



Leadership Gloucestershire – 30 September 2021

Remote meeting via GCC WebEx

1 Welcome, introduction and apologies

Name	Organisation	Apologies
Cllr Mark Hawthorne (Chair) Pete Bungard	Gloucestershire County Council	
Cllr Doina Cornell Kathy O'Leary	Stroud District Council	
Cllr Richard Cook Jon McGinty	Gloucester City Council	
Cllr Tim Gwilliam Pete Williams	Forest of Dean District Council	
Cllr Rowena Hay Gareth Edmundsen	Cheltenham Borough Council	
Cllr Joe Harris Rob Weaver	Cotswold District Council	
Cllr Rob Bird Mike Dawson	Tewkesbury Borough Council	
Nick Evans	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)	PCC Chris Nelson Richard Bradley
	Gloucestershire Constabulary	CC Rod Hansen
Dr Andy Seymour Mary Hutton	NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	
David Owen Ruth Dooley	GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)	
	Area Lead for Gloucestershire, Cities and Local Growth Unit	Anwen Jones
Steve Mawson Siobhan Farmer Simon Harper	Gloucestershire County Council	Sarah Scott Colin Chick

2 Action notes

The notes of the meeting held on 17 June 2021 were agreed.

3 County Strategic Leadership Group for Climate Change

Cllr Mark Hawthorne welcomed Afriqnum Loveday, Climate Change Coordinator.

Afriqnum presented the report and set out the recommendations. She noted the importance of a county-wide work plan to address cross cutting or hard to deliver issues in Gloucestershire. The aim was to announce the formation of the new group during COP26 in October. The shared work plan would be shaped around key strategic themes: transport, water, land management, carbon reduction and adaptation.

There was support among partners for the formation of the group. It was recognised that it should not be a 'talking shop' and focused on county-wide outcomes. It was about additionality so that the whole was greater than the sum of its parts. The group needed to be inclusive and allow all voices to be heard and not just those that were the most enthusiastic about climate change.

It was accepted that some partners might move forward at different rates but this should not prevent progress at a county level. Behavioural change amongst local communities was fundamental to moving forward with projects. Energy was a key area and there might be scope to develop a community energy scheme which could provide a financial return for local people.

It was recognised that there was a key role among the business and skills sector in promoting new projects. This needed to include further education alongside higher education. Community engagement was critical and it was important to build-on the mechanisms that already existed across the county.

In terms of governance, there were strong links between chief executives and strategic directors and this should help in coordinating activities across the various carbon reduction groups operating in different parts of the county. Everyone needed to understand the mechanism for decision-making including the process to be followed if there was a disagreement amongst partners.

It was agreed that the final terms of reference would be presented to the next meeting of Leadership Gloucestershire for sign-off.

Action – Jon McGinty and Afriqnum Loveday

4 Covid-19

Siobhan Farmer, Deputy Director of Public Health, provided an update on the latest position including current case rates and the vaccine roll-out among different age groups. Walk-in vaccination centres were now open across the

county. She explained the position regarding schools and related guidance. There had been some anti-vaccination activity in the county with protesters trying to gain access to school sites. The Police were aware and ready to take appropriate action.

It was recognised that the health and social care system was facing unprecedented pressure with a big increase in the number of people going to A&E exacerbating the situation.

A request was made to provide a percentage of people going into critical care that were unvaccinated.

Action by – Siobhan Farmer

5 County devolution deals

Around 50% of county areas had indicated interest following a letter from the Secretary of State in July. Secretary of State Robert Jenrick had subsequently been replaced by Michael Gove. A White Paper was expected to be published shortly. It was anticipated that county deals would cover broadly the same ground as the city deals that had already been announced. Key ingredients were local leadership, strong governance, local identity, sensible economic geography and scale. The letter from the Secretary of State had made references to efficiency, joined-up services, unlocking economic growth and the levelling-up agenda. The expectation was that that county councils as upper tier authorities would take the lead in working with district councils in each area.

6 Western Gateway

Jo Dally had been appointed as the Director of Western Gateway. It was hoped that she could attend a future meeting of Leadership Gloucestershire so that she could see how partners worked together in the county.

Economic review 2 had been undertaken with sector priorities identified. The spending review submission had been sent to the Government. The first part amounting to £1.5m was for continued core funding and the second part amounting to £100m was for digital accelerator. It was intended that the £100m would be match funded by industry.

The Western Gateway was now moving at a pace and was generally comparative to other regions of the UK but lagged around two years behind.

7 Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC) governance review

The GEGJC inter-authority agreement would end on 31 March 2022 unless a formal decision was taken by each local authority for the committee to continue.

There was general agreement amongst partners that there was value in reviewing the current arrangements, including the officer groups, to avoid duplication and ensuring that the most effective arrangements were in place to promote economic development across the county. The importance of promoting sustainability and inclusion alongside business growth, enterprise, innovation and skills was noted.

The Chief Executives' and Strategic Directors' Group was asked to prepare a paper setting out the options taking account of the following three key objectives:

- a) Fulfilling ambitions around the Western Gateway and potential county deals.
- b) Providing an access point for the levelling-up agenda
- c) Providing a coherent voice on the overall growth story

The decision making arrangements were different in each local authority and it was hoped that a report setting out future options could be presented to Leadership Gloucestershire at an extra meeting in January 2022.

Action – Mike Dawson and Gareth Edmundsen

8 International Resettlement

Twenty people from five Afghan families had been resettled in Cheltenham and Gloucester and by mid-November there was expected to be 45 people from 11 families in the county.

With the different resettlement schemes the position was complex and there was a risk of an uncoordinated and reactive response which would not meet the needs of the families affected. Partners were supportive of a more coordinated approach with a single officer team looking after current and future schemes.

In terms of the number of properties, it was recognised that more than the 35 units originally identified were now likely to be required. Some concern was raised around the lack of availability of Ministry of Defence properties in the Kingsway area of Gloucester. Jon McGinty undertook to provide Cllr Hawthorne with a note on the latest position so that he could speak to a particular Member of Parliament.

Action – Jon McGinty

9 Integrated Care System

The new arrangements would result in 168 statutory functions held by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) transferring to the Integrated Care System (ICS). Dame Jill Morgan had been appointed as the Chair of the ICS. Staff working at the CCG below board level would transfer to the ICS. Work was being undertaken on how the new arrangements would integrate with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

10 Care leavers' covenant

The Strategic Housing Partnership had developed an offer from the District Councils in addition to the support already provided by the County Council.

11 Leadership Gloucestershire terms of reference

Cllr Tim Gwilliam said that conscious of earlier discussions at the meeting it was not the right time to discuss the terms of reference, but he believed that there would be value at looking at them in future including wider issues such as Vision 2050.

12 Future meetings

The next meeting was scheduled for 2 December 2021, but it was noted that it might be possible to delay it until January 2022 to allow discussion of the future arrangements for the Gloucestershire Joint Economic Growth Committee.

Action – Simon Harper