

Private Document Pack

Leadership Gloucestershire

Wednesday 15 November 2023 at 9.00 am

Virtual meeting via Teams



AGENDA

1	WELCOME	
2	ACTION NOTES (Pages 1 - 6)	
3	REFUGEE HOUSING <i>The Government has accelerated asylum decisions for the people currently staying in Home Office purchased hotels. These decisions are prioritised against 5 countries where positive permission to stay is very likely. Since the beginning of September GARAS have seen 74 cases present to them seeking help, mainly due to homelessness. We believe there could be a further 200 people potentially given permission to stay by the end of December.</i>	Peter Bungard

This page is intentionally left blank

Leadership Gloucestershire – 26 September 2023

Microsoft Teams, 2pm

1 Welcome

Name	Organisation	Apologies
Cllr Mark Hawthorne (Chair) Pete Bungard Colin Chick Rob Ayliffe	Gloucestershire County Council	Sarah Scott
Cllr Catherine Braun Claire Hughes	Stroud District Council	Kathy O'Leary
Cllr Richard Cook Jon McGinty	Gloucester City Council	Hannah Norman
Cllr Mark Topping Andrew Grant	Forest of Dean District Council	Peter Williams
Cllr Mike Evemy Rob Weaver	Cotswold District Council	Cllr Joe Harris Gemma Williams
Cllr Rowena Hay Gareth Edmundson	Cheltenham District Council	Freya Gill
Cllr Richard Stanley Alistair Cunningham	Tewkesbury Borough Council	
Ellen Rule	NHS Gloucestershire	Mary Hutton Andrew Seymour
David Owen	GFirst LEP	
Nick Evans	Police and Crime Commissioner	Chris Nelson
Ian Hughes Paul Clarke Sonika Sidhu Kate Biddlecombe	LGA South West	

2 Action Notes

The notes and actions of the 20 June 2023 were acknowledged and agreed. It was asked that Severn Edge provide an update at a future Leadership Gloucestershire meeting.

ACTION: Democratic Services

3 LGA Planned White Paper for Local Government

- Jon McGinty introduced the item to the group. The intention was to have a discussion around a future local government white paper ahead of the next General Election following an announcement by Cllr Sean Davies at the LGA conference.

- Ian Hughes noted that the LGA is working with national parties about emphasising the importance of Local Government in their next manifestos. It was feared that despite all the talk around a more localist approach, in the implementation phase for an incoming/returning government, this would not be delivered.
- Sonika Sidhu gave a presentation around some of the issues that the white paper aims to address in influencing the approach that central government takes after the next general election. Please refer to the slides for more information.
- Ian Hughes asked the group to consider evidence-gathering around three issues:
 - Housing
 - Resources – what extra resources can deliver for Local Government
 - Need for a fully empowered local government.
- There was a discussion around how local government could be empowered for inclusion in a future local government white paper. It was noted that some of the strategic issues identified by national government was beyond the remit of local government in a single geographical area such as infrastructure and housing. Also, it was observed that it would be worth considering enhancing level 2/3 local government devolution deals that are already on the table.
- In the discussion, the lack of certainty for local government was emphasised especially around funding formulas – getting the basic plank right is important so authorities can build for the future. Also, it was crucial to make central government realise that much of local government has suffered from a lack of long-term investment with the returns coming in the medium-to-long term.
- It was suggested that the Skidmore Review outlined several recommendations regarding local government around Net Zero which would be important to consider in any future white paper. There were challenges around defining the problems that need fixing where the solutions are best served by local government. This would go far in demonstrating the role of local government in delivering better outcomes. For Gloucestershire, there are key issues that illustrate the value of local government such as education and skills, local transport etc.
- It was emphasised that there was tighter regulation and more reporting that local government has to comply with and through self-regulation, authorities would do well to show how we can regulate ourselves effectively particularly around the use of section 114 notices.

ACTION: ALL

It was agreed for the group to go away and find examples around top 5-10 examples around why local government approaches are best.

Ian Hughes also asked the group to send anything they have around collaboration with local businesses as well to LGWP@local.gov.uk.

4 Economic Growth Update

a) County Deal

Pete Bungard provided an update in relation to County Deals. In January, an expression of interest was submitted, and after lobbying the government, it looks like Gloucestershire will be invited to make a level 2 deal later this year as a single upper-tier authority in the county. Devolved responsibilities will include Adult Education, Skills Planning, Bus Franchising. The expectation is that if announced, the deals will be wrapped up by end of year. Partner support would be desirable to get this done. This would be informed by the 'hope' value that there will be add-ons or a future deal.

In discussing the input of District Councils in any future deal, Mark Hawthorne stated that the impression he has received is that the government will give an off-the-shelf deal which will be a take it or leave it situation, but all partners will be linked in once they have the letter.

b) City Region Board Update

Gareth Edmundson provided an update on the City Region Board around the IAA and the Strategic Economic Development Fund with the end of the GEGJC. Please refer to the slides for full details of the proposal.

All content with the proposition so it was agreed for this to be implemented.

ACTION: Gareth Edmundson

c) Western Gateway

Pete Bungard gave an update on the Western Gateway Partnership. Conversations were ongoing with nuclear vendors about the Severn Edge Project at various sites and a brochure was produced to promote Severn Edge.

The Hydrogen working group has been established and has been shown to be good in promoting the potential of hydrogen across the county. Strategic Rail 2050 had reception in the House of Lords with Ministers and Shadow Ministers represented. They are recruiting a new chair as Catherine Bennett of Airbus steps away with the last meeting held on 11th July.

It was noted that individuals from the Western Gateway are coming to Gloucestershire to meet individuals in the cyber sector and there is work ongoing to create a renewable energy cluster.

d) Severn Estuary

Pete Bungard updated on the independent commission. It was explained that the Steering Group has failed to appoint a chair and are now approaching a number of commissioners. There is a major piece of work that has been undertaken by WSP around what is known around renewable energy which is nearing completion.

The Welsh Government launched a £750k project on Tidal Lagoon challenges with Severn Estuary putting small amount of money around socio-economic valuation.

e) Local Plans

Cllr Catherine Braun highlighted that there have been issues with the Stroud Local Plan around capacity between J12-J15 on the M5 and they are working with the Planning Inspectorate on this.

Mark Hawthorne stated that it is a live issue and there is a meeting between the County Council and Stroud District Council on this.

ACTION: Mark advised that it might be worth having a presentation on major infrastructure in the county.

5 One Gloucestershire ICS

Ellen Rule gave an update on One Gloucestershire – working on the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and moving forward with the ICB Strategy. For full details of the update please refer to the slides.

The presentation outlined the strategic intent of One Gloucestershire. As part of the Health and Care Partnership identified three exemplar themes: Blood Pressure, Smoking and Employment.

An update was provided on the System Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) with challenges in the NHS's financial position with a requirement to submit a five-year financial plan. The financial position is very challenging as while for 2023/24, they have produced a balanced plan, this has involved the use of lots of non-recurrent funding with £57 million in medium or high-risk savings and reliance on elective recovery to support the financial position of around £16.3 million. This provides a lack of certainty in the NHS system due to a reliance on non-recurrent funding.

The MTFP provides a framework for operational planning in future years and provides the context for the ICS Strategy and Joint Forward Plan. It covers 5 years with 2023/24 being the first year.

The total resources for the ICS are c.£1.56 billion of which c.£1.2 billion is allocation and the remainder represents income to providers primarily from other commissioners.

6 Next Meetings

5 December 2023 – 10am
5 March 2024 – 10am
18 June 2024 – 10am
24 September 2024 – 10am
10 December 2024 – 10am

ACTION: Democratic Services

Send email around to see whether Teams or in-person.

This page is intentionally left blank