

**Sustainable Growth Board  
18 November 2020  
Meeting Notes**

Guest – Marcus Richards EY

EY Resolute & Resilient Report findings

ADEPT and EY published a new report, [Resolute & Resilient](#), examining the economic impact of local lockdowns.

- Impact of COVID felt differently across the Country.
- Local Lockdowns could be here to stay for some time so the principles of the report remain valid.
- Report sets out key challenges and responses local leaders should consider. Including leading practice interventions and best practice lessons.
- Economic output reduced by lockdowns with impact dependent on the structure of the local economy.
- Areas with some existing degree of structural challenge further exacerbated by lockdown.
- Interventions need to empower and be sector specific.
- Primary focus on enhancing economic supply.
- Better and more timely data required – partnership approach.
- Need for coherent and well evidenced narrative for Government.
- Regions should work together to identify pools and regional opportunities.

LGA Update

- Gap in advice on practical things councils should be doing in recovery response, including how smaller authorities with limited resource cope. LGA to go ahead with a piece of work covering this; not about lobbying but practical guidance.
- Aim of the work is to get better outcomes in time pressured situation.
- Process will include 45-minute interviews and LGA will approach those not covered by EY.
- Will share outcomes via webinar in New Year.
- SGB happy to help review the work.

Empty Shops

- COVID has accelerated trends in retail decline in centres.
- Vacant units don't look great to local Political Members. Trying to inspire ideas locally & practical steps, plus if and when action should be taken or not.

- Larger commercial properties are a different challenge than smaller units.
- LGA looking for good practice lessons.
- Can also be viewed as a renewal opportunity for place shaping.
- Need to consider if we're talking about Town/City centres or High Streets.
- Absent and/or investor landlords present an added challenge/complexity.
- Consideration towards Micro businesses, which often fall between gaps in national support. But can, because of nature and size, respond more quickly – how to support and encourage?
- What is the role of transport planning in declining centres?
- Bus operators have lots of routes no longer commercially viable; what is the medium/long term impact; role of town centre parking; national bus strategy delayed.
- Role of Electric vehicles and infrastructure; is there a larger role for local government in EV infrastructure?
- DE – suggest bringing all elements of ADEPT together to look at whole place shaping agenda.

### Actions

Consider the SGB Forward Plan – Comments to HB