

**Cabinet Briefing
Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2 March 2015**

The Forward Plan lists the reports expected to come to Cabinet in the next 3 or 4 months. This note supplements that with other issues that may be of interest to O&S.

Economic Development

The role of Cheltenham Business Partnership Manager is jointly funded by CBC and other partners on the CBP. Prior to Martin Quantock's retirement from the role, the Partnership had agreed to carry out a feasibility study, again jointly funded with CBC, into setting up a Business Improvement District. Martin has agreed to continue his work on this 1 day a week alongside consultants to ensure the feasibility study is completed. In the meantime, CBP has appointed Kevan Blackadder to the CBPM role 3 days a week for an initial 6 month period. This should allow time for a wider discussion about whether aiming for a BID is right for Cheltenham; what contribution local businesses are prepared to make; and what should the role of CBPM be going forward. John Forward, Chairman of CBP is also retiring in June so a process to find a replacement is underway among the business partners.

The Cheltenham Economic Development Strategy has been discussed by the Planning & Liaison Working Group and will be subject of a members' seminar on 16th March. It will form part of the evidence base for phase 1 of the Cheltenham Local Plan with a report due at Cabinet in April. However, there are also actions we will want to pick up straight away.

The role of strategic overview of tourism has now moved to Pat Pratley's team and a Tourism Forum has been set up to allow wider discussion of tourism issues in Cheltenham. Clearly tourism is has a significant input to the Cheltenham economy.

The future need to for Economic Development resource will be assessed based on the priorities emerging from the EDS and tourism review. In particular the currently vacant Economic Development post will be redefined.