

Briefing for Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 29th June 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.

Devolution

As mentioned in the briefing note to the previous O&S Committee meeting Leadership Gloucestershire held a special meeting on 16th June to discuss devolution.

There was broad agreement that a letter should be drafted in the next few weeks to express interest in discussing with government further devolution for our area. This would include considering changing governance structures. However, while there may be support for creating a combined authority if required there is no support for having a directly elected mayor.

There was also discussion about how to improve services by devolving within Gloucestershire as well as to Gloucestershire. It remains the view of the Cheltenham cabinet that this will be an essential part of any on-going process.

The county council are aiming to reach agreement on the detail of any proposed devolution by October. It is clear that there will need to be consensus among all councils if any proposal is going to be agreed by government. O&S members may have views on how to progress the broad debate needed on this issue.