



Agenda Item 2 (a)
Time: 10.00 am – 12.00 noon
Date: Thursday 27 February 2014
Venue: Members' Room

Notes of the meeting of Leadership Gloucestershire held on 9 January 2014

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	Apologies
Cllr Robert Vines	Tewkesbury Borough Council	
Cllr Steve Jordan	Cheltenham Borough Council	
Martin Surl	Gloucestershire Police & Crime Commissioner	
Dr. Helen Miller	Clinical Commissioning Group Chair, NHS Gloucestershire	
Mary Hutton	Accountable Officer NHS Gloucestershire	
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	
Peter Hibberd	Forest of Dean District Council	
Claire Edwards	Gloucestershire County Council	
Phil Swann	Shared Intelligence	
Shirin Wotherspoon	Tewkesbury Borough Council	

2. Notes of the previous meeting held on 12 December 2013

The notes of the meeting held on 12 December 2013 were approved.

All matters arising were related to Item 3.

3. Economic Update

(a) Local Government Workstream Action Plan

Nigel Riglar and Mike Dawson tabled a discussion draft on the proposed local government workstreams to finalise the Strategic Economic Plan submission. Five workstreams were proposed:

- (i) SEP feedback meetings with officials.
- (ii) Connections flagship
- (iii) Councils' contribution to the deal
- (iv) Capturing local government contribution to other flagships led by the LEP
- (v) Joint Committee Governance

Each workstream had main issues, tasks and indicative timescales which were summarised. In terms of SEP feedback, a “challenge” session with the Minister, Greg Clarke and officials had been arranged for 14 January in Bristol.

An immediate priority is for chief executives to identify a core team of officers with economic development/planning expertise) to lead the negotiations. **(Action: Mike Dawson by 17 January).**

On the Connections workstream, the importance of resolving key issues within the Joint Core Strategy was highlighted. The 3.2% GVA figure will need to be “stretched”.

On Junction 10 Allways, it was reported that the economic case was not sufficient at present.

JCS proposals regarding the release of land will help, although it was acknowledged that this would be controversial. Local sources of funding were probably deliverable. The connection would be made to the lack of available land at Junction 9.

Phil Swann’s feedback on the bid was that more “precision” was needed, particularly in terms of a costed, prioritised programme of schemes that are based on evidence.

Other key points made during the discussion included the importance of the Community Infrastructure Levy, the lack of evidence on skills, the need for closer working with the LEP, particularly their understanding of local authorities roles and resourcing. A query was raised about Business Rates Retention Pooling and what surplus might be available.

Agreed action:

Gloucestershire Chief Finance Officers meeting be asked to provide an update for the next meeting (**Jane to speak to Jo Walker**).

(b) The Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)

The draft SEP had been submitted by 19 December and is available on the GFirst website <http://www.gfirstlep.com/gfirst-LEP/Our-Priorities/Our-Vision/>

(c) Shadow Joint Committee Update

Mike Dawson and Shirin Wotherspoon (One Legal) summarised the key points of their tabled report. It included the timescale and draft terms of reference for establishing a Shadow Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee. The Joint Committee would be required at or shortly after the submission of the SEP to government in order to demonstrate that a mechanism to deliver collective and binding local authority decision-making to support the plan was in place. The Shadow Joint Committee would not have any delegated powers initially.

There was some discussion on whether the Joint Committee should be established with its ongoing decision-making responsibilities and whether the proposed body was a “shadow” body. There was also a discussion on the objective of establishing a cross-council scrutiny committee.

Agreed actions:

- (1) To establish the Shadow Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee and to establish a programme of meetings in accordance with the draft terms of reference attached at Appendix 1. (**Mike Dawson/Shirin Wotherspoon**)
- (2) Regular telephone conferences to be arranged to keep up the momentum of the discussions. (**Mark Hawthorne/Nigel Riglar**).

(d) A417 “Missing Link”

One of the questions likely to be asked about Councils’ contributions to the SEP deal would be the A417 “Missing Link”.

Pete Bungard gave an update on the new lobbying campaign to address the long standing problem of the A417 “Missing Link”. It was vital for all interested parties to back a single solution for any change of accessing government funding. The new campaign would be launched on 15/16 January. Partners were asked to lend their support. The Clinical Commissioning Group, Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council signed up. Other Leadership Gloucestershire members would confirm their support by 14 January 2014.

Other neighbouring LEPs are being asked for their support.

Agreed action:

Leadership Gloucestershire members to confirm their support for the A417 “Missing Link” campaign by 14 January 2014. **(All)**.

(e) Strategic Infrastructure Fund

This was previously the European Social Fund. Shared Intelligence have been commissioned to redraft the SIF. Their critique is that it is not sufficiently precise. The links to the SEP also need to be stronger.

4. Progress Reports

(a) Countywide Strategic Planning Issues Group

Paul James suggested that Leadership Gloucestershire may wish to reflect on the role of the group in the light of the proposal to set up the Shadow Joint Committee and how it is supported.

(b) Health and Wellbeing Board

Mark Hawthorne reported back on the November 2013 meeting. There have been a number of changes to the governance arrangements, including all party membership from GCC and the inclusion of the Police and Crime Commissioner. He also confirmed that he was stepping down from the Board. Helen Miller confirmed that the new Chair would be appointed at the meeting on 21 January 2014.

Mary Hutton referred to the CCG’s current consultation on “Joining Up Your Care”. Mary would make a presentation at the next meeting. **(Jane to note for the agenda)**.

(c) GCC Local Government Reorganisation Task Group

The County Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had set up a task group to look into the feasibility of unitary local government in Gloucestershire. The Group met with the district councils on 18 December and again on 8 January 2014. The Group had concluded that as there was no consensus the issue would not be pursued at this time. They are still interested in encouraging shared services/joint working and would be keen to understand how Leadership Gloucestershire drives this work.

5. Dates of Next Meetings

Thursday 27 February 2014, 10.00 am – 12 noon

Key Messages

- **Strategic Economic Plan** – the draft was submitted to government on 19 December. The Local Government Workstream Action Plan was endorsed, including the establishment of a Gloucestershire Economic Growth Shadow Joint Committee.

- **A417 Missing Link** – a new lobbying campaign is due to be launched in mid-January.

The meeting ended at 11.35 am.