



Notes of the meeting of Leadership Gloucestershire – 28 April 2016

1 Welcome, introduction and apologies

| Name | Organisation | Apologies |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Cllr Mark Hawthorne (Chair) | Gloucestershire County Council | |
| Pete Bungard | Gloucestershire County Council | |
| Cllr Geoff Wheeler | Stroud DC | |
| David Hagg | Stroud DC | |
| Cllr David Norman | Gloucester City Council | Cllr Paul James |
| Jon McGinty | Gloucester City Council | |
| Cllr Brian Robinson | Forest of Dean DC | Cllr Patrick Molyneux Peter Hibberd |
| Cllr Steve Jordan | Cheltenham BC | |
| Pat Pratley | Cheltenham BC | |
| Cllr Christopher Hancock | Cotswold DC | |
| David Neudegg | Cotswold DC | |
| Cllr Robert Vines | Tewkesbury BC | |
| Rachel North | Tewkesbury BC | Mike Dawson |
| Martin Surl | PCC Office | |
| Richard Bradley | PCC Office | Paul Trott |
| | Gloucestershire Constabulary | Suzette Davenport |
| | NHS Gloucestershire CCG | Mary Hutton Ellen Rule |
| Dr Andy Seymour | NHS Gloucestershire CCG | |
| Diane Savory | GFirst LEP | |
| Adam Starkey | GFirst LEP | David Owen |
| Jane Burns | Gloucestershire County Council | |
| Simon Excell | Gloucestershire County Council | Nigel Riglar |
| | Gloucestershire County Council | Jo Walker |
| Katie Jenkins | Government representative – Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) | |
| Simon Harper | Gloucestershire County Council | |

2 LAST MEETING

2.1 Action notes

The notes of the meeting held on 31 March 2016 were agreed.

2.2 Independent review brief

A document had been circulated for noting.

3 DEVOLUTION UPDATE

Katie Jenkins advised that Greg Clark had indicated that he did not wish to move forward with a devolution deal for Gloucestershire until the position regarding the Cotswold unitary bid had been resolved.

David Neudegg reported that Cotswold DC had appointed consultants to take a view on the unitary proposal and they would be reporting their initial findings by the end of May. A statement would be released at that time on the next steps.

Cllr Steve Jordan stated that the district leaders had met and, whilst recognising the need to progress joint working where possible, they did not want to be rushed into agreeing new mayoral governance arrangements. Cllr Jordan believed that it would be sensible to look at a broader range of options including the potential for unitary local government. A stock take of the current position would allow partners to consider what was best for the residents of Gloucestershire.

Martin Surl expressed serious concern that a devolution deal for Gloucestershire was being held up because of the 'Coxit' unitary proposals. He was anxious that Gloucestershire did not fall behind and lose funding opportunities that were currently available.

Diane Savory stated that the Government was still keen to pursue a devolution deal with Gloucestershire. She reminded partners that 50% of the devolution bid related to economic development and positive steps had been taken since the last meeting of Leadership Gloucestershire on potential strategic infrastructure projects. She was concerned that lack of agreement by partners might mean that Gloucestershire was viewed by the Government as not knowing what it wanted.

Katie Jenkins reaffirmed the Government's intentions around willingness to agree a devolution deal and she advised that this was separate conversation to unitary local authorities. The current focus was around devolution deals including elected mayors.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne noted what the West of England, Greater Lincolnshire and East Anglia were getting as part of their devolution deals. He said that unitary debates disrupted joint working and simply resulted in councils trying to sort out their differences. In Oxfordshire a great deal of time and money was being wasted on conversations around local government structures and councils were losing sight of the goal of improving services for residents. He believed that the focus should remain on scoping a devolution deal for Gloucestershire.

It was accepted that a devolution deal could not be taken forward with the 'Coxit' proposals still on the table and the uncertainties around the local elections. Partners were content that efforts should continue to scope a revised devolution deal for Gloucestershire. Detailed work would be undertaken to refine the 'big ask' of Government including the content of a potential £0.5 billion strategic infrastructure pot.

Partners remained content with the position reached at the last meeting: To explore what a mayoral deal for Gloucestershire might look like but recognise that there was no commitment by any partner to agree to an elected mayor.

Action – Leadership Gloucestershire partners

4 REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

Richard Bradley presented the paper which had been circulated with the agenda. He explained that the aim of the review was to have a cohesive and integrated approach to community safety across Gloucestershire.

The estimated cost of the review was £20,000 and this would be funded using historic money remaining from the Local Area Agreement Reward Grant.

Answering a question, Richard confirmed that the integrated approach would have a strong focus on youth justice and would cover all aspects including the Alternative Provision School. He recognised that early intervention was crucial in helping to prevent young people entering a life of crime.

There was strong support from partners for a 'whole systems' review of community safety. Questions were raised on the need for two safeguarding boards. It was also hoped that there would be an opportunity to create local multi-agency groups to allow issues to be addressed at locality level.

Action – Richard Bradley

5 GLOUCESTERSHIRE DEVOLUTION BID

Papers had been circulated setting out the revised 'asks' and potential infrastructure projects.

Position statements with figures would be worked up for each 'ask'.

Action - Leadership Gloucestershire partners

Individual partners would consider the list of infrastructure projects and a detailed discussion would be held at the next meeting.

Action – Leadership Gloucestershire partners

Cllr Mark Hawthorne believed that, although the Gloucestershire bid included a specific ask relating to flooding, it would be useful to look at the Greater Lincolnshire deal see if anything could be learned for Gloucestershire.

Action – Nigel Riglar

6 MAYORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The paper circulated with the agenda was noted.

7 NEXT MEETING

26 May 2016 (subject to Cotswold position being known)

8 CLLR GEOFF WHEELER

Cllr Mark Hawthorne noted that it was the last meeting for Cllr Geoff Wheeler who was standing down as a Stroud district councilor on 5 May. On behalf of Leadership Gloucestershire, he thanked Geoff for all his work over the years including his commitment to joint working across the county.