



## Leadership Gloucestershire – 3 March 2022

### Remote meeting via Microsoft Teams

#### 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	
Cllr Richard Cook Jon McGinty	Gloucester City Council	
Cllr Tim Gwilliam Pete Williams	Forest of Dean District Council	
Cllr Rowena Hay Gareth Edmundson	Cheltenham Borough Council	
Cllr Joe Harris Rob Weaver	Cotswold District Council	
Cllr Rob Bird Mike Dawson	Tewkesbury Borough Council	
PCC Chris Nelson	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)	Richard Bradley
CC Rod Hansen	Gloucestershire Constabulary	
Mark Walkingshaw	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Dr Andy Seymour Mary Hutton
Ruth Dooley Dev Chakraborty	GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)	David Owen
Anwen Jones	Area Lead for Gloucestershire, Cities and Local Growth Unit	
Steve Mawson Sarah Scott Colin Chick Simon Harper	Gloucestershire County Council	

## **2 ACTION NOTES**

The notes of the meeting held on 13 January 2022 were agreed.

## **3 CLIMATE LEADERSHIP GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

Jon McGinty introduced Julian Atkins who was providing maternity cover for Climate Change Coordinator Afriqnnum Lovejoy. He said that Julian had previously been the senior officer at a National Parks Authority and had extensive background working on sustainability.

The report set out the arrangements for the appointment of the chair and vice-chair of the group. No other changes were proposed.

In terms of the work programme, a meeting had been held on biodiversity and a strategic action plan would be developed over coming months.

It was noted that Emma Hanby would be the GFirst LEP representative on the group.

Progress reports would be brought to Leadership Gloucestershire as the sponsoring body every six months.

The updated terms of reference were noted.

## **4 ECONOMIC GROWTH UPDATE**

### **4.1 Levelling-up White Paper and County Deals**

Background information was provided on the Government's Levelling-up White Paper. Although the proposals were simple in their approach they were complex in terms of their implementation. It was clear that the White Paper was about devolving powers from Central Government and did not involve taking powers from District Councils.

For Gloucestershire, the County Council believed that level 2 was probably the best approach given the county's significant infrastructure pipeline with a number of Government supported schemes either in progress or confirmed for the future. Level 2 avoided the need for a mayor which would add another layer of governance.

The County Council would be producing a summary document that set the scene and would draw on existing conversations around the Gloucestershire Story. Central Government expectation was that county councils would take the lead in county areas and seek the views from partners including district

councils. Gloucestershire already had a good vision and strategy and partners had worked well together in the past in reaching a common position. The county with its coterminous boundaries for public sector organisations was in a much stronger position than most other county areas as county council boundaries rarely aligned with those for health, police and local enterprise partnerships.

Some District Council partners believed that all the options should be kept open including level 3 which involved an elected mayor. They noted that level 3 provided potential opportunities for more funding for the county and might be worth exploring. They suggested that District Leaders meet with Cllr Hawthorne in an effort to reach a common position before the paper was submitted to the Government.

It was recognised that at this stage Gloucestershire was doing little more than booking itself in for a conversation with Central Government and the final bid was likely to look very different to what was put forward initially.

#### **4.2 Western Gateway**

Western Gateway was gaining in capability, capacity and confidence. It was taking the lead in the Step Fusion Project at Oldbury and Berkeley. Conversations were taking place around the levelling-up agenda and there was a general feeling that it fitted well with the region with a particular emphasis on South Wales. Business West was leading on hydrogen-related projects. A conference was due to be held the following week themed around the Green Gateway.

Some concern was raised around awareness of hydrogen-related projects in the county. Companies were often reluctant to provide information due to commercial sensitivity and it was agreed that partners should inform Colin Chick of any projects that they were aware of so that he could inform the Western Gateway.

A reception had been held at the Houses of Parliament on the Step Fusion Project. Although the science and technology was unproven there were lots of benefits that would flow into the local economy irrespective of whether the project succeeded or failed. For the bid to succeed it was important that there was strong local engagement with individual organisations indicating their support.

In terms of green energy, Western Gateway was looking to appoint an Independent Commission to lead on this area with an initial focus on tidal energy around Swansea Bay.

#### **4.3 Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC) and Gloucestershire City Region Board (GCRB)**

Good progress was being made with each of the seven councils having either made a decision or about to make a decision for the committee to continue for another year. The lifespan of the committee could be extended further later if necessary.

### **5 HEALTH UPDATE**

#### **5.1 Living with Covid**

In response to national changes, a new plan had been produced on living safely with Covid in Gloucestershire (circulated). The new strategy was based around 'Prevent, Contain, Respond, Monitor' and replaced Gloucestershire's Local Outbreak Management Plan. The Health Protection Board would be responsible for overseeing the plan alongside other health protection issues.

Covid infection rates in the county remained high with a current level of 504 cases per 100,000 people. This figure was above the rate for the South West and England. A significant number of cases were being detected in hospital when patients came in for other reasons. Fortunately the number of people in Intensive Care due to Covid remained low.

The county needed to be ready to respond at short notice if there was another surge in cases. This included contact tracing, testing in particular communities and mass surge testing.

There was concern around the future role of the County Council in terms of outbreak management. The Council did not have the resources to do this and historically was the responsibility of a national agency. This was being raised at a national level by Directors of Public Health.

#### **5.2 One Gloucestershire - Integrated Care System (ICS)**

The appointments to senior positions would be confirmed in the week starting 7 March 2022 and public sector partners would be informed shortly afterwards.

The new statutory ICS organisation would be established on 1 July 2022. Everything was progressing as planned to meet that date. The committee structure, including the Integrated Care Partnership and links with the County Council and six District Councils, was still being worked on and would be finalised in coming weeks.

The System Plan for 2022-23 included recovery from Covid and interdependencies with Adult Social Care

**6 Future meetings**

23 June 2022 10am-12pm

29 September 2022 9-11am

1 December 2022 10am-12pm

**7 Mike Dawson retirement**

At the end of the meeting, Cllr Hawthorne thanked Mike Dawson for everything that he had done to support Leadership Gloucestershire over the years and he said that he would be greatly missed. Other partners joined Cllr Hawthorne in thanking Mike.