during the pandemic. The team have worked on a one council approach to helping the high streets get back to business using their 'locality enablers' with different specialisms from different teams of the Council to come together to engage with businesses to support their reopening plans. Engaging District Councillors, Parish Councillors and businesses in the recovery approach on the high street has forged relationships to ensure that the village centres in the District access the support they need. The team have also recognised the issues that the high street businesses were facing and have run bespoke webinars for business as well as offering virtual support clinics to businesses on our industrial estates. In the future the Council will be offering a virtual business support team approach so that there is a one stop shop approach for businesses when they need contact with the Council services.

- Around 1,800 packs of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) have been given away to businesses through the PPE Start-Back Scheme to support them in operating under Covid-Secure guidelines, whilst also offering [advice on how to use PPE](#) and where to [buy safe, cost-effective PPE from trusted suppliers](#).
- Over 50 people have already signed-up for the Staffordshire start-up support scheme.
- Additional funding to support the recovery of the businesses within the tourism sector and Small & Medium Enterprises more broadly has recently been announced, with schemes to go live through the Growth Hub next month.

Local Picture – Residents on Government Support Schemes

During this period it is important to be able to understand how local businesses are responding to the gradual reopening of the economy and what impact COVID-19 has had and continues to have on jobs. A key aspect of this is monitoring the number of people claiming Universal Credit (Claimant Count), and the number of people on the Coronavirus Job Retention (CJRS) and Self-Employment Income Support Schemes (SEISS), as seen below.

Overall Number of Residents on Government Support Schemes



In line with the Claimant Count rate which shows the proportion of the working age population claiming Universal Credit we have calculated the proportion of the working age population which may be on the furloughed or have accessed SEISS support.

In total there are potentially just over 252,000 residents in the SSLEP area on Government support, equivalent to around 36% of the working age population which is similar to regional and national averages. Tamworth (42%) and Cannock Chase (40%) have the highest rates while Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stafford (both 32%) have the lowest.

SSLEP Working Age Population	694,954
Jobs in High Risk Sectors	221,000
Claimant Count July 2020	39,440
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) Furloughed job claims up to 31st July	173,800
Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) claims up to 31st July	39,000
Potential workers on Government support	252,240
Potential % of working age population on Government support	36.3%

Note: Important to recognise that there may be some workers which are accessing more than one support scheme and there may be some double counting due to jobs moving on and off the furlough scheme

Detailed Breakdown

Claimant Count¹

The following table highlights the level of claimant unemployment in the Staffordshire Districts and each of the Strategic Authorities in the West Midlands Region:

Claimant Count (Universal Credit) Statistics: July 2020

Area	Claimant Count Rate (July 2019)	Claimant Count Rate (June 2020)	Claimant Count Rate ¹ (July 2020)	Number of Claimants (July 2020)	Monthly Change in Claimants (Numbers)	Monthly Change in Claimants (%)	Change in Claimants since March (Numbers)	Change in Claimants since March (%)
England	2.7	6.3	6.5	2,273,600	72,985	3.3%	1,210,095	113.8%
West Midlands	3.5	7.1	7.3	266,830	7,625	2.9%	122,480	84.8%
SSLEP	2.4	5.5	5.7	39,440	885	2.3%	20,070	103.6%
Birmingham	6.2	10.6	10.9	80,165	2,235	2.9%	30,795	62.4%
Wolverhampton	5.8	10.3	10.4	17,025	280	1.7%	6,645	64.0%
Sandwell	4.5	9.0	9.3	18,995	595	3.2%	8,215	76.2%
Walsall	4.3	8.6	8.8	15,150	315	2.1%	6,545	76.1%
Stoke-on-Trent	4.1	8.0	8.1	12,975	180	1.4%	5,655	77.3%
Dudley	4.1	7.3	7.5	14,530	495	3.5%	6,015	70.6%
Coventry	2.8	6.5	6.7	16,310	485	3.1%	8,310	103.9%
Telford and Wrekin	2.6	6.2	6.4	7,110	190	2.7%	3,680	107.3%
Solihull	2.7	5.7	5.9	7,475	260	3.6%	3,825	104.8%
Worcestershire	2.1	5.2	5.4	19,120	610	3.3%	10,815	130.2%
Warwickshire	2.0	4.8	5.0	17,490	675	4.0%	9,660	123.4%
Staffordshire	1.8	4.8	4.9	26,465	705	2.7%	14,415	119.6%
Shropshire	1.9	4.6	4.8	9,080	395	4.5%	5,070	126.4%
Herefordshire	1.7	4.2	4.4	4,935	205	4.3%	2,825	133.9%
Tamworth	2.7	5.9	6.2	2,940	120	4.3%	1,450	97.3%
Cannock Chase	2.0	5.7	5.8	3,660	70	1.9%	2,005	121.1%
East Staffordshire	1.9	5.4	5.4	3,915	10	0.3%	2,195	127.6%
Lichfield	1.7	4.8	5.0	3,055	110	3.7%	1,735	131.4%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	2.1	4.8	4.9	3,980	70	1.8%	2,000	101.0%
South Staffordshire	1.7	4.5	4.7	3,140	140	4.7%	1,830	139.7%
Stafford	1.5	4.2	4.4	3,590	95	2.7%	1,935	116.9%
Staffordshire Moorlands	1.4	3.6	3.8	2,185	95	4.5%	1,265	137.5%

¹ The claimant rate is the proportion of the working age population claiming benefits

- The Claimant Count in Staffordshire saw a slight rise of 705 between June 2020 and July 2020 to a total of 26,465 claimants. Stoke-on-Trent also saw a small increase of 180 over the same period with a total of 12,975 claimants in July.
- These slight increases in July are similar to the trend seen nationally and reflects what we have seen through HR1s notifications early in the crisis and some potential redundancies in SMEs.

¹ Source: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

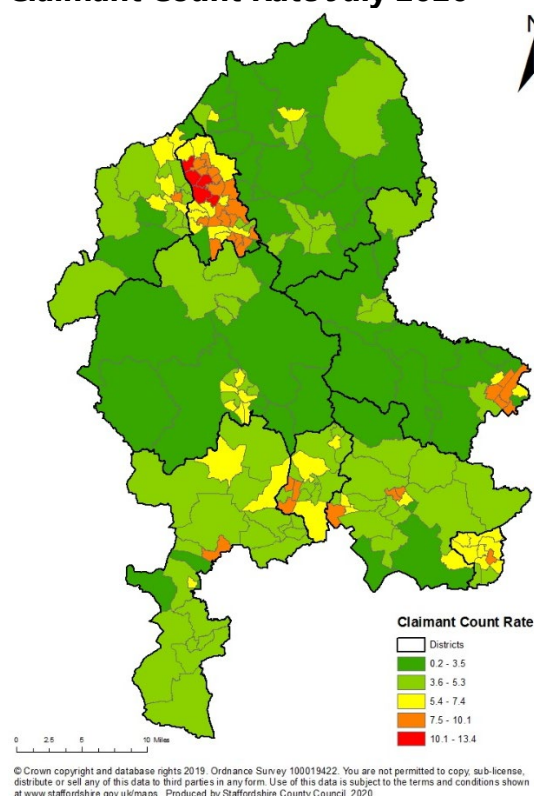
- It is also important to look at the change in the Claimant Count seen since March 2020 (pre-COVID) where the number of claimants in Staffordshire has more than doubled with an increase of 14,415 claimants and in Stoke-on-Trent there has been an increase of 5,655.
- Ultimately, the full effect of COVID-19 on employment will not be felt until the furlough and SEISS schemes come to an end.
- The increases in the Claimant Count also need to be viewed in the context of the move to Universal Credit. Before Universal Credit, the Claimant Count was based upon Jobseeker's Allowance claimants, i.e. people out of work but looking for a job. A proportion of claimants currently will have a job but claiming Universal Credit due to having a low income - the reasons for the increase in claimants are still to fully emerge but evidence suggests there will be a combination of factors such as:
 - New Job Starters/PT employees/Self-employed with no income claiming Universal Credit because they are not eligible for the CJRS;
 - Self-employed ceased trading or have very low income claiming Universal Credit (and are either not eligible for, or not yet been paid, income under the SEISS);
 - Working part-time low-income workers claiming Universal Credit and may be furloughed;
 - Potential Redundancies within Small & Medium Enterprises laying off staff in the short-term.
- Unfortunately, due to data limitations it is not currently possible to quantify the proportion of people that fall into these cohorts at a local level.
- Given the comparatively strong position of Staffordshire going into the pandemic and the fact that COVID-19 has impacted much of the economy during lockdown, even with the significant increase in claimants the proportion of working age residents on such benefits remains comparatively low in Staffordshire with a rate of 4.9% in July compared to 7.3% regionally and 6.5% nationally. In Stoke-on-Trent the Claimant Count rate remains above both the regional and national averages at 8.1%.
- As well as workers across sectors being impacted differently, there are also signs that it is the lowest paid, part-time workers and young people (particularly apprentices) that are being hardest hit. These groups are more likely to work in sectors that have shut down or reduced activity, such as hospitality and non-essential retail. They are also less likely to be able to work from home.

- As previously reported young people aged 18-24 are being disproportionately impacted by unemployment where the claimant rate for young people in Staffordshire has increased from 3.7% in March to 8.3% in July compared to a rise from 2.3% to 4.9% for all working-age residents, while in Stoke-on-Trent the rate has risen from 5.9% in March to 11.0% in July. This means there are now 5,510 young people claiming work related benefits in Staffordshire and a further 2,605 in Stoke-on-Trent.
- All Staffordshire Districts have seen slight increases in the number of claimants in July, with South Staffordshire seeing the highest increase of 140 followed by Tamworth with 120. Tamworth and Cannock Chase continue to record the highest rates in Staffordshire, although Newcastle-under-Lyme and East Staffordshire have the largest caseloads. However, it's important to note all Districts remain lower than the current national and regional rates.

Claimant Counts and Rates in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Wards

- The following maps and tables provide the latest breakdown of the claimant count by wards in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent.

Claimant Count Rate July 2020

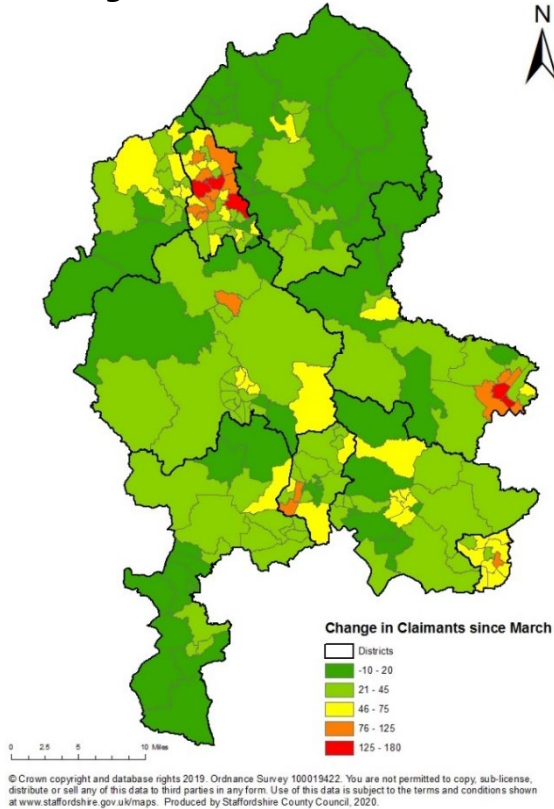


Out of the 201 wards in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent, 58 were at or above the England average of 6.5% for the number of claimants as a proportion of the working age population in July.

The top 10 wards with the highest claimant count rate were all in Stoke-on-Trent with Etruria and Hanley (13.4% or 675 claimants), Joiner's Square (13.3% or 585), and Moorcroft (12.7%) having the highest rates.

In Staffordshire, Burton in East Staffordshire and Glascote in Tamworth had the joint highest claimant count rate (9.1%).

Change in Claimant Count since March 2020

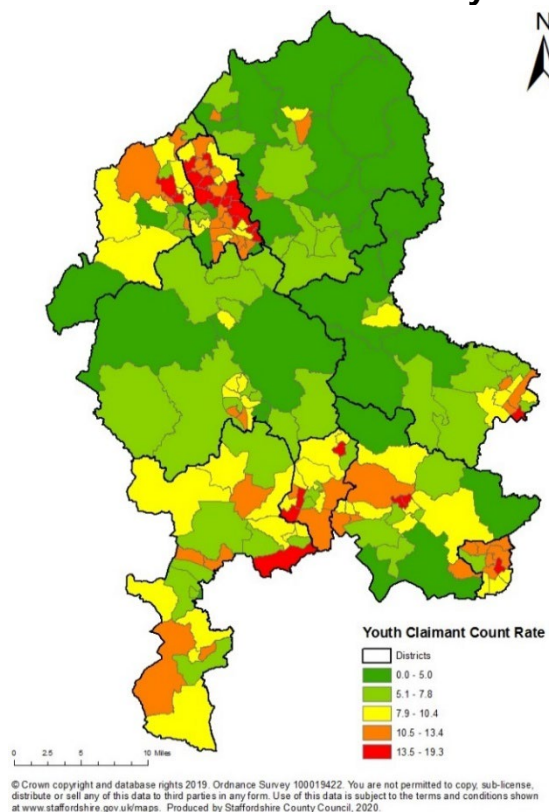


The top 4 wards with the highest change in the number of claimants since March 2020 were all in Stoke-on-Trent and included Birches Head and Central Forest Park (345 increase to 735 in total), Etruria and Hanley (320 rise to 675 in total), Bentilee and Ubberrley (285 increase to 685 in total) and Baddeley, Milton and Norton (285 rise to 615 in total).

Youth Claimant Counts and Rates in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Wards

The following maps and tables provide the latest breakdown of the youth claimant count by wards in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent.

Youth Claimant Count Rate July 2020

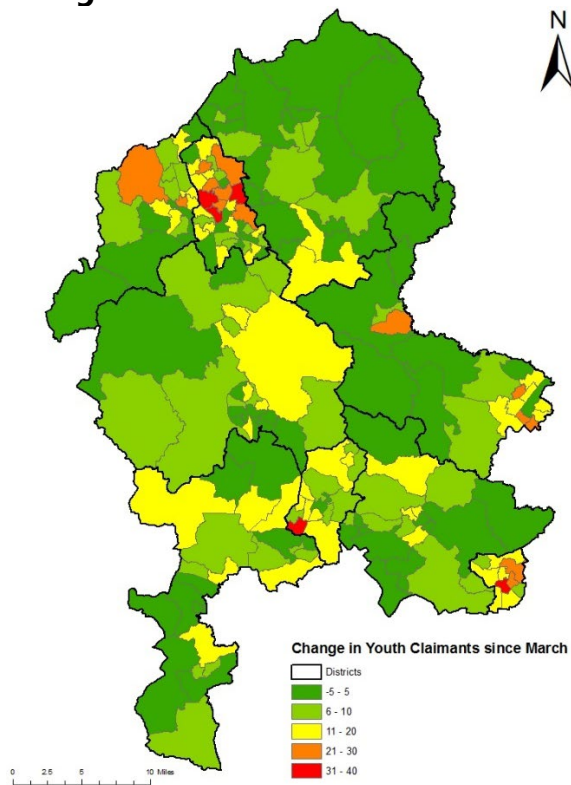


Out of the 201 wards in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent, 82 were at or above the England average of 9.4% for the number of claimants aged 18-24 as a proportion of the 18-24 population.

Of the top 10 wards with the highest youth claimant count rate 5 were in Stoke-on-Trent including Joiner's Square (19.3% - the highest in SSLEP area), Moorcroft (17.2%), Bentilee and Ubberrley (15.9%), Abbey Hulton and Townsend (15.9%) and Eaton Park (15.2%).

In Staffordshire, the highest rate was Glascote in Tamworth with 17.2%, followed by Cannock South (16.5%), Stapenhill in East Staffordshire (15.4%), Curborough in Lichfield (15.4%) and Cross Heath in Newcastle-under-Lyme (15.2%).

Change in Youth Claimant Count since March 2020



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The top 3 wards with the highest change in the number of youth claimants since March 2020 were all in Stoke-on-Trent and included Etruria and Hanley (75 rise to 120 in total), and Abbey Hulton and Townsend ward and Birches Head and Central Forest Park ward (both with an increase of 60 to 130 in total).

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) Furloughed Jobs²

- **Staffordshire had the 2nd highest number of furloughed job claims up to the end of July in the WM with 135,700** behind only Birmingham and equivalent to just over a third (34%) of eligible workers. This is to be expected given Staffordshire is the 2nd largest strategic authority area in the region.
- **Staffordshire's rate of furlough is in-line with the regional average and slightly above the national (32%) average.**
- **Stoke-on-Trent had 38,100 jobs furloughed**, also equivalent to 34% of eligible jobs.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) Statistics: July 2020

Area	Total number of Jobs Furloughed	Eligible Jobs	Take-up rate
Cannock Chase	17,600	46,400	38%
Tamworth	14,400	38,400	37%
Staffordshire Moorlands	14,800	42,300	35%
SSLEP	173,800	510,800	34%
East Staffordshire	20,100	58,400	34%
Lichfield	16,300	47,300	34%
South Staffordshire	16,500	48,300	34%
West Midlands Region	866,400	2,580,400	34%
Stoke-on-Trent	38,100	112,600	34%
Staffordshire	135,700	398,200	34%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	17,700	55,200	32%
England	8,067,700	25,577,800	32%
Stafford	18,400	61,900	30%

Source: HMRC CJRS and PAYE Real Time Information

- Nationally, the identified high-risk sectors are amongst the highest for the number of jobs that have been furloughed:

² Source: HMRC - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/self-employment-income-support-scheme-statistics-july-2020>

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) Claims by Sector: July 2020

Sector	Employers		Employments		Value of claims made (£million)
	Employers furloughing staff	Take-up rate	Employments furloughed	Take-up rate	
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles	178,600	74%	1,906,100	42%	6,071
Accommodation & food services	110,700	87%	1,693,600	77%	4,773
Manufacturing	74,800	76%	1,021,500	42%	3,840
Business administration and support services	102,000	62%	890,500	32%	2,806
Construction	174,000	76%	769,300	60%	2,931
Professional, scientific & technical	150,900	49%	632,900	29%	2,203
Arts, entertainment, recreation and other servi	30,100	76%	474,300	70%	1,339
Transport & storage (inc postal)	43,100	60%	424,100	32%	1,680
Health	55,100	55%	423,200	10%	1,065
Education	24,400	63%	341,700	10%	864
Trade union, religious, political and repair	71,200	77%	315,000	55%	893
Information & communication	59,400	38%	227,500	18%	843
Property	28,600	62%	157,800	37%	543
Unknown and other	23,300	*	101,300	*	239
Finance & insurance	14,500	42%	76,800	7%	276
Waste and Recycling	4,000	72%	43,700	25%	168
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	9,700	29%	36,600	20%	96
Energy Production	700	53%	20,800	16%	85
Public administration & defence	500	7%	20,400	2%	65
Mining, quarrying & utilities	600	54%	14,800	28%	77
Domestic employers	8,200	11%	10,100	8%	30
Total	1,164,400	61%	9,601,700	32%	30,886

Source: HMRC CJRS and PAYE Real Time Information

- Beyond the short-term, specific industrial sectors and the associated labour market may continue to be adversely affected, particularly due to changes to economic support measures and market conditions. A particular risk is the ongoing changes to the Government's Job Retention Scheme (JRS) which has enabled many people to remain in employment but furloughed during the lockdown. Whilst the scheme has been extended to October, it is being gradually withdrawn from August onwards and this may lead to potential further increases in unemployment.

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)³

- **Staffordshire has seen 30,600 self-employed workers claim through SEISS up to the end of July** and a take-up rate of over three quarters (77%) for those eligible through the scheme, the same as the regional average and just above the national average of 76%.
- **Stoke-on-Trent had 8,300 SEISS claims up to the end of July**, equivalent to 80% of those eligible. This is the joint highest rate the West Midlands Region upper-tier authorities.

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) Statistics: July 2020

County and district / unitary authority	Total potentially eligible population	Total no. of claims made to 31/7/20	Total value of claims made to 31/7/20 (£)	Average value of claims made to 31/7/20 (£)	Take-Up Rate
Cannock Chase	5,000	4,100	12,900,000	3,100	81%
Stoke-on-Trent	10,500	8,400	21,800,000	2,600	80%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	5,200	4,100	11,900,000	2,900	78%
Tamworth	3,000	2,300	6,700,000	2,900	78%
SSLEP	50,100	39,000	112,500,000	2,885	78%
Lichfield	4,800	3,700	11,600,000	3,100	77%
South Staffordshire	5,300	4,100	12,300,000	3,000	77%
West Midlands Region	263,000	202,000	565,000,000	2,800	77%
Staffordshire	39,600	30,600	90,700,000	3,000	77%
East Staffordshire	5,300	4,000	10,700,000	2,700	76%
Staffordshire Moorlands	5,400	4,100	12,100,000	2,900	76%
England	2,946,000	2,251,000	6,577,000,000	2,900	76%
Stafford	5,600	4,200	12,600,000	3,000	75%

³ Source: HMRC - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/self-employment-income-support-scheme-statistics-july-2020>

The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) and the Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLs)⁴

- New data published by the British Business Bank shows that businesses in all parts of the UK are making use of and benefiting from Coronavirus loan schemes.
- The data shows the regional distribution of loans under the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) and the Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLs), which are schemes designed to provide financial support to businesses across the UK that are losing revenue and seeing their cashflow disrupted, as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.
- As at the 2nd August, there were 3,770 CBILS loans in the West Midlands for a total of just over £871m. This represented 9% of the total number of CBILS loans UK-wide and is one of the highest usage of CBILS outside of London and the South East (33%).
- While for BBLs loans the West Midlands is also demonstrating strong use with a total of 84,773 loans for a total of just under £2.6bn and represented 8% of all UK loans, behind only the North West and East of England outside of London and the South East (34%).
- Generally, the proportion of loans in each region is equivalent to their share of the business population across the UK.
- The Wholesale and Retail sector has accessed a significantly higher proportion of CBILS loans (19%) than its share of the business population (9%), with Manufacturing (13% v 5%) and Accommodation and Food Services (9% v 3%) following a similar pattern.
- The Wholesale and Retail sector also accessed a relatively high proportion of Bounce Back Loans compared to its business population share (16% v 9%), as did businesses in Accommodation and Food Services (8% v 3%) and Real Estate Services (6% v 2%).
- The British Business Bank has also released constituency level data for CBILS and BBLs. The following table shows the breakdown for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent constituencies:

⁴ Source: British Business Bank - <https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/coronavirus-loan-schemes-benefiting-businesses-in-all-corners-of-uk-reveals-new-analysis-from-british-business-bank/>

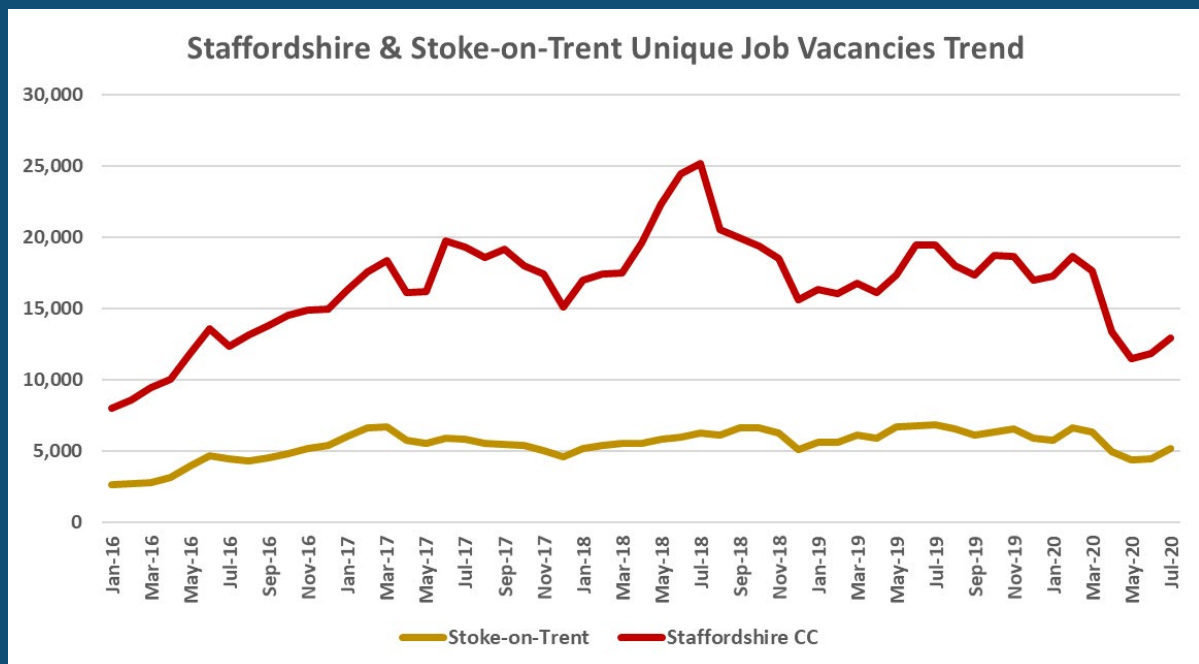
Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) and the Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLs) Statistics: 2nd August 2020

Area	CBILS		BBLs		TOTAL			
	Number of Loans Offered	Value of Loans Offered (£m)	Number of Loans Offered	Value of Loans Offered (£m)	Number of Loans Offered	Value of Loans Offered (£m)	% of SSLEP Loans	% of SSLEP Businesses
Burton	82	17,931,933	1,501	44,561,837	1,583	62,493,770	10%	10%
Lichfield	76	13,808,681	1,476	42,142,939	1,552	55,951,620	10%	11%
Tamworth	99	32,024,097	1,328	39,285,979	1,427	71,310,076	9%	9%
Cannock Chase	73	16,160,169	1,338	39,486,802	1,411	55,646,971	9%	9%
Stone	44	7,802,001	1,322	39,200,793	1,366	47,002,794	9%	10%
South Staffordshire	57	12,517,757	1,296	38,818,503	1,353	51,336,260	9%	10%
Stafford	55	7,420,953	1,227	36,222,492	1,282	43,643,445	8%	9%
Stoke-on-Trent Central	46	10,605,935	1,149	35,168,237	1,195	45,774,172	8%	6%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	55	14,329,503	1,078	33,381,146	1,133	47,710,649	7%	6%
Stoke-on-Trent North	49	10,623,719	1,040	30,573,493	1,089	41,197,212	7%	6%
Staffordshire Moorlands	40	5,414,157	1,008	29,115,881	1,048	34,530,038	7%	9%
Stoke-on-Trent South	38	10,653,126	861	26,011,673	899	36,664,799	6%	5%
Staffordshire	564	123,732,874	11,357	334,846,899	11,921	458,579,773	78%	84%
Stoke-on-Trent	150	35,559,157	3,267	99,122,876	3,417	134,682,033	22%	16%
SSLEP	714	159,292,031	14,624	433,969,775	15,338	593,261,806	100%	100%
West Midlands	3,770	871,365,361	84,773	2,593,303,126	88,543	3,464,668,487		
UK	45,621	10,486,585,419	1,042,668	31,659,691,546	1,088,289	42,146,276,965		

- As at the 2nd August, there were a combined 15,338 CBILS and BBLs loans in the SSLEP area equivalent to £593m, this represented 17% of the total loans in the West Midlands. The proportion of loans in the SSLEP area is largely in-line with areas share of the business population in the West Midlands (18%).
- In terms of local constituencies, Burton had the highest number of loans with 1,583 while Tamworth had the highest value of all loans with just over £71.3m.
- For most constituencies the proportion of loans in the SSLEP area is largely in-line with their share of the business population in the SSLEP. However, the constituencies in the north including Stoke-on-Trent Central, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent North and Stoke-on-Trent South all have higher proportions of the total loans in the SSLEP compared to their share of the business population.

Job Vacancies⁵

- Following a period of declining job vacancies, demand for labour in Staffordshire is starting to pick back up, where between June 2020 and July 2020 there was an **increase in job vacancies of 9% equivalent to over 1,000 more job vacancies which is in-line with the growth seen regionally and nationally.**
- Stoke-on-Trent saw a 17% growth with just over 750 more vacancies in July compared to June.**
- Staffordshire's year-on-year decline in July stood at 34% which was greater than the 28% decline seen nationally,** this likely reflects Staffordshire's economic structure where sectors and occupations hardest hit by COVID-19 make up more of our local economy and therefore recruitment has declined more substantially. **Stoke-on-Trent witnessed a below average year-on-year decline of 24% in July.**



- Although we have seen a decline in vacancies for most occupations since the crisis started, particularly within sectors and roles hardest hit by the lockdown, we are starting to see some growth again.
- The main recruitment growth occupations (although relatively low numbers) between Feb (pre-COVID) and July have been residential, day and domiciliary care managers and proprietors; packers, bottlers, canners and fillers; and health services and public health managers and directors.**

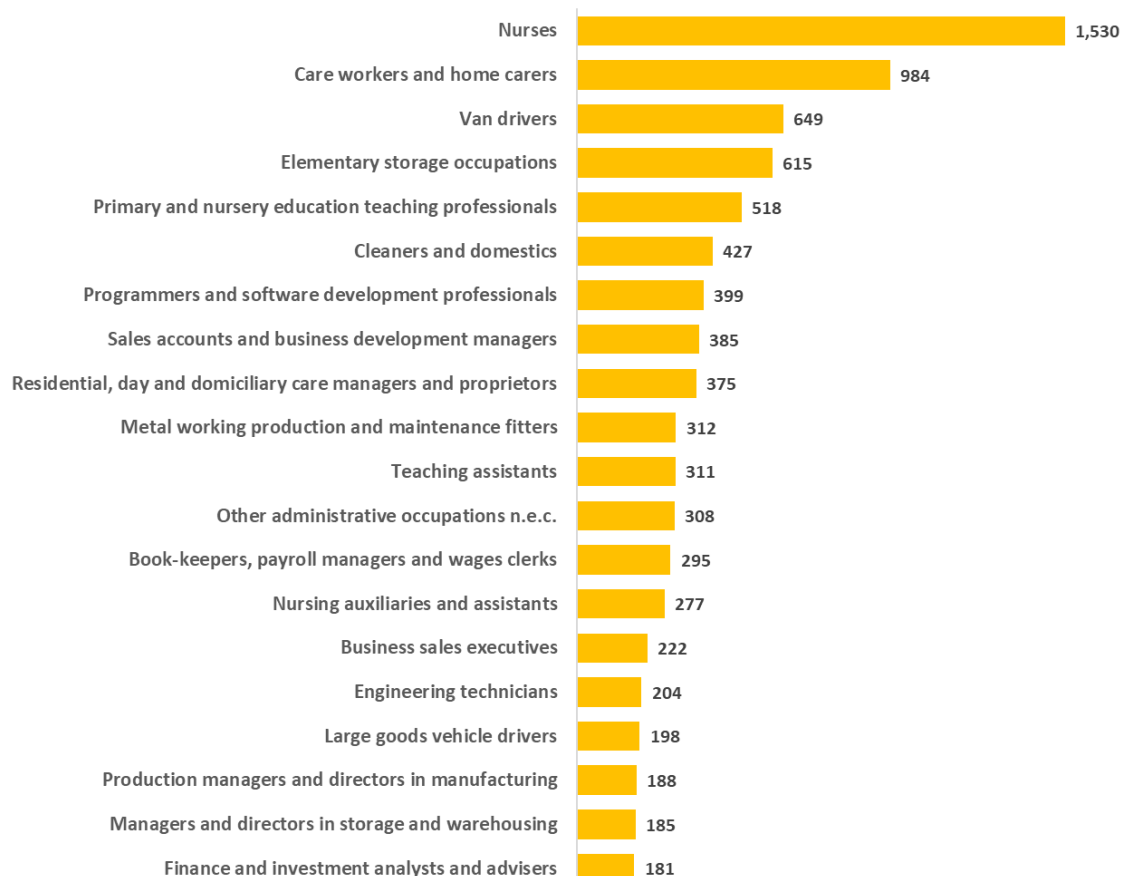
⁵ Source: EMSI

Top 20 occupations declining and top 20 increasing between Feb 2020 (Pre-COVID) and July 2020 in SSLEP



- While demand for **nurses and social care workers and home carers** remains by far the strongest of all occupations.

Top 20 occupations in demand in SSLEP during July 2020



- The overall fall in the number of job vacancies suggests that those unfortunate enough to lose their jobs may struggle to find new ones at least in the short-term, although there are still opportunities available.

Job Vacancies Summary Table

Area / SSLEP Occupational Group	July 2019 Unique Postings	Feb 2020 Unique Postings	Apr 2020 Unique Postings	May 2020 Unique Postings	June 2020 Unique Postings	July 2020 Unique Postings	June-July 2020 (Month on Month Change)	June-July 2020 Monthly % Change	Feb-July 2020 (Month on Month Change)	Feb-July 2020 Monthly % Change	July 2019- July 2020 (Year on Year Change)	July 2019- July 2020 Annual % Change
Staffordshire CC	19,438	18,675	13,346	11,456	11,795	12,885	1,090	9%	-5,790	-31%	-6,553	-34%
Stoke-on-Trent	6,848	6,635	4,962	4,336	4,427	5,182	755	17%	-1,453	-22%	-1,666	-24%
SSLEP	26,286	25,310	18,308	15,792	16,222	18,067	1,845	11%	-7,243	-29%	-8,219	-31%
West Midlands	189,604	169,792	128,323	111,004	109,144	118,754	9,610	9%	-51,038	-30%	-70,850	-37%
England	2,060,854	1,955,292	1,572,921	1,380,005	1,371,112	1,487,781	116,669	9%	-467,511	-24%	-573,073	-28%
Staffordshire Moorlands	1,695	1,884	1,333	1,047	915	864	-51	-6%	-1,020	-54%	-831	-49%
Tamworth	2,858	2,740	1,844	1,519	1,439	1,554	115	8%	-1,186	-43%	-1,304	-46%
East Staffordshire	3,055	3,172	2,126	1,846	1,903	2,206	303	16%	-966	-30%	-849	-28%
Cannock Chase	2,732	2,188	1,677	1,459	1,494	1,585	91	6%	-603	-28%	-1,147	-42%
Stafford	4,493	4,321	3,070	2,635	2,850	3,247	397	14%	-1,074	-25%	-1,246	-28%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	1,539	1,687	1,254	1,131	1,205	1,275	70	6%	-412	-24%	-264	-17%
Lichfield	2,551	2,042	1,554	1,382	1,485	1,572	87	6%	-470	-23%	-979	-38%
South Staffordshire	515	641	488	437	504	582	78	15%	-59	-9%	67	13%
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	1,104	1,048	606	456	529	537	8	2%	-511	-49%	-567	-51%
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	3,179	2,580	1,535	1,168	1,272	1,399	127	10%	-1,181	-46%	-1,780	-56%
Skilled Trades Occupations	2,406	2,272	1,504	1,098	1,115	1,321	206	18%	-951	-42%	-1,085	-45%
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	5,386	4,900	3,305	2,576	2,566	2,994	428	17%	-1,906	-39%	-2,392	-44%
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	2,158	2,036	1,097	812	919	1,263	344	37%	-773	-38%	-895	-41%
Elementary Occupations	2,259	2,117	1,504	1,396	1,453	1,735	282	19%	-382	-18%	-524	-23%
Professional Occupations	5,899	6,295	5,260	4,907	4,950	5,269	319	6%	-1,026	-16%	-630	-11%
Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	1,624	1,672	1,226	1,126	1,229	1,432	203	17%	-240	-14%	-192	-12%
Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations	2,271	2,390	2,271	2,253	2,189	2,117	-72	-3%	-273	-11%	-154	-7%

Notes

Claimant Count and ILO Unemployment Definitions

The Claimant Count is a measure of the number of working age people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed, including those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit and are required to seek work and be available for work.

ILO unemployment data is obtained from the national Labour Force Survey. The definition for unemployment is those without a job, want a job, have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks, or; are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start work in the next two weeks.

Understanding the differences between the Claimant Count and ILO Unemployment

According to the UK Claimant Count for May, claimant unemployment increased to 2.8 million and a rate of 7.8% – a rise of 125% in just two months, the fastest rate of growth on record. However, the ILO measure shows that unemployment has remained largely unchanged at around 1.3 million and a rate of 3.9%. Understanding the reasons why there is this difference is important for policymakers trying to determine whether we are currently in the middle of an unemployment crisis or whether this is to come as the Job Retention Scheme (JRS) is gradually withdrawn.

The following section tries to explain this incredibly confusing, complicated and often contradictory data.

The main reasons for the difference between the Claimant Count and ILO measures include:

- **The two measures describe different periods** – for claimant unemployment, the numbers refer to claimants on a specific 'count date' with the last three being 12 March, 9 April and 14 May. Therefore these are point-in-time estimates, and handily we can compare what the situation was about a week before the crisis (12 March) with how things were two months later (14 May).

The ILO measure is a three-month average of survey responses between early February and late April 2020. This means that two months pre-date the crisis, while one month (April) is since the crisis began. However, ONS does release single month estimates (latest available April 2020) which show a drop in employment in April of 320,000 explained almost entirely by fewer people self-employed but only slight increase of 40,000 unemployed. Instead there is a steep rise in 'economic inactivity' which is those who are out of work but are not looking and/ or available for work.

- **Difference in measuring economic inactivity/worklessness** - the Claimant Count measures those who are required to look/be available for work as a condition of benefit, while the ILO measure is those who say that they actually are actively seeking and available for work. The Labour Force Survey is recording a single-month increase in the number of people out of work (unemployed and economically inactive) of 330,000, but nearly 290,000 of these people are not looking for work (economically inactive). The majority of this rise is people previously self-employed and are either not eligible for, or not yet been paid, income under the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS).
- **Claimant Count now includes more workers on low-income** - In the Claimant Count, people with earned income can be counted as claimant unemployed if their earnings in the reference month are below a set threshold (£338 per month for a single person, or £541 per month for a couple). Before Universal Credit (UC), short-hours working was penalised and so these numbers were generally low. However, UC incentivises short-hours work, and so we've seen a growth in recent years in the number of people treated as being unemployed but who have some earnings. The detailed data for UC suggests that 190,000 of the 1 million increase between March and April was accounted for by working claimants – so around one fifth of the rise.
- **Difference in recording people who are 'in work'** – in the Labour Force Survey you are recorded as in employment even if you have not done any work that week but 'have a job or business that you were away from... (and that you expect to return to)". Obviously this category of workers 'away' from work now captures about 9 million people furloughed under the Job Retention Scheme (JRS) who are continuing to earn, but it also includes people who consider themselves to be employees or self-employed but who have no earnings. 'Real time' Pay As You Earn data suggests that this may be mainly employees, with the number of paid employees falling by 450,000 between March and April. This 450,000 could include a large number of people who may have been due to start a job in March or April but have been told that they job isn't available yet and may also be people who had very few or irregular hours before the JRS was introduced and whom employers have not submitted a JRS claim. These people may be describing themselves as being workers with a job that they are away from, rather than as being actively seeking a new job.
- **Benefit take-up/eligibility impact on the Claimant Count** – given that the claimant count only counts those who claim benefit it may be under-stating the growth in worklessness. We know that many unemployed people do not claim, and particularly young people (usually due to eligibility). Under UC, there have been on average 450,000 more ILO unemployed young people than claimant unemployed and even if that gap narrows in the crisis, as tends to happen in recessions, it's possible that ILO youth unemployment will remain significantly higher than the claimant measure.

Summary table outlining the potential estimates for the Claimant Count rise in April:

Potential Proportion of Claimant Count Change Mar-20 to Apr-20	Potential Number of Claimants	Potential Reasons for being a Claimant	Labour Force Survey Categorisation
44%	450,000	New Job Starters/PT employees/Self-employed with no income claiming Universal Credit not supported by JRS	In Employment - even if not done any work that week but 'have a job or business that were away from... (and that expect to return to)' – rather than unemployed
28%	292,500	Self-employed ceased trading or have very low income claiming Universal Credit (and are either not eligible for, or not yet been paid, income under the SEISS)	Economically inactive - people out of work but are not looking for work - majority people previously self-employed
18%	190,000	Working part-time low income workers claiming Universal Credit	In Employment
10%	100,000	Potential Redundancies	
100%	1,032,500	Claimant Count Increase Mar-20 to Apr-20	

- It is hoped that this analysis has provided further clarity as to why we have seen such a spike in the number of claimants early in the crisis. What is clear is that we have seen a record fall between March and April in the number of people working and not being supported by JRS. We have also seen worklessness rising at a faster rate than at any time before. Although very few of the decline in the numbers 'working' had translated into higher unemployment in April, it is envisaged that this may be the case if people are unable to get back into work quickly.
- Looking forward, the growth in claims for UC is slowing and so the growth in the Claimant Count is also likely to slow as well. That said claimant unemployment is currently at the highest level on record. The main concern now is what happens to many workers as JRS is gradually withdrawn and it is important that we are thinking now about how to support people that are made redundant and what policy interventions are needed.

Appendix 3: City Deal project updates and associated metrics

Appendix 4: Local Growth Fund project status and associated metrics

Appendix 5: Getting Building Fund projects status and associated metrics