

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 8th March, 2021

6.00 - 7.50 pm

Attendees	
<b>Councillors:</b>	Chris Mason (Chair), Paul Baker, Dilys Barrell, Nigel Britter, Iain Dobie, Sandra Holliday, Martin Horwood, John Payne and Klara Sudbury
<b>Also in attendance:</b>	Councillor Atherstone (Cabinet Member Economy & Development), Councillor Clucas, Tracey Crews (Director of Planning), Councillor Hay (Leader of the Council), Mike Holmes (Head of Planning), Emma Morgan (Project Manager), Diane Savory (Chair of CERTF), Mark Sheldon (Director of Corporate Projects) Councillor Rowena Hay, Councillor Victoria Atherstone, Councillor Flo Clucas and Councillor Roger Whyborn

### Minutes

**1. APOLOGIES**

None had been received. But Councillor Payne advised that he would need to leave at 7pm.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated with the agenda.

Upon a vote it was unanimously

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 18 January, be agreed and signed as an accurate record.**

**4. PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS, CALLS FOR ACTIONS AND PETITIONS**

None were received.

**5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

There were no matters referred to committee.

**6. CHELTENHAM ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE**

The Chairman welcomed Diane Savory, Chair of the Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force and Tracey Crews, the Director of Planning, Place & Growth. He reminded members that this was an opportunity to better understand the priorities and challenges for the task force. He reminded members that Diane was attending in her role as Chair of the Task Force and not as the Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Diane and Tracey talked through a PowerPoint presentation (Appendix 1).

Diane outlined her business background and accomplishments and some of the roles she holds at a local and national level. She had been pleased to have been given the opportunity to share some of her experience and passion for Cheltenham, as Chair of the Task Force and whilst there were undoubtedly challenges ahead, she felt it was important to focus on dealing with these challenges. The high street had been undergoing a slow decline, and though many imagined that this would take a few more years, Covid had exacerbated and accelerated the issue. The mantra was 'Be Bold. Be Swift. Be Brave.' and this was indeed what we needed to be in the coming months and years. Empty units, of which there were more each day, presented an opportunity to repurpose the high street, to reimagine Cheltenham, and embrace important topics such as green growth and carbon net zero. Through her strategic engagement on groups such as the BEIS Retail Sector Council, the Task Force has a potential route into innovative projects such as green streets. The Task Force looked to lead recovery but would be doing this in partnership, building on the success of the Development Task Force and testing new models. At a local level, the Task Force would be providing check and challenge to CBC and Diane would be promoting what we were doing in Cheltenham, at a national level, at every opportunity. She talked through those that were involved in the Task Force, all of whom were providing their time and efforts for free, with support from their public sector colleagues.

Tracey Crews outlined the Task Force business plan, which was informed by a business survey across the SME sector. This helped provide a snapshot of issues at September 2020. There was a range of positives and negatives and unsurprisingly raised a number of immediate issues around operating within Covid guidelines, as well as some important transitions for businesses in a digital context. There was quite a broad agenda in terms of what needed to be addressed and in acknowledgement that the Task Force couldn't do it alone, partnership working is therefore key. The first monitoring report had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting and this allowed the Task Force to check performance against the business plan, as well as assessing whether any changes were required. The workload was heavy and although the Task Force was meeting on a 6 weekly cycle, it was soon apparent that more focus was required on some topics and four sub-groups were duly formed.

- Town centre Vision - Tracey felt strongly that Covid this was not the death of the high street but also, that Cheltenham should not simply take a national blueprint and instead look at what was important at a local level. She advised that the Task Force was developing a positive narrative that would aim to dispel the perception that a town centre was defined only for retail, as this was simply not true. The task force were looking at zones of the town centre and undertake a deep dive of each, so that they could understand every zone and Bernice Thompson representing West end partnership was supporting that work for the Lower High Street area.
- Counter Culture - many urban areas were seeing the number of vacant units increase and Cheltenham was running higher than the national

average for the South West, at over 13%, but given the other urban areas within that region, she did not feel this should be surprising; but equally, neither was it something we could just hope would improve. Consideration was being given to a pilot, getting access to a vacant unit and bringing together culture community, commercial and communities and testing how transferrable it might be in other units across the town centre.

- Skills - GFirst LEP are really important as a partner and the question for the Task Force was, how could they add value. The inception meeting for this sub-group would be happening soon, where a work programme would be drafted and agreed.
- Hospitality - In recognition that the hospitality sector had been one of the hardest hit as a result of Covid, this sub-group would also be developing a specific work programme for this.

Before moving to questions, she took the opportunity to remind members that the 'moving to Cheltenham' platform had been launched and that all task Force related information would be shared on this website <https://movingtocheltenham.com/certif>.

She advised the committee that one project that the task force were trying to get off the ground was the possible temporary closure of Regent Street, which would allow hospitality to spill out into the street. A letter had been received from Government which urged planning authorities to look at how they could cut red tape, as part of the lifting of Covid restrictions, to enable people to access additional space and this could include a variety of uses, including markets and food, etc.

Some members had submitted questions in advance and these along with the responses from Diane, were attached at Appendix 2. Diane and Tracey then gave responses to questions from members and the Chair used his discretion to allow non-O&S members to ask questions also.

Of the four sub-groups, there was no mention of transport into and out of Cheltenham, so how would this marry into what was being done? Tracey reiterated that the GCC Cabinet Member for transport was supporting the Task Force. Diane highlighted that the challenge for the task force in terms of being able to take a lead on transport, was that it had a task and finish period of 18 months, so whilst transport was a conversation that ran through many priorities, there was no specific priority; so the group were leaning on existing conversations and key stakeholders.

On counter culture, what kind of activities were the task group looking to have, alternative hospitality, young people showcase, new business approach or social enterprise? Diane explained that counter culture had to be flexible and as such, could include a number of different things, it was absolutely not the case that one size would fit all. Tracey highlighted Gloucestershire Start & Grow initiative, which mentored entrepreneurs and counter culture could potentially provide a central space for them to test their business idea. It had to be said that the town centre at 5.30pm in the evening, was not an exciting place to be and therefore it needed to include options which could cross over from day and

night and this would require a level of innovation. The Minster Project was an exciting example of this and would be out of the ground by the end of the year.

Similarly to this incarnation, the Development Task Force had a good strategy, but it also had sharp tactical ability to talk to developers and rail companies, etc, on particular sites and move them forward, which sometimes worked and sometimes didn't; but would this task force have the same light-footed tactical approach? A standing agenda item for the task force was 'catalyst sites' and developers were invited along at an early stage to provide check and challenge. The Quadrangle site was cited a great example of the enabling and tactical abilities of the task force.

In the past, Cheltenham was sold as a top shopping destination, but if retail wasn't to be the main attraction of the town centre in the future, what would be, food, entertainment, education, green space; what would draw people and businesses to Cheltenham? Retail was not dead, but the way people shopped was changing, even before Covid. Consumers, having already found what they wanted online, wanted to go into store for an experience and this was the challenge for retailers; one that national retailers struggled to meet given their relatively fixed business models. Interestingly, the 'shop local' movement had seen places like Bath Road and Coronation Square do quite well throughout Covid and whilst retailers would need to adopt an enhanced digital presence, there would still be a place for bricks and mortar. It was suggested that this might be the somewhat of a cleansing exercise, which would see a reinvented, more eclectic high street in Cheltenham. The Lower High Street had also benefitted from the pandemic because of the variety of takeaway food outlets, but the opportunity now is can we change the way in which this area was viewed. It is a vibrant part of the town centre

Cavendish House was a much loved, iconic, town centre building; how would the task force approach this issue? Interestingly, Diane said, Cavendish House was a discussion item at an upcoming meeting and she was sure that something impressive could be done there over a period of time.

There was no mention of sporting hospitality and there really should be engagement with not only the football club, but also the racecourse, who brought a lot to the town. Diane admitted that this was not something that had been considered, but completely agreed that it should be added to the work of the hospitality sub group.

There was no mention of accessibility, not just for those with physical disabilities, but also for those with sensory disabilities, as there was often conflict between the two. Another member suggested that Dave Evans from Cheshire Homes could be a useful resource for the task force in terms of knowledge around accessibility. Diane also flagged digital deprivation which was high on her list of priorities, an issue which Covid had brought to the fore.

A member stressed the importance of retail to the town centre, suggesting that an attractive and successful town centre could not rely on cafes and entertainment alone, it needed shops.

A number of members welcomed the varied skills and experience of those on the task force and commended the innovative and exciting business plan.

The Chairman thanked Diane and Tracey for what he felt had been an informative and interesting discussion and looked forward to future updates.

## **7. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Chairman introduced Mike Holmes, Head of Planning, and reminded members that this was an opportunity for them to understand the legislative requirements for governance and reporting of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), as well as giving a steer in terms of preferred options.

The Head of Planning introduced his paper, which set out the legislation, which admittedly was quite complicated, as well as all the different regulations which applied. The Government had announced, last year, their intention to change them in the longer term; but for the moment these were the regulations which constrained where and how the CIL monies could be spent. There was however, an opportunity for this authority to decide how we spent the money locally and how we would pass the money on to those that were responsible for the major elements of infrastructure, and in our case, that was solely GCC in terms of transport infrastructure only, as set out in our Infrastructure Funding Statement approved by Council last December. Though, this could change in the future.

The following responses were given to member questions:

- He agreed with the suggestion for a register for CIL, which showed monies held and those allocated (what for and details of the decision). The Leader pointed out that figures for Section 106 monies were included in the outturn report, though admittedly there was no detail as to how and when the decision had been taken to spend any of this money. The issue being that Section 106 agreements were very prescriptive in terms of what the money attached to them could be spent on and creating a backdated register would take some time and mean that resources would have to be diverted from elsewhere. This was not to say that it couldn't be done, but he would need to look at a couple of examples to see how long it would likely take to complete this task, before committing to a timeframe for its production.
- It was within CBC's gift to determine where CIL monies were spent, but obviously within the remit of helping cope with development; but this did not necessarily have to be focussed in the area from which it came.
- The Head of Planning had done nothing more than research in terms of Crowd Funding and was aware that Dorset had done some interesting work. The Cabinet Member Economy & Development advised that she was due to have an exploratory discussion with Dorset to better understand their approach.
- He made clear that GCC were not requesting CIL monies for education facilities and reminded members that the current Infrastructure Funding Statement set out that only transport infrastructure would be covered by CIL monies. Not schools or hospitals. Whilst charging schedules appeared to suggest that education infrastructure could be included in future statements, GCC had been explicit; they did not want CIL

contributing to education facilities. He stressed that no CIL monies had yet been passed to GCC, as no decision had been made about how that arrangement would be organised (whether GCC would approach each individual charging council or whether there would be a joint arrangement). However, through work on the JCS, it was clear that there would not be enough monies coming forward through CIL or other means to actually satisfy the transport infrastructure set out in the JCS, so there would be need for further discussions in the future.

- It was the case that GCC were seeking S106 monies for the new school facility and this formed part of a wider issue of what contributions were sought from developments. GCC were keen that there be a review of the CIL process for a number of reasons including, viability, but also whether contributions should increase in line with inflation.

Members thanked the Head of Planning for what was a highly informative and very interesting paper.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Planning for his attendance.

No decision was required.

#### **8. FEEDBACK FROM OTHER SCRUTINY MEETINGS ATTENDED**

A written by Councillor Clucas from the 8/2 meeting of the Police & Crime Panel had been circulated with the agenda. The written updates on recent meetings of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth O&S Committee and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee had been circulated by email and were attached at Appendix 3.

In the absence of Councillors Clucas and McCloskey, members were asked to contact them directly with any questions.

Councillor Horwood took the opportunity to explain that the cycle of HOSC meetings ran almost in tandem with the cycle of these meetings, and as such, he could never meet the publication deadline. In terms of the update, he was pleased to advise this committee that he had been successful in securing a special HOSC meeting on the 22 March, to review the decision that will have been taken about the future of hospital services in Cheltenham and Gloucester on the 11 March. He noted that there was a growing number of concerns about this and having seen a report by the South West Clinical Senate, an expert panel, which questioned compatibility with the long term future of A&E at Cheltenham, whether or not there was sufficient bed capacity at Gloucester and raised concerns about the consultation having been done during a pandemic; when the lessons from that pandemic had not yet been learned. He suggested that Councillor Clucas, as the relevant Cabinet Member, may like to consider asking to be a public representative at that meeting, which would be held at 10am.

In response to a question from a member of the committee, Councillor Horwood confirmed that the temporary closure of the maternity services at Cheltenham during the pandemic, had been extended until June, though they had been assured that this would not be extended again. And there was a possibility that A&E (as it was before the pandemic) would be back up and running before that.

The Chair reminded members that he had attended a meeting with joint O&S chairs to consider whether more formal arrangements should be put in place. Publica gave a well thought out presentation but were clear that whilst they were happy to attend meetings and answer questions, they were not answerable to these committees. His counterpart at another council was looking to secure delegated authority but he personally felt that this was unnecessary and instead chose to support the proposal to hold informal joint meetings, which he would attend as and when they happened. He reassured members that Public would continue to be invited along to meetings of this committee, when required.

**9. CABINET BRIEFING**

In addition to the briefing that had been circulated with the agenda, the Leader advised that at the same time the joint chairs of O&S had met with Publica, she had met with the shareholders and agreed that following the Campbell Tickell report, they would reinvigorate the Shareholder Forum, meeting informally as shareholders but then also more formally with Chief Executives. She confirmed that a new chair had been appointed to Publica, as well as a new chair of Audit and she hoped that these changes clearly demonstrated that Publica was not an entity unto itself and was in fact a teckal company with four shareholder authorities.

She did comment that she felt that the suggestion that a joint O&S chair group become a decision making body was a little ironic, given that it would somewhat take away from their role to undertake scrutiny.

There were no questions.

**10. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY WORKPLAN**

The work plan had been circulated with the agenda. There were no amendments, but the Chair did highlight that he had requested an update on North Place, which was likely to come to the June meeting.

**11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXEMPT INFORMATION**

Upon a vote it was unanimously

**RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A(4) Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining agenda items as it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, if members of the public are present there will be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in paragraph 3, Part (1) Schedule (12A) Local Government Act 1972, namely:**

**Paragraph 3; Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)**

At this point, the live stream was stopped.

**12. PROJECT ECLIPSE - MUNICIPAL OFFICES OPTIONS APPRAISAL UPDATE**

The committee received an update on Project Eclipse, the Municipal offices options appraisal.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for the 19 April 2021.

Chris Mason  
**Chairman**





Diane Savory OBE DL – Chair Task Force  
Tracey Crews – Director of Planning

## WE ARE LIVING IN CHANGING TIMES

Be Bold, Swift & Brave

## Our Vision - Diane Savory OBE DL Chair Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force



### Now is the time to lead recovery

*"There will be difficult decisions to make and it will take time, so we must focus on how we build our economy and communities to be stronger than before...the challenge of this global pandemic requires a response that is more innovative and ambitious and one that will be built on new foundations"* **Leader, Cheltenham Borough Council, June 2020**

- Capitalising on the strengthened partnerships that have developed through Covid-19
- Build upon the successes of Cheltenham Development Task Force
- Test new models for action and create the environment to innovate, building upon our cultural and creative DNA
- Be strong in local leadership both at the locality level and feeding into the big conversations
- Provide independent check and challenge

### Taskforce Members

Diane Savory	Independent Chair	Independent Chair
Bowen Hay	Leader of Cheltenham Borough Council	Delivering skills and knowledge from sector
Sarah Edmondson	Chief Executive Cheltenham Borough Council	
Andrew McFadden	Representing sustainability and environment	Delivering skills and knowledge public sector
Victoria Atherton	Cheltenham Borough Council Cabinet Member for economy and development	
Nigel Sibson	Representing retail / digital	Delivering skills and knowledge from community
Stuart Stevens	Representing business / marketing	
Madeline Howard	Representing skills / young people	
Tim Atkins	Representing Golden Valley Development	
Eoin McQuinn	Representing sustainability and environment	
Nicola Inchbold	Representing retail / landlords / property	
Ian George	Representing Culture Board / Charity	
Antonia Shield	Representing legal	
Duncan Wright	Representing property	
Paul Roberts	Representing place-making	
Dave Entwistle	Representing voluntary sector	
Nigel Moor	Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet Member for environment and planning	
Patrick Molyneux	Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet Member for economy, education and skills	
Tracey Crews	Director of Planning (portfolio includes economic development & inward investment/marketing/infrastructure)	

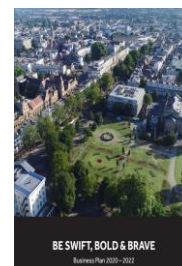
### Business plan – informed by business survey

Provided a snapshot of issues (Summer 2020) key challenges and issues raised included;

- Importance of driving customer confidence
- Understanding of Government guidelines on social distancing and safety measures
- Developing new ways of working, product and service diversification
- Importance of digital
- Impact on unemployment short term (impact of furlough/loss of casual contracts) and medium/longer term (impact of changes in business models that is reducing staffing requirements)

### Business Plan - Our commitment to recovery

- Business resilience
- Re-imagining our town centre – a centre for people
- Green growth & climate change
- Cyber & digital
- Value of culture as a major economic driver
- Inward investment
- Skills development and education
- Re-establish consumer trust
- Catalyst sites
- Working with key partners – Cheltenham BID, Gfirst LEP, Golden Valley Development, Gloucestershire County Council, government departments, Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce, developers, landlords & agents



Endorsed by Cabinet Cheltenham Borough Council 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

\* Regular monitoring reporting \*

## Sub Groups

**Town Centre Vision** – working with stakeholders including, Civic Society, Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce, Cheltenham BID, developers, landlords & agents, community, Marketing Cheltenham, Gloucestershire County Council

**Counter Culture** – working with stakeholders including Cheltenham Festivals, Cheltenham BID, landlords & agents, Marketing Cheltenham

**Skills** – working with stakeholders including Gfirst LEP, University, Gloucestershire College, Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce, Cheltenham BID, Cheltenham Growth Hub

**Hospitality** – working with stakeholders including TURF, Cheltenham BID, Marketing Cheltenham, Cheltenham Growth Hub

## Outcomes

- To be tangible
- To engage across business community
- To be interactive in both outcomes and engagement methods
- identify priority projects with the greatest positive impact to support economic development recovery and contribute towards our climate change objectives
- Demonstrate creativity and innovation
- Contribute to Place Making
- Challenge barriers to recovery
- Collaborate not duplicate
- Help create point of difference for Cheltenham

## Success will be delivered by partnership working

- Business Plan – a living document
- Sharing expertise – understanding the issues, challenges and opportunities
- Accessing specialist skill sets across CERTF members and wider partnerships
- Delivery of tangible outcomes
- Lobbying of Government
- Working with key stakeholders



## Stay in touch / keep informed

<https://movingtocheltenham.com/cenf>

Meeting agendas, notes, papers, presentations & newsletters (and sign-up for updates)

- <https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/coronavirus/>
- <https://movingtocheltenham.com>
- <https://www.gfirstlep.com>
- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- <https://www.gov.uk/transition>
- <https://www.thegrowthhub.biz/euexit>
- <https://www.visitcheltenham.com/>
- <https://cheltenhambid.co.uk/>
- <https://cheltenhamchamber.org.uk/>
- <https://www.fsb.org.uk/>
- <https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=725>  
Gloucestershire Economic Growth Committee
- <https://www.visitgloucestershire.co.uk/>
- <https://www.goldenvalleyuk.com/>
- <https://western-gateway.co.uk>

### MEETINGS & NEWSLETTERS

#### MEETING NOTES

- 5 September 2020
- Meeting Notes
- We're Moving to Cheltenham Briefing
- 23 September 2020
- Meeting Notes

#### NEWSLETTERS

- November 2020

[Sign-up to future newsletters here](#)

**CHELTHENHAM** | ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE

Be Bold, Swift & Brave

Questions & Discussion

<b>1.</b>	<b>Question from Councillor Paul Baker</b>
	Can Diane share with us the response she may have received from Kelly Tolhurst MP to her letter of 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2021?
	<b>Response</b>
	<p>Unfortunately, the Rt Hon. Kelly Tolhurst resigned from her ministerial role shortly after the letter was sent. This letter has now been redirected and we are awaiting a response. Positive engagement has taken place with Alex Chalk MP to direct communication within the government department.</p> <p>Letter sent can be viewed here <a href="https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/20210113-letter-to-High-Streets-Minister.pdf">https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/20210113-letter-to-High-Streets-Minister.pdf</a></p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Question from Councillor Paul Baker</b>
	In terms of re-inventing our town centre, indeed all town centres, it seems to me that young people have a real stake in shaping the future, can I ask how young people will be engaged in the process?
	<b>Response</b>
	<p>Absolutely, engagement is currently underway with key stakeholders and this will be an item for discussion both through the Town Centre Vision sub group and the Skills sub group established by the Task Force.</p> <p>The Borough Council is at an advanced stage of investigating an engagement platform and this will be a key tool in engaging via social media. We will be using this tool together with our links through University, Gloucestershire College, Cheltenham Festivals etc. to reach out to young people.</p> <p>We are progressing an intervention project – Counter Culture <a href="https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020-11-04-Counter-Culture.pdf">https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020-11-04-Counter-Culture.pdf</a>, a key driver of this project is engagement with Cheltenham communities including young people. Minster Innovation Exchange is another good example of how active interventions will be engaging with younger people.</p> <p>In establishing the Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force we purposefully identified a representative who works with and is in a position to represent young people. Madeline Howard takes responsibility for that role on the Task Force in light of her her work as an NCSC i100 for the CyberFirst Schools initiative focusing on inspiring young people to consider careers within the industry.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Question from Councillor Paul Baker</b>
	Our farmers markets are very popular, bring vibrancy and attract people. Could we look at extending the scope of these to include local artistic and creative talent?
	<b>Response</b>
	<p>The Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force is a strategic group, which seeks to drive the town’s economic recovery and growth, taking swift, bold and brave interventions to support the short term challenges, yet with a vision and ambition to secure the future vitality of the town.</p> <p>Issues such as the delivery of markets is an operational issue which is addressed by Cheltenham BID and Cheltenham Borough Council, the Task Force does not seek to duplicate. However, projects such as Counter Culture look to make an intervention that recognises and promotes artistic and creative talent.</p>

	<p>In establishing the Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force we purposefully identified a representative to champion culture and creative as this is a key sector within the economy of Cheltenham. Ian George, Director of Cheltenham Festivals is the representative and provides a direct link into Culture Board.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Question from Councillor Paul Baker</b>
	<p>Could we consider introducing a 'Volunteer Hub' where people can pop in to see how their talents can be put to good use with different volunteer groups represented and a convivial space for people to work on site?</p>
	<b>Response</b>
	<p>The Counter Culture project is looking at how community is a key deliverable. A recent discussion on shared work spaces at the Task Force meeting on 28/1/21 included discussion on affordability of workspaces  <a href="https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-01-28-CERTF-Notes-WMTC.doc">https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-01-28-CERTF-Notes-WMTC.doc</a></p> <p>In establishing the Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force we purposefully identified a representative that champions community and voluntary sector. David Entwistle CEO of Vision 21 provides this representation.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Question from Councillor Paul Baker</b>
	<p>Could we consider some central studio space for up and coming artists, designers etc?</p>
	<b>Response</b>
	<p>The role of culture and creative industries is a key part of the DNA of Cheltenham and an important sector within our economy. The Minster Innovation Exchange will provide opportunities, as does The Wilson. The Task Force cannot physically provide space, but we can enable where appropriate conversations in the context of our business plan. Again, the Counter Culture project has potential to add value to this.</p> <p>From a Task Force perspective, through the Town Centre Vision sub group we are looking at how we reimagine the High Street. Culture and creative has already been identified as an area of opportunity within this work and is identified within our business plan..</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Question from Councillor Chris Mason</b>
	<p>I'd like to know more about community start-ups, where change could be driven from the bottom up.</p>
	<b>Response</b>
	<p>The Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force has been established to give positive challenge and constructive advice, it is not in a position to deliver operationally <a href="https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CERTF-ToR-FINAL.docx">https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CERTF-ToR-FINAL.docx</a>. However, the Cheltenham Growth Hub will soon be operational in a virtual context in advance of its physical space being available via the Minister Innovation Exchange. This will be an important intervention for the town and will be able to gather the knowledge and intelligence that will better understand community start-ups.</p> <p>As noted above, David Entwistle and Madeline Howard are key members of the Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force representing this group.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Question from Councillor Chris Mason</b>

	I'd like to understand more about CERTF's role in making Cheltenham carbon neutral by 2030?
	<b>Response</b>
	<p>In establishing the Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force identifying representatives that could respond to the green growth agenda, climate change and wider sustainability agenda was important. The Task Force is a strategic activity and in this regard, we are looking at these issues across all our priorities as opposed to a single item. Eoin McQuone and Andrew Mckenzie are the Task Force members representing this agenda.</p> <p>Through links into wider government, we are engaged in national engagement, for example through Retail Sector Council/BEIS who are piloting green streets we are gathering more intelligence and will bring back that knowledge to understand applicability to Cheltenham. Specific actions since Septembers have included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representation on BEIS workshop on retail circular economy</li> <li>• Representation on Cheltenham Climate Change Conference</li> <li>• Task Force engagement with Cllr Max Wilkinson to understand the key issues and priorities arising from Climate Change Conference – agenda item at meeting on 28/1/21.</li> </ul>

Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force Business Plan can be viewed here  
<https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CERTF-ToR-FINAL.docx>

Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force Business Plan membership can be viewed here  
<https://movingtocheltenham.com/about-us>

Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force Business Plan can be viewed here  
[https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CERTF-Business-Plan\\_FINAL.pdf](https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CERTF-Business-Plan_FINAL.pdf)

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Update on the Gloucestershire Economic O&S Committee from Councillor McCloskey

Apologies for the lateness of this report, but I wanted to take advantage of the recently published agenda for the next meeting of GEGSC which is happening on 10th March.

This way you get to hear the latest information, and the Committee won't meet again till the 9th June.

On the morning of 10th March the GEG Steering Committee meets, and their agenda includes at item 6, the long awaited "**Impact of Brexit on Gloucestershire**" report. the report highlights what is being done to support local businesses as well as MBA students whose international placements didn't happen this year.

Link here: [The impact of Brexit in Gloucestershire PDF 66 KB](#)

Item 8, the GFirst LEP update, is also worth reading. It explains how the LEP's successful bid for £11.3Million from the Govt's '**Getting Building Fund**' (you remember the call for 'shovel ready' projects?) is being spent. The Minster Innovation Exchange is one of the five projects that are included in the report.

Link here: [GFirst LEP Update PDF 559 KB](#)

You can find the whole agenda

here: <https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=725&MIId=10053&Ver=4> it includes the instructions should any of you wish to watch on Wednesday..

The GEGSC agenda also has some interesting items:

Item 7: [Update on the skills agenda PDF 87 KB](#) This is a presentation by Peter Carr, Director of Employment and Skills, GFirst LEP. Again you can watch if you like, link to the YouTube stream here: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/online-meetings/gloucestershire-economic-growth-scrutiny-committee-wednesday-10-march-2021-130-pm/>

Item 8: [Review of Growth Hub service PDF 104 KB](#) Fascinating to see how the concept has developed and the impact they have had on local businesses.

Item 9: Colin Chick (Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure on Economic Growth issues in the County) report on current activity. [Executive Director's Report PDF 117 KB](#) Always a good read with the latest information on cycling infrastructure, Junction 10 etc. I'm always surprised at how much is happening across the County.

Items from the 20th January Meeting:

Item 8: [Local housing PDF 106 KB](#) Mike Dawson, Chair of the GEGJC Senior Officer Group, advised members that the attached report was an annual update which drew together states of play across all districts in terms of strategic plan positions and future developments, covering a wide range of issues from housing to transport.

Item 9: [Taxi Licensing Task Group report PDF 203 KB](#) Cllr David Willingham. Chair of Licensing, has taken a keen interest in this matter. The minutes of this meeting: <https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=731&MIId=10076&Ver=4> provide a good summary of the discussion.

I'm sure that is sufficient. remember, you can go back and watch any of these meetings on the GCC website.





**Gloucestershire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee**  
**17 November 2020 & 12 January 2021**

Written report from Cllr Martin Horwood to CBC Overview & Scrutiny Committee 18 January 2021

The full agenda and minutes of the two HOSC meetings will be available at <https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=772&Year=0>

Videos of both meetings are available on YouTube at

17 November 2020 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6K64pFIKKek>

12 January 2021 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOt31oQ2i6s>

The next HOSC meeting is on 2 March 2021 as well as a joint HOSC/Adult Social Care meeting on 26 January.

At both meetings there was praise for the continuing efforts of frontline staff NHS and care, other staff and management facing a stressful and dangerous situation.

**17 November 2020**

**Public representation & community phlebotomy services**

- A Cotswold resident once again raised the lack of consultation about the replacement of **blood test services** at Cirencester Hospital with GP services and the resulting lack of access, increased travel times and deteriorating service, as well as lack of monitoring. I raised the need for better quantitative data to enable HOSC to assess changes.

I'm not aware of comparable issues facing patients trying to obtain blood tests via Cheltenham GPs under the new system (instead of hospital 'drop in') but would welcome any feedback from CBC colleagues.

**Covid 19**

- This meeting took place as the 'second wave' was accelerating and Director of Public Health Sarah Scott presented up to date data which I won't repeat here as events have obviously moved on since November. At the time, issues raised included:
  - The **backlog in cancer services** following the first Covid-19 wave including media reports of urgent treatments delayed and thousands of appointments cancelled which had not been clearly reported to HOSC. Mary Hutton of the Clinical Commissioning Group recognised there was a "huge problem" but emphasised that referrals and waiting times had recovered to 90% of pre-Covid levels while Deborah Lee accepted that 2,500 more routine operations had been cancelled and the hospital was trying to bring many of those back in but believed high risk cases were dealt with.
  - The risk of infection to **drivers taking symptomatic people for tests** being told to keep their car windows shut, putting them at much higher risk than staff who were wearing full PPE, only in briefest proximity and in the open air. We were told this was the national standard operating procedure but concern would be fed back.

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## Temporary service changes due to Covid 19 / Clinical Commissioning Group performance report

- Hospitals Trust were setting up '**virtual** Covid wards' (these have now been set up) with patients staying at home but with daily monitoring by oxymeter to trigger admission when necessary.
- I raised the **serious A&E delays** involving queues of up to 18 ambulances at Gloucestershire Royal even at the low point in the pandemic in July and August. Glos Hospitals Trust replied that they were then at 90% capacity, including more non-Covid patients than in the first wave (including much higher emergency admissions), so beds were very hard to find and this caused the backlog in EDs regardless of service configuration. I asked for comparable data from similar trusts or localities to enable HOSC to make a fair comparison.
- **Mental health** services have had to adapt, including sexual assault and abuse service and an anticipated rise in **young peoples' mental health** problems - there has already been a sharp rise in eating disorders. I asked about the Trailblazer school programme and the need for holistic support to schools, ie school environment, meals, bullying etc not just access to a chatline. Gloucestershire Care Services would report further. A specific report on **eating disorders** was also requested.
- A new **Carers' Board** is being developed to improve focus on carers' wellbeing

12 January 2021

### Covid 19

- There was a **very significant rise** in cases, as have been widely publicised. There were 219 C+ inpatients on the day of HOSC compared to 148 at the peak of the first wave and with worse to come. There is enormous pressure on NHS services, but with 'virtual wards' and other changes in patient pathways in areas like 'home first' discharge support, cancer and dermatology, local trusts are trying hard to work around Covid and keep services up to speed.
- '**Long Covid**' clinics in Gloucestershire are now starting to include patients who have not been hospitalised in line with other areas.
- **Vaccination** is proceeding fast in Gloucestershire with 48,000 in the four highest priority groups vaccinated out of a total target of 129,000. Councillors reported positive anecdotal evidence of the vaccination experience but queried why this data wasn't routinely public.
- Concerns were raised about:
  - relatively safe activities like **walking in the countryside** again attracting more attention from the media and others than social distancing in supermarkets and other indoor venues. More public awareness work was planned.
  - avoiding vulnerable groups like those with **dementia or learning disabilities** slipping through the appointment/vaccination net. This brought reassuring answers.
  - 'Anti-vaxxing' and genuine nervousness about the vaccine in some communities

### South West Ambulance Services NHS Foundation Trust update

A lot of snapshot performance data was presented verbally and a technical hitch then took the SWAST representative out of the meeting. A written report was requested allowing HGOSC to sensibly compare data over time with other regions and localities. The Gloucestershire average response time is 8.2 minutes and performance was under pressure was expected to deteriorate as pressure increased and handover problems continue at Emergency Departments. Questioning focussed on differential performance in rural areas.

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## Fit for the Future

- An update was provided on the Fit for the Future consultation and proposed changes to acute hospital services in Cheltenham and Gloucester. The public consultation had finished with over 700 survey responses. I asked for disaggregated data showing how these responses differed between different parts of the county. The output report was published the day before HOSC but the initial findings (some very obviously leading questions notwithstanding), suggested:
  - **68% support for an acute medicine 'centre of excellence' in Gloucester** (although the implication of closure for the 24 bed acute care unit in Cheltenham was not spelled out in the survey) but with a significant 25% minority objecting.
  - **68% support for an Emergency General Surgery 'centre of excellence' in Gloucester** (23% against)
  - **79% support for a lower GI general surgery 'centre of excellence'** and preferences for the location were as follows:
    - **Cheltenham 51%**
    - **Gloucester 20%**
  - **60% support for shifting all vascular surgery to Gloucester** (9% against)
  - **67% for a new 'IGIS' (image-guided interventional surgery) hub at GRH.**
  - **76% for two trauma and orthopaedic 'centres of excellence', at CGH and GRH**
- I once again questioned the appropriateness of the timing of managing and planning such major change while we are still in the throes of a pandemic which might demand a complete rethink of hospital services, as well as the accuracy of some representations in the consultation (specifically the 'success' of the Trauma & orthopaedic pilot)
- The next stage is a '**Citizens' Jury**' planned for later in January and February, followed by decision-making in March and implementation in April.
- In the discussion, several councillors supported resolving the long-term issue with a brand new capital investment in a **new super-hospital** between Cheltenham and Gloucester.

## Other items

- Forest of Dean community hospital reconfiguration
- National consultation is underway on the future of Integrated Care Services (ICS) - the broad integration of local NHS Trusts into more local collaborative structures. Our Trusts have responded that they would prefer any **future ICS structure to be Gloucestershire-based** and not reconfigured into some larger region.
- The changes in **non-emergency public transport** and whether ambulance services had had to step in to help. An update was promised for a future meeting on performance, cost and contracts. The current contractor is E-zec.

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