

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 27th November, 2017
6.00 - 8.20 pm

Attendees	
Councillors:	Tim Harman (Chair), Colin Hay, Alex Hegenbarth, Chris Mason, Helena McCloskey, John Payne, Paul Baker and Max Wilkinson
Also in attendance:	Martin Langdon, Trevor Gander and John Hughes (Cheltenham Flood and Drainage Panel), Richard Gibson (Strategy and Engagement Manager), Mark Sheldon (Director of Resources), Andrew Knott (Deputy Section 151 Officer), Councillor Steve Jordan (Leader) and Bryan Parsons (Corporate Governance, Risk and Compliance Officer)

Minutes

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors Walklett and Holliday had given their apologies.

Councillors Hegenbarth and Hay had advised that they may be late and subsequently arrived at 6.05pm and 6.17pm respectively.

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 30 October 2017 be agreed and signed as an accurate record.

4. PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS, CALLS FOR ACTION AND PETITIONS

Two public questions had been received but as these related to agenda item 8 (Public Realm Planting Strategy) the Chairman proposed to take these under that item rather than this one.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

No matters had been referred to the committee.

6. CHARLTON KINGS FLOOD ACTION GROUP

Councillor Baker, who had requested that the committee to hear from this group had done so as he personally, had found their input and advice very helpful. It was also his experience that officers had also found it helpful and with this in mind he hoped that the group would be given the same consultee status as organisations such as the Civic Society and Architects Panel.

Martin Langdon, Trevor Gander and John Hughes from the Cheltenham Flood and Drainage Panel, formerly known as the Charlton Kings Flood Action Group, introduced themselves to the committee and talked through a PowerPoint presentation (Appendix 1) and key points included:

- The panel was made up of flood victims, councillors, academics and experts, all of whom were rate-payers committed to improving Cheltenham.
- The panel had been formed as it was felt that flood risk was a complex issue which was not fully understood by the public.
- The panel collated, checked and challenged.
- Their interests ranged from borough catchments to future generations and ensuring that information was not lost over time.
- One map showed borough rivers. The Charlton Kings catchment generated its own flooding issues and the map showed some gaps which represented buried water courses which in some cases, the borough council and Severn Trent were not aware of.
- Another map showed that all catchments covered more or less all of Cheltenham.
- If it were possible to catch the water that ran downhill, right to left, it would be possible to avoid the town.
- The third map showed flood alleviation. Work had been completed over the years, most recently in Prestbury and Hatherley, but the panel felt that this had not always been successful.
- Pictures showed the extent of the flooding experienced in the town in 2007, which the panel felt was likely to be repeated were the same levels of rainfall to be experienced again.
- Since 2007 there had been no formal review of the catchment, 2103 houses had been built on brownfield sites, 405 on infill and greenfield sites and there would be an extra 15130 houses built by 2031 and it was unknown how many of these would be built in flood plains. The risk was not just from rivers but from surface water where drainage would be an issue.
- Severn Trent were undertaking sewer lining in the town and this would reduce the amount of water that could pass through the sewer.
- Surface flooding was on the rise and there were questions as to whether there were the appropriate strategies in place to address this.
- Some planning policies were in place and planning and building control assumed a role.
- It was highlighted that Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs) were only a requirement for developments with more than ten houses, but the panel felt that this meant that cumulative effect of many smaller developments was overlooked as a consequence.
- As a group, the panel had found that some FRAs were often inaccurate, having used inappropriate methods of calculation and they queried why this had not been identified by other parties.
- The panel felt that the use of bonds rather than 'management companies' would be a more effective means of ensuring that developers addressed maintenance issues, rather than leaving the council to.

- The panel were of the opinion that the best way to address third party impacts was through the Planning process.
- There had been no Supplementary Planning Guidance since 2003.
- In terms of the future role of the group the panel saw this as centring on education, raising public awareness and providing advice.
- A particular concern for the panel at the moment was drainage issues on some tactile crossing, which they felt became unsafe after rainfall.
- Members were keen that the panel be given similar status to the Architects Panel.
- The group hoped that they would be able to help the council to put together reliable and accurate mapping of where flooding occurred.
- Cambridge and Islington were two examples of where flooding was looked at more holistically and the panel felt that Cheltenham would benefit from a similar approach.

The following responses were given to member questions from the representatives of the panel:

- This issue with FRAs was not due to a lack of guidance, as there was lots of guidance available, all of which was available online, although some was very technical. The issue was that they were only required for development of more than 10 houses. The panel also took issue with the fact that FRAs were commissioned by developers and could therefore, in the panels opinion, be a little too specific and not as broad reaching as they should be and many FRAs used generic and theoretical data rather than seeking local knowledge, which the panel felt they could provide.
- Details of any member that wanted an electronic copy of the presentation before it was due to be published with the draft minutes of this meeting, would be taken at the end of the discussion.
- Issues were dealt with by the Environment Agency and Gloucestershire County Council, as the lead authority, as well as CBC and it was the involvement of so many organisations that could cause issues. The council had previously had a dedicated team of officers which had in recent years reduced to one individual and the panel felt that they could therefore offer a level of expertise.

Members of the Planning Committee had asked for training on drainage and flooding issues and asked that this request be put to Officers again.

Having raised the matter for consideration by the committee, Councillor Baker commented that this was a serious issue that would likely get worse rather than better. He felt that the discussion had been successful in raising awareness of the expertise of the panel and hoped that it would be given similar status as the Architects Panel

The Chairman explained that it was not within the gift of this committee to make any decisions but that Planning Officers would be asked to respond, at a future meeting, to the issues that had been raised, namely:

- Whether comprehensive flooding and drainage training could be arranged for officers and members of the Planning Committee, and if so, when?
- Officers would be asked to give a view as to if and how the CFDP could be given similar status to the Architects Panel.
- Provide a summary of the councils responsibilities in terms of planning (policies, roles, FRAs, SuDS and s106 agreements).

The Chairman thanked the representatives of the CFDP for their attendance and a very interesting and informative presentation.

7. QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE

The Strategy and Engagement Manager introduced the Quarter 2 Performance report as circulated with the agenda. He reminded members that the Corporate Strategy had been approved by Council in March and that the action plan had identified 84 milestones. This report took information and data from the performance management system and aimed to provide members with an overview of how the council was performing. Of the 84 milestones within the 2017-18 action plan, 19 (23%) were complete, 22 (26%) were on track to be delivered on time, 41 (49%) were amber, and 2 (2%) were red. He took the opportunity to highlight the backdrop against which these performance figures were set in as much as the large number of projects, being undertaken across the organisation at this time, which included the launch of Publica, adoption of the JCS, the implementation of the new waste service and the redevelopment of the Town Hall, amongst others.

The Strategy and Engagement Manager provided the following responses to member questions:

- The council has had a number of positive discussions with partner organisations and Cabinet in relation to the Place Strategy and the Strategy and Engagement Manager suggested that the committee might like to consider the Place Strategy at one of their early 2018 meetings, in advance of it being taken to Cabinet and Council in March.
- He confirmed that it was the Lead Officers that were responsible for marking any actions for which they were responsible, rather than the Strategy and Engagement Manager marking them on their behalf. It was acknowledged that there were some grey areas between red, amber and green, but performance was monitored by Exec Board on a quarterly basis and this helped identify where resources needed to be focussed.
- Delays in relation to the implementation of Solace were due to the vetting process having taken longer than anticipated. A briefing note on progress was attached to the agenda and members were asked to contact the relevant officer for more information. A further update would be scheduled for 2018.

In relation to the commentary on the waste and recycling project, the Strategy and Engagement Manager would seek assurances from the relevant officers that there were no anticipated additional financial costs to CBC for the remainder of the project, given the wording "At present there are no additional

costs currently required or anticipated during the remaining implementation phase of this project". The response would be circulated to members by email.

The Strategy and Engagement Manager would also ask the relevant officer to confirm what was being done to support the cycling and walking strategy given the commentary "Despite 2 rounds of advertisement for recruitment we have been unsuccessful in recruiting to post. Currently considering options of how this can be achieved." The response would be circulated to members by email. As the Member Champion for 'Cycling and Walking', Councillor Wilkinson explained that the council had created the post in question to fill a gap created by the fact that Gloucestershire County Council, the responsible authority, did not have anyone in place to properly develop a cycling strategy. It was disappointing that it had not yet been possible to fill the post but the Managing Director of Place and Economic Development was in discussions about how to address this issue.

A member voiced his frustrations that delays with the Transport Plan were holding up progress on so many other things and queried the reasons for the delays given that the modelling that had been put in place was working much as expected and the small issues that had arisen, did not in his mind, justify a delay.

Members felt that the scale of undertakings by the council was particularly remarkable given the reduced number of staff and commended officers for their hard work and dedication.

No decision was required.

8. PUBLIC REALM PLANTING STRATEGY

Then public questions that had been received were taken under this item as they related to the topic.

1.	Question from Fiona Wild to the Chair of O&S, Councillor Tim Harman
	Has the enormous response of 2,436 signatures, garnered in only 3 weeks, on the petition to retain the present style of planting in Imperial Gardens & the Long Gardens been fully taken on board by the O&S committee, the Cabinet and the Council to influence the final decision on the future appearance of these areas?
	Response from Chair
	<p>Can I thank the questioner for her efforts in prompting the petition which had such a large response. When the petition was debated at the recent Council meeting it was clear that a number of Members had misgivings about the proposals including myself and I believe two Cabinet Members particularly in relation to the Promenade Long Gardens and Imperial Gardens.</p> <p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has received a paper to be discussed this evening (27 November) outlining the options to be considered. The Committees views are invited and I hope will be heard and I hope taken into account by Cabinet and Council.</p>

2.	Question from Fiona Wild to the Chair of O&S, Councillor Tim Harman
	Has the possibility that visitors will be less encouraged to return to Cheltenham if herbaceous or wild planting in Imperial Gardens and the Long Gardens lacks colour & looks untidy in the winter been fully considered in the light of the detrimental effect this could have on the local economy?
	Response from Chair
	I agree that the visual impact of the Floral Displays play an integral part in the appearance and our enjoyment of the Town, as well as visitors. I also agree that this should be a key factor in the decisions that the Council take.

The public questioner was advised that the Chairman was not able to respond to the two supplementary questions that had been posed, as this would require him to respond on behalf of others, which he was not able to do. He suggested that the questioner put these questions to the relevant Cabinet Member, Councillor Coleman the Cabinet Member for Clean and Green Environment, at the appropriate Cabinet meeting (12 December).

The Director of Resources introduced the draft business case for public realm planting, as had been circulated with the agenda. The business case had been developed with support from Ralph Pullen at Ubico, the existing service provider and the project team had drawn on the experience of other councils which had implemented similar proposals, including Warwick District Council. As a result of the Council debate in October an additional option had been modelled, resulting in 3 options in total:

1. Retain all seasonal bedding.
2. Retain seasonal bedding in the Long Gardens and Imperial Gardens, change to herbaceous perennials in all other locations.
3. Change to herbaceous perennials in all locations.

The business case had aimed to be as objective as possible and outline the financial and non-financial evaluation of each of the options. Whilst there was a large amount of public interest associated with this issue, the Director of Resources did not wish to reopen debate on this issue but instead sought the views of the committee on the options within the business case, which would aid Cabinet in their deliberations at their meeting on the 12 December.

The following responses were given to member questions by the Director of Resources, with the help of the Deputy Section 151 Officer:

- The petition in support of herbaceous perennials in all locations was still live and would not close to new signatures until midnight on the 30 November.
- At this stage the business case assumed that the nursery would be retained, although some plants would be bought in, as was the case at present. All relevant figures had been built-in to the figures that were included in the business case and a breakdown could be provided to members on request.

- The Arle Nursery Strategic Review was being undertaken separately and was scheduled for consideration by Cabinet on the 13 February 2018.
- It was recognised that different planting approaches would require more maintenance and additional costs had been factored into the business case.
- It was difficult to clearly demonstrate an alternative with only a picture, but there were some great examples of different approaches which could look equally as attractive as what was done at present.

A member of the public commented that flowering perennials could look just as aesthetically pleasing as seasonal bedding plants, even more so at this time of year when beds were empty. She urged the council to be more open minded.

Members welcomed the opportunity to express a view and acknowledged that it was ultimately an Executive (cabinet) decision. These members were pleased with the inclusion of the third option and were of the opinion that option 2 (Retain seasonal bedding in the Long Gardens and Imperial Gardens, change to herbaceous perennials in all other locations) was the best option for Cheltenham, its residents and visitors.

Whilst comfortable with option 2, one member did feel that people should be open to change and reminded members that 'environment responsibility' was one of three core pillars of any entries to the RHS Britain in Bloom competition.

A member was concerned by the suggestion that the council was trying to push a particular agenda as his experience was that the process had been open and transparent and he felt that the business case was sound. He did comment that if the decision was to keep seasonal bedding plants in the Long Gardens, then the significant amount of cars parking in front of the gardens would need to be addressed as a priority, as it obscured the view of the gardens from the road, entirely.

The Director of Resources apologised to any member who felt that the business case was in any way attempting to lead members towards a particular option as this had not been the intention.

The Chairman welcomed the opportunity to give comment and thanked the officers and members of the public for their attendance.

9. FEEDBACK FROM OTHER SCRUTINY MEETINGS ATTENDED

There had been no meetings of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Group since the last meeting of this committee.

A written update from Councillor Harvey on the recent (14 November) meeting of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Group (HCOS) had been circulated with the agenda. Members were asked to contact him directly with any questions. Councillor Hay was asked to contact Councillor Harvey directly to ask him to raise scrutiny of the Health and Wellbeing Board by the HCOS directly with the committee. He felt that this was important given the Board were responsible for joint commissioning.

A written update from Councillor H McCloskey on the recent meeting (8 November) meeting of the Police and Crime Panel had been circulated with the agenda. In response to a member question, Councillor McCloskey advised that the 'Commissioners Fund' was established by the Police and Crime Commissioner when he had first taken office. The fund, 1% of his overall budget equated to approximately £1million and applications had to meet at least one of his six priorities.

On the issue of child protection a member highlighted that on the last two annual visits by the Police and Crime Commissioner (P&CC), the committee had been advised that he was not comfortable with putting juveniles into custody and yet this continued to be the case. Another member could recollect that the Police and Crime Commissioner had advised that this was because of a lack of appropriate alternatives in Cheltenham and reminded members that this was a Social Services/Gloucestershire County Council responsibility. He suggested that members put a question to the County Council, perhaps at the point when they considered their budget.

In relation to the Court Estate, a member echoed the sentiments of the P&CC in stressing the importance of having an up to date court facility in Gloucestershire. He felt that otherwise there was a risk that the Ministry of Justice could decide to close both Cheltenham and Gloucester, which were not fit for purpose and designate Bristol as an alternative location. The P&CC had applied for funding from the Ministry of Justice, who would be looking to achieve as much as possible from each estate and therefore members were cautioned to balance the desire for a state of the art facility, with not having too many demands.

10. CABINET BRIEFING

The Leader referenced Cycling and Walking which had been discussed under the performance review. He highlighted that the County Council were in fact struggling to recruit to a number of transport related posts and that as a result this was holding up progress on many issues which were dependent on the County Council having appropriate people in place. Gloucester City Council shared similar frustrations and their Chief Executive was giving consideration to how this could be addressed.

Members would be aware that Laurence Robertson, MP for Tewkesbury had written to the Secretary of State asking that he call-in the JCS Inspectors decision to recommend the Plan as sound. The Leader had been pleased that the Secretary of State had written advising of his decision not to proceed with a call-in, within only 36 hours of the request. Gloucester City had agreed adoption of the JCS at their Council meeting on the 23 November, with Tewkesbury due to make a decision on the 5 December, before Cheltenham on the 11 December.

Members were referred to the briefing note that had been circulated to members separately to the agenda. There was a protocol in place that the Leader would make decisions at a local level in order that they could be scrutinised but advice on this occasion was that a no local decision was required. The briefing aimed to keep members advised of any decisions he takes on behalf of this authority at the joint committee. In reference to LEP core funding he explained that the county council had decided to withdraw match

funding for the LEP (£250k) though there was agreement that the locality should continue to match the Government funding. The proposal was that funds would be taken from the Business Rate Pool surplus for a period of 2 years, depending on income. There was also a suggestion that an additional £75k of the Strategic Economic Development Fund (SEDF) be used to match fund the Inward Investment Service to draw down further funding from the European Union. The appointment of a Strategic Planning Co-ordinator, to address the resource issues around strategic planning across the county would also be discussed. The proposal was that 50% of costs for this post would be financed by GCC, with the remainder being shared equally between the district councils and GFirst LEP. The Leader felt that this would be a very worthwhile post.

In response to a question, the Leader stressed that no extra capacity was being created by the proposal to match fund the Government funding provided to the LEP. The LEP had only 15 staff, which was relatively small in comparison to the large number of things they were working to deliver.

A member suggested that the districts could be better promoted as a consequence of providing match funding to the LEP.

11. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY WORK PLAN

Members were reminded that a member seminar had been arranged for the 13 December, to which the Chief Executive and Chairman of the NHS Trust and the Accountable Officer for the Clinical Commissioning Group would attend. Members had been asked to submit questions in advance of the seminar (deadline: 12 noon on Wednesday 6 December) and a reminder would be sent nearer the time.

Councillor Wilkinson suggested that some of the charitable organisations in the town should be invited to provide details of how they maintained their charitable status and give an overview of what they do Cheltenham as a whole.

Councillor Hay suggested that the committee should undertake a review of its effectiveness by seeking the views of non-committee members: did they agree that the committee were giving sufficient focus to particular issues and; were all members clear about the process for raising topics for scrutiny to consider. The Democracy Officer reminded members that the Scrutiny Annual Report was produced each year and that this document summarised the work that had been undertaken by the committee, as well as inviting members to suggest topics. She also noted that scrutiny training was available to members and this would next be repeated after the May 2018 elections. Democratic Services would give thought to how future training could be delivered.

Further to earlier agenda items, the work plan would be updated to include:

- Planning response to issues raised in the presentation by the Cheltenham Flood and Drainage Panel
- Place Strategy update
- Gloucestershire Airport Limited update/presentation

12. 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)

13. GLOUCESTERSHIRE AIRPORT LIMITED

The Director of Resources and the Corporate Governance, Risk and Compliance Officer introduced the update, as circulated with the agenda.

The committee asked that a further update be scheduled for early 2018 and a presentation from GAL be scheduled for later in the year.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for the 22 January 2018.

Tim Harman
Chairman

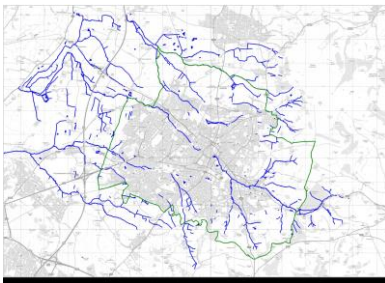
Background

CFDP Cheltenham Flood and Drainage Panel

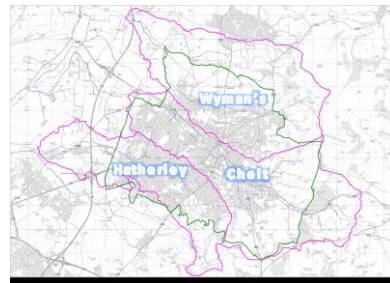
Presented
by
Martin Langdon, Trevor Gander, John Hughes
27 November 2017

- **Why formed**
 - Flood risk not fully resolved or understood
 - To share experiences, information & advice
- **Who we are**
 - Victims, councillors, academics, experts
 - Rate-payers committed to improve Cheltenham
- **What we do**
 - Collate, check, challenge
- **Where our interests range**
 - Borough catchments
 - Future generations

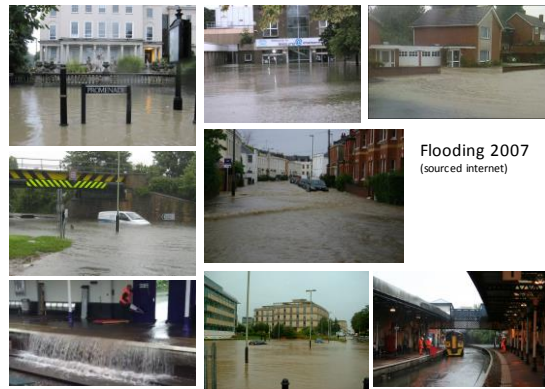
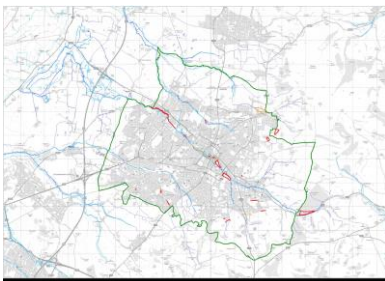
Borough rivers



Catchments



Flood zones & alleviation



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2007-2017

- State of catchment
 - No formal review
- Extra housing
 - 2103 brownfield houses (2015)
 - 405 infill & greenfield houses (2015)
 - Up to 15130 extra homes by 2031
 - How many in flood-plain?
- All leviation works
 - Beeches, Southfield, Warden Hill, Noverton, Priors Park
 - STW sewers – lining
- Are 677 homes now free from flooding?
 - Corporate strategies

Planning

- Policies
 - UI 2 : run-off control, rarely invoked
 - new = status quo, re-devt = reduce
 - UI 3 : SuDS, only on new
 - Include for changes of use?
 - JCS, CP pt1
- Roles
 - Planning vs building control
 - Future in-house skills
- Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs)
- Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- TCP Act 1990 s106 agreements
 - Cost neutral since 2006?

FRAs


- Mandatory for major developments (10+ houses)
 - Overlook cumulative effect of minor
- Often inaccurate
 - Inappropriate methods
 - Run-off areas insufficient
- Maintenance issues
 - Bonds instead of 'management' companies
- Third party impacts
 - Cursory assessment
 - Legal redress

SuDS

- Policy UI 2 reduce run-off on re-development
 - "retro-fitting"
- Policy UI 3 requires SuDS on ANY new development
- SPG since 2003
- No checks
 - performance
- End of life replacement costs



Future role

- Education 
- Public awareness & advice
 - Extent / depth markers
 - Rainfall run-off trigger studies
 - Flooded tactile crossings
- Review panel status
 - Similar to Architects Panel
 - Additional views NOT substitute
- Continuity
 - Resources & accountability



Questions



Briefing Note

Committee name: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 27 November 2017

Responsible officer: Pat Pratley

Contact Officer: Pat Pratley, Chief Executive
Tel No: 01242 264100
Email: pat.pratley@cheltenham.gov.uk

Item 10 – Cabinet Member Briefing – The Leader
Update on decisions to be taken by Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC) on 29 November

At its meeting on 29 November 2017 the GEGJC will be considering the following reports:

Item 9 - Business Rate Pool – *to receive an update report on the Business Rate Pool and expenditure proposals for the Strategic Economic Development Fund (report currently to follow)*

Item 10 - Strategic Planning Collaboration in Gloucestershire - *to receive an update on proposals including governance and the Strategic Planning Commissioner role*

The purpose of this briefing note is to give the committee details with regard to the decisions the Leader is being asked to take ahead of the meeting in light of the fact that the GEGJC meeting is only two days after this meeting and it is the practice of the Leader to keep members advised of any decisions he takes on behalf of this authority at the joint committee.

A link to the full GEGJC agenda is attached here:

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=725&MId=8457&Ver=4>

1.0 Item 9 - Business Rate Pool Report

- 1.1 This report covers a number of matters; (1) updated forecast for the Business Rate Pool for 2017-18, (2) 100% Business Rate Pilots; (3) LEP core funding position, (4) GFirst Inward Investment Service. Members of the GEGJC are being asked to make recommendations with regard to matters 3 and 4 as explained below.
- 1.2 The aim of the Gloucestershire Pool is to maximise the financial resources that can be retained for the benefit of the County of Gloucestershire. Gloucestershire as a whole benefits from offsetting top ups and tariffs and paying a reduced levy on growth.
- 1.3 The Pool aims to make the link between retaining resources locally within Gloucestershire and re-investing in the local economy. The Pool sets aside funding for a Strategic Economic Development Fund, where funding can be accessed to support shared economic strategic priorities within Gloucestershire. This fund is administered by the GEGJC and currently equates to 20% of the pool surplus distribution..

1.4 LEP Core funding (final report not yet received)

- 1.4.1 The Government has historically provided LEPs with an element of core funding, which needs to be matched by the locality. The maximum amount granted by Government is £250K and over the last 4 years Gloucestershire County Council has made the locality contribution allowing Gfirst LEP to benefit from the full £500Kpa. That level of match funding by the county council will be withdrawn from 2018-19. Discussions have therefore taken place over the last 12 months and a consensus has been reached that there is a need for the locality to continue to match the Government core funding and that the funding partners should be diversified.
- 1.4.2 The SEDF balance currently stands at £333K and the proposal is that £250K of this should be used to provide match funding to the Government's core funding for Gfirst LEP in 2018-19. The use of the fund in this way sits with the purposes for which the fund was created. The report also recommends that the first £250K of SEDF revenues arising during 2017-18 are used to match fund the Government's core funding in 2019-20.
- 1.4.3 In order for members of the joint committee to be able to support this recommendation it is important to understand the estimated level of the fund in 2017/18. The report outlines that based on the latest set of figures (NNDR3 Mid Year Estimate, September 2017), the business rate pool is forecast to make a surplus of £3.821M in 2017/18 of which, after allowing for a business rate pool reserve, equates to c£664K funding to the GEGJC.
- 1.4.4 With regard to the LEP core funding recommendations which the GEGJC members are being asked to support these are as follows:
- *£250K of reserves currently held in the SEDF are used for the purposes of match funding the Government's core funding to Gfirst LEP in 2018-19;*
 - *The first £250K of SEDF revenues arising during 2017-18 are used to match fund the Government's core funding in 2019-20;*
 - *The 7 councils enter into a simple memorandum of understanding with Gfirst LEP for the period 2018-20;*
 - *A review of the on-going need for core funding match and the correct mechanism for achieving this is completed by December 2019*

1.5 Gfirst Inward Investment Service

- 1.5.1 GEGJC members are being asked to support a recommendation to use £75K of the SEDF for the purposes of match funding the Inward Investment Service proposed by GFirst LEP.
- 1.5.2 The opportunity exists to draw down European Union funding and for the Gloucestershire local authorities to make a financial contribution allowing GFirst LEP to draw down further match funding. At the moment c£300K local funding has been identified drawing down £300K of EU funding. The proposal is to take £75K from the SEDF equating to £25Kpa for 3 years which will attract a further £75K of EU funding.
- 1.5.3 Historically, inward investment activity has been dealt with reactively and there is little capacity to handle new enquiries although good work has been done with modest funds. The project will focus on the LEP's strategic priorities as highlighted in the Strategic Economic Plan as well as focusing on the potential growth sector for the county, cyber security.
- 1.5.4 GEGJC members are there being asked to support the following recommendation:

- *£75k of reserves held in the Strategic Economic Fund is used for the purposes of match funding the inward investment service proposed by GFirst LEP.*

2.0 Strategic Planning in Gloucestershire – Appointment of a Strategic Planning Co-ordinator

- 2.1 In February 2017 Leadership Gloucestershire (LG) agreed that there was a need to address resource issues around strategic planning across the county. Proposals to address the issues were considered by senior officers, including the CX of the LEP. The challenge in the current context is the capacity to deliver the unprecedented levels of growth within the timescales set out in the respective authority development plans.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 6 September the GEGJC approved the proposal of LG to create a strategic planning co-ordinator post and to fund the post at £70Kpa with contributions from each district council and the LEP being £5Kpa.
- 2.3 Also at its meeting in September, the GEGJC agreed that a further report detailing the recruitment arrangements, the terms of employment of the post and any changes to the committee's governance arrangements be provided to the committee at its meeting in November.
- 2.4 The report outlines that the cost of the post should not exceed £78Kpa (including oncosts) which requires the district council and LEP contributions to rise to £6.5Kpa for which this authority has budgetary provision.
- 2.5 GEGJC members are being asked to approve the following recommendations:
- *The appointment will be established in accordance with the job description and person specification for a fixed period of 3 years with a review by GEGJC after 2 years*
 - *All cost implications of the post will be financed as follows:*
 - *50% Gloucestershire County Council and*
 - *Remainder shared equally between the district councils and the GFirst LEP*
 - *For day to day supervision and guidance the post will report to the Chair of the GEGJC Senior Officer Group*
 - *The post will be located at the GFirst LEP offices*
 - *The joint committee is asked to make nominations to the appointments panel*
 - *Authority is delegated to the CX of Tewkesbury Borough Council to appoint the post having considered the recommendations of the appointments panel.*

Background documents:

Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committees 29 November and 6 September 2017.

Appendices: None

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