

Covid ghost town fears

By **Gwyn Wright**

UK city centres are set to lose £3 billion next year as people continue to work from home, economists say.

A study from the University of Sheffield has found the average full time British worker will be based at home for one day a week more than they were before the start of the pandemic.

Bustling cities are set to be clobbered as people spend less time grabbing coffees and lunches and cut back on after work trips to shops and pubs.

The “doughnut effect”, where city centres empty out as affluent suburbs thrive, could make inequalities between rich and poor areas worse, according to academics.

