



Agenda Item 2 (a)

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Date: Thursday 1 November 2012

Venue: Skillzone, Tuffley Lane

**Notes of the meeting of Leadership Gloucestershire held on
6 September 2012**

1 (a) Welcome, introduction and apologies.

Name	Organisation	Substitute
Cllr Mark Hawthorne (Chair)	Gloucestershire County Council	
Cllr Carole Topple	Cotswold District Council	
Cllr Geoff Wheeler	Stroud District Council	
Cllr Rob Garnham	Gloucestershire Police Authority	
Cllr Paul James	Gloucester City Council	
Cllr Patrick Molyneux	Forest of Dean District Council	
Cllr Robert Vines	Tewkesbury Borough Council	Apologies
Cllr Steve Jordan	Cheltenham Borough Council	
Dr. Helen Miller	Clinical Commissioning Group Chair, NHS Gloucestershire	
Jan Stubbings	Gloucestershire NHS	Mark Walkingshaw
Chief Executive Advisers		
Pete Bungard	Gloucestershire County Council	
Mike Dawson	Tewkesbury Borough Council	
Secretariat		
Jane Burns	Gloucestershire County Council	
Visitors		
David Hagg	Stroud District Council	
Sandra Cowley	Stroud District Council	
Jo Walker	Gloucestershire County Council	

- (b) VCS Champion** – Leadership Gloucestershire had identified 3 members to act as VCS Champions. Geoff Wheeler would replace Frances Roden. **(Jane to inform the VCS lead).**

2. Notes of the previous meeting held on 21 June 2012

The notes of the meeting held on the 21 June 2012 were approved, subject to the following amendment:

Page 3 (4) Infrastructure and Economic Growth Up-date – “Carole Topple was concerned about the issues over air quality at the Air Balloon roundabout and car parking at Kemble Station”.

All matters arising had been pursued or were reported back elsewhere on the agenda. The report on the Night Time Levy would include advice about the details of the scheme. **(Action Mike Dawson)**. A further up-date will be brought on the community mapping proposal. **(Action Shona Arora)**.

3. Local Government Review and up-date on Localisation of Council Tax Benefits

David Hagg, Sandra Cowley and Jo Walker gave a detailed up-date on three issues:

- Localisation of Council Tax Benefit
- Council Tax exemptions
- Business Rates Pooling

On Council Tax Benefit, Gloucestershire councils are planning to use the default scheme in year 1 from April 2013. We are required to consult the public and this is being done as a single exercise across the county via on-line and telephone surveys. Councils have also undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment. The Voluntary Sector Assembly is helping with some of the consultation with protected groups.

The consultation closes on 5 October with the results being presented to Chief Financial Officers on 12 October.

District Councils are all currently preparing to take papers through the autumn on Council Tax exemptions.

A detailed briefing note was tabled on pooling Business Rates. (Annex 1 is attached to these notes). By pooling the levy, every council will get more back than through acting alone, although there were risks which were discussed at length.

We had employed external advice to help work through the details. An Expression of Interest had been made in August. Final bids were required by 17 October. There was still quite a bit of work to be done to allow the bid to be submitted. Discussion focussed on the importance of promoting economic growth through infrastructure projects (TIF, CIL etc.) and how this could link to Business Rates pooling. Leadership Gloucestershire reaffirmed their commitment to joint working. The team were thanked by Leadership Gloucestershire for all of the hard work across the local government family.

Leadership Gloucestershire suggested a telephone conference may be necessary before 17 October and after the Chief Financial Officers and Chief Executives had done more work. **(All necessary actions to Sandra Cowley and Jo Walker)**.

4. Shared Services Up-date

Leadership Gloucestershire considered a report on Shared Services at its meeting on 22 March. A further up-date was provided, including a summary of the developments on shared services since then. In addition, two case studies were presented on Project Fusion and Locality Working at Tewkesbury.

The up-dates and the case studies were welcomed. Discussion focussed on the learning and the critical success factors. Leadership Gloucestershire also commented that the drive for sharing services would continue given the financial outlook.

Agreed actions:

- (1) Case studies on the GO project and Ubico (waste collection) be brought to the next meeting. **(Action Mike Dawson).**
- (2) A case study on the joint arrangements between Cotswolds and West Oxfordshire be brought for the January 2013 meeting. **(Action Carole Topple).**
- (3) The detailed up-date on partnership activities be circulated. **(Action Mike Dawson).**
- (4) A report be prepared on the key points of learning/critical success factors. **(Action Jane Burns).**

5. Progress Reports

(a) Countywide Strategic Planning Issues Group

Paul James presented a summary of the key points from Andrew North's written up-date.

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – this was being taken forward by an officer and GFirst working group. They are developing a number of options ranging from each council preparing its own, to a countywide CIL as well as variations in between. A recommendation will come back to Leadership Gloucestershire in due course.
- Local Investment Plans (LIP) – the existing LIPs are at district level. Consideration is being given to the development and collective adoption of a single LIP.
- Regeneration – considerable effort is going into regeneration activity in Gloucestershire. Officers have explored the creation of a Joint Regeneration Unit, although this did appear to be unlikely due to lack of funding. There may be ways of securing a framework contract to buy-in appropriate skills and advice.

- The effectiveness of the group – the group is still relatively new and is starting to refine its role and priorities. There are emerging overlaps in terms of economic development. Discussion focussed on how that role might link to Leadership Gloucestershire’s role in terms of driving growth and that of the LEP.

Agreed actions:

- (1) The concept of a Gloucestershire model for CIL and a refreshed LIP was supported in principle.
- (2) Chief Executives to consider how best to manage the economic development and regeneration agendas through the existing governance mechanisms, including roles of Members and how they are supported. **(Action: Mike Dawson and Andrew North)**
- (3) The LEP Business Plan be considered at the meeting on 1 November.

(b) Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board

Dr. Helen Miller presented a summary of the key points from her written up-date. The Board is holding a simulation event on 4 October and will be subject to a peer challenge later in the year. Gloucestershire is regarded as advanced nationally.

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be published for consultation shortly. It will be circulated to Leadership Gloucestershire and discussed at the next meeting.

Carole Tople raised a query about access to the eJSNA. This will be followed up outside of the meeting. She also spoke positively about the links between nature conservation partnerships and health and wellbeing.

Agreed actions

- (1) The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy be circulated to Leadership Gloucestershire and then discussed at the next meeting. **(Action Jane Burns).**
- (2) Ruth Wain to contact Kate Bishop, Cotswold DC about the e-JSNA. **(Action Mark Walkingshaw)**

(c) Asset Management Task and Finish Group

The next meeting takes place in September. A written up-date will be brought to the next meeting. **(Action Mike Dawson).**

(d) Borders Broadband

Pete Bungard gave the latest information on the project involving Gloucestershire and Herefordshire councils. Negotiations are continuing with the preferred tenderer. There are a number of issues to be resolved which is not surprising given that we are a pilot. A decision should be possible within the next few weeks.

6. Work Programme 2012/13 and First Quarter Review of Performance

Jane introduced the papers. The Work Programme had already been endorsed and now included key milestones.

The key milestones have been reviewed as at the end of the first quarter. The picture is overwhelmingly positive.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 1 November 2012 10.00 am – 12 noon at the Skillzone, Tuffley Lane, Gloucester.

Key Messages

- **The Changing Landscape of Local Government Funding** – Leadership Gloucestershire welcomed the progress being made on Council Tax Benefits, Business Rates Pooling and Localisation of Council Tax Support. They also reaffirmed their commitment to working together on shared solutions.
- **Shared Services** – Leadership Gloucestershire were pleased with the progress highlighted through case studies on Project Fusion and Locality Working in Tewkesbury. They will consider three further case studies at their next two meetings and seek to draw out critical success factors.
- **Strategic planning/regeneration and infrastructure** – Leadership Gloucestershire welcomed the work being done on a number of key initiatives including the Community Infrastructure Levy, the Local Improvement Plan, regeneration, economic development etc. They made connections with the earlier discussion on business rates and reaffirmed their commitment to work together to drive economic growth.

The meeting ended at 11.55 am.