



Leadership Gloucestershire – 19 December 2019

Tewkesbury Borough Council

1 Welcome, introduction and apologies

Name	Organisation	Apologies
Cllr Mark Hawthorne (Chair) Pete Bungard	Gloucestershire County Council	
Doina Cornell Kathy O'Leary	Stroud District Council	
Cllr Paul James Jon McGinty	Gloucester City Council	Cllr Richard Cook
Cllr Tim Gwilliam Pete Williams	Forest of Dean District Council	
Cllr Steve Jordan Tim Atkins	Cheltenham Borough Council	
Cllr Joe Harris Nigel Adams	Cotswold District Council	
Cllr Rob Bird Mike Dawson	Tewkesbury Borough Council	
	Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)	PCC Martin Surl Richard Bradley
	Gloucestershire Constabulary	Rod Hansen Craig Holden
Dr Andy Seymour Mary Hutton	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	
David Owen Diane Savory	GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)	
Oliver Hindle	Area Lead for Gloucestershire, Cities and Local Growth Unit	
Sarah Scott Colin Chick Simon Harper	Gloucestershire County Council	
Rob Weaver	Tewkesbury Borough Council	
Nicola de longh	University of Gloucestershire	

1 **Welcome**

Cllr Rob Bird and Mike Dawson welcomed everyone to the Council Offices in Tewkesbury.

They made a PowerPoint presentation (circulated separately) highlighting key issues and challenges for Tewkesbury Borough as the most northerly district council in the South West Region. The Borough was at the heart of the M5 corridor with links to the Midlands as well as the South West. The area aimed to be the primary growth area for the Central Gloucestershire City Region. The population was expected to increase from 92,599 to 105,623 by 2037 with 20,000 new homes by 2031.

The draft Council Plan for 2020-24 was being developed on a cross-party basis and included six priorities: finance and resources, economic growth, housing, customer first, garden communities and sustainable environment. The Council's Transform Programme was multi-faceted and focused on partners and commissioning, use of buildings and assets, technology, people and commercialisation. The commercialisation strategy included a £50 million investment with 5% net return per annum.

The Council Offices were a public sector hub with a range of agencies providing services including Gloucestershire County Council (Adults, Childrens and Registrars), Police, GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Job Centre Plus and the Gloucestershire Voluntary Sector Alliance. Three business incubator units were also housed at the Council Offices along with four private sector tenants. The leisure centre on the site was a valuable community facility and provided a secure source of income.

Support for local businesses was a key priority with a focus on business expansion and relocation, support for town centres, funding, regeneration, business support grants and the GFirst LEP Growth Hub.

In terms of the delivery of Joint Core Strategy 1, 60% of new homes and over 50% of employment land provision was in Tewkesbury Borough. Joint Core Strategy 2 was now being developed with plans for a garden town and potential for an advanced manufacturing centre of excellence. The cyber central proposals were expected to provide up to 3,000 job opportunities.

2 **Action notes**

The notes of the meeting held on 10 October 2019 were agreed.

3 **Young People's Mental Health**

In presenting the report, Sarah Scott explained that the results of the survey of 14-25 year olds undertaken by GFirst LEP as part of the consultation on the Local Industry Strategy had been compared against national and local

information on the prevalence of mental health conditions. The report highlighted the link between mental health conditions and other vulnerabilities and risk factors. Work was underway in the county to improve mental health and wellbeing in young people. It was recognised that a 'system-wide' approach with agencies working together would lead to better outcomes.

Cllr Steve Jordan noted that the 'No child left behind' programme in Cheltenham had highlighted the direct link between vulnerable children and mental health conditions. As part of their 'year of action' over half of the 4,300 children in poverty in the town had been contacted. Cllr Mark Hawthorne thanked Cllr Jordan for the work undertaken in Cheltenham and was pleased to see that activity would continue in 2020.

Answering a question about the transition for young people to adulthood, Mary Hutton stated that work around mental health was currently being carried out and the findings would be presented in around six months.

4 Western Gateway

Pete Bungard provided an update on the latest position regarding the Western Gateway, formerly referred to as the Great Wester Powerhouse. GCC had provided £20,000 locally to support the project and the Government had announced £1 million of funding. Detailed work was being undertaken to understand what was required with road and rail infrastructure projects featuring strongly. For Gloucestershire, M5 Junctions 9 and 10 and the A417 Missing Link were critical projects.

MetroDynamics had been engaged to develop a prospectus for the Western Gateway. With firms like Airbus in the region, some concern had been expressed that decarbonisation was not compatible with the sort of growth required. Sustainable and clean growth was the right approach and a redraft of the prospectus was currently underway.

North Somerset and South Gloucestershire were becoming members of the Western Gateway, joining Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, Cardiff, Newport, Swansea and Gloucestershire. The position regarding Wiltshire remained unclear. It was proposed that Gloucestershire would be represented by GCC, a District Council representative and GFirst LEP.

There was no blueprint for the governance structure with the Northern Powerhouse largely led by LEPs in the area and the Midlands Engine led by upper tier local authorities. The challenge for Western Gateway Chair Katherine Bennet, Senior Airbus Vice-President, was to work with partners and the Government to deliver a local structure that met the needs of the region.

Pete said that there was a desire to have an inclusive approach involving all tiers of local government. He hoped that it would be possible to replicate the sort of event held in the House of Lords in July 2019.

Cllr Joe Harris expressed concern that the continued focus on building roads did not support a carbon neutral approach. He called for more investment in public transport and support for areas of Gloucestershire away from the M5 corridor.

Cllr Rob Bird stated that good public transport went alongside improvements to the road network.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne said that the aspiration was for clean green growth and long term modal shift to take traffic away from the M5 corridor and on to the railway. He explained that Colin Chick was involved in developing a list of asks for Gloucestershire. As part of this process, Colin was meeting with the Leader, relevant Cabinet member and lead officers at each District Council to identify local schemes, including those that were unfunded. The list would be presented to a future meeting of Leadership Gloucestershire.

Action – Colin Chick

5 Gloucestershire Vision 2050 Boards

Mike Dawson presented the report which provided an update on the three Vision 2050 Boards: Central Gloucestershire City Region, Severn Vale and Rural Ambitions. The terms of reference for the Central Gloucestershire City Region Board and Rural Ambitions Board had already been presented to Leadership Gloucestershire and the first meetings had recently been held. An informal meeting of the Severn Vale Board had already taken place and the terms of reference were attached to the report. All three Boards would require funding to support their work and it was intended that a bid of £500,000 for the Gloucester City Region Board would be presented to the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee at an extra meeting in January 2020.

Although it was recognised that the Central Gloucestershire City Region Board required support, some concern was expressed that limited information was available on detailed resource provision or specific projects. The resource commitment would be more for some councils compared to others. Stroud DC was likely to have involvement in all three Boards. The need for the Environment Agency and Natural England to be involved was noted, particularly for the Severn Vale Board.

Colin Chick said that with a limited land supply, most districts could find themselves having problems with speculative development unless we were able to show an evidential base to support current actions, Joint Core Strategy 2 (JCS2) and Local Plans 2 (LP2). It was therefore essential that a land use study was undertaken, particularly in the City Region area, to inform the future

approach to development in the county. It was also important that the county developed a multi-modal study to ensure that the districts could show that their approaches in developing the JCS2 and LP2s were the most sustainable options particularly when being challenged by speculative development. It was studies of this type that the money from Strategic Economic Development Fund (SEDF) was required for. If evidence was not available there was a danger that development would become ad hoc and developer-led.

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee should be asked to allocate a sum of £750,000 for the three Boards. The release of funds would be subject to each Board providing costed proposals for specific projects.

A paper would be presented to the next meeting of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee in January 2020. It was recognised that a process was required to allow funds to be drawn down when needed without having to wait for a meeting of the committee.

Action – Mike Dawson and Colin Chick

6 Climate Change Strategy and action plan

Colin Chick presented the report related to the creation of a Climate Change Coordinator post and an associated role to provide a dedicated marketing resource, both on 2-year fixed term contracts. The cost of the coordinator post would be approximately £100,000 each year with on-costs and the marketing role would be approximately £50,000, resulting in an overall cost of £150,000. GCC was prepared to put £30,000 a year towards the coordinator role and meet half the costs (£25,000) of the marketing post. If all the partners of LG were prepared to contribute then the total cost would be approximately £9,500 per partner per year (£7,000 for the coordinator and £2,500 for the marketing post). GCC would employ someone on a half-time basis for the marketing role if matched funding was not available from partners.

The Chief Executives' Group was supportive of this approach with both posts hosted by GCC. No one organisation could do it on their own and a central coordinator role with marketing support was essential to win the hearts and minds of the public and show leadership. The GCC Climate Change Strategy would be presented to the Cabinet the following day (20 December 2019). This included a 5 year programme of change. Year 1 was critical in achieving quick wins and developing plans for the future.

Tewkesbury BC, Gloucester City and Stroud DC recognised the importance of central coordination and indicated support for the approach proposed. The Forest of Dean DC had already committed significant funds to climate change with its partner authorities in Publica and indicated that no further resources were available. Cheltenham BC and Cotswold DC advised that they were willing to work in partnership with others but they were concerned that GCC

was not serious about climate change. They referred to GCC dropping the Benhall bus lane project and a recommendation from the GCC Traffic Regulation Committee to reopen Boots Corner in Cheltenham.

The GFirst LEP Local Industrial Strategy had a stronger emphasis on climate change and green energy than any of the strategies produced by the other 38 LEPs in the country. A climate change programme was underway at Gloucestershire Hospitals' Trust. Both GFirst LEP and Gloucestershire CCG indicated support for a coordinated approach.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne believed that it was inappropriate for the issues around the Benhall bus lane and Boots Corner in Cheltenham to be raised. He said that it was important to coordinate efforts across the county and avoid duplication. He suggested that the item be withdrawn from the agenda to allow for a more considered discussion.

A suggestion was made that a bid for funding could be made to the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee. This would recognise the close links between economic growth and Green Gloucestershire.

It was agreed that the matter would be considered again at the next meeting of Leadership Gloucestershire.

Action – Colin Chick and Simon Harper

7 Future public buildings and developments in Gloucestershire

Cllr Mark Hawthorne referred to the motion that was passed by Gloucestershire County Council on 11 September 2019 which requested the Cabinet to:

- Work with the NHS, Gloucestershire Police, District Councils and others, via Leadership Gloucestershire, to ensure that all new public buildings commissioned support the move to zero carbon.
- Work with District Councils to ensure that all residential and commercial developments in Gloucestershire support the move to zero carbon.

It was recognised that there were two aspects to the motion:

- a) The public sector in Gloucestershire getting its house in order by taking steps to move towards carbon zero buildings. The One Public Estate Group could be well placed to do this.
- b) Improving the wider built environment by looking at exemplar sites elsewhere in the country and lobbying Government to commit to higher environmental standards, both for new development and existing buildings. One of the County Planning Groups could lead on this area.

The Chief Executives' Group was asked to consider the best approach and report back to Leadership Gloucestershire.

Action – Chief Executives' Group

8 One Gloucestershire – Integrated Care System

Mary Hutton reported that a Citizens Jury would be held in late January. Engagement activities were focusing on minor injury units in localities and developing centres of excellence. There was a particular risk around emergency general surgery and this would be looked at closely as part of the centre of excellence work.

9 Future meetings and work plan

The following dates and locations were agreed:

5 March 2020 – Gloucester City Council
25 June – Forest of Dean District Council, Coleford
1 October – Cotswold District Council, Cirencester
10 December – Stroud District Council, Ebley Mill

All Thursdays at 10am

Agenda items identified for the next meeting:

- a) Western Gateway – latest position
- b) Vision 2050 Boards – update on activities including funding
- c) Future public buildings and developments in Gloucestershire – update on approach
- d) Climate Change Strategy and action plan – reconsideration of report
- e) Integrated Care System - update
- f) Social mobility?

The meeting ended at 12pm