

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 21st October, 2019
6.00 - 8.25 pm

Attendees	
Councillors:	Chris Mason (Chair), Klara Sudbury (Vice-Chair), Sandra Holliday, John Payne, Max Wilkinson, Dilys Barrell, Jo Stafford and Dennis Parsons
Also in attendance:	Hilary Gardner (Campbell Tickell), Mark Sheldon (Director of Projects), Richard Gibson (Strategy and Engagement Manager), Councillor Jordan (Leader), Councillor Hay (Cabinet Member Finance), Mike Redman (Director of Environment), Paul Jones (Executive Director of Finance and Assets) and Abigail Marshall (Estates Surveyor) Councillor Steve Jordan, Councillor Flo Clucas and Councillor Rowena Hay

Minutes

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Dobie had given his apologies.

The Chairman introduced Hilary Gardner from Campbell Tickell. He explained that as part of the review of scrutiny, she would be observing the meeting and noted that she had already met with some members.

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 9 September 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

No matters were referred to the committee.

6. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Director of Projects introduced the report, as circulated with the agenda. He reminded members that the committee had considered a report in July which outlined the current provision of the Authority's public toilets, as well as

four options for how these amenities might be managed in the future. All with the aim of providing improved access to high quality facilities. The committee supported option 3 (to retain selective facilities and seek a community partnership initiative to provide public access to alternative facilities) and Cabinet in turn, agreed to undertake a consultation exercise in respect of option 3. Having concluded this consultation, which involved third sector partners, businesses and members of the public, as well as learnings shared by Gloucester City Council on their Community Partnership Scheme, the report identified opportunities and recommendations for improvements to the future provision of public conveniences in the town centre. Results appeared to support the proposal to retain selected facilities and undertake a community partnership initiative and the business community also seemed to support this, with John Lewis, House of Fraser, Mr Mulligans Crazy Golf and Treble 2 Coffee House, as well as the Cheltenham Trust, having shown initial interest. The recommendation was that toilets located in Montpellier, Pittville and Sandford Park, be retained, with Montpellier and Pittville requiring refurbishment, within a ten year period, and Sandford Park being redeveloped, in close proximity to the current site near the children's play area. Bath Terrace, Imperial Gardens and Royal Well had all been identified for closure, with a community partnership offering improved access to better quality facilities, which would generate an annual saving of £97k. He noted that there was still a commitment to create a town centre Changing Places facility, which could potentially be located in the Regents Arcade, though negotiations on this were ongoing. Where alternative facilities had not yet been identified as part of a community partnership scheme, more targeted consultation would be undertaken, though it was also noted that Gloucester City had observed increased take-up following implementation.

The Director of Projects gave the following responses to member questions:

- The consultation had not resulted in a particularly good response level from Bath Road businesses and it was for this reason that more targeted consultation would be undertaken. There would be no closure of toilets until a workable scheme had been identified.
- The Royal Well facilities had been identified for closure but members were reminded that toilets were located right across the road, in addition to the nearby Municipal offices and Trust buildings. It was clear that signposting would be crucial to the success of any partnership scheme.
- An annual payment of £500 would be offered to businesses for their involvement in the scheme, though it could be, as was the case in Gloucester, that not all businesses would require payment.
- There would be a minimum standard expected from any facilities and certain stores would not be considered for inclusion by their nature (i.e. bookmakers, lingerie shops).
- Gloucestershire County Council had committed to fund a town centre Changing Places facility and Bath Road did not quite meet that town centre location. It was also questionable as to whether the Bath Terrace site would actually be adaptable.
- The Town Hall facilities could be offered as an alternative to the Imperial Gardens, should they be closed.
- The option currently being explored in terms of Sandford Park would involve demolishing the existing building and creating a new one in a more central location.

- Much of the focus had been on day-time provision given the condition and existing opening hours of the council's facilities and he felt that a partnership scheme would improve the night-time offer at the same time.
- The refurbishment costs outlined in Appendix C had been provided by the Property Team and were indicative only, at this stage. It was noted that it was sometimes cheaper to create a new structure than to refurbish an existing structure.
- With the opening of a cinema complex, the Regent Arcade would be open into the evening, which is why it was considered to be the best location for a town centre Changing Places facility.
- It would be made clear to any businesses wishing to sign-up to the scheme that there would be no obligation on people using their facilities, to buy anything.

Member comments included:

- In the context of the Place Strategy, the decision to close the facilities at Royal Well seemed odd, as a welcome to people accessing the town by coach.
- Members were pleased that Pittville Park and Montpellier gardens would be refurbished.
- The facilities in many of the business premises on Bath Road were not particularly accessible, with many either up or down a set of stairs.
- Cabinet were urged to consider carefully, any decisions to close facilities, and to seriously consider provision for the night-time economy.
- Loss of the Imperial Gardens facilities could lead to some people to use the gardens, having spent the afternoon in the beer garden.
- A request was made that any decisions be fully reviewed after a period of time.

The Chairman thanked the Director of Projects for his attendance.

7. GLOUCESTERSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

The Strategy and Engagement Manager introduced the update, as circulated with the agenda. The draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy was agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board in July and undertook consultation between the 20 August and 15 October; however, the lead officer for the strategy had confirmed that a response from Cheltenham Borough Council would be welcome on the 22 October, should the committee decide to agree a response.

He highlighted the key elements from the draft strategy:

- The proposed approach had been called the Gloucestershire Way and this was outlined in detail at paragraph 2.2 of the paper.
- The vision was 'Gloucestershire is a place where everyone can live well, be healthy and thrive'.
- There were seven priorities and no feedback had been sought on these.
- The strategy covered health inequalities.
- There were eight principles for ways of working and members were asked to consider the governance around these principles.

Members made the following comments:

- The strategy painted a clear picture of health related Gloucestershire, highlighting specific challenges, which it was suggested, demonstrated Gloucestershire was not in fact a place where everyone lived well or thrived.
- A number of members expressed their disappointment at the lack of any specific actions to address the challenges highlighted in the strategy. As a result of this, they queried the value of producing the strategy, as well as how members of the public could be expected to respond to the consultation.
- It would have been useful to have included reference to previous strategies and how this latest version built on them.
- The priorities included making physically active the social norm and getting the inactive more active, as well as enabling people to build and nurture strong social networks; but nothing about the benefits that walking and cycling could have in both these areas. There was a suggestion that the relevant organisations should therefore focus some of their budgets on improving the walking and cycling offer throughout the county, so it could easily form part of people's everyday lives, rather than being a lifestyle choice made by some.
- A member felt that the consultation questions had been formed in such a way that they were only going to get positive feedback in response.

A member expressed their opinion that this and the following paper on the Indices of Deprivation were linked and that many of the changes members wanted for Cheltenham could be delivered by Cheltenham, without the need to be part of wider (county) groups.

The Chairman thanked the Strategy and Engagement Manager for his attendance and asked that he feedback the comments of the committee to the lead officer for the strategy.

8. INDICES OF DEPRIVATION

The Strategy and Engagement Manager talked members through a PowerPoint presentation (attached at Appendix 1) that included maps which he felt members would find useful and the following key points were made:

- In 2019 Cheltenham had two areas ranked in the top 10% most deprived areas in the country, St. Marks followed by St. Pauls. It was noted that this had fluctuated over the years, there was a similar pattern, with between one and three wards ranking in the top 10%.
- In terms of Education, Skills and Training deprivation, in 2019 there were seven areas within Cheltenham that ranked in the top 10% most deprived areas in the country, which represented a significant issue for the community and was at odds with a town that prided itself on its educational offer.
- There were two sub-domains in terms of educational and skills deprivation: one relating to children and young people, which measured the attainment qualifications and one relating to adult skills, which measured the lack of qualifications in the resident working-age adult population.

- The Cheltenham Needs Assessment 2019 which was produced by GCC and contained a great deal of information which supported the deprivation data, including
- Unemployment rates based on claimant counts are highest in the areas of deprivation as well as the percentage of 16-17 year old NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training).
- As assessment of 'Health Assets' referred to green space and 'Health Hazards' fast food outlets and gambling establishments showed that the Town Centre had more hazards than assets.
- Over 40% of children in St. Pauls were growing-up in what the Government called 'child poverty'.
- Residents vulnerable to fuel poverty were again more concentrated in areas of deprivation, but also in parts of College and Leckhampton wards. It was noted that not all poor households are fuel poor, and some households would not normally be considered poor but could be pushed into fuel poverty if they have high energy costs
- In terms of users of the Citizens Advice Bureaux, these were again more concentrated in, St. Pauls, Lansdown, St. Peters, Hesters Way, Swindon Village and Oakley
- The chart on Free School Meals demonstrated the contrast between areas of Cheltenham; with 45% of children at Hester's Way Primary School being eligible and in stark contrast, less than 5% at the Charlton Kings Junior Academy.
- The council was developing a Social Value Policy, which aimed to use procurement to secure wider social benefits to priority areas.
- He made a cautionary note: that statistics were on occasion, used to attack the most deprived and that there should instead be no judgement, but rather understanding of the journey that some people have been on.
- The town was on the cusp of major growth and this should be inclusive, driving improvement and benefiting all.
- Ten months into the successful 'No Child Left Behind' initiative and it was time to start thinking about the second year and having conversations about the degree of commitment from CBC

The Chairman acknowledged that this was a major issue for the town, but urged members to be realistic about what the council was able to solve alone.

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

- The Social Value Policy would set out the council's commitment to delivering wider social benefits as part of its procurement process, meaning that cost would not be the only consideration, meaning it may not select the cheapest bid, if a higher bid could deliver other tangible benefits to the community. The procurement process already permitted the council to weight cost against quality. The draft policy would be tabled with Cabinet and the committee were welcome to review it in advance of this if they wished.
- In light of the Cheltenham Cyber Business Park, Gloucestershire College had announced that they would be launching a huge cyber programme, which represented a great opportunity to provide people in

Cheltenham with the skills and qualifications needed to fill the jobs that would be created as a result. There were however, many schools in Cheltenham, that faced a major challenge to recruit GCSE and A-Level computer science teachers, and this was an issue.

- An scheme called 'Men in Sheds – Cheltenham' worked to reduce social isolation in older men.
- Assuming the council adopted a 'Social Value Policy', the inclusive growth could involve major sums of money and therefore there would need to be robust evaluation and the necessary governance in place.

Comments from members included:

- A member questioned whether 'social value' would mean the council paying more just to make people happier and urged caution. The Executive Director of People & Change reassured members that social value could be something as simple and cost effective as a contractor offering refurbished PCs to those in need.
- Members gave their support to a second year of commitment to the 'No Child Left Behind' project.
- Social isolation and loneliness effected people of all ages and a member felt that a major issue was that there was more talking than there was action. Whilst he acknowledged that organisations did arrange events, he stressed that in many cases people that were feeling socially isolated, wouldn't attend these events without someone to take them.
- A member commented that skills and social mobility were interlinked and that a poor educational offer, made both impossible.

The Chairman invited the Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles to address the committee. She assured members that 'social value' did not necessarily mean the council would get less or spend more and gave the example of CBH, who under the 'Empower' project, had taken almost 300 unemployed people from the town and provided training and/or employment, with no impact on the service provided to the council and at no extra cost. The cyber-park would involve major development and provided an opportunity to build in opportunities for young people in the west. The Cabinet Member suggested that the issue of getting young people to where they need to be if there was a shortage of teachers, needed to be taken up at national level. On the issue of 'No Child Left Behind' she reminded members that the Cheltenham Lottery Fund would be used to support this into the second year, but stressed the need to make longer term plans, beyond the initial two years. On the issue of older people, she advised that discussions were underway with the Dementia Alliance, looking at what could be done across the borough.

Members agreed that the data was sobering and in acknowledging the limited resources of the council, stressed that any interventions needed to be monitored, to ensure that they were effective.

The committee were supportive of the development of a Social Value Policy and asked to be involved at an early stage, rather than immediately before it was taken to Cabinet.

The Chairman thanked the Strategy and Engagement Manager for his attendance.

9. FEEDBACK FROM OTHER SCRUTINY MEETINGS ATTENDED

Councillor Brownsteen had produced a written update on the most recent meeting of the Police and Crime Panel (13 September). This was taken as read and members asked to contact Councillor Brownsteen directly with any questions.

No update had been provided by Councillor Horwood.

10. CABINET BRIEFING

The Leader had nothing to add to the briefing which had been circulated with the agenda, other than to remind members about the county-wide governance seminar which was scheduled for the 23 October at 6pm.

11. UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY TASK GROUPS

Councillor Parsons, as Chair of the Events Task Group, provided a short update on progress. He explained that the group had met for the first time on the 10 October and agreed an approach for the review. There would be four meetings focussing on strategy, process, previous events and enforcement and would include relevant stakeholders for each. The group would then come back to committee to endorse the current approach or to make recommendations about suggested changes.

The Democracy Officer confirmed that her colleague was in the process of establishing officer/stakeholder availability for various dates, all of which were before Christmas, and would email members with at least two options for each meeting, as soon as possible.

12. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY WORKPLAN

The Cabinet Member Finance had suggested that the committee may wish to review the Third Sector Policy and he invited her to address the committee. The Cabinet Member Finance explained that the policy, which resulted in over £200k in rent subsidies for third sector organisations, was last reviewed in 2016. Since then the council had adopted a new corporate plan, commercial strategy and place documents and given the earlier discussion regarding social value, a review would be timely. Members agreed that the review should be undertaken by a small task group. The Democracy Officer would draft some terms of reference, which would be tabled for approval at the next meeting.

13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXEMPT INFORMATION

Upon a vote it 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)

14. CREMATORIUM PROGRAMME

The committee considered lessons learnt with regard to the crematorium programme.

15. NORTH PLACE UPDATE

The committee received an update on North Place.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

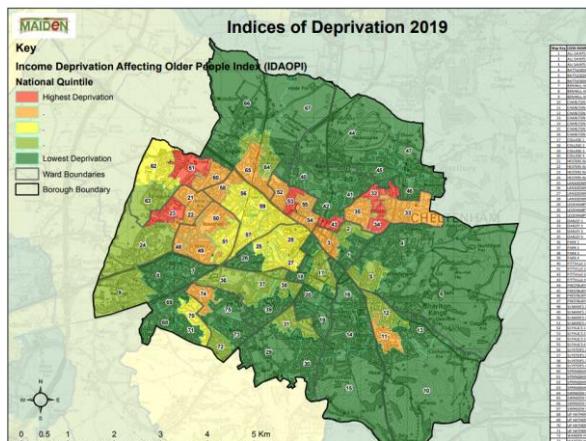
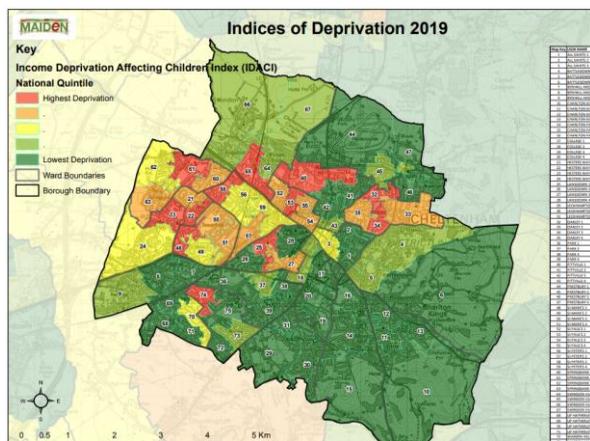
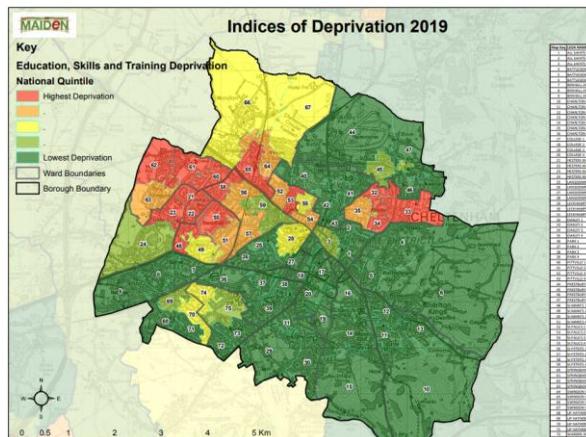
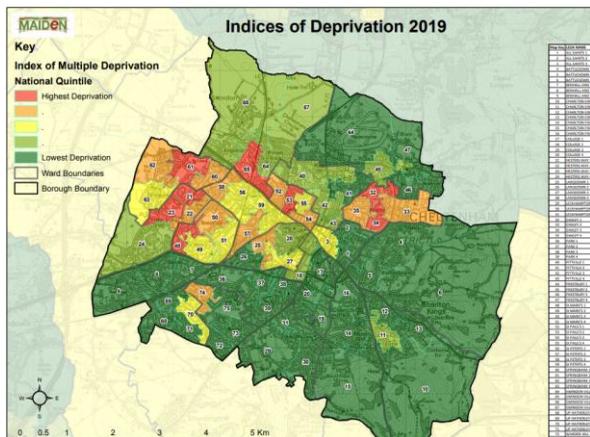
21 November 2019.

Chris Mason
Chairman

Deprivation and inequality in Cheltenham

Richard Gibson

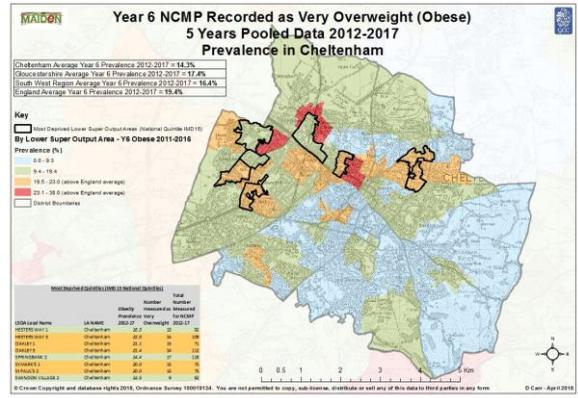
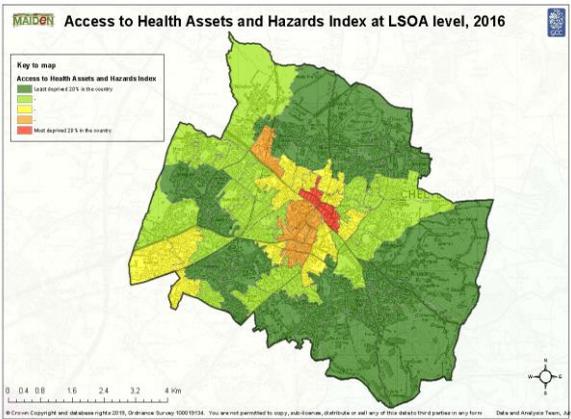
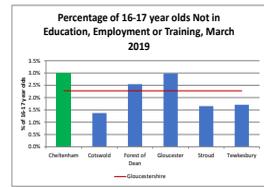
Deprivation maps



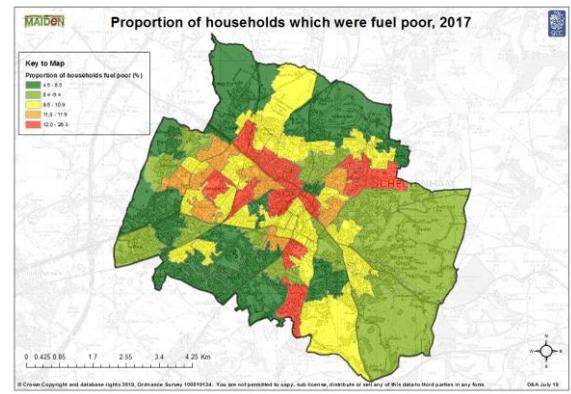
Needs analysis data

Table 5: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cheltenham Borough ward level - September 2019

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cheltenham	Benshall and The Reddings	0.3	1
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	0.7	6
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	0.7	6
Cheltenham	Battledown	0.8	14
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	0.8	14
Cheltenham	Park	0.8	14
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	0.8	14
Cheltenham	Prestbury	1.1	44
Cheltenham	Wardens Hill	1.2	48
Cheltenham	Pittville	1.4	73
Cheltenham	All Saints	1.6	88
Cheltenham	Lansdown	1.7	90
Cheltenham	College	1.8	96
Cheltenham	Springbank	2.1	110
Cheltenham	St Paul's	2.4	121
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	2.4	121
Cheltenham	St Mark's	3.0	135
Cheltenham	Oakley	4.5	150
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	4.5	150



Ward	% of children in poverty before housing costs	% of children in poverty after housing costs
St Paul's	25.8%	41.1%
Springbank	26.5%	39.6%
Oakley	21.7%	33.1%
Hesters Way	23.2%	32.3%
St Mark's	20.7%	29.8%
St Peter's	20.2%	29.3%
Swindon Village	15.7%	23.8%
Pittville	13.4%	22.1%
Lansdown	8.6%	18.2%
Benshall and The Reddings	11.9%	17.3%
College	8.8%	17.0%
Up Hatherley	10.5%	15.9%
All Saints	9.4%	15.9%
Battledown	10.3%	15.8%
Charlton Kings	10.3%	15.8%
Wardens Hill	9.6%	15.3%
Leckhampton	8.0%	13.5%
Park	7.1%	13.3%
Charlton Park	9.5%	12.9%
Prestbury	8.8%	12.4%



Some suggested areas to consider:

- Development of a social value policy
- Development of a strategy for inclusive growth
- Committing to the second year of No Child Left Behind

Other suggestions:

- research into the level of educational and skills attainment
- Broadening out the discussion

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