

Update from Cllr Flo Clucas OBE, Cheltenham Representative

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH O&S COMMITTEE – 18 DECEMBER 2015

A number of reports were considered:

1. Update from the Commissioning Director at the County Council;
2. Gloucestershire Growth Deal Round 3;
3. European Structural and Investment Fund;
4. . The work plan, which incorporated a motion from the County Council in relation to the survivability of pubs in the County, was discussed. The work plan was agreed.

Update from the Commissioning Director.

A range of issues were outlined in the report. These included Strategic Infrastructure works, how they could be incorporated into Districts and CIL funding. The Director indicated that the matter of Section 106 funding could have an impact on CIL funding as the County may not wish to act as Accountable Body. The Director was asked to provide further information and this will come in a subsequent report. A number of questions, including issues raised by the Cheltenham representative were asked. These related to jobs, economic growth, CIL and rail infrastructure. The Director informed the committee that there was an officer working group that would pull all of the transport projects together and that this would be part of the LTP review process. The core document would go forward to the transport authority and be the trigger for investment. The electrification of Bristol/Birmingham route would be supported.

The Cheltenham Representative suggested that the Chair be invited to the next Scrutiny Committee.

Concerns were expressed in relation to pipeline projects, equity of investment, allocation decisions and how these were arrived at and disseminated. Broadband connectivity was raised, in particular as it related to businesses in Cheltenham. The Director said that the Royal Agricultural University had been charged with doing an evaluation and would also look at connection speeds and capacity.

LEP

A report was given by a representative of the LEP.

The SEP had been signed off by all local authorities and some early monies given to schemes. These were the top four schemes in the pipeline.

The Single Growth Fund would be signed off by the end of the financial year. The Assurance Framework would be reported on at a future meeting as the VC of the LEP was not available for this meeting.

Monitoring metrics are currently being put together and should be finalised on 12th January. They will then be evaluated.

The LEP is comfortable with the CC being the Accountable Body as they have a good relationship.

Monitoring projects together with outcomes, both designed and planned and whether they would be achieved was provoked discussion. The ability of the Scrutiny Committee to look at this area was also discussed. There would be a close working relationship with other SW

LEPs as some areas of investment – nuclear energy for example – would enable savings to be made across projects.

EU Funding is not likely to arrive before the autumn and therefore allocation of funding to projects would not be earlier. DCLG would be scoring projects at national level. In this new programme, 38m euro - £35m GBP had been allocated to the county.

Questions were asked about other EU funding streams that could be applied to for funding for various projects, yielding up to 50% of the cost. Knowledge was limited.

Other questions that were asked concerned fund managers for investment funds and how they would be selected; using Big Lottery money as match funding; focussing on outcomes not outputs.

The Strategic Committee for EU funds had met for the first time on 1st December in shadow form and members had received induction training.

SEP

The SEP was agreed at £62.5m. The County had done well out of the available monies and would receive some cash early.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HEALTH COMMUNITY AND CARE O&S COMMITTEE

I raised the issues of the Serious Incidents which have been declared at our local hospitals and in relation to the ambulance service.

These are now both to be discussed at the next meeting. If colleagues have concerns or questions they wish to raise with me, can they please raise them at the meeting or email them to Councillor Clucas directly.