



Agenda Item 2 (a)

Time: 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Date: Thursday 12 December 2013

Venue: Members' Room

Notes of the meeting of Leadership Gloucestershire held on
28 November 2013

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies.

Name	Organisation	Substitute/Apologies
Cllr Mark Hawthorne (Chair)	Gloucestershire County Council	
Cllr Geoff Wheeler	Stroud District Council	
Cllr Paul James	Gloucester City Council	
Cllr Carole Topple	Cotswold District Council	
Cllr Patrick Molyneux	Forest of Dean District Council	
Cllr Robert Vines	Tewkesbury Borough Council	
Cllr Steve Jordan	Cheltenham Borough Council	
Martin Surl	Gloucestershire Police & Crime Commissioner	Apologies
Dr. Helen Miller	Clinical Commissioning Group Chair, NHS Gloucestershire	Apologies
Mary Hutton	Accountable Officer NHS Gloucestershire	Apologies
Diane Savory	Gloucestershire LEP	Apologies
Chief Executive Advisers		
Pete Bungard	Gloucestershire County Council	
Mike Dawson	Tewkesbury Borough Council	
Secretariat		
Jane Burns	Gloucestershire County Council	
Visitors		
Nigel Riglar	Gloucestershire County Council	
Julian Wain	Gloucester City Council	
Andrew North	Cheltenham Borough Council	
Ian Edwards	Stroud District Council	
David Neudegg	Cotswold District Council	
Peter Hibberd	Forest of Dean District Council	
Claire Edwards	Gloucestershire County Council	
Phil Swann	Shared Intelligence	

2. Notes of the previous meeting held on 26 September 2013

The notes of the meeting held on 26 September 2013 were approved.

All matters arising had been pursued or were reported back elsewhere on the agenda.

The meeting with the nominated councillors to discuss the Community Covenant had been organised for 7 January 2014.

3. Economic Growth

Phil Swann from Shared Intelligence gave updates on discussions about the proposed joint committee and the draft Strategic Economic Plan

On the proposed joint committee, there had been a further round of informal discussions with Chief Executives and Leaders to discuss the remit and membership. The spectrum of options ran from a narrow remit providing oversight of the Local Growth Fund to a broad remit to exercise full powers over economic development in the County. He had also had a discussion with the Chair and Chief Executive of the LEP. It would be important to review the various bodies concerned with economic development and growth to streamline arrangements once the joint committee had been established. The membership of the joint committee would include Leaders (or their nominees) from each of the seven councils plus the LEP Chair in a non-voting capacity.

The issue of who is the “accountable body” was debated with different views being expressed. It was explained that the Government would expect one authority to act as the Accountable Body. It was agreed that Gloucestershire County Council would act as the Accountable Body and that their lawyers would be asked to draft detailed terms of reference and associated documentation. GCC would continue to absorb the costs of the preparatory work. The joint committee could be reviewed once established to iron out any issues. It was also agreed that the Accountable Body did not have a veto.

Phil Swann gave a presentation on the outline content of the Strategic Economic Plan (slides attached). This included a number of propositions, a proposed structure, core narrative, actions in hand and a proposed timetable.

Key points made during the discussion included the need of a “USP” for Gloucestershire, the importance of “place shaping”, why the local economy had under performed in the past, housing numbers and sites, transport and infrastructure, use of Business Rates Retention Pooling, planning considerations and the need for effective business support. The level of ambition of the SEP was important – the Government were likely to push hard.

In terms of the timescale, everyone acknowledged the importance of hitting the 19 December deadline. A meeting to resolve “connections” was planned for 6 December. An additional meeting of Leadership Gloucestershire was also agreed on 12 December to allow consideration of the full draft. **(Action: Phil Swann)**

- (c) **Infrastructure developments** – recommendations from CSPIG. Paul James introduced a paper from the Group. It set out emerging advice from the Infrastructure Delivery Group (IDP) work which has been commissioned from Arup. The assumption was that employment land development would not trigger significant contributions to general infrastructure and that housing developers would therefore be a main source of funding. The consequence was that there would be a significant “gap” in funding required. The Arup work proposed a “layer cake” approach with projects that had strategic importance. Such an approach would require agreement from all seven councils to identify, prioritise and fund strategic infrastructure. CPSIG could, with minor changes in membership lead the required work.

Agreed Actions

1. The approach set out in the report was agreed;
2. Further work was agreed on groups to review infrastructure needs by category;
3. The decision over whether S106 or CIL would be the recommended route to managing developer funding for strategically significant projects would be kept under review and;
4. CPSIG was asked to:
 - (a) formulate a draft Protocol for dealing with cross boundary infrastructure issues
 - (b) report to Leadership Gloucestershire/the proposed Joint Committee at a later date on any CIL proposal
 - (c) explore (alongside other relevant parties) funding streams for infrastructures with a view to maximisation
 - (d) review, for approval by Leadership Gloucestershire, the CSPIG terms of reference in light of these new objectives for the Group **(Action: All actions Andrew North/Paul James)**

- (d) **A417** – Cllr Mark Hawthorne gave an update on his, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown and Lawrence Robertson’s recent meeting with the Secretary of State for Transport and the Highways Agency. The meeting was constructive.

The scheme stood a good chance of approval only if it was the top priority locally and there was agreement on a single solution. It would cost approximately £30m to do the detailed work on the scheme. Draft documents would be required by end of January 2014. Simon Excell from the County Council was leading the engagement exercise.

Junction 10 “all ways” was also discussed. It was felt that this would be viable with local contributors, whereas the A417 was unaffordable without government funding.

5. Dates of Next Meetings

Thursday 12 December 2013, 10.00 am – 12 noon
(Please note – meeting reinstated to discuss the draft Strategic Economic Plan)

Thursday 9th January 2014 – 10.00am – 12 noon

The meeting ended at 3.40pm

Key Messages

- **Strategic Economic Plan**– constructive discussion on the draft content of the plan. Agreement to a statutory joint committee involving the Leaders (or their nominees) of all seven councils and the Chair of the LEP in a non-voting capacity. Also commissioned CSPIG to continue their good work on infrastructure developments and how this should link to the SEP.