

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Meeting Notes



Infrastructure and Town Centre Cultural Quarter cases are complete, the team will move on to the Arterial Cycle Route project. No issues to report. CM thanked ND for his update and the work undertaken to date.

Olly Loveless (OL) from Analysis Mason presented an update on the Manor Royal Gigabit project, highlighting that, following an initial assessment of the opportunities, three options will progress to the next stage: CFC extension, FTTP network (covering 100% premises) and town wide business park backhaul routes. Four opportunities were removed due to uncertainty over what they would deliver. OL explained that the assessment criteria used to determine priorities included analysis of service demand, market interest, Towns Fund objectives, links to the Economic Recovery Plan, speed of deliverability and ongoing demand – all aiming to select the most suitable outcomes for Crawley.

SS expressed thanks to the Town Deal Board, Crawley BC and OL for the work completed to date, believing the highlighted projects



Lynn Hainge (LH) presented

the [latest headlines](#) including:

Universal Credit Claimant count - latest figures (Nov'21) show a steady decline but the local rate remains the highest in West Sussex

Cumulative total of furloughed employments in Crawley = 29,700

Self Employment Income Support Scheme - 18,900 claims from individuals registered in Crawley, totalling £50.9m

Latest Covid grants and business rate relief schemes announced – for full details and how to apply online, visit [www.crawley.gov.uk/business-support-grants](http://www.crawley.gov.uk/business-support-grants)

SS noted the difficulties in recruiting staff which will hold back economic growth.

JA noted the local recruitment issues related to matching skills with job vacancies.

CM endorsed the need to spread the word about the various initiatives and