

**Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership
Joint Scrutiny Committee Friday 25th September 2020 2.00 pm**

This meeting was held online and streamed on YouTube.

The first item was the “Step Forward”:

This was based on a fluid environment and as some locations within the LEP were in lock down this emphasised the need more support for business and communications on this was through the local authorities. It showed that unemployment was increasing with more to come and exports are down by some £2bn due to a combination of Covid-19 and Brexit.

There was a fund of £2M to help businesses to adjust for the impact of Covid-19 and £3K for advice and equipment.

To access this fund an online form would be available at the Growth Hub from Monday 28th September.

Agenda item 6 was “Place Delivery Plan update”

There have been a wide number of initiatives including the Town Centre Fund, a number of green economy schemes and help with digital working. The work with the Hospitality sector has been less successful because of poor communications. It was hoped that local authorities could help with details on their own web sites or social media.

There is likely to be a reduction in the amount of office space required as the amount of home working continues to rise.

There were weekly meetings with the local authorities, but these have moved to fortnightly and then to monthly. There was general agreement that most wished to remain with GBSLEP but that the White paper may not give us an option.

For more information on the agenda and reports the web site address is :-

[Agenda - Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Joint Scrutiny Committee Friday 25th September 2020](#)