

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 9 JUNE 2021**QUESTIONS ASKED BY AN ELECTED MEMBER UNDER
STANDING ORDER 7****Question asked by Mr Max Hunt CC**

- “1. When, and how, do officers expect to report the level of sectoral unemployment and other labour market indicators in the county to this committee, including the fortunes of the county’s multi-site Enterprise Zone and other major engagements.
2. [Leicester Shire and Rutland Statistics & Research](#) seem to have ceased publication of their Unemployment Bulletin. Is this information still published in a different form and frequency, if so where is the current source?
3. Recently Loughborough’s Brush Traction division of the US Wabtec Corporation closed with an expected loss of 300 high skilled jobs. This also occurred at a particular time when work to address the faults in Hitachi’s rolling stock was available. Was the county’s economic development team able to assist in bringing this situation to the attention of Government Ministers and if so with what response and effect?”

Reply by the Chairman

1. The Scrutiny Commission will receive a report as part of the consultation on the draft Economic Recovery Strategy, currently being developed by the LLEP at its meeting in September. In addition, there are a variety of dashboards available on [LSR-online](#) that look at the current information available including unemployment and universal credit (the latter includes in-work claimants), number of job postings, furlough and estimated employees furloughed by sector. Sectoral unemployment is expected to become clearer in the autumn when the government furlough scheme ends. There is also a Business and Economic Intelligence Update including relevant data published by the LLEP: <https://llep.org.uk/app/uploads/2021/06/LLEP-Business-and-Economic-Intelligence-Update-issue-20.pdf>. The LLEP are happy to add any stakeholders to the distribution list.
2. Prior to the pandemic it was agreed that the unemployment bulletin would no longer be published but that an annual report setting out the current socioeconomic data (population, economic, health etc) would be produced. This is still in development. The resurrection of the bulletin is being considered as part of the Economic Recovery Strategy work. However, the LLEP update (referred to in 1.) contains similar information to the bulletin, including unemployment commentary at district level and may be the best document to convey unemployment information in the future.
3. Following the news of the Brush redundancies being announced, the County Council’s Economic Growth Team have had discussions with Charnwood

Borough Council and more recently have received an update from the Department for International Trade (DIT). It is also understood that the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) are supporting Brush. Further discussions are planned at the Economic Recovery Cell, the LRF multi-agency group chaired by the LLEP.