



**Agenda Item 2 (a)**

Time: 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Date: Thursday 28 November 2013

Venue: Members' Room

Notes of the meeting of Leadership Gloucestershire held on  
26 September 2013

**1. Welcome, introduction and apologies.**

Name	Organisation	Substitute/Apologies
Cllr Mark Hawthorne (Chair)	Gloucestershire County Council	
Cllr Carole Toppie	Cotswold District Council	
Cllr Geoff Wheeler	Stroud District Council	
Cllr Paul James	Gloucester City Council	Cllr Jennie Dallimore
Cllr Patrick Molyneux	Forest of Dean District Council	Apologies
Cllr Robert Vines	Tewkesbury Borough Council	Apologies
Cllr Steve Jordan	Cheltenham Borough Council	
Martin Surl	Gloucestershire Police & Crime Commissioner	Damon Blandford
Dr. Helen Miller	Clinical Commissioning Group Chair, NHS Gloucestershire	Apologies
Mary Hutton	Accountable Officer NHS Gloucestershire	
Diane Savory	Gloucestershire LEP	Apologies
Chief Executive Advisers		
Pete Bungard	Gloucestershire County Council	Apologies
Mike Dawson	Tewkesbury Borough Council	
Secretariat		
Jane Burns	Gloucestershire County Council	
Visitors		
Nigel Riglar	Gloucestershire County Council	
Claire Edwards	Gloucestershire County Council	
Eugene O'Kane	Gloucestershire County Council	
Dawn Thompson	Gloucestershire County Council	
Jeff Alexander	Shared Intelligence	

**2. Notes of the previous meeting held on 2 August 2013**

The notes of the meeting held on 2 August 2013 were approved.

All matters arising had been pursued or were reported back elsewhere on the agenda. The exception was the draft work programme which had been re-circulated for comments. It may need to be altered in the light of the development of the Growth Plan and the associated governance issues.

**Community Covenant** – all nominations now confirmed:

Cotswold District Council – Cllr. Carole Topple  
Gloucester City Council – Cllr. Fred Wood  
Gloucestershire County Council – Cllr. Shaun Parsons  
Stroud District Council – Cllr. June Cordwell  
Forest of Dean District Council - Cllr. Terry Hale  
Cheltenham Borough Council – Cllr. Steve Jordan  
Tewkesbury Borough Council – Cllr. Claire Wright

A meeting would be arranged. **(Action: Nigel Riglar/Jane Burns)**

### 3. Economic Growth

#### (a) Gloucestershire Growth Strategy

Nigel Riglar introduced the item with a summary of the purpose of the Strategic Economic Plan, the requirements from government for local areas to demonstrate strong governance arrangements and the tight timescales. They would be looking for assurance that funding would be stewarded appropriately.

Jeff Alexander from Shared Intelligence (SI) introduced his report on governance arrangements. This had been developed following discussions with Leaders and Chief Executives individually and collectively. As well as strong governance arrangements between local authorities, local authorities needed strong relationships with the LEP. The Government was expecting a progress report in October.

Three options had been debated:

- enhanced ‘status quo’ based on Leadership Gloucestershire
- a statutory joint committee
- a combined authority

The pros and cons of each had been debated. There had been strong agreement in principle for a statutory joint committee and further discussions were planned on its scope (narrow or broad). SI were preparing an engagement programme to tease out these issues. This would include presentations/seminars to all seven councils.

**(Action: Nigel Riglar/Jeff Alexander).**

A number of members spoke positively about the level of agreement reached and gave their commitment to continue the discussions in that vein. There was also a discussion on the proposed timescale (by the start of the next municipal year i.e. May 2014) which was thought to be too slow.

Health and Police representatives were keen to be part of the discussions about growth and how best to link with the LEP.  
**(Action: Jeff Alexander/Mary Hutton /Martin Surl).**

Diane Savory would also be invited to share an up-date on the Growth Plan from a LEP perspective. **(Action: Diane Savory).**

Another related issue was the role of CSPIG (see Item 5a below).

There was a meeting on 27 September which was looking at a broad range of topics – skills/promotion; infrastructure; and growth plans. An invitation had been extended to a broader audience than usual.

Some concern was expressed about the focus on physical infrastructure. This could be taken up with the chief executives.  
**(Action: Mike Dawson).**

It was agreed that a good draft of the Growth Plan would be available at the 28 November meeting and formal sign-off would be in December.  
**(Action: Nigel Riglar).**

Jeff was thanked for his up-date.

#### **Agreed recommendations**

- (1) Leadership Gloucestershire agreed in principle to support the establishment of a statutory joint committee to oversee action to secure economic growth in Gloucestershire and to provide political accountability for the management of the single local growth fund; and
- (2) Shared Intelligence should be asked to carry out future discussion with all Leadership Gloucestershire partners and prepare recommendations on the remit and membership of the proposed committee. **(Action: Jeff Alexander).**

#### **(b) Fastershire**

Dawn Thompson, Engagement Manager for the Fastershire Programme gave a presentation on the Marketing and Communication Plan for the Fastershire broadband programme. Dawn outlined the campaigns, coverage to date and timescales. The biggest challenge is managing public expectations around roll-out.

The presentation was warmly welcomed. The Leader mentioned the publication of a critical report by the Public Accounts Committee on the national superfast broadband programme. The criticisms did not apply locally as Gloucestershire and Herefordshire had managed their own procurement. The contract covered a large area and would be delivered by 2015. There were issues around “in-fills” in the 10% of areas which could not be covered. This was a rapidly changing position. Advice was probably to wait and see as new solutions were emerging on a regular basis. Clarification was given on the postcode

checker and engaging with small businesses. Dawn was thanked for the up-date.

#### 4. Families First

Eugene O’Kane, Programme Manager gave a presentation to up-date on progress with the Families First Programme in Gloucestershire. The model in Gloucestershire is based on intensive family intervention; key workers; commissioning services from VCS organisations; and using existing lead professionals. The programme is being overseen by the Children’s Partnership Operations Board and six district-level partnerships. Each partnership was working in a slightly different way and all were making good progress. The main challenges were around ensuring sufficient capacity to work with target numbers of families, providing quality and consistency of practice and building, sustainability through service re-design, which would be expected to deliver savings. Training was being arranged for practitioners on 10 December.

Discussions focussed on the need to accelerate progress and the importance of demand management. The implications of changes to Universal Credit and rises in the number of children coming into care needed careful consideration.

Eugene was thanked for his up-date.

#### 5. Progress Reports

**(a) CSPIG – see above.**

Steve Jordan reported on behalf of Paul James. The group is also looking at the potential to develop an over-arching Local Investment Plan; the duty to co-operate particularly in relation to gypsies and travellers, and highways infrastructure. In addition, a strategic housing market assessment is being drafted.

**(b) Heath and Wellbeing Board**

Mark Hawthorne reported back on recent developments, which were summarised in a briefing paper. There would be some changes to the membership following the changes at the County Council as a result of the May 2013 elections. The Board was looking at establishing sub-structures. A number of strategic developments were also discussed.

**(c) Gloucestershire Local Transport Body – Appointment of Chief Executive Adviser.**

On 24 January 2013, Leadership Gloucestershire appointed Cllr. Paul James as the member representative on the Gloucestershire Local Transport Body (GLTB). The GLTB assurance framework.

“Each of the GLTB full member organisations will have a senior lead officer, responsible for providing strategic advice and decision-making support:

- GCC – Commissioning Director, Communities and Infrastructure.
- LEP – Chief Executive
- Leadership Gloucestershire – Chief Executive or senior officer of one of the partner organisations.”

Leadership Gloucestershire had not formally agreed its lead adviser.  
Julian Wain, Chief Executive of Gloucester City Council was appointed.

## 6. **Dates of Next Meeting**

Thursday 28 November 2013, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm.

The meeting scheduled for the 12 December 2013 has been cancelled.

Meeting ended at 11.50 am.

## **Key Messages**

- **Economic Growth Strategy** – Leadership Gloucestershire agreed in principle to support the establishment of a statutory joint committee. Shared Intelligence will carry out further work, in discussion with all Leadership Gloucestershire partners about the proposed remit and membership of the joint committee.
- **Fastershire broadband** – the marketing and communications plan was warmly welcomed.
- **Families First** – progress with the programme was welcomed.