



Notes of the meeting of Leadership Gloucestershire held on
Wednesday, 9 December 2015

1 Welcome, introduction and apologies

Name	Organisation	Apologies
Cllr Mark Hawthorne (Chair)	Gloucestershire County Council	
Pete Bungard	Gloucestershire County Council	
Cllr Geoff Wheeler	Stroud District Council	
David Hagg	Stroud District Council	
Cllr David Norman	Gloucester City Council	Cllr Paul James
Jon McGinty	Gloucester City Council	
Cllr Christopher Hancock	Cotswold District Council	Cllr Lynden Stowe
	Cotswold District Council	David Neudegg
Cllr Brian Robinson	Forest of Dean District Council	Cllr Patrick Molyneux
Peter Hibberd	Forest of Dean District Council	
Cllr Steve Jordan	Cheltenham Borough Council	
Andrew North	Cheltenham Borough Council	
Cllr Robert Vines	Tewkesbury Borough Council	
Mike Dawson	Tewkesbury Borough Council	
Martin Surl	Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner	
Richard Bradley	Police and Crime Commissioner's Office	
	Gloucestershire Constabulary	Suzette Davenport
Dr Andy Seymour	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	Dr Helen Miller
Mary Hutton	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	
Rob Loveday	GFirst LEP	Diane Savory
Pete Carr	GFirst LEP	David Owen
Jane Burns	Gloucestershire County Council	
Jo Walker	Gloucestershire County Council	
Nigel Riglar	Gloucestershire County Council	
Simon Harper	Gloucestershire County Council	
Katie Jenkins	Government representative – Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)	

2 Last meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 29 October 2015 were approved.

3 We are Gloucestershire Devolution bid – update and next steps

The Chair welcomed Katie Jenkins, the Government representative from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The challenge session with the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, held on 11 November had gone well. He supported the proposals around skills, business support and public sector reform (including community safety and health and social care) but he had challenged Gloucestershire to go further on housing and governance.

Katie Jenkins explained that there remained a clear ambition from the Government to agree a deal. It was hoped that this would happen during late January or early February, although there was the possibility of slippage to March to coincide with the Chancellor's 2016 Budget. Negotiations were taking place with Government policy leads and it would not be necessary to hold another challenge session with Greg Clark unless there was a significant area of disagreement.

a) Housing

Mike Dawson presented a paper setting out the updated position.

LG members endorsed the revised submission to the Government. This covered:

- Streamlined strategic planning for the county
- Workforce integration where appropriate
- Accelerating site delivery and overcoming strategic infrastructure barriers.
- Using public sector land to increase the delivery of new homes
- Meeting local housing needs

A trawl had been undertaken of public sector land to identify further sites for development that fitted with existing planning strategies across the county. The potential for a further 1,500 houses had been identified which represented a 100% uplift on the number of houses due to be delivered on public sector land in the first five years. A Strategic Growth Commission would bring together public sector partners with a view to identifying further sites.

The Government was being asked to provide support to help deliver affordable housing in rural areas. An additional 500 homes were planned over the next five years.

Katie Jenkins stated that she was confident that the housing issues raised by Greg Clark were being addressed. She said that civil servants might need more information to illustrate what was being addressed.

Action – Mike Dawson

Whilst supporting the revised proposals, some LG members expressed concern about the capacity of the construction industry to build the required number of homes.

b) Governance

Jane Burns advised that the challenge from Greg Clark was to 'sell' the proposition for a Combined Authority for Gloucestershire. Leadership Gloucestershire had approved a 'proposition' at the last meeting. This has been revised in a few places to make it clearer why the combined authority was needed and how it was unique for both the county's circumstances and the devolution deal proposed with Government.

The Chair believed that the Gloucestershire story around shared services was amongst the strongest in the country and this needed to be emphasised in the proposals. Peter Hibberd undertook to provide some evidence relating to the 20/20 project and the Joint Waste Committee.

Action – Peter Hibberd and Jane Burns to update the document

The revised proposition included a 'straw man' on possible roles for Combined Authority members. There was some discussion around whether these were the right roles and how cross-cutting themes would be covered. More work was needed on role descriptions.

Discussion also focussed on the strong chair. Two suggestions were made about how the chair could be elected - from the entire group of elected members or by combined authority members. No conclusions were drawn at the meeting.

It was agreed that the discussions about roles, election of the chair, robust scrutiny arrangements and the completion of the Governance Review should be referred to a small working group with a view to reporting back to the next meeting on 7 January. The members would be Mary Hutton, Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Cllr Geoff Wheeler, Cllr Steve Jordon and Cllr Patrick Molyneux (or Cllr Brian Robinson in his absence).

Action – Pete Bungard/Devolution Advisory Group

c) Enabling active communities

Mary Hutton circulated a paper providing an update on the latest position. LG members supported the proposals but were anxious that an effective mechanism was established to ensure that local communities were properly represented. It was important that representatives from parish and town councils, voluntary and community groups and neighbourhood

forums had an opportunity to be involved. The position in each area would need to be assessed as some groups would want to be more actively involved than others.

Action – Mary Hutton

d) Timeline

- Deal agreed late January/early February (subject to Government announcement).
- Buy-in from councils and partner organisations on LG in February/March.
- Consultation and engagement with stakeholders and public following May elections.
- Decision by councils and partner organisations on LG by July
- Submit to Government in Sept
- Gloucestershire Combined Authority established in shadow form October.

4 Future meetings

7 January 2016

25 February 2016

31 March 2016