



Notes of the meeting of Leadership Gloucestershire held on
Wednesday, 22 March 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 Patrick Molyneux	Forest of Dean DC	
Peter Hibberd	Forest of Dean DC	
Cllr Steve Jordan	Cheltenham BC	
Pat Pratley	Cheltenham BC	Andrew North
Cllr Robert Vines	Tewkesbury BC	
Mike Dawson	Tewkesbury BC	
Martin Surl	PCC Office	
Richard Bradley	PCC Office	Paul Trott
Suzette Davenport	Gloucestershire Constabulary	
Dr Andy Seymour	NHS Gloucestershire CCG	Dr Helen Miller
	NHS Gloucestershire CCG	Mary Hutton
Diane Savory	GFirst LEP	
David Owen	GFirst LEP	
Jane Burns	Gloucestershire County Council	
Jo Walker	Gloucestershire County Council	
Katie Jenkins	Government representative – Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)	
Simon Harper	Gloucestershire County Council	

2 **Last meeting**

The notes of the meeting held on 25 February 2016 were approved subject to noting that the reference on page 3 to the Gloucestershire 'footprint' provided potential early access to transformation funding for new health initiatives in the county.

3 **Cotswold unitary proposal**

A summary was provided of developments since 25 February when Cotswold had announced its unitary proposal as part of local government reorganisation in Oxfordshire. It was evident from the Oxfordshire Vision website that detailed work had been undertaken over a period of months. The position had moved on and the picture was becoming very complex in terms of service delivery in the Cotswold and South Northants areas. There were difficulties in a number of areas including fire, policing, local enterprise partnerships, children's services, health, adult social care and strategic highway planning. Gloucestershire County Council had 106 county-wide contracts worth more than £1 million, some amounting to more than £30 million, that would need to be reviewed or renegotiated if the Cotswold area left the county.

The more obvious solution for Oxfordshire was two or three unitary councils based within the existing the county boundary. For significant devolution of powers the Government was still likely to require a directly elected mayor.

Partners were anxious to maintain a dialogue with Cotswold DC and encourage its representatives to attend future meetings of Leadership Gloucestershire and engage in discussions around devolution. The concerns of the Leader of Cotswold DC and the joint Chief Executive of Cotswold and West Oxfordshire around the lack of ambition in the Gloucestershire devolution bid and the creation of extra layers of bureaucracy were noted. There had been no recent engagement by Cotswold DC in discussions around economic development. Cotswold DC had been part of the wider devolution process and they had indicated that their main aspirations were around improving broadband and rural accessibility.

It was evident that there was a lack of understanding of the operation of services provided by public service partners. Proposals around policing did not meet the legislative framework.

There remained a strong commitment among partners to keep Gloucestershire together and build on the joint working through the 'We are Gloucestershire' devolution bid. A strong Gloucestershire needed everyone to continue to work together and all the partners believed that it was important that efforts were made to build a bridge with Cotswold DC. The LGA might be able to facilitate this process.

A process was also needed to ensure that the people of the Cotswold area had a voice in the process. Local people did not appear to be supportive of leaving Gloucestershire but this message had not been heard by the architects of the Oxfordshire unitary proposal.

The following actions were agreed:

- a) To provide a mechanism for the people of Cotswold to have a voice. GFirst LEP was probably best placed to facilitate this process.
Action - David Owen
- b) To invite Cotswold DC representatives to attend the Leadership Gloucestershire meeting next Thursday (31 March). They would have the opportunity to participate in discussions around devolution and joint working initiatives.
Action - Jane Burns
- c) Leadership Gloucestershire to commission a study of the West Oxfordshire (Cotswold) proposal comparing it with current arrangements for the delivery of services. To be financed from Leadership Gloucestershire unallocated funds.
Action - Jane Burns

4 Next meeting - Thursday, 31 March at 10am

Agenda items:

- a) Stock-take on recent national deals
- b) Review of the 'We are Gloucestershire' devolution deal –
 - Is it ambitious enough in light of recent developments?
 - Are there any gaps?
 - What initiatives can be taken forward now?

Action – Pete Bungard and Jane Burns