



CHEL TENHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Notice of a meeting of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 1 April 2019
6.00 pm
Pittville Room - Municipal Offices

Membership	
Councillors:	Chris Mason (Chair), Klara Sudbury (Vice-Chair), Sandra Holliday, John Payne, Paul Baker, Max Wilkinson, Dilys Barrell, Iain Dobie, Jo Stafford and Dennis Parsons

The Council has a substitution process and any substitutions will be announced at the meeting

Agenda

6.	FEEDBACK FROM OTHER SCRUTINY MEETINGS ATTENDED Gloucestershire Health and Care O&S Committee meetings on 20 February 2019 and on 5 March 2019 – update from Councillor Horwood Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee – meetings on 14 February 2019 and 20 March 2019 – update from Councillor Paul McCloskey Police and Crime Panel on 15 March 2019 - update from Councillor Jonny Brownstein	(Pages 3 - 4)

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O&S Report – GEGSG – Wednesday 20th March (I didn't attend the Feb meeting in the Forest of Dean)

GCC review of Scrutiny

As usual, I attended the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Steering Committee (GEGSC) in the morning last Wednesday. I met Pat Pratley in the car park and conversation turned the 'Review of Scrutiny'. I was able to confirm that I knew nothing about said review.

The Scrutiny Group agenda included a report on this item by Simon Harper on the Scrutiny Review.

Quite rapidly there was a diagram of the existing structure, rapidly followed by a diagram that showed the proposed new structure. Included in the new diagram was the news that henceforth it was proposed that GEGSG would have its remit expanded to include Environment.

Apparently the 'review' had included some survey work. Amongst the findings under the heading 'Culture' was the fact that there was a problem with 'parity of esteem'. (I took this to be between officers and members, but County members may be able to shed more light.)

The presentation was scattered with the word 'members'. As far as I am aware, I am a fully paid up 'member' of this scrutiny group. But it didn't feel like it particularly when some other members started speaking. It became clear that Klara knew more about the review than I did, so I indicated to speak. Before I got my turn Kate Haigh from Gloucester spoke; she had participated in workshops during this scrutiny review.

Simon Harper's view was that this was a GCC review, and he was merely here to give us an update on progress so far. The review was to have 'district representation'. There was some 'discussion', and it was agreed that 'the process could have been better'! During this discussion, it was pointed out that 40 of the 53 County members were double-hatters, but that is hardly a communication process. It is also agreed that GEGSG is a county-wide scrutiny group with county-wide representation specifically set-up to provide scrutiny of GEGSC which has decision-making powers. Neither Steve Jordan nor Pat Pratley (members of GEGSC) were aware of this review until the beginning of the week, hence the conversation in the car park.

The scrutiny review report (of which this was a verbal update) was to be presented to the GCC Scrutiny Management Committee on 22nd March.

So, the big question is what role Districts will have in this review. In particular, I'd have thought that District O&S committees might wish to have a role. All the above said, at first glance there does seem to be some logic to the proposed changes, but they need proper scrutiny.

Review of BREXIT on the County

This was yet again kicked into the long grass. There was insufficient certainty to scrutinise anything. The LEP had been talking with local businesses. Out of 190 contacted, 80% thought the impact would be negative. 73% of SME's felt Business Confidence was worse (18% the same, 9% better).

Local Nature Partnership.

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are **partnerships** of a broad range of influential organisations, businesses and people, and from a range of sectors, charged by government with the task of bringing about improvements in their **local natural** environment in England. Gloucestershire has one.

Clearly 'nature' has a key role to play in sustainable growth, (and this links to the idea that henceforth the GEGSG should also be scrutinising the environment). Because of their national role, they are influencers that can impact on the NPPF and other national policies. But mainly they will be working at a strategic level with Gloucestershire to ensure that there is a consistent county-wide approach.

The LNP report to GEGSC is well worth reading. You can find a link to the GEGSC Agenda here:

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=725&MId=9093&Ver=4>

The report is Agenda item 5, pages 9 to 14.

Please refer to the following link for information on the GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership: <https://www.gfirstlep.com/>

Cllr Paul McCloskey
23rd March 2019