



Leadership Gloucestershire – 1 October 2020

Remote meeting via GCC WebEx

1 Welcome, introduction and apologies

Name	Organisation	Apologies
Cllr Mark Hawthorne (Chair) Pete Bungard	Gloucestershire County Council	
Cllr Doina Cornell Kathy O'Leary	Stroud District Council	
Jon McGinty	Gloucester City Council	Cllr Richard Cook
Cllr Paul Hiett Andrew Knott	Forest of Dean District Council	Cllr Tim Gwilliam Pete Williams
Cllr Steve Jordan Gareth Edmundson	Cheltenham Borough Council	
Cllr Joe Harris Christine Gore	Cotswold District Council	
Cllr Rob Bird Mike Dawson	Tewkesbury Borough Council	
Chris Riley	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)	PCC Martin Surl Richard Bradley
	Gloucestershire Constabulary	CC Rod Hansen
Dr Andy Seymour	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Mary Hutton
David Owen	GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)	Diane Savory
Karen Leigh	Area Lead for Gloucestershire, Cities and Local Growth Unit	
Sarah Scott Steve Mawson Simon Harper	Gloucestershire County Council	

Cllr Mark Hawthorne noted that Cllr Steve Jordan was stepping down as Leader of Cheltenham BC. He thanked Steve for all his work on behalf of Gloucestershire and said that he would be greatly missed.

Cllr Hawthorne congratulated Rob Weaver, current Deputy Chief Executive at Tewkesbury BC, on his appointment as the new Chief Executive of Cotswold DC.

He also congratulated Sarah Scott, current Director of Public Health, on her appointment as the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Public Health.

1 Action notes

The notes of the meeting held on 25 June 2020 were agreed.

2 River Severn Partnership

Rob Weaver introduced the item and asked Hayley Deighton from the Environment Agency to make a PowerPoint presentation setting out the background to the River Severn Partnership.

Hayley explained that the Partnership had been formed in September 2019 and its aims were to:

- Develop a developing a long-term catchment plan for the Severn and its tributaries covering Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and parts of Wales.
- Drive environmental sustainability and resilience
- Build capacity across wider work rather than duplicating other activities
- Harness the strength of the river network as a natural asset
- Establish a long-term infrastructure programme

The presentation also covered impacts around climate change, flooding, drought, ecology and the associated effects on the economy.

James Blockley, GCC Flood Risk Manager, provided more detailed information on flood risks specific to Gloucestershire. He noted the importance of a collaborative approach with water and sewage management companies to improve the resilience of the drainage network.

Cllr Hawthorne believed that the presentation would also be of benefit to members of the GCC Environment Scrutiny Committee. He noted the links to a recent Council resolution relating to 'restoring our rivers'. Cllr Rob Bird, Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee, recognised that this would be of value.

Action – Simon Harper

Cllr Hawthorne noted that MPs further up the Severn catchment had highlighted the importance of water management to prevent flooding. The Government would be providing £30 million to accelerate the scheme which was in total valued at around £100 million. Work was being undertaken with the Department of Transport to include a relief road for Shrewsbury which formed an integral part of the infrastructure improvements. The target date for completion was 2027.

Cllr Steve Jordan noted that Cheltenham BC was not represented directly on the Partnership and enquired what governance arrangements were in place.

Cllr Doina Cornell noted that the Stroud Sustainable Drainage Project had been highlighted as an example of best practice but Stroud DC was not a member of the Severn Estuary Partnership. She enquired what discussions were happening around the use of water to generate power and heat.

Hayley stated that through membership of the National Flood Forum Gloucestershire councils had close links to the Partnership. One of the Partnership's main streams of activity was stakeholder engagement and management. Work was starting on governance including reporting arrangements to partners and other stakeholders. In terms of energy, hydro power posed a real challenge because of fish migration, although there were opportunities around heat generation.

Jon McGinty referred to the Severn Vale Regional Park Project which was broader than water management and covered other areas including biodiversity loss. He asked how this would link into the Partnership.

Hayley and James recognised the value of regional water parks and their contribution to water resilience management. Water management and improving biodiversity were closely linked and this was demonstrated by the Stroud Sustainable Drainage Project.

Cllr Hawthorne believed that there was general support amongst Gloucestershire partners. He was concerned, however, that there might be a danger of trying to cover everything and losing sight of the Partnership's main objective of improving flood management.

Partners agreed that the lead officers' group should look at the best shape for governance from a Gloucestershire perspective. A report would be made to a future meeting of Leadership Gloucestershire.

Action – Mike Dawson

Cllr Hawthorne thanked Hayley, Rob and James for their contributions.

3 COVID-19

Sarah Scott, Director of Public Health, provided an update on the latest position in Gloucestershire. With the increasing number of cases, the county was now preparing for a second wave of the virus. Modelling by Public Health England showed the county to be around four weeks behind the North-West. More cases were now being seen in middle to older age groups. The national trigger point was 50 cases per 100,000 people and the county was currently 17 per 100,000. An escalation plan had been developed by the Health Protection Board. There were higher rates of infection in Cheltenham and Gloucester. Partnership working was strong and the County Council was working with Environmental Health, NHS and Police colleagues to address a range of issues including support for care homes and enforcement.

Cllr Hawthorne noted that the average in England was currently 44 cases per 100,000 so Gloucestershire was some way off that at the moment. He recognised that there were spikes in infection in parts of the county, particularly around Cheltenham.

Answering a question from Cllr Steve Jordan, Sarah said that there was a need to gather evidence and have local partnerships in place to escalate activities as appropriate. Discussions were already taking place involving Cheltenham BC representatives about further action in the town in light of the higher figures in particular localities. She noted there was a tension about the response and the impact on economic prosperity. There was no easy answer and it was a case of trying to find the right balance. Karen Leigh offered to provide representation from the Government if a local group was formally established.

Dr Andy Seymour advised that GPs had seen a number of patients with symptoms of Covid-19 who had not been tested beforehand. The availability of tests was proving to be an issue in some instances.

4 Western Gateway

Pete Bungard stated that current activities had focused on the bid for Government funding. So far most of the cost had been met by contributions from partners. Work was currently being undertaken on a digital accelerator bid. Information was awaited on the impact of the national spending review. The importance of District Council representation on the board had again been highlighted.

Local Enterprise Partnerships, led by GFirst, had undertaken a study around 'innovation' which showed that universities in the area did not receive as much funding as elsewhere. David Owen explained that research and investment for industry was well above the national average but that was not reflected in

higher education. There was a clear need to develop stronger links with a particular focus on cyber and digital.

Colin Chick advised that the National Transport Board had released the transport strategy for the English side of the combined area. District Councils had been included in the circulation list.

5 Gloucestershire City Region Board

Mike Dawson reported that, although the September meeting had been cancelled, work was continuing at a pace. The Joint Core Strategy now included Stroud DC with related activity on the Golden Valley Project, two garden communities and M5 junctions 9 and 10.

The Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee had considered its governance arrangements and it was agreed that it would continue for at least a further 18 months from September 2020.

The first City Region Board was due to be held on 17 November 2020 and governance, reporting on major projects and future planning to 2050 and beyond would be among the items to be considered.

The Statement of Common Ground work was continuing under a group led by David Oakhill from Cheltenham BC. Reports would be going to the City Region Board and the Economic Growth Joint Committee in due course.

6 One Gloucestershire – Integrated Care System (ICS)

Dr Andy Seymour stated that health organisations were now in Phase 3 Covid response. Primary care demand was very high with longer waiting times as backlogs were being addressed alongside normal activity. A communications campaign was underway to highlight this and local MPs had been informed.

The temporary changes at the hospitals would continue for a further 6 months and this had been reported to the Health Scrutiny Committee. An update on the ICS would be presented to the Health Scrutiny Committee on 27 October 2020. This would be followed by public consultation with implementation expected from March 2021.

7 Next meeting

Thursday, 10 December at 10am (virtual meeting via GCC WebEx unless otherwise advised)

8 Additional items

8.1 Homelessness update

Mike Dawson reported that the multi-agency approach through the Covid-19 Homelessness Cell had worked well and a bid for financial support from the Government had been successful. Work continued to provide a longer term housing solution for people who were previously homeless. This could be very challenging due to some people's lifestyles. Additional accommodation might be required in the event of a second lockdown and there were pressures associated with moving into winter.

8.2 GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) representation

Cllr Steve Jordan was currently the District Council representative on GFirst LEP. With Steve standing down as a councillor in May 2021 a discussion would be needed following the district elections to decide who would be the representative in future.

Action – David Owen (May 2021)